



## Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### Middleton in Teesdale Youth Drop-In

Middleton & Teesdale Youth Drop-In continues to provide a warm welcome for the young people who attend and any visitors who cross the door. This year I visited Kirk Caryn House to find lots of young people doing their thing at the drop-in.

The sessions continue to happen on an informal basis, with the resources provided by the workers to support the young people in what they want to do and achieve.

**Evidence of dialogue and change** is provided by the continued activities, courses and events that the young people want, plan, take part in and enjoy.

Squashed into this "little house" the young people who attend the sessions:-

- Sit and chat
- Watch TV
- Listen to music
- Play pool
- Access the Internet
- Cook, make tea, eat and drink
- Plan activities
- Take part in programmed discussions
- Anything and everything

The sessions run on a Monday, Tuesday for 14yrs+ and on a Thursday for under 13yrs. I visited a Tuesday session in February. I joined in the session and informally chatted with the young people who were at the session. It was quite hard to write everything down in my evaluation and I hope I have reflected everything.

The young people told me:-

- ***"With Capital funding we have had takeaway nights, competitions, general quizzes, cooking, we have been to Wet 'n' Wild."***
- ***"We do karaoke fundraisers for the youth club"***
- ***"We have computers"***
- ***"We have play stations"***
- ***"We have the smoking room until July, after that we want to make it into a decks room"***. Jen, some of the young people and I discussed funding opportunities for young people and where they might be able to access some money to buy some decks.
- ***"There are board games – the younger ones really like these."***
- ***"We do cooking – I enjoy making food, I really liked the pancakes."***
- ***"I like the sweet mincemeat pies and mulled wine when the Christmas lights get switched on."***

There is some training provided that needs to be done but still involves the young people and there is other stuff the young people just want to do. However all tick the boxes for Education in the Community and most are of benefit for the young people.

The young people told me about the variety of training courses:-

- Tractor driving
- Walking courses
- Driver theory testing
- C card centre
- Sexual health awareness
- Smoking cessation
- Firearms

- Drug & alcohol awareness
- Sheepdog training
- Business Enterprise Course

***The training lists are up on the wall and all young people are able to ask for things they want. As with activities, I am assured if young people were to ask for something then things are arranged. Recently football courses and swimming have been arranged.***

The young people chatted with me, told me about how they volunteer as part of the Millennium Volunteer Scheme and as Youth Work Volunteers. ***Toni told me how she supports the over 14yr sessions, helping to plan activities etc. The young people still volunteer and run the disco in the village as well.***

**Fundraising** – the group often fundraise to help support the activities they want to do, and support the work of Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Service. They regularly have a stall at the Farmer’s Market in Middleton, which is held on the last Sunday of every month. The young people collect donations; sort the stuff out to make a tombola stall and raffles.

**Newsletter** – UTASS produce a monthly newsletter, please see attached. The young people write articles and keep everyone updated on what they have been up to and what young people can get involved in.

One of the adult volunteers, Gary, is a paramedic. Some of the young people sat all night and chatted with him, discussing blood, guts, accidents, treatments, remedies and other biological functions (some of which I couldn’t stomach) – but it provided me with the motivation to get up and chat with others.

On both visits to Middleton in Teesdale I joined in the session. Nothing is performed, nothing is arranged, the sessions run as normal and I am welcomed into that “open” environment.

**This drop-in is what young people want and they get everything else with it. Their views, wants etc. inform what happens and they take ownership of that. This is clearly shown in their plans for their smoking room.** I hope by next year this is completed on my return, Good Luck!

I met with James, Graham, Phoebe, Alan, (who has size 18 feet!) Toni, Kirsty, David, Leanne, Dan, Nichola, Abigail, Amy, Craig, Sophie, Dan and Steven. Not everyone joined in the conversation with me but everyone said hello. As I pointed out in my last evaluation, ‘dialogue is on going and change happens when and if the young people decide they need or want it’ as this remains the case it means that I would like to recommend that Middleton in Teesdale Youth drop-in continues to be an Investing in Children member. The young people of Middleton in Teesdale Youth Drop all agreed with my report, a few minor changes have been made at their request. Other than that they were quite happy to endorse that membership is maintained.

**Helen Mulhearn  
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