



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Wingate Library

Wingate Library is a purpose built facility which opened in March 2002. It is situated next door to the community centre. It is wheelchair friendly with automatic doors and a loop system installed.

The library is open Monday 2 till 7pm, Tuesday 9 till 12, Thursday 9 till 7 and Saturday 9 till 1pm.

During my initial visit I noticed the library was very busy with what seemed to be a craft session going on for adults.

I met with Niall who is one of the workers, and he explained his role at the library and the work in local schools, as well as telling me all about the activities and projects that have been going on since the last evaluation.

Niall explained that over the past few months the library has had difficulty with young people using the centre and creating anti social behaviour. He explained that there has had to be changes and stricter rules and structures put in place to tackle this. For example, now the young people must have their library card with them, and a time limit of an hour has been put on the use of the computers. He said this has helped, however, it is a continuous process.

Part of the work of the staff at the library is to work with local school pupils.

***“We are currently working in St Mary’s RC and Hutton Henry Primary School doing story telling. I dressed up as a Knight. The children love it!!”***

***“We also have children from Wingate Infants and juniors coming to the library for story telling sessions. During this time the children also have access to the computers in the library”***

#### Adam Bushnall:

Adam Bushnall is a professional story teller; he is very popular with the children and young people. Over the year there have been several requests for him. Some of the sessions that have taken place have been story construction, which the children really enjoyed.

#### Jewellery Making:

This session was asked for by young people after seeing adults making jewellery at the library. Sessions were then run alongside the adult ones and additional sessions were organised with Annette Lee.

### Annette Lee:

Annette Lee was employed by the library to run various crafty sessions including Jewellery making and beaded bugs.

### Glass Painting:

Six sessions took place for young people to do glass painting on glasses and plates.

### Kite Making, Crafty Sessions, Crown and Helmet making and Graffiti Art:

These are some of the activities that have been provided for children and young people using the library over the past year.

### Bright Stars:

This project continues to run at the library every Thursday morning for under 5's, The children attend with their parents and are entertained with story telling, singing songs, rhythms and crafty things. Magic Jack also goes along to the sessions as well as Pats Puppets.

Bright Stars also put on an event during the school holidays.

### Library books:

*“New books go around the library for people to look at and pick”*

*“The young people are interested in the ‘Simpson’s’. We have a display up at the minute and have recently got new books in for them. We have also just replaced all the card books for toddlers”*

### The Future:

Niall told me that due to the anti social behaviour that has happened, the plan for activities in the future is to have a more structured approach so that children and young people must book a place in order to take part.

He also explained that they are working in partnership with Education in the community and the police to try and get a youth worker to work alongside library staff. I thought this would be an excellent idea and look forward to hearing about how it progresses in the future.

### Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

On my second visit to the library I met with Vicky 15, Yasmin 11, Boawe 12 and Alex who told me all about the library.

Vicky said:

*“I’ve been coming for a long while since the new library opened. Sometimes I come to go on the computer. I come every couple of weeks. I like it that you can come in here with your friends and go on the computers.”*

*“There are always lots of activities on for people to go to. There are books for all different ages and stuff. I asked for different books, ones I couldn’t find so they got*

*them in for us. I asked for skateboarding, animation and dogs and animal books. Normally they have them in within two weeks. They are really good!!”*

*“I took part in the reading challenge. It was good as a lot of people got involved who were all different ages. I didn’t think many would but they did!!”*

*“I wouldn’t change anything”*

*“You are definitely listened to; Hell yeah...They are very friendly and the staff get on with everybody.”*

I then spoke with Yasmin, Boawe and Alex who told me;

*“We have been coming since we were little. There is a good variety of books and you have more opportunities to read them here. You can also go on the computers”*

*“I took part in the activities and suggested things to do like the art work which is on the library walls”* Yasmin

*“I also asked for a few books about the Titanic and they got them for us”* Yasmin

*“I asked for the ‘Lemony Snicket’s Series of Unfortunate Events’ book and ‘The Sleep Walker’ and a few rugby books”* Boawe

*“Elaine helps us all the time with our reading and maths homework etc.. when we sit in the library. We do all our homework here”* Alex

*“You are listened to here. They try to do it as quickly as possible if you ask for something.”*

I then asked them if there was any changes they would make and they said the following:

*“I would have more signs to make it easier for people to find the books they are looking for, or maybe a system when you come in to show how the library works and is set out etc.”*

### Conclusion

The young people I talked to all thought the staff take the time to listen to them and what they have to say. They feel they act upon this quickly and effectively and are open to their ideas.

It is on that recommendation that Wingate Library continue to be Investing in Children Members.

**Eleanor Seed  
Project Worker  
Investing in Children  
May 2008**