



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Hartburn Walk

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with Paul, Joseph, Lindsey, Michael, Kai, Rafiq and Shehab.

Children and young people who access Hartburn Walk have many opportunities to do things they enjoy through an open dialogue with staff and can make changes. Staff listen to what children and young people want to do on a daily basis and incorporate these ideas into the service. The service has also made some developments to communication aids.

Hartburn Walk continues to create opportunities for young people to enter into dialogue. This report will highlight these opportunities and look at things that have changed at Hartburn Walk.

Opportunity for Dialogue and Change

Young People Meetings

These meetings take place every night and give young people the opportunity to discuss with staff what they want to do during their visit. When I visited Hartburn I was given the opportunity to observe one of these meetings. Young people spoke with staff about what they wanted to do that evening. Kai wanted to watch Brum and this is what he did.

New Build.

The new building at Newbiggen Hall is now starting to take shape. Young people and staff are generating lots of ideas for the building. Michael told me, “**We have been to see the new building, to see how things are going**”. He also told me; “**We have been talking with staff about a new young people’s area**”. Pictures are taken every month of the construction work. The pictures are all placed in the dining area allowing young people the opportunity to see how things are developing. Young people are also discussing a new name for the building, which is yet to be decided. Below are some of the names which have been suggested and by whom.

- **Rock and Roll – Paul**
- **Take a Break – Stephen**
- **White House - Andrew**
- **Hydro- James**
- **The Pink- Lyndsey**

Activities and Trips

All activities and trips, which happen on a daily basis, are decided by young people. Some of the activities and trips that have happened over the last year are bowling, sea-side, Burger King, a theme park, Angel of the North, Discovery Museum, and Forbidden

Corner. Paul told me; **“We go to different places to visit”** He also was pleased to tell me, **“I am going to see Shrek soon”**. Paul added, **“The staff really listen to you”**.

Rafiq explained about why he likes Hartburn and the trips and activities **“I like going out on the mini bus to the seaside and the park”**. He also said, **“I like going to the youth club and having some time in my bedroom”**. He also claimed that he would like to come to Hartburn more often. Shehab added, **“I like the food, and enjoy trips to McDonalds, seaside and Whitehouse Farm”**

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

This change has happened because staff at Hartburn Walk had raised issues about how effective the PECS communication system was for young people. The previous system the young people were using was designed for schools and staff believe through their observations, that the system could be more informal, allowing young people the chance to enjoy their time at Hartburn. To develop this idea Hartburn Walk worked in partnership with a Speech and Language Team and is now monitoring this.

All the young people I met seemed very happy staying at Hartburn Walk and were all comfortable in what they were doing and where they were. The staff take their time to find out what young people want to do and respond to these ideas and make daily changes to accommodate many ideas that are generated by the young people. Hartburn Walk continues to provide respite care and short term stays for children and young people with disabilities. All of the activity plans are built around them and if they have ideas or suggestions they are taken on board and implemented. I have no hesitation in recommending that Hartburn Walk receive Investing in Children membership.

The following young people have read and agreed with the report and recommend that Hartburn Walk receive Investing In Children membership. They are: - Michael, Rafiq and Shehab

I would like to thank the young people and the staff for their time and finish by saying well done.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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