



## Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Framwellgate Moor School Youth Project

Newton Hall Youth Club has had a transient year, as they moved from one meeting place into a new building and with the subsequent strained relationship with the Management Group at the centre the group have again moved and are now meeting in Framwellgate School. A report was drafted last year by Brian Davies, an Assistant Project Worker with Investing in Children, but was never formally agreed due to the changes made. Newton Hall Youth Club has transformed and renamed as Framwellgate School Youth Project.

**Evidence of dialogue and change** is provided for the evaluation report by these changes.

All of the young people were unhappy with the venue. When the new building was opened it was hoped that a good relationship would be formed between the management committee and the young people. However, this never quite happened. The Investing in Children evaluation report mainly concentrated on the strained relationship between the young people and the management committee which deflected from the good practice of the youth workers. The workers, Simon and Gemma found themselves powerless to change anything. Due to the constant tension and lack of support from the management committee, workers and young people decided to make a stand and leave.

Rebecca and Ebba said, "They (Simon and Gemma) listened to us when we started complaining about the venue, we started to not want to come and everyone was dropping off. They supported us in finding the DERIC bus and then in finding the school. It is better here but it is still not our building."

The group met on the DERIC bus for a short time whilst finding a new location and venue. The groups are now meeting in Framwellgate Comprehensive School and have changed the name of the group to Framwellgate School Youth Project.

The project is advertised in the school; the workers have attended assemblies and put up information around school. There has also been a competition to design a logo for the group.

This is the winning logo by a young person.

I had a chance to chat with some of the young people at the youth club on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008, Daniel, Hayley, Chrissy, Katie, Lauren, Vicky and Lauren. Chrissy said that she had been coming for a while and told me that there had been information passed out in assembly, but the group said most of the young people were coming because of word of mouth.

Hayley told me, "there are lots of opportunities here, you can get involved in other things outside like the Area Task Group and the Youth Opportunities Panel. You can also volunteer if you want to. Hayley also said, "With all projects we choose what we are doing."

Duke of Edinburgh –

Katie “We are doing horse riding, and some of us are going to the gym.”

“This is part of the learning skills section under physical recreation.”

“We do loads of different projects.”

### **Residential –**

At the beginning of the session Gemma discussed the residential which some of the young people have the chance to go on over the summer. Gemma discussed that the workers suggested that young people should put their name in the hat and so many would be picked out to fill the places. The young people disagreed and said this was not fair on the young people who had been coming to the project for the longest time. Daniel said, “So we decided this wasn’t fair and those of us who have been here the most will get the first chance.”

The Rural Exchange Project – after this discussion we watched a DVD about another residential that some of the young people took part in. This was an opportunity provided to the by the Regional Youth Work Unit. Rebecca was just one of the young people at the project on the 13<sup>th</sup> May who took part in this adventure.

### **Health Projects –**

Lauren told me, “We’ve learnt about sex!” Hayley followed on saying, “we have done sessions on sexual health and healthy eating, we learn about all the things we ask.”

Hayley also said, “All the subjects we feel most concerned about they will set up a session.”

**Animaltastic** was just one of the themes the young people told me about. The group have been to Hall Hill Farm and Deerness Kennels. Daniel said that “the people from Deerness Kennels also came here to talk to us about animals.”

All of the young people were quite happy to say that they do feel listened to and that Simon, Gemma and Zoe do talk to them about what sessions they want to do and what ideas they have.

There is also some evidence I would like to include from Brian’s original report which I believe should be included in this report. Rebecca and Ebba both had a read of this part of the report and agreed that this was fine.

When Brian visited the youth club he had the opportunity to speak to two youth workers and six young people about changes which provided evidence of dialogue to support their evaluation. I would like to include the evidence collected in this report which specifically relates to the youth work.

(At Newton Hall Community Centre)

- **Groups within the youth club**

When I spoke to the youth workers on what the youth club currently does with children and young people they mentioned a few groups currently running

which were asked for by young people. One of the groups was a pop culture group and the other was a cookery group.

I asked the young people what activities they do and they mentioned the pop youth culture group and it looks at different music and plays different types of music. **“We are going to print on some T-Shirts and we play different music and its ok but would not like to see any changes other than internet access.”**

I also asked about the cookery group and what sort of foods they cook. They told me they enjoyed the cooking that they do each week. **“We asked for a cooking session in the youth club.” “We have to book the kitchen and we made kebabs in chocolate.”**

Although this evaluation started as Newton Hall Youth Club, it is with that piece of evidence and confirmation of dialogue and change at the new Framwellgate School Youth Project I am more than happy to recommend that the project receives its Investing in Children membership.

The report was read by the young people from Framwellgate School Youth Project and they were happy to agree with my report. I must thank everyone for there patience and well done.

**Helen Mulhearn  
Membership Co-ordinator  
Investing in Children  
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