



investing in children

Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Trimdon Community College

For the purpose of this evaluation I met with Andrew, Karl, Thomas, Adam, Mark, Jordan, Sami, Nicole, Ashley, Lauren, Lee, Charlotte and Samantha. I attend the centre on two occasions in June.

Trimdon Community College is a community resource attached to the school. The community college is open three nights a week for young people to attend a junior youth club and senior club, and comes under the remit of 'Education in the Community'.

- Monday evening session is open from 6.15pm until 8.45pm, with a mixture of project work and activities
- Tuesday evening session is split between a junior session and senior session. The junior session is from 5.30pm until 7.00pm and the senior session is from 7.15pm until 8.45 with a focus on project work.
- Thursday evening is open from 7.15pm until 8.45pm

Dialogue and Change

Session Plans

I visited the Monday evening session to meet with some young people who attended the centre on this night. We discussed how the sessions are run and how decisions are made.

There are lots of opportunities for young people to enter into dialogue about how the sessions are developed. An example of this was the sexual health programme written by young people themselves, and based upon what they wanted to learn.

Charlotte explained, "We wanted to do stuff on puberty so we worked on this for several weeks".

Sami added, "The youth workers are really open and take time to find out what we want to do"

This resulted in changes to what the youth workers had originally structured for this session. The young people and workers have, created an environment of trust and respect. This allows young people to talk with workers over the structure and planning of the nights at the centre and changes do occur as a consequence.

Term Time Meeting

At the beginning of each term members of the youth club come together with youth workers to give them ideas about what things they would like to do. The youth workers have to develop a youth work curriculum based on 'Every Child Matters Outcomes'. The youth workers use this meeting to discuss with young people how this can be achieved. Projects that have been identified by young people are: - bullying, personal safety and a sexual health course project and many sporting activities.

Sami told me what happens during these meetings, "Young people choose which issues based stuff they want to do".

Andrew added, "They jot down what things we want to do".

Adam highlighted, "I like this meeting and what the youth workers do because you are treated with respect and they always listen to what you say and try to make things happen"

Projects and Activities.

The following is a list of activities and actions that were suggested by young people , New Footballs , Re-covering of Pool table , Canoeing , Rock Climbing, Trips to Adrenaline , Flamingo Park, Pantomime, Talk about pregnancy, bullying, Summer BBQ and more computers. All ideas young people raise at this meeting are responded to by the youth workers.

Andrew explained, "The youth workers tell us what they can afford and what can be done about our ideas".

Lee added, "We asked for a new cloth on the pool table, which has happened".

Thomas told me, "Donna has meetings with us and brings up all the ideas we come up with and whether we can do them or not".

Youth Opportunity Fund

Some young people applied to the youth opportunity to re-design the games room. They were successful and received £2000 to develop their idea. Charlotte explained, "Lots of us thought the games room was boring and wanted to make it better and came up with the idea". Nicole added, "Some of us went around asking everyone what they would want in the games room and made a list". Nicole went on to explain that all young people were given the opportunity to make a design of the games room and that some of the group visited Ikea.

All the young people who attend the youth centre at different sessions during the week are encouraged by staff to make suggestions as to how the session can be improved or changed. Young people seem to enjoy their time at the centre; the environment is very informal and very much based on what the young people want to do.

I would like to recommend that the staff of the centre and the young people build upon the positive work that is taking place, such as developing a formal structure for the young people to enter in to dialogue with both the Staff and Senior Management Committee to develop even more ideas which come directly from the young people.

I would like to recommend that Trimdon Community College continues to be an Investing in Children Membership and that they build upon the positive work which is taking place at the Centre over the next year.

The following young people have endorsed the report. They are Charlotte, Adam, and Nicole.

Well done!

Robert Johnson
Investing in Children
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