



## Re evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### Catchgate Children's Home

Since the last evaluation, Catchgate Children's Home at 9 Rogerly Terrace has continued to develop its processes for dialogue with young people. When I first arrived I was greeted by Michael who had worked at the home for approximately 18 months. He showed me around the building and told me that there are 2 young people staying at the moment. I also met several other workers and was provided with **ample evidence of dialogue and change** and for evaluation purposes the staff had shown a wide range of opportunities for the young people.

The home normally houses up to 5 young people however at the present time due to issues in Catchgate with other young people it was lowered to 3 young people. This is currently being addressed.

When I was shown around the building it was evident that a wide range of activities had and are being provided. During my visit the 2 young people at the home were busy cooking in the kitchen and made some fantastic chocolate brownies which I had the pleasure of tasting. This was apparently an activity that took place on a weekly basis and one which both Natasha and Stephanie really enjoyed.

Other activities that also take place on a regular basis and that are decided by the young people are:

#### **Arts and Crafts**

Young people have the opportunity to make cards for special occasions etc. A recent project that the young people living at the home decided to do was to make a shield. A shield that details a description of the house along with useful contact numbers that young people might need. This is found by the door for anyone coming into the house to find out about where they live. This was an idea that the young people came up with and with the help of the staff they were able to do this.

Throughout the house there are many pieces of young people's art work displayed on the walls.

#### **Alternative and educational activities**

I was informed that both the girls currently staying in the house have been excluded from school. The young people and their key workers decide a programme of activities so that they are still being educated and are able to take part in various activities including school work such as maths and English along with other activities including anger management if required along with fun personal development activities.

#### **Key Workers and Co Workers**

Whenever new young people come in to the house they are allocated a key worker and co worker. The young people meet twice a week with them for one to one sessions and to plan weekly activities for personal development etc.

## **Planning meetings**

These used to take place every two weeks but now take place if and when necessary. The meetings involve everyone involved in the care system and are used to plan the young persons care in a positive manner.

## **Young peoples meetings**

These are held twice a week with the workers and this is where the young people get the opportunity to set the agenda which generally includes items such as meal times and menus etc. These meetings are generally very informal.

## **Young Peoples Views**

I spoke to two young people for the purpose of this re-evaluation. Firstly I spoke to Natasha who is 13 years old and has lived at the house for 2 weeks now.

I asked Natasha what she thought about living at the home.

She replied ***" Its Alright "***

She then told me that today she had been making cookies which she really enjoyed doing and cooked regularly.

I asked what would she do if she had any problems or was unhappy with anything what she would do.

She replied ***" I'd go to one of the staff; Peter and Michael are my favorite. They ask me what I want to do and then go away and discuss it like going to the pictures etc... Sometimes they come back and say no"***.

Finally I asked if she thought that 9 Rogerly Terrace have its Investing in Children Membership renewed: ***"Yes ... They should definitely get it. I hope they do!!"***

I then spoke to Stephanie who is 14 years old. Stephanie came back to the home for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time five days ago. Previously she had stayed there for three months.

We talked about the workers and she also said she had her favorites but liked most of the workers.

She said ***" I like the workers because they talk to you and listen to you when you need them too"***.

When I went to talk about the building she said it was ok but it could do with a bit of modernising as the décor was a bit dated and that the bathrooms were too small.

I asked her if she had asked for anything; She replied saying ***"They are normally very good and will take you anywhere. I asked for my hair to be cut and now they are taking me on Friday and I am going to get the posh spice hair cut"***.

She also said ***" Every week we get to pick what we want to eat and what activities we would like to do. I like the activities we do such as trampolining and clothes shopping"***.

I asked her if there was anything she liked about living at the home; ***" I like living here, I think it's a good thing that if you get out of control they restrain you and you get your pocket money stopped"***.

I asked what she would do if she was unhappy to which she replied ***“I’d just hide it away”***.

Finally she said ***“I think they should get the award cos they listen to you!”***

Following my discussions with staff and the young people I would recommend that Catchgate Children’s Home has it’s Investing in Children membership renewed. I would like to thank all the staff and in particular the young people.

Thank you and well done.

**Eleanor Seed  
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