



Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Horden Youth Club

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with Emma, Vicky, Dawn, Amy, Ashley, Michael, Natalie, Chrissy, Kieran and Robert

Horden Youth Club continues to offer three night's youth provision from 7.00pm until 9.00pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Horden Youth and Community Centre. Unfortunately the centre was closed for a three month period, from November 2006 until February 2007, as the building needed rewiring. The staff continued to offer an outreach service during this time from the local Catholic club.

Bev and other staff members continue to create an environment where some young people come up with ideas about what they want to do, and, with the support of staff, these ideas are developed and incorporated into the service the youth club provides.

This report will highlight some of these positive outcomes and identify changes that have take place since the previous evaluation for Investing In Children membership.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Planning session

There was an open dialogue meeting with all young people and staff regarding what young people wanted to do at the start of each term. This allowed some young people the opportunity to say what they wanted to do.

Amy told me how this has been operating, "We all write down what things we want to do on paper".

Dawn told me, "We talk to Beth about what we want to do in the summer holidays"

Through this method of participation, some members of the youth club continue to be involved in decision making. The youth workers will try to incorporate all ideas which have come from the young people into the youth centre programme. These have included a trip to Lightwater Valley and horse riding.

Management Committee

Natalie ,a senior member of the youth club and previously a member of the young people's committee, has been attending the management committee to make them aware of what young people do and want to do.

Natalie told me, "I have been to the management committee to tell them about the residential we went on and to talk about stuff we want to do".

She also explained , "All the young people who were members of the young people's management committee last time have moved on".

There are lots more new members of Horden Youth Club which was encouraging to discover when I attended the Tuesday night session in February. With over 30 young people in attendance it will be interesting to discover how some of these young people become involved in decision making and how they work in partnership with staff members to develop the Youth Club further and make links with the management at Horden Youth and Community Centre.

Democracy Event

Thirteen young people went to London as part of a democracy awareness campaign which was funded through a youth development grant. This allowed members of Horden Youth Club the opportunity to meet with John Cummings, who is the MP for Easington District council.

Natalie told me, "We had a great day in London and we visited Westminster and we met with John Cummings".

The group met with John Cummings to find out what he did politically for young people in the Horden community he represents. Some of the questions the young people asked were,

- What are you going to do for young people?
- How have you or your party helped young people?

It would be interesting if the group of young people could meet with him again locally to discuss issues of importance to young people in Horden.

Fundraising

Some young people are planning on raising money for the youth club.

Emma told me, "We have come up with lots of things we want to do so we are going to raise more money to do more trips and stuff".

Vicky told me, "The idea is to buy more equipment for the club and for more members to go on trips"

Some young people have been talking with the staff about increasing the amount of activities and equipment at the club, but are aware of the limited finances Horden youth club have available and are keen to raise their own money.

Flips and Tricks

Daniel, Mathew, Christopher and Michael wanted to make a film about skateboarding on the streets.

Daniel told me, "We wanted to make a film about skateboarding so people get to know what it is all about".

The group came up with the idea as they all enjoy skateboarding and wanted to highlight to young people and adults the positive side to skateboarding. With the support of the Youth club the group made a film about what it is like skateboarding on the streets of Horden and they worked on the film production last summer. They called the Film Flips and Tricks

Youth Opportunity Capital Fund

Luke, Tim and Glen who are senior members of the youth club are also members of a band called Black Anxiety. The group had an idea to develop the basement of the

centre into a music venue where young people can come together and play music. The group were successful and received £12,000 from the Youth Opportunity Capital fund to develop the basement and are now working in partnership to develop this.

Chrissy told me, "I know about the band but did not know about the basement being developed and me and my mates would like to use it as we want to start a band", He also went on to explain, "That most young people like mixing and listening to rave music"

It will be interesting to discover whether other young people like Chrissy can get involved in this project and how young people and staff can develop a programme so that other young people in Horden can access the music room/basement.

Horden Youth Club staff have to be praised for the support they are giving to the ideas some young people are coming up with and how they then incorporate them into the existing project nights. This is allowing young people to take ownership of the nights they attend. I would like to recommend that the staff of the club and the young people build upon the positive work that is taking place, such as developing a formal structure for the young people to enter in to dialogue with both the Staff and Senior Management Committee to develop even more ideas which are coming directly from the young people.

For these reasons I would like to recommend that Horden Youth Club continues to be an Investing In Children member and finish by saying well done to all young people and staff.

The following young people:- Nikki, Jonathan, Robert, Joanne, Adam, Nathan, Liam, Amy and John have read this report and agreed that Horden Youth Club should gain Investing In Children membership.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children Project Worker
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