

EVALUATION of AIMING HIGH

(Short breaks for disabled children)



by Sam Cutts & Emma Chessex
Medway Young Commissioners



Some of the Bradfields Students involved in evaluating
Aiming High (January 2011)

Medway Young Commissioners

Evaluation of Aiming High (Short breaks for disabled children)

“YOU SAID” – YOUNG PEOPLE

Evaluation Workshop held at Bradfields School @ 9.30am – 11am
Thursday 13th January 2011

Involving 16 Students (aged 13-18) led by:
Emma Chessex (18Yrs) and Sam Cutts (15yrs), Medway Young
Commissioners
Supported by: David Waters, Emma McGreggor-Davis and Claudia
Able – Student Social Worker (Bradfields School)
and Keith Wyncoll (Aiming High).

1) Introduction

Sam and Emma explained their role as Medway Young
Commissioners in reviewing Medway Council Services.

2) Aiming High (Short Breaks for disabled children/young people)

2.1 David Waters and Keith Wyncoll explained how Aiming High
funded activities:

- provide interesting opportunities for disabled children
- give parents a break
- give time for parents to focus on the needs of brothers &
sisters.

2.2 To simplify this evaluation, we have grouped Aiming High
activities into:

- One to One support
- Holiday Playschemes
- Trips and one-off activities
- Clubs
- Overnight stays

3) "YOU SAID" – YOUNG PEOPLE

3.1 One to One Support (Someone who visits you and takes you out e.g. swimming or to a youth club)

Do you use One to One support?

- Most of the young people had not used this support but they recognised that they were older and a bit more independent.
- *"We join up at the weekend as a group of friends and we go places on our own (like Bluewater)"*
- One person goes to a youth club each week, supported by a Me2 mentor.

What one to one support would you like, to try new activities?

- *"I would like to play cricket and archery"*
- *"We would like to go swimming, play baseball, cricket, football, archery & tennis"*
- *"I would like to go to a football match but I don't often get the chance"*
- *"I love plays"*
- *"When I went to Abbeycourt School, there were kids that found this helpful"*
- *"I would like to learn about cars and go quad biking"*
- *"I would like to go ice skating"*
- *"I would like to go hip hop dancing and to a singing club"*

Action: Keith Wyncoll to ask Tracey McRobert from Me2 to talk to the Bradfields students about these ideas.

3.2 Holiday Playschemes

How many of the Students had been to Playschemes in the last year?

- 7 out of 16 but all knew of other school friends at Bradfields who attended the Bradfields Play schemes, MAPS or Brogdale Farm activities.
- None of this group had been to the MAGIC playscheme.

“You said”:

- *“They are fine and well organised”*
- *“I went to Parklands playscheme when living with my Mum”*
- *“I’ve been to MAPS discos”*
- *“The workers were good and I had fun”*
- *“I haven’t been to a playscheme but I would like to in the future”*
- *“I’m not interested in any of the schemes”*
- *“I liked the animals and fun activities at Brogdale Farm – would go again”*
- *“Enjoyed bowling”*
- *“Enjoyed Bradfields Playscheme – played games, puzzles etc; good workers”*
- *“I had enough to do in the holidays, so I didn’t go”*
- *“I like the sound of it – haven’t been but would like to”*
- *“I didn’t know it was on – please advertise dates, times and costs”*

You voted:

Of those who attended

6 voted 10/10 = 60

1 voted 9/10 = 9 for the quality of playschemes

69 out of 70 = **98.57% approval rating**

3.3 Trips and One off Activities

The students talked about the Paralympic Sports Taster day (7 had been), Fun days (3 had been) and then lots of one-off trips (most organised by the school and not Aiming High funded), e.g.

Kingfisher’s boat trip, Houses of Parliament, Lord Mayor’s show, Chessington, Church Farm, Thorpe Park, Shows like ‘Wicked’, ‘We Will Rock You’, ‘Oliver’ and rock climbing.

“You said”:

- *“Paralympics – enjoyed it; workers good”*
- *“Paralympics – good stuff. Enjoyed the wheelchair rugby”*
- *“I tried lots of new sports”*
- *“I would like to do more trampolining”*
- *“I would like a trip to see sporting event’s like football matches”*
- *“Just because you are disabled, doesn’t mean that you have to be held back”*
- *“We would like to go swimming (5 students), archery (3), athletics (1), trampolining (5)”*

- *"I went to the Paralympics and had a brilliant time. I played wheelchair rugby (myself & Jade) and running. I ran faster than the mascot!" Luke (year 9)*

You voted (Aiming High/Paralympics only)

6 voted 10/10 = 60

1 voted 9/10 = 9

69 out of 70 = **98.57% approval rating**

3.4 Clubs

6 had been involved in the drama group, which rehearsed, then put on a "Grease" show. Others had seen this as audience members. Some had been part of the cycling club (special bikes bought by Aiming High) and 1 student had been to Parkwood Youth Club.

"You said":

- *"Grease was brilliant. It taught me to dance and sing a bit" – Luke (year 11)*
- *"I really liked the Grease production – the staff were nice"*
- *"The best was on the night – I would like more drama clubs"*
- *"It was the first time I had to sing in public – I was nervous but it was good fun"*
- *"A lot of people do drama but the school doesn't have proper lighting"*
- *"I like acting – had fun, workers good"*
- *"I really enjoyed the Grease production – it was brilliant!"*
- *"Singing, dancing, acting – nothing could be better!"*
- *"More drama – would like to do it again"*
- *"They taught me to dance"*
- *"Could we do bike riding at the FE centre?"*
- *"Had fun at the cycling club – could be better by not falling off the bike!"*
- *"I used to go to Parkwood Youth Club but I stopped because it got a bit boring"*
- *"I go to MAGIC"*

We would like to do:

- Street dance
- Running
- Concerts/events/gigs club for special occasions
- Drumming
- Arts & crafts
- Cooking club
- Karate club
- Archery

You voted: (Grease production/cycling club)

7 voted 10/10 = 70

70 out of 70 = **100% approval rating.**

3.5 Overnight Stays

No students had stayed at Aut Even or Preston Screens in the last year. One used to go to Preston Screens when she was younger; "It was a place to go for respite and relax, meet new people, give your parents a rest and enjoy yourself"

4) Final Comments

"You said":

- *"The best bit was the singing"* (Becky, 14)
- *"You felt shy on the inside but the inside came out"* (Molly, 13)
- *"The show was good"* (Hayley, 14)
- *"My family were very proud of me for making a bird box out of wood"* (Charlie, 11)
- *"I like doing painting the props"* (Matt, 14)
- *" I enjoyed Grease – I danced but pretended to sing!"* (Mark Jones, year 10)
- *"I would like to do an overnight activity"* (Ryan)
- *"Aiming High is very well done and I would use this information for children"* (Jade, 18)
- *"Aiming High gives good information for people and families. I have found it interesting today about all these things"* (Emma 17)

Several students would like to go on trips to:

Camber Sands, Leysdown, Folkestone, Herne Bay, Greenwood, Dartmoor (Sports leadership course), Butlins at Bognor, Wales, and Bournemouth.

Others wanted to go to Italy, France, Australia, Spain and Sam is going on a school trip to China!

"YOU SAID" – PARENTS

Telephone Survey with 16 Parents of Bradfields Students

1) How many activities has your son/daughter been involved with?

One Parent said their child had been to 3 opportunities

Six Parents said their child had been to 2 opportunities

Nine Parents said their child had been to 1 opportunity

Activities :	Fun Days	111	= 3 young people
	Paralympics	1111 11	= 7 young people
	Playscheme	1111 11	= 7 young people
	'Grease' drama	1111 1	= 6 young people
	Brogdale Farm	1	= 1 young people

2) What benefits did you notice for your son/daughter?

- *"Excellent range of activities for them to try"*
- *"Allowed him to use up energy and be out of house"*
- *"Able to interact with other students he knows"*
- *"Gave him a positive experience over the holidays"*
- *"Allowed him to try new things"*
- *"He enjoyed it, and spoke at home about it"*
- *"Allowed socialisation over the weekends"*
- *"He met up with friends from school"*
- *"Developed more independent skills, useful in later life"*
- *"Good to see her out with her peers, trying new things"*
- *"Independent travel developed, so able to attend"*
- *"Allowed her to maintain and develop her interest in drama as she wasn't able to do it within her school options"*
- *"Gave her massive independence"*
- *"Channelled her energies into something really positive"*
- *"Has helped with her co-ordination and confidence"*
- *"Enjoyed it"*
- *"Occupied in the holiday, got to try different activities"*
- *"Spent time out of doors"*
- *"A great boost in confidence. Opened up an entire new range of activities for him"*

3) Benefits for yourselves as parents?

- *"None really, but if she hadn't attended, she would have been stuck at home"*
- *"Saved me organising child care"*
- *"Great to see how much he has developed socially"*
- *"Kept him focused and keen to go over the holidays"*
- *"Sometimes, if he has little to do, he gets very down"*
- *"We were able to spend time with his older brother"*
- *"We had a good day out at the Fun Day and watching Grease"*
- *"Allowed us to do different things without him"*
- *"Allowed the family to spend quality time together"*
- *"Allowed home routine to continue, even through the holidays"*
- *"None really, He really enjoyed it"*
- *"We saw her being happy at being involved and we saw her perform"*
- *"Gave us a chance to build on her independence"*
- *"Saw her perform with others in front of an audience!"*
- *"Happy to see her getting involved"*
- *"Another chance to be proud of his achievements"*
- *"We enjoyed it" (Paralympics)*
- *"Allowed us both to continue working without organising childcare"*
- *"Kept our son amused and developed"*

4) Benefits for your other children?

- *"Allowed us more time with other children, as she can be demanding"*
- *"Away from brothers – so less fights!"*
- *"Older brother enjoyed the events too (although he is not disabled)"*
- *"Brother more settled"*
- *"Other children enjoyed the (Grease) show"*

5) Improvement ideas?

- *"More information earlier would have been good"*

6) Scores out of 10 (16 Families)

10/10	x 111	=	30
9/10	x 1111 11	=	54
8/10	x 1111	=	32
7/10	x 11	=	14
6/10	x 1	=	<u>6</u>
		Score	<u>136</u>
		Potential	160

Approved rating: 85% satisfied parents

“HOW WE DID IT” – PROCESS

1) Medway Council asked permission from Headteacher, Bradfields School to seek views of Bradfields Students to evaluate Aiming High.

2) **Meeting of Medway Young Commissioners (7th Dec 2010)**

2.1 Keith Wyncoll, Project Manager, Aiming High (for disabled children) introduced the project and asked the Young Commissioners to support Emma Chessex and Sam Cutts (who attend Bradfields) leading this evaluation. This was agreed.

“I was surprised and shocked that me and Sam were going to be in charge – but it was Ok”. (Emma 17)

2.2 The Young Commissioners split into two workshop groups, led by Sam and Emma. Each considered questions to ask the young people and their parents and how best to do this, given that many of the students to be involved may have learning, communication or physical disabilities.

Emma and Sam fed back to the whole group then Keith Wyncoll wrote up these notes.

3) **Meeting with Bradfields Teachers (4th Jan 2011)**

Keith Wyncoll met with David Waters & Emma McGreggor-Davis (Bradfields teacher) who were to support Emma and Sam with this evaluation.

- They identified 17 students drawn from the two Bradfields sites to take part.
- David Waters undertook a telephone survey with their parents and produced “easy-read” symbols for five categories of ‘Short Breaks’.

4) **Evaluation Morning at Bradfields (13th Jan 2011)**

“The session was from 9.30-11am, I think it went very well”.
(Sam)

“The room was a bit crowded and some of the group found the paper work and concentration difficult. But, we got all the work done”. (Emma)

Emma and Sam introduced the task.

"I liked giving out the information and speaking about what it is like being a Young Commissioner" (Emma)

Keith Wyncoll and David Waters gave a little background to Aiming High. David Waters had produced some large sheets with easy-read symbols and the questions formed by the Young Commissioners.

The Students then worked in groups of four plus an adult support person on each table. They discussed each type of Aiming High short break then voted out of 10 on what they thought of the effectiveness of each. Comments and scores are in the main report.

"This worked well. We got across what we wanted them to do and they just got on with it" (Sam)

"The adults who helped us were really good". (Emma)

5) **Report**

It was agreed that Keith Wyncoll would produce a draft report, pulling together the comments and scores from students and their parents.

6) **Feedback Meeting (17th Jan 2011)**

Sam Cutts, Emma Chessex, David Waters and Keith Wyncoll met to discuss the draft report.

"We discussed this draft report and made a few changes". (Emma)

"We talked about how best to feedback our work to the Young Commissioners meeting on 8th February". (Sam)

7) **Final Thoughts**

"Lots of people worked hard and we got lots of feedback". (Emma)

"It was great finding out what people do in the Holidays. I think that Aiming High is a great opportunity to make new friends". (Sam)

8) **Next Step**

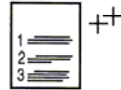
Sam & Emma will report to the Medway Young Commissioners meeting on 8th February 2011



Aiming High Discussion



One to One Support



Holiday Play Schemes



Trips



Clubs



Overnight Activities

