

# Report



## Video & Photography May 2012

This six week long programme was exciting, fun and extremely creative. There was great attendance each week for this programme and many of the young people were able to learn new skills in terms of photography and technology via creative measures. With there being a large number of young people on this course, three groups were formed with one worker engaging with the same group during the sessions each week.

The group I was involved in varied in age range and focussed on the idea of creating a comic strip whereby the young people starred as the characters and photographed each scene in and around the Factory Skatepark. During the first week of this programme, ideas were established using a mind map planning tool to ensure all ideas from the young people could be

considered and adapted to fit the needs of this programme. Throughout the sessions this club was very person centred and was led by the young people most of the time.

In terms of skills and qualities the young people accumulated over this period of time, creative art work skills were definitely a central area they adapted well. The group chose to make the comic book from scratch using paper and colouring pencils, making speech bubbles and the comic strip border for the photographs to feature in. Many small ideas were made a reality through this artwork, bringing the photographs to life. Additionally, the young people really build up skills in leadership, listening and team working and the group as a whole definitely demonstrated greater self esteem and confidence levels at the end of the course.

The comic strip now features on the wall of the youth room, to the young people's delight. They are proud to have been part of this project and it definitely tells a very valuable and exciting story with a true message that the young people appreciate the youth group and the skatepark as a whole and value the fun and excitement it brings to their lives. Furthermore, the parents have regularly commented on the weekly progress of the comic strip and now can proudly view the finish product. Many parent/carers have also expressed the positive development of their children through attending these courses in terms of behaviour, confidence and ability to apply themselves appropriately in large group settings. It is clearly evident that the clubs are valued and should continue to feature in the future.

