



Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

9 Cedar Drive

There are currently four residents at Cedar Drive. Three of the residents have lived there for some time, while one resident is staying there on a short term six week placement. On my recent visits there was a happy atmosphere between the residents and staff. For the purpose of this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting with Mark, Paul and Lee.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

Key Worker

All the young people have a key worker and a co key worker. Their role is to help and support the young people in things they want to know, do or achieve. The young people are consulted with before a key worker is appointed. Paul said, **“I am happy with my key worker, I see her all the time. She helps me with problems and makes sure everything is alright.”** Mark agreed. He said, **“I have a key worker who I see everyday, so if there’s any problems I just talk to them.”** All the young people told me that if they were not happy then they could request to change their key worker. Paul and Mark told me that their key workers encourage and enable them to have an active life outside of Cedar Drive. They talked enthusiastically about going frequently to the gym and The Comby Arms to play pool.

Young People’s Meeting

Mark said, **“We have meetings often, every month or something. We talk about what we think of the house, what we want to change or what they want to change and we agree or disagree. All the kids go but it depends whether the staff are in whether they go.”** Paul said, **“We have young people’s meetings normally every couple of weeks. Sometimes we can all just be talking about things and these turn into young people’s meetings.”**

The Young People’s meetings provide the opportunity for issues to be raised about such things as repairs to furniture, laundry rotas and Fire Procedures etc. (See minutes attached) It also provides the opportunity for the staff to inform the residents of new people coming to stay at Cedar Drive and for dialogue to take place about how they feel about a new person coming to live with them.

The minutes from the meetings are regularly recorded. There have been lots of discussions about requests to go Go karting, paint balling, laser questing and ten pin bowling over the Easter period. Also there have been lots of conversations about possible camping and Youth Hostels locations for the Summer Holidays.

Mark also told me about some of the changes that had been made as a result of the meetings. **“I asked for the computer to be sorted out and it got sorted. The house is spot on. But you can always talk to staff on their own when other people are not about. There’s no problem with that, they are always going to listen to you.”**

Play Station Room

Mark explained about new changes to the Play Station room. He said, **“We are getting a Nintendo Wii and a new Play Station 2. We all talked about it and we**

did think there might be a bit of bother with people fighting over the Wii, but we decided to give it a go. Cos we thought it was a good idea for the staff to come in and play as well so they spend a bit of time with the kids and that.” Paul told me, **“Eileen has ordered a Nintendo Wii. We have asked for a pool table but they said no. They did explain it’s too expensive really.”**

Other changes that are currently happening include No.1 garage also being made into a games room with a football game from 5 York Road. Currently the young people are deciding on the decoration for the new room.

Food

Mark told me about meal times at Cedar Drive. He explained that sometimes he cooks for himself and sometimes the staff cook meals. He said, **“We get a shopping list and add what we want. A member of staff goes down for it but we can go down with them if we like. We say what we want like ice cream or mackerel and they get it for us. There are no problems as long as stuff doesn’t get wasted.”** Lee agreed, he said, **“We just tell staff and they go out and buy it.”** Paul added, **“Food is all healthy stuff cos the worker who’s doing the shopping at the minute doesn’t buy any calories!”** He laughed, **“But we tell the staff really what we want and they get it for us.”**

Laundry

Mark explained, **“We mainly do our laundry ourselves or the staff will help if we ask. There is a rota, sometimes we stick to it and sometimes we don’t. But we just do it when we like really cos that works best for us.”**

Mark told me that that the atmosphere in the house is quite relaxed and at the moment it appears to be a settled home for the young people who live there. Mark said, **“I am making the most of it cos I haven’t got long left here.”** At 9 Cedar Drive there is plenty of evidence of an ongoing process of dialogue and change and hopefully this will be continued. It does not always run smoothly at Cedar Drive, however the young people I met with do feel very much involved in decisions about their life and their home. I therefore recommend that 9 Cedar Drive once again receives Investing in Children Membership.

**Glenys Newby
Investing in Children
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