



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Northbourne Street Youth Initiative

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting Jacqueline, Bianca, Daniel, Lee, Ryan, Martin, Liam, Steven, Danielle, Terry, James and David, who is now the chair of Northbourne Street Youth Initiative.

Northbourne Street Youth Initiative is situated in the west end of Newcastle at 105 St James Street, Elswick. The project continues to make developments to the programme based on the dialogue that takes place between young people and adults. The young people and staff have a sound and effective relationship, which allows the programme to continue to be developed by the young people who access Northbound Street Youth Initiative.

The report below will highlight a variety of opportunities young people have had, through different methods of dialogue, to come up with ideas and share their views and opinions about the project, which has resulted in more changes being made.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Northbourne Street Youth Initiative Questionnaire.

This gave young people the opportunity to express what they liked about the project and what they did not like. Thirty-one young people completed the questionnaire, twenty-one males and ten females, which was compiled by Northbourne Street Youth Initiative. The project is in the process of incorporating the results of the questionnaire into future development plans. It will be interesting to look at how the views will direct the development plan of the project next year

Inters Session.

The project continues to operate a junior session and a senior session Monday to Friday. Since the last evaluation the project has made some changes to the project programme with the introduction of an extra session. Some members of the junior youth club approached the project staff to see if it was possible to introduce another session, as they did not feel ready to access senior night. The staff have responded to this and introduced an 'Inter session', so young people who are not quite ready to access the senior session have the opportunity to access another session after moving on from the Junior session.

Football Team.

The project has supported the development of a football team, as this is what some of the young people had asked for. Daniel told me, "**We organised a football tournament at Westgate between young people and adults where we live**". The project continues to listen to what young people want and try to build this into the project programme. The football team is now in a five-a-side league and are now planning to enter a Sunday

football team. Ryan told me, **“This all happened because they listened to us and make our ideas happen”**.

Management Committee.

During last years visit to the project, David, a young person who attended the project, was a member of the management committee. David told me what has happened since then, **“It’s going all right as chair and I am starting to understand my new role and think it is working ok as I know everyone round here”**. David went on to add, **“Sometimes I get the chance to chat about things that are happening and some young people chat to me about different ideas”**. Daniel told me, **“David helped us with our Key Fund presentation and we worked on it to make it better”**. David has continued to develop his role on the management committee and is now the acting chair of the committee, highlighting how young people can enhance the direction and development of the project.

Session Planning and Activities.

Most sessions that take place at the project, whether this be the Duke of Edinburgh programme or kayaking, are all based around what young people want to do. The project continues to make regular changes to the project programme as they positively respond to what young people say. Jacqueline explained, **“We come up with lots of different ideas and say what we like and then do it, like cooking”**, She went on to explain, **“We did a keyfund and got £250 because we wanted to go to Wet and Wild.”** Monday night decks continues to be the most popular choice of activity for most of the young people who access the project and the project continues to support the development of this night as this is what young people enjoy most. I spoke with James, Martin and Terry who told me that they are putting a funding bid together for £10000 to develop the Monday night decks night with the expansion of the equipment/facility with the idea to build a recording room. James told me, **“We are planning a sound proofing room so we can record CDs and stuff”**. Martin told me, **“Most things we want to do, we do because they listen to us”**. The three lads are hoping to receive £10000 from the Youth Opportunities Fund to develop their idea further.

For all the reasons mentioned above I would like to recommend that Northbourne Street Youth Initiative continues to be an Investing In children Member for the positive methods they use to develop the project based on the effective relationship young people and staff have. They are willing to make the necessary changes by responding to some of the ideas young people have. I look forward to seeing further developments made by the young people when coming to re-evaluate the project for membership next year, and finish by saying well-done to all young people and staff at the project.

This report has been read and agreed by the following young people who Jacqueline, Bianca, Daniel, Lee, Ryan, Martin, Terry and James.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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