



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Kids Cooperative Green Corridor

Introduction

As part of the membership evaluation for the Kids Cooperative project I visited all 6 youth clubs in the Green Corridor area and met with children and young people aged 5 to 13 years to gather their views.

The Youth Cooperative is funded through the Children's Fund and is managed by the Green Corridor. The following clubs make up the Youth Cooperative Project:

- Drop In @ Wear Road
- Craghead Youth Club
- Burnside Youth Club
- Stanley Young People's Club
- Stanley Youth Club
- Quaking Houses Youth Club

There is a programme of activities throughout the week with all the clubs:

Day	Project	Time
Monday	Burnside Youth Club Stanley Young Peoples Club	5pm till 7.30pm 6pm till 7.45pm
Tuesday	Craghead Youth Club	4.30pm till 7pm
Wednesday	Drop In @ Wear Road	5pm till 8pm
Thursday	Burnside Resource Centre	5pm till 7.30pm
Friday	Quaking Houses Youth Club Stanley Youth Centre	5pm till 6.45pm 5pm till 7.30pm

Drop In – Wear Road

I visited the club during a youth club session on a Wednesday evening. The sessions are run every week from 5pm till 8pm. The average attendance at the club is around 15 to 20 children aged between 5 to 13 years. The club is run from a small bungalow on Wear Road in Stanley.

General activities that normally take place include:-

- Arts and Crafts
- Watching DVD's/videos
- Fun Games
- Cooking and having tea
- Playing sports games on the field Inc... football and rounder's etc
- Tournaments and competitions
- Using the computer

During my visit I met with staff who told me about the project and the various activities they organise. I then met with the children and young people accessing the service and they also told me what generally goes on during a club night.

As part of my report I met with the following children:

Cantona (12), Jack (10), Caitlin (7), David (10), Kiera (10), Christy (10), Joss (9), Paula (9), Claire (6), Sky and Nataysia.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change/ Young Peoples Views

Kiera said *'We went to flamingo because we all asked to go away'*

Joss said *'We came here to help them but they help us by taking us on trips and stuff like that'*

'They always listen to you especially everyone'

'Donna helps the little kids at rounder's'

David told me *'I like the food they make and I appreciate it and everything they give us'*

'If the club wasn't on we would all be bored, probably just be playing football up against a wall somewhere'

'You aren't allowed to smoke in here, that's a good thing'

Paula said *'I like the computer games and drawing pictures'*

I asked Paula if she would change anything about the club if she could and she replied *'No I wouldn't change a thing'*

'The workers listen to you, they are friendly and kind' 'They serve us food and we get to eat'

'Emma gave me a prize for picking up all the beads last week'

Paula and **David** both told me *'We get to pick what we make and what we do each week'*

Sky told me *'I get to meet new friends, there are things to do and it helps keep children of the street and out of trouble'*

Nataysia said *'I like coming because you get to meet new friends. At the end of the sessions they give you sweets and toys to take home'*.

Finally I spoke to **Claire** who said *'They are friendly and kind here, I like to come because I like to read'*

I was extremely impressed with my visit to the youth club. The children and young people all seemed at home in the centre and there seemed to be a lot of excellent work going on. It was certainly evident that there was dialogue and change happening and that all the children enjoyed and benefited from the sessions.

Craghead Youth Club

I visited Craghead Youth Club on a Friday evening session. During my visit I spoke with several young people who access the club on a regular basis.

Over the years the club has seen many changes in staffing and management however since the recent change in the club becoming a part of the youth cooperative there has been a much more firm structure to the management of the club.

The general feel was that young people are able to make decisions on activities and things such as trips and activities.

The club offers general activities such as:

- Arts and Crafts
- Pool
- Music
- A computer room
- PS2 and dance mats
- Sports and games

During my visit every one of the above activities were taking place.

I spoke with the following young people and would like to say a special thanks to their involvement in the assessment of this process.

They are:

- Kyle who is 9 and has been attending the club for about 3 months.
- Liam who is 10 and has been attending the club for about 2 years.
- Jordan who is 11 and has been attending the club for about 3 years.
- Kyle who is 11 and has been attending the club also for 3 years.
- Decklan who is 10 years old.
- Jack who is 10 years old.
- Elizabeth who is 12 years old.

Young Peoples Views – Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

'I like coming to play footy and going in the computer room'

'You get to go on trips to flamingo land etc.'

'I wouldn't change a thing'

'I think they do listen to you and if you ask for anything I think they would try and get it for you' **Kyle**

'I have been coming to the club for quite a bit, I come to see my friends and play football'

'You get to play footy, cricket, go in the park and on the computers'

'I like to come to see my friends'

'If you tell them what you want they try and get it for you and organise stuff for you'

'If we could change anything I would change the fact that once you go out the front door you aren't allowed back in'

'We got to choose about going on a trip and went to flamingo land' **Liam, Jordan and Kyle**

I come to see all me mates and play footy' **Decklan**

'It's Awesome' **Jack**

'If we had the funds they would always try to get what we want' **Decklan and Jack**

'It's fun to do instead of getting into trouble if I am out'

'The best bit is the computers'

'We get to do arty stuff, go on the computers, sports activities, parachute games and sometimes we use the dance mats, play pool and all sorts of other things.'

'We asked to go on trips to Flamingo land, Wet n Wild, Hamsterley Forest and Light Water Valley and we got to go on them' **Elizabeth**

Following my discussions with the young people even though they have seen many changes with workers they seem to be settled and able to make small decisions when it comes to trips.

The young people all highlighted they would like to be involved in more decisions about the running of the club and I feel this club would benefit from this however they do feel they are listened to at present and feel they will be listened to more and make more decisions with the new staff that are now in post.

Burnside Youth Club

I visited Burnside Youth Club during a Thursday evening session from 5pm till 7.30pm. Firstly I spoke to the workers who told me about the club. Nicola a worker at the club told me how the club has been running altogether for approximately 4 years but as part of the youth cooperative since January 07 when it was funded through the Children's Fund.

The club offers children aged between 5 – 13 years activities such as:

- Laptops x 6 with internet
- PS2
- Snooker
- Arts and Crafts
- Tournaments/competitions
- Hot food/ healthy bar
- Trips Away

During my visit there was quite a few of the above activities going on. There were approximately 12 to 15 children at the club and I managed to speak to quite a few of them for the purpose of my report.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change/Young Peoples Views;

Firstly I spoke to the two **Katie's** who are both 9. They told me they come to the club 'because it's really good, everything's good; we like coming to go on the laptops'.

'I have been coming since I was 8. When it was my birthday I first came and I have been coming ever since because I like to get involved with all the arts stuff and things'. **Katie Richards**

'We play on the laptops, we like playing games'

Katie then went on to tell me she can talk to the workers and that she thinks they would get it for you if you asked for something.

Rebecca who is also 9 said *'I have been coming to the since I was 8. I like coming to play'*.

'I like to get involved with all the arts stuff and things like that. I like the computers and we get to go on trips'.

'We have been to flamingo land and places with the Try 5 and we play pool'.

'Sometimes we get to pick where we go and sometimes we don't'.

'There are normally tournaments on and stuff. You win prizes and last time there was an air hockey tournament on and you won painting prizes'.

'They give us surprises to what's going to be on each week, but I think if we asked for something they would try to do what they asked'.

I then spoke with **Jill** who is 18 she told me *'I have been a volunteer at the club for about two and a half to three years'*.

'The young people ask for things and we try to get them'.

I spoke to **Cameron** who is 8, **Scott** who is 9 and **Connor** who is also 9.

Cameron said *'It's ok. Playing on the playstation is the best!'*

When asked how he felt about the workers he said *'They listen to you'*

'On a Monday we have hot food and on a Thursday we have fruit instead of a tuck shop. We thought of that idea, its so much better'.

I then spoke with **Connor** he has been going to the club for about a year.

'I enjoy going to the club. I like doing activities and I like the tuck shop and buying food'.

'We asked to go to flamingo land and we all got to go in the holidays. The rides where the best as they were scary'.

'If I could make any changes I would have more arty things'.

Scott said *'I have been coming since I was 8; I like all the games'*.

Finally I spoke to **Reece** who is 9. He said *'I probably just been coming for about a year. I come because I like playing games on the laptops and I like the pool table'*.

'They listen to you, I asked to go to flamingo land and we did'

'I like Nicola best she helps me quite a lot; say if the laptops aren't working she always comes and helps me'

'I like Christine too as she helps me do the activities'

'Sometimes we do play rounder's but it's not enough so I'd like it if we are able to do that more'

During my visit a young person was going round asking everyone what type of pizzas they would like. I was told by this young person that this happens regular.

It is clear from my visit that the children are very happy with the project and clearly enjoy being a part of it.

It was evident that young people are able to make decisions on activities etc that happen at the club.

Stanley Young People's Club

I spoke to several young people during my visit to the boys club all the responses from the young people were very positive as you will see. The general feel was that young people using the service are able to make decisions on activities and things like the tuck shop and trips etc... They are involved in raising funds through the youth opportunities fund and the key fund.

I spoke with the following young people and would like to say a special thanks to their involvement in the assessment process.

They are:

- * Kieron who is 13 years old and has been attending the club for the past 2 years and is now a volunteer.
- * Samantha who is 10 years old and has been attending the club for approximately 2 years.
- * Scott and Jake who are both 10 years old and have been attending the club for a few weeks.
- * Ben who is 12 years old
- * Holly who is 11 years old
- * Samantha who is 10 years old
- * Georgia who is 7 years old
- * Jasmine and Shannon who are both 10 years old and Becca who is 11 years old and have all been attending the club for a year.
- * Sarah and Paula

Young Peoples Views/Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

- I asked what type of things you get to do at the club:

They replied:

'Arts and Crafts, tuck shop and on a Thursday we do cookery' **Kieron**

'I like the things you get to do like play football, pool and board games etc...' **Samantha**

'We like playing pool and footy' **Scott and Jake**

'We are able to do lots of activities like footy, pool, arts and crafts etc...' **Holly**

'We are allowed to go on trips' **Jasmine, Shannon and Becka**

- I asked why they like going to the club:

They replied:

'It's fun, you get to play with your friends, do gymnastics and making arty things.'
Jasmine, Shannon and Becka.

'The workers are friendly and listen to you' **Samantha and Georgia**

- I asked is there was anything they have asked for:

They replied:

'We asked for new computers at the club and they helped us to do a key fund and youth opportunities fund application and now we have 2 computers and a laptop' **Kieron**

'We tell them what type of trips we want to go on and they sort it out' **Samantha**

'We get to choose what we have in the tuck shop' **Ben**

'Someone asked for ice poles in the tuck shop and now they sell them' **Holly**

'We are able to ask anything and it just happens' **Holly**

'We asked for a netball team to be set up and we got one and we also asked for dancing things and now there is someone coming to teach us' **Jasmine, Shannon and Becka.**

'If you ask for something silly they won't let you have it but normally they do' **Scott and Jake**

'I asked for more snooker tables and they got one' Paula

- I asked if you had a problem who you would speak to:

They replied:

'You can talk to all the adults if you have a problem' **Kieron**

'I'd talk to a grown up' **Samantha**

The overall feedback from the young people I met at the club was very positive. They showed that young people are involved with various decisions and it was evident of dialogue and change.

Stanley Youth Club

I visited the club during a Friday evening session. The club was very busy and there were lots of activities going on.

General activities that usually take place include playing pool, playing games, painting the walls on the centre, football, arts and crafts and cooking etc.

For the purpose of this evaluation I met with several young people accessing the club.

Young People's Comments/Opportunities for dialogue and change

Firstly I met with Daniel who is 12 and has been going to the club for three years, Rhys who is 12 and has been going to the club for four years and Shaun who is also 12 and has been going to the club for two years.

'I came because it's something to do instead of sitting in the house. You pay 50p and you get to play pool and stuff' **Rhys**

'I come to see my friends, to play football and hang around talking with my mates' **Daniel**

'I can't think of anything to change' **Daniel**

'I went to flamingo land, we asked for this trip' **Daniel**

Shaun said *'We asked to do drawings on the wall and we are doing it now'* (This was currently happening at the time of my visit).

I then spoke with **Jenna** who is 10 and **Abigail** who is 8 they both have been attending the club for the past year and a half.

'We come to meet up with friends, play games, paint, and do all sorts to keep you interested'

'You get to dress up all nice'

'All the stuffs really nice and good'

'Christine's loud and joyful, Claire's kind, Nicola's funny and Linda listens to you and cares, infact all of them are'

'Once when I came to the club I was crying and they helped make me happy again'

'They understand you and listen'

'I like to paint and play ping pong'

'We ask for Scubbies if we are bored'

'We went to flamingoland and South Shields, There was a play scheme in the summer and we got to go on lots of activities'

'We get visitors all the time, ones who come to play games with you and others who talk to you'

'If we could change anything, it would be to have a paint room and somewhere to watch DVD's because sometimes the arts stuff is not on when you want it to be on'

Finally I spoke to **Ben** who is ten and has been attending the club since he was eight and John who is 8 and has been coming to the club for four years.

They said *'I like the snooker table, graffiting and table tennis etc'*

'The staff are quite helpful and funny'

'I would like to see a gym at the centre and possibly some boxing training'

Following my discussions with the young people they seem to be settled and able to make small decisions when it comes to trips and activities at the club.

There is clear evidence of dialogue and change.

Quaking Houses Youth Club

I visited Quaking Houses Youth Club during a Friday evening session and met with the several groups of young people and workers at the club.

The club runs from the village hall on a Friday evening 5pm till 6.45pm. The sessions are extremely popular and during my visit there were approximately 30-40 young people at the club.

General activities that usually take place at the club are: Arts and Crafts, making displays for the wall, playing pool, cricket and football coaching, trips away, obstacle courses and cookery etc.

The club was very active during my visit with lots going on.

Workers comments

I then spoke with Kieron who is 14 years old and is a volunteer at the club as well as the club in South Moor. He told me he has done his youth work training through the club and enjoys working there because there are a lot of different things to do.

Judith who is the worker in charge told me *'They have all asked to go see High school musical next year so we are currently trying to organise it'*

'Last Christmas we took the young people to the theatre to see a pantomime as they are really interested in performances and drama'

Young People's Comments/Opportunities for dialogue and change

Firstly I met with a group of girls who were doing arts and crafts who told me about the club and the things they have been involved in.

They are:

- Alex who is 6 years old
- Courtney who is 10
- Abbey who is 9

- Paige who is 9
- Caitlin who is 8
- Cayla who is 5
- Demi who is 8

The group told me how the room we were in used to be a disco room before it was moved to a different room so that there could be an arty room as well.

Caitlin said *'We are going to watch High School musical'*

'I like the shop where you can buy stuff but you don't have to pay for water as it is free!'

'There is a computer room where you can play games etc... .'

When asked if there was anything she would change she replied saying *'No it's so good, too good'*

Catlin then went on to say *'Yes, we do get listened to'*

I then spoke to **Jodie** she said she comes to the club *'because its fun, I get to play on the computers and you get to stick things and glue'*

'I have been coming every week since I was 5'

'I asked for paintings and we got to make and paint flowers'

'I wouldn't change a thing'

Courtney then told me *'I asked to make cards one week and we made them the next week'*

'They are doing cricket in the hall at the minute, we asked for that last week'

Samantha then said *'We can do stuff, quick cricket and everything'*

'Before we asked to go to flamingo land and we got to go'

'I would have more activities every week'

I then met and spoke with **Jack** (10), **Hayley** (11), **Lauren** (10) and **Daniel** (10).

They told me they have all been coming for years to the club.

Lauren said *'I like the tuck shop best'*

Daniel said *'I've been coming for years; there are lots of activities such as cricket, footy, pool and the arts rooms'*

'We got to choose if we would like to go to Flamingoland'

Jack said *'We asked for cricket and we got it this week'*

At the point of my visit the TRY 5 team were running a quick cricket session in the sports hall.

'If I could change anything I would have the club on for longer till 9pm'

'If you got a problem they normally sort it for you'

'The toilets are nice and clean'

Finally I spoke with **Thomas** who is 7 and **Shannon** who is 8.

'I like it here, I like the sweet shop'

'I asked to play with the parachute and we did'

'I like it all, I like the art part it's mint'

It is clear from visiting the project that children and young people are at the centre of all the planning of decisions. The children I met with were very happy with the project and clearly enjoyed being part of it. When asked if they felt that they had a say in the project all of them agreed that they did.

Alex, Courtney, Abbey, Paige, Caitlan, Cayla, Demi, Jodie, Samantha, Kieron, Jack, Hayley, Lauren, Daniel, Thomas and Shannon all agreed that Quaking Houses Youth Club should receive Investing in Children Membership.

Evaluation

After visiting all the clubs as part of the youth cooperative application for membership I am pleased to say that the children and young people accessing the clubs are extremely pleased and happy with the way in which they are run.

They all felt at home and settled in the organisations and when asked if they are able to make decisions and have a say and influence change they all said yes.

The young people involved in this report agree with the content and recommendations made. Therefore it is on their behalf that I have no hesitation in recommending that Kids Cooperative Green Corridor becomes an Investing in Children member.

Eleanor Seed
Investing in Children Project Worker
December 2007