

Friday Night Free Skate Jan - March 2013

The Friday night Freeskiate is a huge part of our work within the community. The young people come along on a Friday evening from 6-8pm and spend the evening with the youth workers in the park area. Most of the young people who attend also come along to the homework/youth clubs while others just come along on the Friday as it keeps them off the streets and stops them from getting into trouble. They enjoy spending the time with the youth team and it allows us to get to know them better and see if there is anything we can do to boost their confidence and self-esteem to help make them good productive members of their community.

The kids love coming along to the skate as it gives them the opportunity to meet up with their mates somewhere other than at home or at the local shops, where they get into

trouble as they are bored. It has become more popular now with the girls as only a few attended at first and now they have told other friends who now come. They have a great time when they are here and they are happy to chat to us about everything from family life to the latest music, make up, and boys or girls. Some parents come along and sit within the café area while the kids are on the park and they have formed their own group where they can have a chat and a coffee.

Our Friday night is the time that we get to spend with the young people on their level. This is somewhere they enjoy coming to and it's a sport they enjoy doing, because of this all the youth workers have very good relationships with them.

There have been many kids who have come along to the

freeskiate, and have had various problems i.e getting into trouble with other kids, being involved with the police, causing vandalism etc. Some are now volunteers and stewards within the park and this shows that they are willing to change their ways with a little guidance from us and we try to encourage them to do other things with their lives. All of the youth workers take a keen interest in what the kids do, and try as much as they can to help them with whatever problems they may have or whatever help they need. Together we are trying to make a difference within the community.