



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

St Andrews Youth Club

St Andrews Youth Club provides young people with the opportunity to engage in many different projects. This allows young people the chance to generate their own ideas for different projects and activities and for the staff at Brandon Youth Club to respond to, and make, the necessary changes to how each individual project develops.

The club has been running for the past 8 years. The sessions run on a weekly basis, every Thursday evening from 5.30pm till 7pm for under 11's and 7pm till 9pm for 12's and over.

The club is unique as it was initially set up in partnership with the local police. There is a youth committee at the club which is made up of 16 young people – 8 from each age group. They get involved in various decisions at the club including the types of activities and projects that are run and the programme etc...

During my visits to the club I met with workers, children and young people who told me all about the project etc..

This report will highlight opportunities of dialogue and change.

On my first visit I met with various members of the older youth club.

Leanne 14, Rebecca 12, Gemma 14, Molly 14 and Jess 13 all told me how they have been coming to the club for a few years.

“We get to do loads of things at the youth club like; Caving, Rock Climbing, Coast to Coast bike ride, play on the WII, arts and crafts, Awards such as the Youth Achievement Award and a stars in their eyes competition”

“We play football or on the WII”

“It keeps you off the street”

Park

“We are getting a park behind the Community Centre. We got to have our say on what we would like built”

Skate Park

“We were involved in the designing and getting the skate park built”

WII

“Yeah we asked for this. We got £400 from the lottery for equipment”

Residentials

“We went caving and climbing”

“We all sat down in a group and discussed it and decided on climbing!”

Youth Committee

“We have a youth committee. We sit down as a group and decide what activities we want”

Football

“We sometimes ask to book the astro turf at the sports centre and they do it for us. We have also been skiing.”

Logo Competition

“I won a set of pens as I designed a logo for the club”

Changes

“It would be better if it was on more times”

“There should be some computers at the club”

“I think there should be stricter rules as some people are naughty so they should get banned”

On my second visit to the club I met with Katie 9, Alex 7, Shannon 9, Adam 6 and Liam 8 who told me the following comments;

“We have all been coming for a few years now” Katie, Alex and Shannon

“You get to make things here. We’ve made door hangers, magnets, Chinese lanterns, decorated boxes and painted things”

“We have planted plants in cups”

“We have been on a trip – We went to see the show ‘Jack and the Bean Stalk’”

“We are getting a park. This lady came to ask us what we want in it and we said. It’s going to be behind the welfare hall. It’s good you got to pick” Katie

“My brother told me all about it here, as he comes. I asked to play games and on the WII. We play football outside and play games like sleeping lions and musical statues. I made a lantern!! We are listened to... Yeah!” Liam

Conclusion

The young people I met with clearly enjoy attending the youth club and being able to make decisions about the club and the type of activities that happen.

They are keen to be involved in various projects and I can see over the year that the youth committee will continue to grow in strength.

There are several young volunteers from the older club that help at the young club and this has continued to grow in strength over the years.

It is clearly evident that after my discussions with the young people, they are involved in making decisions and changes within their project. The group I met with were all happy to endorse this report and recommend the project receives Investing in Children Membership.

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Investing in Children
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