



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Moorside Community Association

For the purpose of this re-evaluation for membership I met with Lynn Walton, who is the full time Community Education Worker based at the Phoenix Centre, and several young people from the youth Club, and from the Key Fund Group.

On my first visit I went to Moorside Youth Club. The club provides young people with a wide range of opportunities both educational and fun. The club runs from the Phoenix Centre in Moorside every Monday and Thursday evenings from 6.30 till 8.30 pm.

During my visit I met with several young people who told me all about the club, how they got involved and the type of things they do.

For the purpose of this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting with Charlie 13, Declan 12, Dawn 15, Hannah 12, Shannon 14, Danielle 15, Bradley 13, Ryan 15, Nathan 12, Thomas 12, Gavin 12, Robert 14, Mathew 14, Ashley 14 and Lyon 14.

### Opportunities for Dialogue and Change/ Young Peoples Views

#### General Activities

*'We get to play pool, go on the computers, play football, on the ps2, make things, spray paint, colour in and do arts and crafts etc..'*

*'We get to play dominoes, talk about things, we used to cook'*

*'We asked to do spray painting, quad biking and paintballing'*

*'Paintballing and quads is on again this weekend we do it with the YMCA'*

*'We did cookery sessions and made cheesy shepherds pie and soup'*

*'We have been to Ireland and recently Beamish Hall for the Citizen of the Year Award'*

*'We asked for a pool table and we got it'*

*'I come because I like playing football we asked to play it so now we have use of the gym and get to play every week'*

*'Thursday nights is football or there is a choice of computers if you don't like footy'*

*'It's dead cheap to get in here 35p'*

## Story Jack

*'We asked to do a project for other children so we are making story bags. We chose and bought a reading book and make things to put in and are going to be giving them away to young children. We have been working on it for six weeks now'*

*'We get to decide what goes in them and what to call it etc... I called mine 'Hug'' Dawn*

## Trips

*'When we want to go on a trip we get together and talk to Lynn about it. Then Lynn normally goes away and tries to get it for us'*

## Awards

Shannon, Bradley and Danielle all told me *'We recently got our Young Achievers Award'*

## Garden Project

*'There was a plot of land at the school and the head teacher gave it to the old people. It's down by the sports hall. We put plants in and put fencing up. They get the stuff for us and we put them in for them, like bird boxes and trees.'*

## Other comments

*'Its fun here, it gets you out of the house as you can hang around with your mates in a place where you don't get cold'*

*'It's something to do; it keeps you off the streets'*

On my second visit I met with Lynn and Jason (a young person/volunteer) they told me about the Community Association and the different clubs/projects that are run from the Phoenix Centre.

## Community Association

Lynn told me that the Community Association is the management Structure for the youth club. Reports and photos are sent to them on a regular basis along with any ideas the young people have.

*'The Community Association has recently taken over the counselling service that is highly accessed by young people. They are now managing this service due to the closer of End House.'*

## Outreach Work

Lynn told me *'I still do outreach work with the young people who are not able to access the youth club for whatever reason'*

## Intergenerational work

*'The young people made a mosaic and stained glass window in partnership with members of the Community Association'*

## Awards 4 All

*'The young people applied to Awards 4 All for funding to develop a seating area. The young people have been involved in the designs'*

## Key Fund Group

During my second visit I met with 3 young men from the Key fund group. This group was set up for young people by young people who do not attend the youth club to apply for funding to go on trips.

*'We have been part of the group since last September'*

*'The aim for our group is to have some kind of social event as we all live far apart'*

*'We had to do a diary of what we did each week and then did a power point presentation to the facilitators to get the money'*

*'We organised the pick up from McDonalds and decided to go quad biking. We are now deciding what other activities we can do as we are going to apply again!'*

*'Its Fun, we are definitely listened to.'*

*'We used to do quad biking, paintballing, mini motos and archery etc... with the YM'*

## Youth Club

Jason told me about the club and how young people are involved;

*'We were involved in writing the ground rules for the centre and whether or not it should be opened again'*

*'We are involved in the designing of the programme'*

*'The best bits for me are the pool competitions and playing on the computers. I direct people to the C Card on a Friday....'*

During my visit Jason was putting condoms into bags ready for the C card session.

*'Some of the young people made a decision that the pool table was not big enough so decided to get a group together to run a pool tournament to raise funds for a bigger one'*

*'They listen to you and we do activities that are fun so we have fun doing them'*

*'Say if we went on a sponsored bike ride to raise money for a new pool table we would get enjoyment out of both parts'*

*'Lewis has asked for an Xbox 360 and we are trying to get one'*

*'I wouldn't want to change a thing. Everyone is treated fairly and the same. You get to meet new friends as young people come from other schools like Blackfyne'*

## **Conclusion**

It is evident that young people are able to make decisions when it comes to activities and trips at the project.

The young people I met with all feel they are listened to and their voices influence change. I have no hesitation but to recommend that Moorside Community Association receives Investing in Children Membership.

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**Investing In Children**  
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