



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Longbenton Youth Project

Longbenton Youth Project continues year after year to provide a high quality service to the young people of Longbenton. **Evidence of dialogue and change** is provided by young people who are part of LYP and who meet weeks after weeks for activities, support, a variety of courses and lots of fun and friendship.

Streetwork

Streetwork is at the heart of this project, making contact with children and young people on the streets on their terms. As relationships are formed and trust is earned, the young people develop their own groups and plan their way forward with the project. Since last year, LYP workers have made contacts with over 120 new young people.

One to One

One to one support continues to be offered to every young person who has contact with LYP. As usual on my visits to LYP, young people pop in and out during sessions for a variety of reasons. On my first visit I met with one young man called Michael, nickname Duncan. Duncan came in to see if he could use the telephone and sat and chatted about what he had been involved in with LYP.

“The workers always help us out with loads of stuff. They give us lifts, they let us use the phone, and we get hot chocolates and stuff. I’m in The Lads Group, we’ve been quad biking, been to Quasar Laser. Sometimes we come into the project and get stuff to eat; we’ve made pizzas and stroganoff.” Duncan also said *“they have put me in touch with Tracey and Dorothy and I am doing some training and stuff, it’s about employability.”*

Group work continues to be the main focus of LYP. As stated in my last evaluation: ‘Each group evolves out of the needs and wants of friendship groups that workers meet on the streets. Longbenton Youth Workers are not constricted in their thinking, making all young people ‘work’ together but they recognize that individual groups of young people want to do different things with their friends.’

I met with two groups for this year's evaluation, LB - Inclusive and the young people from Health Matters.

LBI

LBI is a group of young people with disabilities. The workers at LYP support the group to find funds to do the things that they want. This year, the group has secured £5000 from Awards for All. On the 2nd April, I met with Margaret, Alan, Sarah, Nathan, Stephen and Daniel to talk about what they do in their group and what they want to do in the future. The session was a planning session and the young people decided on the activities they wanted to do over the next few months.

Over the past year, the young people have taken part in activities and events including:

- Quasar Laser
- Horse riding
- Swimming
- Archery

Visits to Sage - Creating their own RAP. *"We wrote all the words, we did some MC-ing and we performed our RAP at the AGM."*

A night in Chillingham Castle - *"We stayed in the most haunted place in Britain."*
"We went on a ghost walk, yeah it was good."

"We went to Edinburgh Zoo." *"It was Charlie's idea to go to Edinburgh."*

"We went away with the Calvert Trust."

"We've been to the beach."

"Swimming at Killingworth baths."

"We have a week away in the summer at the house in Beadnell."

"We had a visit from the Fire Brigade." Allan really enjoyed this one.

Stephen told me *"I like swimming especially Wet n Wild."*

Margaret said *"I really enjoy the group, it's good and I have been coming about two and half years."*

The group also goes out for lots of meals and enjoys going to *"The Magic Lantern and MacDonald's."*

As with all the groups who make up LYP, the young people decide what they want to do and the workers support them in achieving their plans.

LBI was formerly called *"T-Massive"* but as young people come and go, they want their identity to change to reflect their ever changing group. In order to ensure that LYP is fully inclusive, the workers use different outreach methods to meet the widest audience possible.

Acknowledging that children and young people with disabilities might not have the freedom to be out on the streets, the workers used a variety of local venues such as Longbenton Community Colleges Learning Resource Unit and the local school to meet with young people.

LB-Inclusive is the older group of young people and Kerching is the younger group.

Health Matters

Every year this group runs in partnership with Longbenton Community College.

This year's sessions have also been run in partnership with another local youth project, D2. I met with the group to chat about what happens in their sessions and the girls, Sarah (D2), Beth (LYP), Danielle (LYP), Jess (LYP), Jade (LYP), Vicky (LYP), Nicola (D2), Gemma (D2), Sophie (D2), told me about how they got involved.

Beth and Vicky both came to health sessions last year and wanted to do something again. The girls from Longbenton Community College said *"we saw the posters in school which advertised sessions; we went to see Michelle and asked what it was about."* Michelle Smith is the Mentor from the school who supports the project with the workers from LYP.

"We had a session to begin with to decide what to do. We chose the topic and planned together." The young people all agreed that they chose issues to discuss in their sessions. Sessions included dreams/insomnia, alcohol misuse, drugs and self harm, all issues related to health.

The young people also told me that they have been involved in other activities with the project, such as: quad biking, quasar, an outward bound day at Broomley Grange. The group also enjoyed a meal at Walk Mania in Newcastle's The Gate.

Other groups who make up LYP include:

Longbenton Babies

This group managed to gain funding from the Key fund Federation this year and have planned lots of activities for the coming year. They also enjoyed an Easter trip to Scarborough, to which family members were invited. Last year, the whole group enjoyed a trip to Sunderland Empire to see Cinderella and a residential trip to Winter Wonderland.

KKT Mums Group

This group is made of young Mums who enjoy sessions together along their children. Their visits have included the Seven Stories in Newcastle, the Blue Reef Aquarium in Tynemouth, Quad Biking and visits to soft plays. The young Mums also had a go at Quad Biking.

The Billy's

The Billy's is a group of young people who enjoys arts. Visiting cinemas and seeing

shows at the theatre. The group has secured funding from the Key fund to continue their activities.

Other groups are highlighted in last year's annual report (see attached appendix).

As with my last evaluation, it has been very easy to highlight the impact young people have on the project. LYP is a project which is set up to help and support young people of Longbenton to help themselves.

Dave and Kelly work hard in supporting each and every group to raise funds to do what they want. They manage and maintain the building, they ensure the project has all the resources needed and support every young person who is part of the project.

Individually all young people can have a say and make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others. The ethos of the project welcomes everyone. Time and space are given to all, which means the project is successful year after year.

With all of the evidence of dialogue and change included in my report, and the supporting views of the young people I would like to recommend that Longbenton Youth Project remain Investing in Children members.

Helen Mulhearn
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Investing in Children
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