



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Willington Library

I visited Willington Library during a drop in session. The library was very busy and all the children and young people coming in and out were taking part in various activities.

The atmosphere was very relaxed and all the young people seemed at home in the centre. There were approximately 25 young people in at the time of the visit and they ranged in age from approximately 8 to 17 years old.

There was no silence like normal typical style libraries. Everyone was chatting amongst themselves and music was being played in the background via the computers.

The activities the young people were taking part in ranged from playing games and using the internet on the computers, reading and accessing the books and listening to music etc...

There are several clubs and activities taking place at the library. These include:

**Chatter Box Club** – This group is used as the most formal group to plan activities and clubs etc.. They generally take minutes of the meetings and the group meets weekly.

**Reading Groups**- A group was set up for children and young people to help improve their reading skills. Initially the club was set up for all young people to attend however it did target more the younger age group, due to its success and the amount of children attending the sessions. The young people attending the library requested that a club was set up for older young people as well. Allison the worker in charge agreed to do this and gives up her tea break once a month in order for this to happen.

The clubs now run as follows:

- \* 7-11 years weekly sessions
- \* 10 years upwards once a month session

**Story Reading Time** - This group is set up for under 5's every Tuesday morning 10am to 11am. The group is extremely successful and generally gets between ten to thirty children attending with parents.

**Homework Club** – The club has currently been running for the past 5 years. It is extremely successful. A passport scheme is run and links with local schools via the study support teacher. If young people have attended the homework club ten times they will get a certificate at school.

**Craft Club** - The craft club was set up as a fun activity for young people to get involved in. They usually make arty things for the library. It runs fortnightly every Tuesday afternoon and has an attendance of around 15 – 20 children. At present the children are working on a project for the book star day which links with their school. Allison told me that at the next craft session they are going to be making puppets.

**Teenage Craft Club** – This is a new club that is running once a month on a Thursday evening. Young people asked if the club could be set up as they wanted more things for the older young people to do.

**Summer Holiday Activities** – Various activities were organised over the school holidays. One activity that took place was glass painting with 3 year olds.

### *Young peoples comments and evidence of dialogue and change*

Firstly I spoke to a group of young boys who attend the library on a regular basis.

Macauley who is 9 years old said *'I like Allison best she is kind and listens to you!'*

*'We have a reading club with Allison every Monday'*

Glen who is 11 started going to the library with his mam when he was about 3. He Said *'I come every night, you can come and chill out and listen to music on the laptops'*

*'I like Adam because he always listens to you and he tells you if there are any computers spare. I like all the books here because they are all interesting'*

Ryan who is 11 years old told me *'It's good and exciting and gives you something to do'*

*'I like looking in books best and sometimes I go on the computers, it makes me happy and gives me something to do when I'm bored'*

*'The workers are really kind and they are really helpful. There isn't anything I would change about it here'*. When asked if he thinks they listen to you he said *'Yeah definitely'*

Jordan who is 10 years old told me *'I joined today because all my friends are here'*

Jamie who is 9 said *'I like coming to go on the laptops'*

Luke who is 10 years old told me *'I have been coming to the library since I was 8, they listen to you. I like to read and go on the computers'*.

I then spoke to another group of older young people.

Jade (15), Jenna (12), Sarah (10), Jade (12), Tasha (13), Liam (15), Steph (15) and Chloe (15)

Jenna told me how she has been coming to the club since she was 8 approximately four years ago. She said *'You can have a laugh; you can go on the laptops and read books.'*

Sarah told me how she has been coming to the library since she was about 5. *'It's great here; you meet your friends here. I come for the computers.'*

*'The workers listen to you and they aren't dead strict with you. They are kind'*

*'I asked for two books before, a one by Tracey Beaker and a horror book and they got them for the library'*.

Jade (12) said *'The laptops are my favorite thing. Through the summer they put on an activity club for us'*

*'The workers listen to you'*

All the other young people I spoke to spoke extremely highly of the library. They all felt that they are listened to and the library provides them with the type of activities they like and need.

***Recommendations by children and young people:***

*'I would like see more Dr Who books and spooky books'*

*'I would like to see more car games for the laptops and maybe an interactive board for the wall'*

*'There should be more laptops and computers because we only have four and we need more computer swingy chairs.'*

*'If I could change anything about the library it would be the opening times. I would have it open till 7pm on an evening and 2pm on a weekend'*

*'I think it should be open till 7pm everyday and be more laptops'*

I am very impressed by my visits to Willington Library. The young people accessing the centre have the opportunity to have dialogue with staff and the evidence I gathered from speaking to the young people shows they are listened to and the library staff act on their word.

The staff have a friendly approach with the children and young people and it is evident that they feel they can speak to them for whatever reason.

The staff have worked extremely hard over the years. Therefore I have no hesitation but to recommend there membership is renewed.

This report was endorsed by young people attending Willington Library.

Well done to you all.

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**Investing in Children**  
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