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Kirklees Young Pals Evaluation: Final Report

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1. Introduction

Martin Manby and Claire Fraser are researchers at the Nationwide Children's Research Centre, based in Huddersfield. Those involved in the evaluation will probably have seen them at Fusion sessions. Also behind the scenes the report was supported by Kiara Lewis from Huddersfield University.

They were all set the challenge to find out:
1. What children and young people think of Young PALS
2. What parents think of Young PALS
3. Finally does Young PALS work?! Does Young PALS help children and young people to get active and feel better about themselves?

2. How we did it

• Questionnaires were filled in by the Young PALS at their one to one appointments.
• BMI was recorded at 12 week intervals
• Interviews/focus groups were carried out with Young PALS and parents who attended Fusion sessions to find out their thoughts on the scheme

BMI = Body Mass Index is a measure of someone’s weight in relation to their height

3. Facts and figures

• 72% of Young PALS increased their self esteem
• Almost 50% of Young PALS increased their range of physical activities
• 60% of Young PALS became more active after they joined the scheme
• 57% of Young PALS decreased their BMI this after being more active and eating healthier
• 28%

4. What happens next?

• We would like to help more children and young people to get more active and have a healthier lifestyle
• To add more activities to our Fusion sessions
• Improve the quality of our delivery and the information you receive
• Focus on what works

What the parents told us:

“My son and daughter both enjoy Young PALS. They’re all eager, ready and waiting.”

“I was relieved that there was such a thing where they could come and they’d be treated equally, regardless of their size or their issues; to know that there was someone there that could help.”

What the Young PALS told us:

A 10 year old boy told us “I’ve got more fit. I eat less and I’m just more active”

A 8 year old girl told us “I have made more friends. I was slow at running and now I can run faster”

A 10 year old girl told us “I have made more friends. I was slow at running and now I can run faster”

A 10 year old boy told us “I’ve got more fit. I eat less and I’m just more active”

The Young PALS would like to thank everyone who took part in the evaluation.