



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Kids Kabin

For the purpose of this re-evaluation I met with Tasha, Hazel, Nicola, Alan, Taylor, Neil, Sophie, Billy and Adam.

Kids Kabin continue to work with children aged between 8 and 13 in Walker, providing a variety of project based work. The project based work continues to be structured around music, art, cooking, woodwork and other creative art sessions. The main ethos of the project is to work alongside these children to support and develop their social and emotional skills using a variety of activities and project based work. In most cases this is developed through discussion with the children who have attended the project.

The project continues to listen to the children who participate in it, and it uses a range of methods and approaches, such as small group planning and evaluation of activities. It also includes the planning and evaluation of activities for individual young people. The positive involvement of the children has allowed the project to develop, and changes have been made over the last year to offer more support to the children who access the project.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Young People Volunteering Programme

This provides young people the opportunity to plan and run sessions at the project. When young people are too old to access the session, they are given the opportunity to continue to access the project through the volunteer programme. I met Tasha, Hazel and Nicola who are young volunteers at Kids Kabin. Tasha told me, **“We run sessions and plan what we want to do.”** Tasha also told me, **“We have also been round finding out what the younger children want to do and have also written down all their ideas for what they want to do during the school holidays.”** The three girls are planning to do some fundraising activities to go towards the costs of different ideas for trips.

Over the last year young people have asked for their own room to meet to plan sessions and relax. Nicola told me all about these developments. **“We asked staff if we could have our own room, because the staff had their own room and we also wanted a space where we could talk with our staff.”** Hazel told me, **“If we want to do some project work we will come in here and plan what we are going to do.”** The group also asked for a computer to help them with their role which the project now have. This highlights how changes have been made over the last year. When I asked the group if there was anything they would want to change, Hazel told me, **“The website is not very good and could be made better.”** This might be something the young people and staff could discuss.

Summer Holidays Programme

Most of the programme is developed by young people and staff working in collaboration to plan the programme prior to the summer holidays. Adam told me, **“Staff come and**

talk to you and send round forms asking you what you want to do during the holiday.” A residential, bike camp and hostel trip took place during the summer based on what young people and staff planned together.

Adam also told me, **“We biked to Hexham and back and slept there overnight.”** Adam also added, **“It was dead good and we had a BBQ on the night because this is what we planned.”**

Creative Art Sessions

These sessions continue to allow young people, individually, the opportunity to come up with lots of different ideas, which are then structured in the sessions. Adam told me, **“You can choose to do whatever you like when you like when you come here.** Adam added, **“I am making a monster truck”.**

Sophie explained, **“When we come here after school, we decide what we want to do like the jewellery box I have made.”**

Billy told me, **“You just come up with ideas and the staff will try and make it happen.”** Billy was very proud and took me to the woodwork room to show me the pool table he was making. All young people who attend the session have the opportunity to evaluate the session and plan what they are going to do next time. The main issues that were raised by some of the young people I met with when visiting the project were, **“Sessions should be on longer,”** and **“An, extra session during the week would be good.”**

Out-reach Work

This has been a major development for Kids Kabin over the previous year. The project is now working in the community offering street based activities during the school holidays and summer months. Tasha told me, **“They have now gone on to the streets with a cooker on the back of a bike and are doing lots of fun stuff.”** Kids Kabin are planning on continuing to develop this further, it will be interesting to see how young people and staff work together over the next year to develop this initiative.

The Kids Kabin has continued to develop and increase the opportunities for children and young people to stay active members of the project, and participate in different activities and discussions that are important to them. Some of the changes that have occurred over the last year are a direct result of the positive relationship the children and young people have with the staff of the project. The Kids Kabin allows more children and young people to shape the development of the project through the independent thoughts of the young people. For these reasons I would recommend that Kids Kabin continues to have Investing in Children membership

The following young people who have endorsed this report, they are: Ben, Billy, Lewis, Sophie and Nicola.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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