

SIB project for consideration**Junior LDD Youth Club**

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£5,081	£850	£4,231

The Project

Herrington Burn YMCA have over the past 8 months been delivering a free weekly junior youth club and holiday activity provision for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities from its base in the Coalfields. Members to the group are both referred through the Children's Disability Service and through a self referral process. The group is open to young people aged 8-12 years with any level of learning difficulty or disability.

The group currently has 10 young people who attend on a weekly basis whose disabilities range from visual impairment, language impairments, severe learning disabilities, autism, aspergers etc. The young people get involved in tailored and themed activities within the sessions including indoor and outdoor sports, healthy eating and lifestyle initiatives, IT and computer based activities, arts and crafts, cooking and general youth club activities. The group are well bonded and have built strong and well established relationships with each other and staff. Volunteers support the delivery of the current sessions as a number of the young people require one to one support to maximise their involvement and experience. In addition the project delivers off site activities for young people during the holiday periods. The group have enjoyed horse riding, bowling and a visit to Shildon Railway Museum.

All staff and volunteers have undertaken relevant training provided by the Children's Disability Service and SSCB safeguard training relating specifically to work with young people with disabilities.

Outcomes

This project has enabled a wide range of outcomes for both young people who attend and parents/carers. The weekly and holiday sessions enable parents/carers to have some respite from their roles as carers which for many is a much welcomed and needed opportunity. The young people are keen and enthusiastic to engage with each other and staff; widening their networks, developing their skills, improving their confidence and self esteem. The programme delivered in consultation with young people enables them to take part in new activities and experience, rise to new challenges in a safe and supported environment, build relationships with new friends and have the opportunity to have fun in an environment which doesn't include parents/carers.

Feedback is regularly sought by staff from the young people, their parents/carers and the Short Break Co-ordinator for the Children's Disability Service. All the parents/carers of the young people report an increased confidence and enthusiasm in the young people which is clearly seen by project staff. Young people provide weekly feedback and rate the sessions. All the sessions are thoroughly enjoyed by the young people and their feedback is very positive. All levels of feedback about the project from parents/carers and the professional team highlights the need for such a project within the Coalfields and the success of the project delivery at Herrington Burn YMCA to date.

The project outcomes fit well the Every Child Matters priorities and the Coalfield Area Committee priorities in relation to positive activities for young people and support for carers. The project meets the City of Sunderland priorities in relation to being inclusive and with a focus on new experiences and learning.

The current funding for this project has ceased. Herrington Burn YMCA is seeking funding to continue this project for 22 weeks (from April 2013 to September 2013).