

## **Keady Engage Youth Project: Exploring Disability and Diversity**

The CYPSP Armagh Locality Planning Group has been working over the last six months to challenge behaviour and attitudes towards children and young people with a disability and to support the emotional wellbeing of children with a disability and their families in Keady area of Armagh.

In September 2016, the Armagh Locality Planning Group with a number of leading partner organisations including the Education Authority and Enable NI established Keady Engage Youth (KEY) Club in the local area. Key Club provides a safe, fun and stimulating space for children and young people with a disability to come together to learn, have fun and develop confidence and emotional resilience



*Participants attending the Keady Engage Youth (Key Club)*

The Keady Engage Youth (KEY) club has continued to grow over recent months with a number of initiatives developing with the group including group activities, day trips and most recently circus skills training which had a lot of positive feedback.

Maureen O’Gorman Senior Youth Worker, EA has been offering support to the Key Club and the 8 young people who have been attending the club through organising activities and trips out. As KEY Club move forward the Police and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) will join the club to offer ‘Keeping Safe Online’ training and a team building residential has been planned to bring the Clubs young people to

Killowen Outdoor Education Centre in February 2017 to offer a programme of team building and physical activity to develop participants confidence, trust and independence,



*KEY Club young people learning new skills with a local circus school*

Key Club Volunteer Grainne Madden has been supporting the young people attending the Club through a voluntary capacity and has said ‘I recently started volunteering for Enable in my local youth club, Keady Engage Youth (KEY Club) and it has been such a positive experience for me. It is great to see the participants socialising and interacting with each other, and the volunteers. I always come away from the club uplifted and with a smile on my face! The youth club is full of laughs, activities and friendship and this is great to see for local people with disabilities. I am looking forward to lots more experiences, and sharing them with these amazing young adults’.

In September 2016, the Barnardo’s Sixth Sense Project delivered the ‘We Are More Alike than Different’ training to the CYPSP Armagh Locality Planning Group member organisations including the Key Club facilitators/volunteers from Education Authority and Enable. This training session is facilitated by young people themselves and the session included the following issues:

- Participation in the eyes of the young people
- Challenging Stereotypes
- Models of disability and the young people’s view points

- Barriers in society at this point the young people will share experiences/stories
- Ice breaker games/videos
- Emotions felt by young people with disabilities

A second session of this training has been scheduled for young people in the Armagh locality to attend next month.



*KEY Club works with young people with additional needs to improve confidence and self esteem*

The CYPSP Armagh Locality Planning Group would like to offer a special recognition to our funders; CLEAR Project, EANI and CYPSP who have contributed to making this opportunity possible.

### **Get Involved in KEY Club**

If you know of any young person who is interested in attending the KEADY Club programme please get in touch with Jason from Enable NI by telephone at 028 3887 2111.

### **Contact Us**

For further information about the KEY Club please contact Enable NI at:

**Telephone:** 028 38872111

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