



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Framwellgate Children's Home

Since last year Framwellgate Children's Home has seen several young people move out and new residents have moved in. I spent some time with staff at Framwellgate Moor to hear what has been happening over the last year and some time with some young people finding out what life was like for them in Framwellgate Moor Children home.

Currently there are 3 young people in the home, 2 boys, 1 girl.

On my second visit to the home I was told another young person had returned to the home after being at the home in the past.

#### *Opportunities for Dialogue*

Young people meetings offer an opportunity for young people and staff to raise concerns, discuss issues and problems etc. These meetings generally take place on a Sunday. In the past issues that have been discussed have been smoking, food/meals, activities, pocket money & playstation games etc.

It was evident that the young people at the home like to do activities. The staff have made every effort to make this possible.

Liam is very interested in fishing, staff have ensured that he has all the necessary equipment. As part of a positive behaviour scheme Liam often earns rewards such as vouchers to spend on additional fishing equipment.

Dale is very keen on basketball. A basket ball net and ball was bought for everyone to use.

As Lorraine is the only girl in the house at the moment she found that all the games on the ps2 were only suitable for boys. Lorraine asked if she could buy a game that was more girl friendly. Staff took Lorraine out to the shops to choose one for herself and other girls when they move in.

Lorraine asked staff if they could have girly nights so over the past 4 months they have built up a selection of beauty items such as make up and nail polish and hair care items.

#### *The Home*

The young people have been encouraged to participate in choosing a new carpet for the home and flooring for the hall and dining room. All the young people are encouraged to have their bedroom the way they feel comfortable.

***"I have already done my bedroom, painted it in the colours I wanted" Dale.***

***"I did all my room when I first moved in" Sarah.***

#### *Young peoples meetings*

Staff try to ensure that young people meetings are held regularly.

Young people now have one to one time every evening to receive feed back on their day and this is also a time where they can voice any concerns and discuss their progress on the PSP (Positive Success Programme).

### ***Mobile phones/ Phone Cards***

If the young people have mobile phones they are given a £5 top up voucher weekly to ensure they keep in touch with family, friends and staff. If they do not have a mobile they are given a £5 phone card for a BT Phone.

### ***PSP Scheme (Positive Success Programme)***

The incentive scheme was introduced in February and offers young people the opportunity to improve their negative behaviour in order to receive rewards. The programme is designed to change negative behaviour by reinforcing the positive behaviour.

There are 4 tiers to the scheme. These are named after the football leagues so that it is easier for the young people to understand.

The scheme has been running very well to date and the young people seem to enjoy the rewards system.

### ***Key Workers***

Liam is 17 years old and is currently actively seeking work. Tracey who is new to the team has been giving the role of his employment key worker. Liam has enjoyed this and has asked for help and support to help him get a job.

A programme of work has been developed with him including: Working on writing a CV, the best ways to approach employees and how to prepare for interviews etc..

The other day Liam went shopping and for a meal with his key workers and on the way back to the home they called in at the job centre.

### ***Comments from the young people***

Firstly I met with Dale who is 15 years old and has been at the home since October 2006.

I spoke to Dale about life at the home.

**Dale said ‘Life at the home is ok! Sometimes it can be boring but the workers try and arrange things to do. Tonight we went to blockbusters and hired a load of ps2 games’**

**‘My key worker is Viv if I have a problem I can speak to her’**

We then spoke about food and meal times etc.. Dale said **‘The meals are good, I like whatever food and am able to make whatever I like whenever I like’**

When talking about what could make the home better Dales only comment was **‘Have more people living in the house’**

Finally I asked Dale if he thought that Framwellgate Childrens Home should have its membership renewed and he agreed.

On my second visit I spoke to Dale again and he said that **'There are now more people at the home and it's a bit better now'**.

I also spoke to Liam briefly and he said **'It's alright living at the home'**.

On my third visit I spoke to Sarah who is 17 and had recently returned to the home after staying before. She said **'I think this homes alright it's better than some of the other places I have lived in'**.

I have visited a few homes across the county and I am pleased to say the Framwellgate Children's Home was the first to provide evidence in files as individual project work with individual young people. Following my discussions with staff and the young people I would recommend that Framwellgate Children's Home has it's Investing in Children membership renewed.

This report has been endorsed by young people at Framwellgate Children's Home.

I would like to thank all the staff and in particular the young people.

Thank you and well done.

**Eleanor Seed  
Project Worker  
Investing in Children  
September 2007**