



## Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Drug and Alcohol Advisor

For the purpose of this report I met with Scott, Lindsey, Lewis, Emily, Michelle, Daniel and Ashley.

Durham County Council's Education Development Service Drug and Alcohol Advisor provides support for teachers, youth workers and other adults regarding the drug and alcohol issues.

Patrick Hargreaves, a school inspector and drugs and alcohol advisor for Durham County Council, along with Les Watts, an educational arts consultant, have developed a drug and alcohol awareness resource toolkit for children and young people. Children and young people helped develop '**TAKE RISKS TAKE CARE**', the name of the resource toolkit, which was published in 2007. They were also given support by the D.C.S.F. and the Home Office. Since its launch Patrick and Les have continued to work with children and young people to develop further material for a second edition of the toolkit.

### Opportunity For Dialogue and Change.

#### 'TAKE RISKS, TAKE CARE'.

All the material for this document was developed through the positive partnership between young people and staff talking about drugs and alcohol, and how this can impact on the lives of some children and young people. All of the DVD and worksheet contents were developed this way.

Many children and young people are also working with the Drug and Alcohol Advisor to help develop new content for a further resource document to be launched this year. Children and young people have also discussed how education material could be developed further, including what material should be used to make the necessary changes to help develop the resource further for a new edition.

I was given the opportunity to meet with three groups of young people who have been involved in the development of the '**TAKE RISKS, TAKE CARE**' project who told me how they were given the opportunity to develop their own ideas into a short film. This has been produced and will form part of the second edition.

#### St. Joseph's Primary School.

I met with members of year 6 at St. Joseph's Primary school in Gilesgate Moor, Durham City. The group explained how they developed their own ideas, with the support of Les. The group told me how much they enjoyed developing their ideas and how they worked together to come up with ideas for a play.

Roger told me, **“We all came together and came up with lots of ideas”**.

Scott added, **“Les always listened to our points and helped us with our ideas when we needed him to”**.

Lindsey explained about the idea they came up with, **“We came up with an idea about older kids coming up to younger kids in the park and giving them alcohol to drink”**.

Emily was pleased to inform me, **“I liked Les and what we did with him. He listened to all of us very well. He gave us advice on our ideas and told us if they would work on the film”**.

Patrick and Les have engaged with children and young people to help develop the drug and alcohol resource toolkit. It was evident that children at St. Joseph’s school were given lots of opportunities to develop their ideas. The class came up with an idea, which was based on some younger children being approached by some teenagers in a park and being offered alcohol.

### **Ferryhill Comprehensive.**

I also met with a group of students at this school who have written their own play based on a group of young people who are friends and who have to face the consequences of taking alcohol and drugs.

Michelle explained, **“We were told about the toolkit and that other young people would be using it”**.

Michelle added, **“We knew it was all about drug and alcohol awareness for young people and thought it was good that young people are coming up with ideas”**.

The young people spent two days sharing their ideas and experiences and exploring how best, new material could be used to make children and young people aware of drugs and alcohol issues in schools and youth projects. The young people were aware that they were developing new material and investigated how best they could develop drug and alcohol education.

Daniel told me, **“I really enjoyed it and liked how there was no script and we could just develop a play based on our own experiences”**.

### **Bowburn Youth Club.**

I also met with a girl’s group at Bowburn Youth Club. They told me how they developed a play, and workshop material based on a girl meeting a man through the internet and how alcohol had played a part in this.

### **Conclusion.**

Children and young people are given the opportunity to evaluate **‘TAKE RISKS, TAKE CARE’**. There have been service level agreements made with ‘Education in the Community’ and the Local Education Authority. This has allowed feedback on the resource toolkit and a continued approach for the service to find out what children and young people think about the drug and alcohol education they are receiving in school and

whether any other changes can be made. It might be worth considering involving some young people in the evaluation of how drug and alcohol education can be developed further. I would like to recommend that the Drug and Alcohol Advisor receives Investing in Children Membership and look forward to further developments.

The following young people have read and agreed with this report they are, Scott, Lindsey, Lewis, Emily, Michelle, Daniel and Ashley.

**Rob Johnson**  
**Investing in Children**  
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