



investing in children

## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Denton Young People's Project

For this re-evaluation for Investing In children membership I had the pleasure of meeting Lauren, Kev, Adam, Laura, Amanda and Ian

The project receives funding from a variety of sources, the main ones being Newcastle City Council (NRF), the Northern Rock Foundation, Church Urban Fund Body and Safer Stronger Communities. It continues to be based in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Denton.

The main focus of the project is detached youth work and an outreach service supporting young people through leisure and sporting activities. This acts as a mechanism through which workers meet young people and build relationships. A programme of activities can then be developed and introduced that are based on the ideas of the young people the project engages with.

The project operates:-

- A detached programme
- School holiday activity programme
- Saturday Art club
- Outreach education programme
- Health living
- Drop in Service
- Young People Management Committee

The report below will highlight opportunities young people have had, through different methods of dialogue, to come up with ideas and share their views and opinions about the project. It will look at how changes have been made based on their ideas and opinions.

### Opportunities for Dialogue

#### Drop in Centre

The project operates a drop in session from 3pm until 5pm Monday to Friday where young people can access staff to discuss different issues that the young people feel are important to them. This year the project has bought a leather sofa and a computer as young people came up with these ideas to improve the facilities. Amanda explained, **“We found out that the High Sheriff's award was coming up so we applied for £350”**. Amanda added, **“We actually got the money for a new computer and were really pleased”**.

#### Holiday Activity Programme

Ideas for these sessions were generated through the direct involvement of the young people by meeting with staff to plan the holiday programme

Adam explained, **“We have been planning the summer programme and have come up with lots of things we are going to do like the coast to coast bike ride”**. The activities the young people have planned to do this summer are: - surfing, beach day, BBQ, trampolining, horse riding and a coast to coast bike ride.



**Above are some off the young people who access the project.**

### **Ski Residential**

This is another idea which was generated through the positive relationships young people and staff have within the project. Nine young people in February organised and attended a residential in Scotland. These young people are now applying to different funding bodies as they want to plan another skiing residential.



### Interviews for new staff

Three Young People were involved in interviewing new youth workers for the project. Laura explained, **“We came up with our own questions and spoke with other young people about what we should ask”**. At the end of the interview process Adam, Christine and Laura met with members of the interview panel to discuss who they felt were the best candidates. The young people told me that they felt very positive about their involvement in the interviews because their views were listened to and taken into account when appointing a new youth worker. Adam added, **“We were pleased because the person we liked most got the job”**

### ‘Kids can Choose’

Young people from Denton have come up with an idea for a new multi purpose sports area. Adam explained, **“We have been talking about an all weather pitch because a big block of flats is getting knocked down”**. Members of the project made a presentation at the ‘kids can choose’ event. Adam told me, **“We did a presentation at St James Park about why we wanted an all weather pitch”**. The project is hoping to receive £183000, from Newcastle City Council and the Big Lottery Fund.



### Young People Management Committee

This was setup last summer to increase the opportunities young people have to assist the project in planning and decision-making. All young people were given the opportunity to become involved in this committee. Nine young people are now part of the committee who meet every other Monday with the staff. Laura, a member of the management committee, told me, **“We came up with lots of ideas like a notice board in Denton, so young people know about the project”**. There is now a notice board in Denton advertising different activities that take place at the project.

Kev told me, **“I never used to get a say. Darren and Simon always used to put down ideas and I would have to go with them”**. Kev added, **“I think it is better now because of the management committee because we are planning and choosing what trips as a community that we want”**.

Ian added, " **The young people's management committee has a large say on what happens with young people in the project**". Ian went on to explain, " **We have helped with the main organisation in the 6weeks holiday programme**".

The young people management committee has also been working with Newcastle Primary Care Trust on a pilot project called 'Teenage Kicks', which is about health and relationships.

I would like to recommend that Denton Young People Project continues to be an Investing in Children Member for the positive methods they use to allow young people an opportunity to have a say in the running of the project and the activities that take place based on the ideas of young people who use the project.

The following young people have read and agreed with the report. They are Amanda, Ross, Adam, Ian and Kevin.

**Rob Johnson**  
**Investing in Children**  
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