



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Wheatley Hill Community Association

For the purpose of this re-evaluation for membership I met with Page, Courtney, Rachael, Loran, Simon, Shawn, and Daniel

I also met with Gloria, who is the full time Centre Manager. Gloria is responsible for the delivery of a community-based programme of activities and project-based work for both young people and adult members of the community.

Since the previous Investing In Children membership evaluation more developments have taken place with additional provisions for children and young people being put into place at the centre.

This report will highlight opportunities children and young people have, using dialogue, to be active members of the centre. It will also identify any changes and developments that have occurred at the centre.

Opportunity for Dialogue and Change

Youth Room

A major development at the centre has been the design of a youth room, which was developed by young people and staff sharing their ideas and working in partnership. Young people did this by discussing their ideas with staff about having somewhere they could access music equipment, listen to music and have somewhere to meet their friends. To develop these ideas the community centre applied for funding from the local network fund. Some young people applied to the youth opportunity fund. Both bids were successful.

Shawn told me, **“We spent the money on decks speakers and MC-microphones”**

Simon explained, **“The only thing is that it has taken a while to open and we were not sure when it was going to open”**

Young people can access the youth room every night during the week and also have access to the IT suite in the centre.

DJ Night

Shawn explained, **“We asked the centre if they could put on a DJ night so we had somewhere to MC.”**

Simon added, **“We spoke with lots of our friends about our ideas and told the staff at the centre, about how many young people wanted to come round to the centre to MC and mix”**

The DJ night takes place at the centre every Wednesday and is proving to be very popular.

Simon also explained, **“I think it could be even better at the centre because young people always have to go to speak to adults at the centre about their ideas and the adults never come to us, like the DJ night idea, and if they did, even more things could happen”**

It might be interesting to look at how the Community Association can increase opportunities for staff to engage with children and young people at the centre.

Sparkling Club

The Sparkling club was set up by the Community Association for children under 11 to have something to do at the centre. Lots of children attended the club which takes place every Monday evening from 6pm until 8pm.

Daniel told me, **“We came up with the name for the club and asked if football could be put on, which has happened”**

Page added, **“Sometimes the staff ask us what stuff we want to do and how we can make it better”**

Many activities are proposed and developed by young people. These include cooking, art and craft and different sports activities.

Rachael explained how this works, **“We asked if we could do tap dancing at the start of the year”**. This has now been put into place.

Conclusion

The young people I met with at Wheatley Hill Community Association do feel they get listened to at the centre and some things have changed. The young people I met with all expressed their views and opinions that there could be more opportunities for children and young people to get involved in decision making.

Due to the developments of the junior gym and drama club I would recommend that some children and young people get involved in decision making about these developments.

For the reasons mentioned above I would like to recommend that Wheatley Hill Community Association receives Investing in Children Membership and I look forward to seeing further developments made by the young people at the centre when coming to re-evaluate the project for membership next year.

This report has been read and agreed by the following young people: Page, Courtney, Rachael, Loran, Shawn, and Daniel.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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