



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Seaham Youth Centre

For the purpose of this re-evaluation for membership I met with Vicky, Lauren, Hannah, Louise, Natalie, Craig, Dean, Liam, Matty, Daniel, Luke, and Ashleigh.

The centre is open five nights a week and as well as the traditional youth club, provides various separate clubs focused on education, achievement and accreditation. The centre continues to provide many opportunities during youth club sessions to discuss what young people want to do whilst attending the centre.

The Centre also holds open meetings at the beginning of every term to discuss the programme of events and activities. Many of the activities and projects that take place at the centre are based on what the young people want to do. The staff continue to incorporate these ideas into the youth work curriculum and programme.

Seaham Youth Centre continues to create opportunities for young people to enter into dialogue. This report will highlight these opportunities and look at things that have changed at the Centre.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

DJ Project

Music continues to be very popular at the centre and gives many young people the opportunity to do something they enjoy. The centre has made further developments to the DJ project through the active involvement of young people and staff working together.

Dean explained, “**All the youth club members came up with lots of ideas about making the DJ project better**”.

Dean added, “**The lads came up with an idea about entering MC competitions with other youth clubs**”, which has taken place.

Young people decided more equipment was also needed. The centre successfully received funding from B&Q and the Youth Opportunity Fund. Young people are now planning how they can use this funding to make further changes. Craig was pleased to tell me about how some of the funding was spent, “**We have already bought some new stuff**”. Craig added, “**We have speaker wires, a new amp and new microphones**”

Junior youth club members asked centre staff if they could access the decks outside the Junior Youth Club. The centre staff responded positively to this and made the necessary changes.

Drama Project

This project has been set up as this was what some young people had asked for. I met some young people who are involved in this project to find out about their involvement. Natalie told me **“We originally came up with an idea to do Chicago”** but could not get rights to perform the musical. Hanna added, **“We decided to do hip-hop instead”**. Hanna went on to explain, **“We have written our own rap song and are going into a recording studio”**.

Summer Programme

All young people were given the opportunity by staff at the centre to identify which activities they would like to do. Louise explained, **“All of us asked for horse riding, Flamingoland and paintballing”** these have been added to the summer programme.

Computer Suite

Young people complained about the lack of access to the computer suite and that there was not enough computers to use. The computer suite is now open during all youth club sessions and the centre gained funding to buy more computers.

Management Committee

The centre has encouraged young people to become active members of the centre's management committee. Five young people attended a management Committee training course run by Learn East. Natalie told me, **“It was very good and has helped me understand things better”**. Through these developments young people have started to voice their ideas and opinions about how the centre is run. Natalie explained, **“I told the management committee that some of the girls are not getting to use the Decks”**. The centre responded to this and introduced a girls only Deck session. The centre has developed links with a local music project to run DJ classes.

Football Tournaments

More football tournaments have taken place. Craig told me, **“We asked if we could play more tournaments”**. The centre team have played Peterlee Youth Club and the Police”.

Sports Night

A sports night has been introduced as many young people were asking for more sporting activities, including a girls only sports session. Luke told me, **“We approached Geoff and asked him about getting a football coach”**. The centre responded to these requests and organised for Sunderland Football Club to deliver football coaching.

I would like to recommend that Seaham Youth Centre continues to be an Investing in Children Member for the positive methods they use to allow young people an opportunity to have a say in the running of the centre and the activities that take place based on the ideas of young people who use the centre.

This report has been read and agreed by the following young people, they are Vicky, Lauren, Hannah, Louise, Natalie, Craig, Dean, Liam, Matty, Daniel, Luke, and Ashleigh.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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