



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Horde Youth Centre

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with Mark, Rebecca, Stephen, John, Ashleigh and Chelsea.

Horde Youth Centre continues to offer three nights a week youth provision from 7pm till 9pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Over the past few months there has been a drop in attendance at the centre, however, the staff have continued to create an environment where young people are able to come up with ideas about what they want to do, and with the help and support of staff these ideas are developed and incorporated into the centre's programme of activities.

This report highlights some of these positive outcomes and identifies changes that have taken place since the last evaluation.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change / Young People's Comments

Planning Sessions

The young people told me how they are involved in planning sessions and activities. It is evident there is open dialogue with the young people and staff regarding what young people want to do and be involved in.

"Every Thursday night we have a quiz/challenge night which we asked for. Then after ten weeks we get to go on a trip. We all get together as a group to decide what trip to go on."

"I've asked to go to the swimming baths. They are trying to organise it!!" **Mark**

"The challenges – We do loads of different stuff both mental and physical"

"You just ask for stuff"

"Some young people have gone on residential"

"The lasses are going to a spa and the lads are going fishing at the end of May. Tony is helping sort it out for us"

"We got a new pool table in the chill out room"

"You have to ask if you can bring things in and we have a night where we can"

"Thursday nights we sometimes have food – We make jacket potatoes and curry... I like the food!!"

‘‘They come round and ask us all what we want to make – I voted for chicken curry’’

Management Committee

Young people used to come along to the staff meetings but they have all grown up now, and since the decline in the number of young people attending, young people’s involvement has been put on hold for the moment.

General Activities

‘‘It’s good because you get to play pool, sit and chill and go in the sports hall’’

‘‘They have a Wii and a PS2’’

‘‘I am making a poster to try and attract more young people to come’’

Improvements

The young people I spoke with told me what they thought would improve the club. They said the following:

‘‘We should get a PS3 and Nintendo DS’s as it would make it much better’’

‘‘It needs to be on longer’’

‘‘We should get some Decks’’

‘‘The pool table needs fixing as it’s always breaking’’

‘‘There should be more sleepovers and stuff at the centre’’

There should be a smoking area somewhere as you used to be able to go out the back but now you can’t and you have to stand out by the front door and you’re always in peoples way!!’’

Youth Opportunities Fund

The young people told me how they applied to the Youth Opportunities Fund for funding for a Wii and a television.

Other comments

Mark told me *‘‘I’ve been coming for 6 months now’’*

‘‘I’ve been coming for a year or so...’’ **Rebecca**

‘‘We come all the time. It keeps people off the streets. The workers listen to you!!’’

Stephen and John

Conclusion

It is evident that young people are able to take ownership of the nights that they attend and the staff have to be praised for the support they are giving to the ideas the young people are coming up with.

I would like to recommend that the staff at the club re-develop the formal structure of young people being involved in the management committee once the attendance improves as this is an excellent way of involving young people more directly in management decisions and ideas.

From the comments I have heard from the young people, and the evidence in my report of dialogue and change, I have no hesitation but to recommend that Horden Youth Centre continues to be an Investing in Children member.

Well done to all the young people and staff.

This report has been endorsed by young people accessing the centre.

Eleanor Seed
Investing in Children
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