

How Good is our Saturday Night Project?

North Lanarkshire Council, CLD – Youth Work Team

Background

As part of their aim to keep improving community learning and development (CLD) practitioners in North Lanarkshire decided to use the How Good is Our CLD? (HGIOCLD?) framework to self-evaluate their Saturday Night Project. The Saturday Night Projects across North Lanarkshire are delivered in partnership with CLD Youth Work and North Lanarkshire Council Sports Development which provide community based diversionary youth work activities. The activities support health and wellbeing, reduce anti-social behaviour and improve outcomes for young people who experience significant barriers to participation. This includes young people who are care experienced, or at risk of offending or anti-social behaviour or who are impacted by poverty.

What the practitioners did

CLD Youth Work Manager and CLD Development officer reviewed the Quality Indicators and challenge questions and selected those most suitable to the self-evaluation for producing an evidence-based approach to service improvement. They decided to use the following quality indicators and challenge questions. The colour coding lets you see which questions they used for which part of the evaluation.

FOCUS GROUP

SURVEY

CONSULTATION WITH YP

DIVERSIONARY WG

1.1 Performance against aims and targets

Challenge Q12. Overall, how well can we demonstrate the collective impact of our work on learners, groups, communities and the wider area?

1.2 Improvements in equality, diversity and inclusion

Challenge Q3. How successfully do we remove barriers to access and participation and monitor our approaches to ensure they are effective in reducing barriers to participation? AND DIV WG

2.3 Improving life chances

Challenge Q1. How well is our CLD offer enhancing the physical, social and/or emotional wellbeing of participants?

Challenge Q11. How do we know that children, young people and adults are gaining skills for learning, life and work?

3.1 Management and support

Challenge Q3. How clear are our policies and procedures? How do we know staff, volunteers and other stakeholders understand and follow them?

Challenge Q5. How do we know there is a shared our sense of purpose across leaders, staff and volunteers? AND DIV WG

3.2 Partnership working

Challenge Q5. How well do we ensure that within each partnership the roles and responsibilities of each member or organisation are clearly understood by everyone?

4.2 Delivery of community learning

Challenge Q4. How well do we ensure the learning we offer is designed and delivered to a high standard and provides a high quality learning experience? AND CONSULTATION WITH YP

Challenge Q9. How well do we ensure learners are actively engaged in shaping their own learning and in the wider service design and improvement?

Challenge Q12. How well do we recognise and celebrate achievement and attainment?

6.1 Raising standards

Challenge Q8. How effective and well understood are we of our responsibilities for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults?

The Methodology

Methodology included information from management information systems such as attendance and session recordings.

Focus groups with young people who attend the Project was facilitated by CLD Youth Workers and a session plan was created to ensure consistency in the challenge questions and approach to several focus groups with young people. A similar approach was used in staff focus groups involving staff from across the partnership and these were facilitated by the CLD Development Officer and CLD Youth Work Manager.

Consultation with all staff in the form of a survey was distributed and findings were collated and presented using illustrated charts. All evidence was then gathered into a full report and presented to the Head of Service before being presented to the wider partnership with recommendations for improvement.

This is the guidance they developed for the consultations with young people.

CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

1. How well is our CLD offer enhancing the physical, social and/or emotional wellbeing of participants?

- Do you get access to a variety of physical activities at SNP?
- Do you have friends / other young people you spend time with at SNP?
- Do you look forward to coming to SNP?
- Do you feel safe at SNP?

2. How do we know that children, young people and adults are gaining skills for learning, life and work?

- Have you learned any new skills at SNP? Please tell us about them
- Has your knowledge increased in any of the following areas through attending SNP?
 - Drugs
 - Smoking / E-Cig
 - Alcohol
 - Mental Health
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Internet Safety (being safe on your socials)
 - Other.....
- Has this been through conversation or have you attended a workshop/session?
 - Conversation with staff
 - Workshop/session

3. How well do we ensure the learning we offer is designed and delivered to a high standard and provides a high quality learning experience?

- Do you think there is enough opportunities to learn more about these issues young people may face?
- Do you think the staff at SNP are knowledgeable about the issues young people may face?

4. How well do we ensure learners are actively engaged in shaping their own learning and in the wider service design and improvement?

- Are you involved in planning what activities happen at SNP?
- Do you feel your views are listened to at SNP?

Summary of what they learned.

- Almost all staff have a clear understanding of the nature and purpose of the project. Further clarification on roles and responsibility in supporting vulnerable young people needs to be clarified and sharing of strategies to support young people to all staff.
- All staff are involved in teamwork and planning the programme and take part in both mandatory training and training to enhance their own skills and knowledge to meet needs of young people.
- The Saturday Night Project is meeting the needs of almost all young people who attend. However, some young people require a wider range of activities and support delivered using a youth work approach.
- Young people who face barriers to participation have support through the CLD Youth Work team and there is strong evidence this additional support continues in all areas of CLD Youth Work for the young people, especially care experienced young people.
- Some young people take part in youth awards and accreditation as part of the provision. However, the numbers attending this provision do not make it possible to gain awards specific to the Saturday Night. However young people can and are encouraged to gain awards in other areas of CLD Youth Work.

Next Steps and Recommendations

The findings of the self-evaluation have been shared with the Strategic Diversionary group and some operational changes have already been made. The evidence from the focus groups with staff and young people, the survey and the performance management systems has been used to seek and secure further funding from a range of sources to enhance the provision and meet the needs of young people and staff. In addition, there will be an improvement on how information is gathered within the performance management system so that both qualitative and quantitative information can be used to measure impact over time.