



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Edward Lloyd Trust

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I had the opportunity to meet Amber, Graham, Amy, Gareth, Sean, Jamana and Josephine to talk about the new senior youth club, which has been introduced and developed by the Edward Lloyd Trust.

The Edward Lloyd Trust continues to run the Saturday morning club for young people with learning and physical disabilities. The Saturday Morning Club, and the senior youth club, are now run by Gary Bowden. He is the Children's Team Leader for the Edward Lloyd Trust, and he took up the post in September 2007.

The Trust continues to receive funding from Newcastle Social Services and the Children's Fund. The club was established because older members of the Saturday Morning Club wanted a senior club to be run by the Edward Lloyd Trust.

The focus of the club is based around play, with a range of activities based around what the young people want to do during their leisure time.

Edward Lloyd Trust received funding from the 'You Decide' initiative, run through Newcastle City Council. The funding helped establish the senior youth club, which started in June at Byker Community Centre.

Amber told me, **"I can do anything I want as long as I ask staff who help me"**. Amber also explained, **"It's not on long enough because there are lots of things to do, but not enough time to do them in"**.

Most members continue to be involved in sessions based around what they as individuals and as a group want to do and, in many cases, they make the decisions regarding what happens at the clubs.

This report will highlight opportunities young people have had to enter into dialogue and identify changes that have taken place at the Senior Youth Club.

### Opportunities for Dialogue and Change.

#### **'You Decide' Fund.**

Young people were given the opportunity to meet with staff and come up with some ideas about what they wanted at the club. Some young people also met with members of staff from the Voice Project, who spoke to the group about setting up another club.

Sean, one of the young people I met with, told me about meeting with members of the 'You Decide' panel and also talked to staff about ideas for the Club. The bid was successful and the club received £2000. Sean explained, **"The Voice**

**Project came to the club to talk to us about starting up another club for older young people".** He went on to explain, **"We came up with some ideas about what we wanted in the club"**.

I also met with some young people who were not aware of the funding that the club had received. It would be good to look at ways these young people could express their views and come up with some ideas as to how the funding could be spent. Gareth told me about something he would like to do. Gareth explained, **"I think it would be good if we could design t-shirts"**.

### **Dance Performance.**

The club has started to run music and dance projects because the young people have asked for this. Jamana told me, **"I like the computer and music"**.

When I visited the project in January Jamana, Graham, Amy and Sean were working with Emma, a dance instructor.

Amy told me, **"I like dancing with my friends"**. She also said, **"I like all the adults because they are nice to me"**.

Gareth told me, **"I like going in the computer room and music room"**.

Gareth was also pleased to inform me, **"I have been working on the slide show for the performance with music"**.

The young people were really enjoying themselves practicing the dance routine for an event at The Stage in March and were expressing their views and opinions about what they were doing.

### **December's Tuesday Club Evaluation.**

Gary sent out questionnaires to ten young people, their parents and carers to find out what they think about the club. Gary is hoping to use the feedback from the survey to make further developments to the club. There was lots of positive feedback from the survey and it will be interesting to discover how this is incorporated into club policy in the future.

### **Make up and Nails.**

Some of the girls have asked for this, which has been put in place.

### **Cats Theatre Show.**

The entire group is going to see Cats, the musical, at Newcastle Theatre Royal as all members of the group have asked for more activities. As lots of the group are interested in music and dance Gary had asked the young people at the club if they would be interested in going to see this show.

Edward Lloyd Trust provides opportunities for young people to get involved in dialogue and make changes based on what they want. Through the positive dialogue, which exists between staff and young people, they have introduced an additional session, the senior youth club. For these reasons I would recommend

that Edward Lloyd Trust receives Investing in Children Membership and look forward to further developments next year

I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the young people and staff for supporting me with the membership and finish by saying well done to all at the senior youth club.

I will leave the last words to Amber, who told me when I asked her if there was anything she would change at the club. Amber's reply was, "**The club is fine the way it is**".

This report has been read and agreed by the following young people; Amber, Gareth, Sean and Amy.

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