



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Groundwork East Durham

Groundwork East Durham works with young people to improve their neighbourhood. For the purpose of this re-evaluation for Investing in Children Membership I met with a group of young people who have been working with Groundwork East Durham since September 2006 in Murton.

I had the pleasure to meet with Dionne, Ashton, David, Kay, Danny, Hannah, Ross, Liam and Anthony.

This specific piece of project-based work was called Murton Plus.

Murton Community Partnership made contact with Groundwork East Durham to see if they could meet with young people in Murton to find out what it was like to live in the village. The emphasis for the project is to work with young people so that the group can develop a neighbourhood profile, which then allows the young people to identify and develop ideas that they feel would benefit young people

The report will identify how the young people were actively involved in the project, which then resulted in the groups' own ideas leading to change in their local community

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Dialogue with the Community

Further discussions will take place about issues raised by the young people, which will include meeting with Murton Community Partnership.

Murton Youth and Community Centre

Young people met with Groundwork East and explained that the centre was only open to adults to play bingo. Hannah told me, **"They write stuff down and listen to your ideas about Murton"**. Staff at Groundwork East responded to what young people have said and managed to make some significant changes. The centre is now open on a Tuesday evening. Many young people have started to access the centre and because of this the Centre is now open on a Thursday night as well.

Other Changes

Young people have been involved in identifying what they want to do at the centre. Liam told me **"We asked for a play station and some decks"**, which young people now use at the centre.

Groundwork East also received £1000 for the community safety partnership to support the work in Murton. Kay explained, **"We got some money and met as a group to say, how we wanted the money to be spent"**.

Trip and Activities

Dionne told me, " **I think we all get listened to because of the things we do and the places we have been**". Dionne and other young people have asked for many trips and activities which Groundwork East has responded to. They are Flamingoland, Go Karting, Canoeing, Paintballing and Quazer Lasing. Every Monday night Groundwork East meet with young people from Murton. Young people plan what they want to do during this session, it also allows young people the opportunity to evaluate what they have been doing with Groundwork East.

Murton Neighbourhood Profile

Young people and youth workers spent time talking about what they think about Murton. The staff and young people wrote a report, in which they highlighted:

- Where we hang around
- What has Murton got to offer
- What we would like to see in Murton
- Things we do not like about Murton

The Murton Plus report is to be used to support the staff and young people to try and make more improvements to Murton. All the young people I met spoke positively about the staff at Groundwork East and how they have been listened to.

I fully endorse the recommendations the young people have made about Groundwork East receiving Investing in Children membership.

This report has been read and agreed by the following young people: - Anthony, Aston, Kay, Dionne, and Adam. I would like to finish by saying well done to all the young people and staff at Groundwork East.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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