



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Sure Start – Stockton

Grangefield School – Peer Educator Project

I visited Grangefield School to meet several members of the peer education project on two separate occasions.

I would like to say a special thanks to Nathan, John, Jade, Amy, Chris, Adam, Jordan, Josh, Jordan, Lucy, Matty, Christina, Claire, Shaun, Holly and Katy for helping in the evaluation process.

The project started in September and offers young people the opportunity to train as peer mentors. Currently 15 pupils are training and working towards an award.

During my initial visit the group told me how they came to be involved, the type of work they have been doing, how they are listened to and what they have got planned for the future.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change/Young Peoples Views

‘We were first told about the project and people were asked if they would like to take part, and if so, to write your name down and pupils would be chosen from that ‘

‘During the first session we looked at the role that peer mentors can play’

‘We then talked about the issues that young people face. Sexual Health was always coming up in discussions’

‘We have also looked at drugs and alcohol’

‘We split into groups to look at the issues of what affect young people in general’

‘Then we looked at what areas we would like to cover as mentors’

‘We decided what we were comfortable with, for when we become mentors’

‘Once we get the skills that we need we will be offering our service to pupils in our school’

‘You will be able to book an appointment with the mentors and we will have a rota of when we will be available’

‘After Christmas we are going to pilot the project with year 9 pupils to start with, before it is available to all the school’

‘We are also going to be doing a photography project to promote the fact that young people aren’t always getting into trouble. One of the things we will be looking at, is that

apparently in some recent survey that was done, it said that 20% of young people in the uk will be pregnant'

'We chose to do this project because we feel there is not enough positive images of young people out there'

'We are able to decide on what we talk about and definitely have a say'

'Two people from the group went to speak at an event about peer mentoring'

Best Bits

'It will change people's lives if we are mentors'

'They will have someone to speak to'

'The best bit about the group is you can have open conversations and know it goes no further and know that you are not going to get wrong'

'You get a qualification at the end of it!'

Chris told me *'It's good because you get to know each other better with the things we do so that when it comes to making a group decision it's much easier as you can explain things easier'*

'You get the views of different people'

Changes/The Future

'There should be more time for sessions as one hour is not enough – It needs to be longer!'

'We should get a badge or a tie that says we are peer mentors so people know who we are'

On my 2nd visit to meet the young people, they told me what they had been up to since I was last there.

Paint balling

'We have been paint balling on a team building event at Point Blank in Darlington. We had to write down our ideas of what we wanted to do and had to choose from all of them.'

Mentoring

'We were given year 9 pupils to mentor'

'We work in pairs; one boy and one girl'

'We have had to deal with various issues like bullying, school work, relationships and family issues'

'90% of the group have mentored now'

'We have been looking to get a tie – Mrs Mansfield is looking into it for us!'

Photography Project

'We have decided that we are going to start this on 14th March'

Sir Al Aynsley-Green

'He came in to speak to us, we had 5 minutes each to talk to him about different subjects

like: Drugs and Alcohol

Family Problems

Healthy Eating

Bullying/Relationships

School

Youth and Community'

'We also talked about the Mosquito Noise that's played in bus stations etc.. We supported him that it should be banned'

'We did role plays of different mentoring situations'

UN Convention

'We didn't know anything about this, but now we do, and think more people should know about this'

Anti Bullying Committee

'Holly and Chris now sit on this, they are looking at Cyber Bullying'

Conclusion

The young people clearly enjoy being a part of the group and want to be involved in helping other young people at the school.

They are keen to be involved in various projects and I can see that over the year the project and young people will grow and develop from strength to strength.

It is clearly evident that after my discussions with the young people they are involved in making decisions and changes within their project. The group I met with were all happy to endorse this report and recommend the project receives Investing in Children Membership.

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Investing in Children
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