



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Community Nursing Team

For the purpose of this evaluation I met with Jordon, Ben, Curtis, Reece, Joshua, Fadzai and Ross who have been working with the community nurse team at Hadrian's school in Newcastle. I spoke to Anne Stokle who is the community nurse about the changes that have taken place over last year and about how these develop through the working relationship with children and their families.

The Community Nurse team is part of the Community Team Learning Disability (CTLD) which provides a range of specialist health care services to children and adults. The team have 4 community nurses who work throughout Newcastle in different schools and community settings.

The team within the Community Nursing Service enter into dialogue with Children and young people through various strategies and methods. They are committed to ensuring children and young people's views are taken into account and that they are involved in some decision making. This includes being involved in decisions regarding their own support and also around decisions as to how the service is delivered through the positive relationship the team have with children, young people and the families who access this service.

This report will highlight these opportunities for dialogue and things that have changed.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Dentist Booklet

A main change to how the team offers support to children and young people who access the dentist is the development of a booklet which is to support children and families going to a dentist. After talking with some families across Newcastle the team discovered that some children with specific disabilities had a fear of going to the dentist. The team worked with some children and young people to develop a talking booklet about the different stages of going to the dentist. Children and young people along with their families were also given the opportunities to evaluate the booklet when it was complete.

School Based Work.

The team meet regularly with children and young people at various schools throughout Newcastle. The team link in with schools to run sessions on personal hygiene and other issues. I had the opportunity to meet with some young people who have been working with Anne Stokle, a community nurse, at Hadrian's school. The session I attended was about general hygiene and germs. The young people fully interacted in the session, which seemed to help shape how the session progressed. Other sessions that have taken place have been based around personal needs which takes direction based on the relationship

the community nurses have with the children and young people they work with. Below are some off the things the group were talking about

Reece told me, **“We are learning about germs”**

David told me, **“I know germs do not like hot water and they are bad for you”**.

Anne was also meeting with the group to ask them their views about some new clothing that the team were told to wear for health and safety reasons. The group had a chance to say what they thought about clothing.

David, **“It looks like fancy dress”**

Jordon told Anne, **“I don’t like it, it will make me cry”**

Reece added, **“It looks like a Halloween suit”**. Anne is going to feedback all the comments to her manager.

Community Based Work.

The team also work with children and young people and their families in different settings across Newcastle. This has helped the team develop its service to meet the needs of young people. The team have helped support community based initiatives based on the feedback of what children and young people have asked for. Some of these activities have been exercising, dancing and walking which is supported through a community initiative called Success for All. The team have also been involved in some community based research with children, young people and their families from the minority ethnic communities, as the team had expressed a view that the service may be inaccessible to families from black and minority ethnic groups. Developments from this research have resulted in the making of a multi culture film about autism which involved children and young people in the making.

Video Work

The team, over the last year have been working with some children and young people to develop their understanding of using a syringe for their personal health needs, and to help other children who might not like using a syringe or have family members who use a syringe.

Future Developments.

These include developing further work with ethnic minorities about the service, which is to be developed by young people and staff.

The team creates opportunities for children, young people and their families to contribute to decision making. All of the children I met with seemed happy with the service and enjoyed working with Anne. The staff team ensure that opportunities exist for children and young people to have a say through school based and community based work

For these reasons I would like to recommend that the Community Nursing Team receives Investing In Children membership and look forward to seeing any further developments made by children young people and staff when coming to re-evaluate next year.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me to write this evaluation. When I spoke with some young people it was clear that they are listened to and that their rights to participate in decision making are respected by the Community Nursing team Therefore, I have no hesitation that the Community Nursing Team become an Investing in Children member. Well Done.

Rob Johnson
Investing in Children
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