



## Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### Mid Durham Projects Club

For the purpose of this re-evaluation for Investing In Children Membership I met with Rebecca, Alex, Jessica, Kayleigh, Rachael, Carly, Natasha, Thomas, Alex, Liam and Lauren.

Mid Durham Projects Club continues to offer young people the opportunity to engage in many different projects. This continues to allow some young people the opportunity to generate their own ideas for different projects and for the staff at Mid Durham Project's Club to respond to, and make necessary changes to how each individual project develops.

For the main focus of this re-evaluation I met with some young people who are members of the Mid Durham 'Making Music' project. I also had the pleasure of meeting some young people who access the village project, which focuses on youth work engagement with young people from Kelloe, Quarrington Hill and Cassop village. The main purpose of the project is to develop a youth work programme, with the emphasis on what young people like to and how they can do to develop the programme.

The 'Making Music' project allows young people the opportunity to get involved in many discussions regarding what they want to do within the project. Many changes take place based on what young people want to do and through the direction in which they take the project. The aim of the project is for young people to engage in activities and to come up with ideas with a focus on making music. How this is achieved is down to the ways in which decisions and ideas are developed by the young people, with the positive support from staff to develop ideas further.

This report will highlight some of the opportunities the young people have had to be active members of the 'Making music' project. It will look at decision-making and will also identify any changes that have occurred as a result of this. I will also highlight the involvement of young people in dialogue and change in the Village project.

#### Evidence for Dialogue and Change

##### The Village Project

**Kaleigh Fingallten a lead youth worker for this project, explained, "In recent times young people from these villages had been getting some negative press in the local media and also by some sections of their own community". Liam, a young person who accesses the project told me, "We asked if we could go Quasar-lasering and have voted on other stuff about what we want to do" Laura added, "We have also been to the Billingham Forum to Ice Skate". Mid Durham project has been engaging with these young people and, through meaningful dialogue, found out that they have very little to do in the villages they come from. Therefore they have set up this project, which started in November 2006, as a**

direct response to what young people had said about the lack of facilities for young people to access.

### Cancer Research/ Tribute Night.

This idea came from the young people, as one of their schools friends at Gilesgate Comprehensive had died from cancer. Natasha explained, “ We decided that we all wanted to do something for him, so we organised and planned a tribute night by finding out what his favourite songs were”. The group organised the event with the support of the staff. It was apparent, when meeting these young people that their idea was positively responded to and even though they were working on another activity within the project, the dynamics of Mid Durham Projects Club changed direction based on what the young people wanted, rather than the initial objectives of the project. Becca added, “The staff listens to what we have to say about our friends and things we want to do, like raising money for Cancer Research, through the tribute night we did”.

### CD Production

Some of the young people who access the project wanted to make a CD. Natasha told me how young people decide on ideas such as the CD production. Natasha explained, “ We sit around tables every week and listen to everyone’s ideas like the CD we produced and look at the objectives every week”. Last summer members of this group visited Dog House Studios to record songs as a group and solo songs and decided to sell the CD to friends and family. They chose the British Heart Foundation as benefactors for the money they raised. Alex added, “ We normally discuss what we want to do, but it was better a few years ago when more lads were involved”. This might be something the group might want to consider when meeting to plan and evaluate the ‘Making music’ project.

### Event for the Elderly

This event came about as the group were developing a music event called ‘Music Through the Ages’. Kayleigh explained, “ If we feel things are not going to plan and it is not going successfully we will start something new”. Natasha added, “We decided that ‘Music Through the Ages’ was not going well as a big performance, so we decided not to do a big event, but did not want to waste all the time and effort we had put into it. So we decided we would do an evening for elderly people”. The young people can and do change things in the project through the positive dialogue they have with the staff and as a direct result of this event the group felt that young people who access the project should be given an opportunity to perform in the wider community instead of just performing at Gilesgate which is now an objective of the project.

For these reasons I would like to recommend that the Mid Durham Project continue to be an Investing In Children Member and say well done to the young people and staff of the project.

This report has been endorsed and agreed by Alex, Kayleigh, Danielle, Georgia Natasha and Alex from the Mid Durham Project when I met with them to discuss and read the Final report.

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**Investing in Children**  
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