



Newton Hall Youth Club Evaluation

Newton Hall Youth club contacted Investing in Children because they felt they have ongoing dialogue with children and young people and felt they listen to children and young people and work together on making changes within the service they provide to children and young people in Newton Hall. The Newton Hall Youth club has just recently moved to a new building in Pity Me which is owned by their local councillor.

When I visited the youth club I spoke to 2 youth workers on what changes or evidence of dialogue they have to support their evaluation. They informed me that the management committee allowed two young people to take a seat on the committee to influence decisions made about the youth club. Since the new location of the youth club its numbers of young people attending have decreased in attendees.

Management Committee

I spoke to two young people who were on the management committee and they felt things do get changed but it takes a long time to see any changes. **'We could have what we wanted but it just takes time'**. Young people asked the youth workers for a residential trip and put their proposal forward to the committee and were granted their residential trip. The destination will be confirmed within the next few weeks. This does show some evidence of dialogue and change.

However, the young people requested computers and internet connection to be placed in the community centre which would allow access to the whole of the community. They would be given the funding for 3 laptops but the committee denied their request of installing the internet. I would recommend that the young people and youth workers research internet connection rates and put forward prices on an annual projection to argue how little it would cost the committee. A young person quoted **'we were promised computers and want the internet; we spoke to the youth workers and were promised it before the new building opened'**.

Environment

I then went onto ask evidence on what has changed by raising it with 6 young people. They told me they asked for a pool table, sponge balls, table tennis and graffiti board, safe sex posters which were designed and made by the young people. When I visited the youth club I saw the table tennis in the room. **'we asked for a graffiti board safe sex posters and we took it down from the old youth club and brought it here but we were told to take it down'**. I was told by the young people that the local councillor had control over what the young people were allowed to have but were denied any recommendations by the councillor because it being a community centre... **'We asked**

for some more colour on the walls but were told no because it is a community centre’.

The young people felt it was sterile and hospitalized **‘it looks like a hospital’**. Outside the community centre was a green but the young people were not allowed access to the green. **‘Not allowed on the grass’**.

Groups within the youth club

When I spoke to the youth workers on what the youth club currently does with children and young people they mentioned a few groups currently running which were asked for from the young people one of which was a pop culture group and the other was a cookery group.

I asked the young people on what activities they do and they mentioned the pop youth culture group and it looks at different music and plays different types of music. **‘We are going to print on some T-Shirts and we play different music and its ok but would not like to see any changes other than internet access’**. This provides evidence at some level of dialogue and change going on with the young people and the youth workers within the youth club.

I also asked about the cookery group and what sort of foods they cook, they told me they enjoyed the cooking that they do each week. We asked for a cooking session in the youth club. **‘We have to book the kitchen and we made kebabs in chocolate’**.

It is clear when I evaluated the site there is ongoing dialogue and participation and some changes are being made. However, it appears the local councillor sets up barriers for the youth club. It seemed young people were not satisfied with the youth club premises due to its lack of colour. I would recommend the councillor and young people compromise by changing the colour scheme or put in a poster board which could brighten the community centre for young people.

Young people also informed me during my visit that they take photographs of all the activities they do within the youth club and gave me permission to use some of the photographs as evidence. I asked the young people to continue to take photographs for future evidence for next year’s re-evaluation.

Providing the youth club continues to provide young people the opportunity to participate in dialogue and make changes with the young people I am satisfied to award the Newton Hall Youth club Investing in Children membership.

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Brian Davies

Young Consultant