



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Catchgate Children's Home

Since the last evaluation, Catchgate Children's Home at 9 Rogerly Terrace has continued to develop its processes with young people. During my visit I met with Michael who has worked at the home now for approximately 2 ½ years. He told me all about what had happened over the past year in the home before I met the two young people staying there at the moment.

The home continues to offer a wide range of activities for young people staying at the home. During my visit the 2 young people I met with told me how they had made fruit smoothies in the morning and are going out later on during the day with the workers.

'We made mango smoothies today'

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Other activities that take place on a regular basis and that are decided by the young people are:

Young People's Meetings

The young people told me the meetings continue to happen on a regular basis. The meetings take place with workers and gives young people the opportunity to set their own agenda. The meetings are very informal.

'They just ask us what type of activities we want to do!'

Key Worker Sessions

Young people continue to meet with their key and co worker on a weekly basis. The meetings are designed to look at personal development and weekly activities etc.

'I enjoy it here you get to have a good chat with the key workers'

'I get on with them better now. I think if I had a problem I think I could go to the workers'

Alternative and Educational Activities

There continues to be a programme of activities that are run from the home. One of the young people told me:

'The PRU normally come up here and teach me but it's the hols now. I like it, it's alright!!'

‘We get to do different activities. We went to Flamingoland yesterday, we managed to get one of the workers on a ride and she got soaked.’

House Improvements

The young people told me how they are able to have a say in how the home looks. I was pleased to see, that following the comments raised last year from the young people I met then, that there had been some modernisation since my last visit.

‘I helped pick the pictures for the wall. We were also given blank canvasses to paint our own pictures that are going to go up on the wall. Mine is just a red square!’

Improvements

The young people both said that they would like it if the new carpets were fitted as soon as possible as they had been sitting in the sitting room for months now and think it would make a huge difference once laid.

Food

‘We always get to have a say and choose what we want to eat each week’

‘We sometimes get to go shopping’

‘Owen does the menu with us. We help cook’

‘We make fruit smoothies every day with the house keeper’

New Equipment

Paul told me that since my last visit the home has got a new computer with internet access and a new TV and games consoles.

‘We got a Nintendo Wii’

‘We get to pick what games we want as rewards’

‘We asked for a computer and got one. It’s really good you get to go on the internet’

Improvements

‘We would like it if we could get Digi boxes for our rooms’

Holidays

Since last years evaluation the young people at the home are involved more with planning activities during the school holidays.

Improvements – Comments from young people

‘We would like it if we could have a pet at the home. We have discussed it with the staff but everyone has to agree with it. It would just make it more homely’.

Conclusion

It is evident that there are several opportunities for young people to be involved in dialogue and change. Both Kayleigh and Ryan, the young people I met with both felt they are listened to at the home.

'I think we should definitely get the award'

Following my discussions with staff and young people I have no hesitation but to recommend that Catchgate Children's Home continue to be Investing in Children Members. I would like to thank the young people for helping me with this report.

This report has been endorsed by young people at the home.

Eleanor Seed
Project Worker
Investing in Children
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