



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Middleton in Teesdale Youth Drop In

Since the last evaluation Middleton in Teesdale Youth Drop In have continued to offer a friendly welcome for the young people who attend and the visitors who come through the door. This year I visited the project shortly after they had moved into premises above the Co op on the main street, where I found several young people doing activities at the drop in.

The sessions continue to happen and are very informal. The workers are there to support the young people and offer resources to enable the young people to do what they want to do and achieve.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

The young people I met with told me all about the project and how they are involved in decision making and change.

The sessions are run on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening from 6pm till 10pm. There is also football organised every Wednesday from 6pm till 7pm for any young person to take part in.

'We were interested in playing football so we asked if something could be organised and it was. We play on a Wednesday!'

The young people told me that when they come to the sessions they get to;

- Sit and Chat
- Listen to music
- Use the decks
- Play on the Wii
- Use the computers
- Go on trips every so often
- Take part in training activities

'We usually have a vote and suggest things that we want to do'

Training Activities

The drop in continues to offer young people various training opportunities and courses in the following:

- Walling
- Sheep Shearing
- First Aid
- Tractor Driving

- Sexual Health Awareness
- Business Enterprise

Equipment

The young people were keen to tell me all about the new equipment at the Drop In.

‘We asked for a load of new equipment and we put a bid together to the Youth Opportunities Fund and got funding.

‘We bought a Nintendo Wii, DJ equipment, a plasma TV, an Xbox and Sky’

‘We usually get together as a group to decide things’

Football

‘There was a group of us who wanted to play football so we asked and now we can play every Wednesday’

Newsletter

UTASS continue to produce a monthly newsletter. The young people write articles and keep everyone updated on what they have been up to and what young people can get involved in.

‘We get asked for things to put in it’

Activities

The drop in offer young people a wide range of activities.

‘A month ago there was a list of trips for us to look at and decide what we wanted to do. We chose to go horse riding!’

‘We asked to go on lots of trips and have been to the metro, paint balling, boxing etc... .’

Conclusion

On my visit to Middleton in Teesdale Drop In I joined in the session. The session was run as usual and the young people were keen to tell me about all the things they have been up to over the year.

When asked if they felt they are listened to and can influence change they replied by saying;

‘Yes... We definitely do get listened to. As we are only a small village we wouldn’t have all the stuff we do if we weren’t listened to and helped by the staff’

It is on their recommendation that Middleton in Teesdale Drop In has its Investing in Children Membership Renewed.

I would like to say a special **“Thanks”** to all the young people and staff that have helped me in writing this evaluation.

Well Done!

This report has been endorsed by members of the Drop In.

Eleanor Seed
Project Worker
Investing In Children
July 2008

