



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Stanley Youth Centre

My first visit for the purpose of the re-evaluation of Stanley Youth Centre was on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October. This evening is worth making comment on because on this evening 92 young people attended the session.

Over the last six months numbers have steadily increased with more and more young people coming week after week. At this point in time the sessions remain pretty much the same as last year.

Monday	Project night 6.30 – 8.30pm	Projects include: Baby sitting Healthy Eating Keyfund Football Djing
Tuesday	Outreach	currently the workers are working outreach in the hope of bringing new young people into the youth centre. These young people would be invited to an open session.
Wednesday	After school club 2.30 – 5.30pm	Projects include: Healthy Eating Football Archery The Mural Project
Thursday	Project night	As Monday

Evidence of dialogue and change is provided by some of the young people who use the centre. Young people who have attended the centre for years and others who are new both agreed that 'young people do get listened to and can do activities that they want to and enjoy'.

Jennifer told me "*If we want to do anything, then we just ask and they'll get it prepared for you the next week.*"

Jennifer, Danine and Sarah started the evening off with a cooking session. The girls cook for six weeks as part of a 'Healthy Eating Course' which is accredited at the end. The girls cook for 5 weeks then choose what to make on the sixth session. I chatted to the girls whilst they baked chocolate muffins.

Danine told me that she "*enjoys coming cos there is plenty to do.*"

Jennifer enjoys '*everything*' about the club.

Sarah told me that she '*used to come on a Friday night to the kids club, they always asked us there what we wanted to do.*' This was one of the reasons why Sarah chose to come to the senior sessions.

It is interesting to note that all three girls, alongside, approx 50% or over of the young people have attended a 'youth co-op' junior youth club!

After the cooking session Danine told me that they would probably be going to play netball.

I also had the opportunity to talk to some of the senior volunteers who support the youth work at Stanley Youth Centre. It became clear as I talked to the volunteers that their level of involvement is dependent on what they want.

Yasmin – Yasmin has been a volunteer at the centre for approximately six months. Yasmin told me that she attends meetings with the staff to help plan sessions. Sessions are planned in advance and together staff and volunteers review the programme.

Yasmin also told me *“if any young person doesn't like what is happening they can come to me and I can take their views to the meeting, I'm like their voice!”*

Yasmin was serving at the tuck shop this evening and she also said that the young people can ask for sweets they want and they will be ordered. Yasmin also told me that she helps to clean and cash up and that she enjoys being at the youth centre and working here.

Alex joined us briefly and told me that *“I like everything about coming here and I help out !”*

Kelly, another young volunteer still finds time to come and volunteer even though she has a new job. Kelly is hoping that she can arrange her new job so that she can still come on a Monday to help out. Kelly enjoys the sessions and does feel that as a staff team the young people get listened to and the workers do their best for the young people.

Kelly volunteered at the junior youth club at South Moor and Burnside, part of the youth co-operative.

Daniel still volunteers with the DJing and MCing. I spoke with Daniel last year as part of my evaluation and at that point in time the 'music' was being supported at the Youth Club by musicians from the Sage. Daniel told me that he doesn't really come to planning meetings because he is working more as a DJ in the clubs but he still enjoys volunteering and working with the young people. Daniel just sorts the session, he has another young person helping him sort the sessions for all the young people who want to be involved.

David is another young volunteer who attended the youth co-op and is currently trying to organise the next Stanley Bash, a successful young people's event. Working with Daniel and Rob they are considering venue, age range, ticket price and flyers etc, so I think it's a case of watch this space.

I also chatted with Vicky, Katie, Laura, Yasmin, Fern, Becca, Janine, Jamie, Philly, 'Ging' Nicole, Karl all who have done something and enjoy attending the youth centre.

The girls completed the babysitting course and they enjoyed doing it. They are part way through a Keyfund bid for a 'SPA' day – it hasn't been finished yet, they hope that they can pick it back up with support soon.

The young people I spoke with agreed and added their signatures to my evaluation. Therefore **WE**, (please see signature sheet) would like to recommend that Stanley Youth Centre maintains it's Investing in Children membership.

**Helen Mulhearn**  
**Investing in Children**  
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