



ANSON CABIN PROJECT

Evaluation Report 2014

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Contents

	Page
Introduction & Methodology	2
Findings	
Satisfaction with Activities	4
Involvement with Planning & Delivery	5
Meeting Children's Needs and Interests	7
Skills	8
Aspirations	9
Confidence and self-esteem	10
Relationship between ethnic groups	15
Community and Health Impact	16
Enabling Parents' Development	18
Qualitative Feedback Comments & Suggestions	20
Additional Training Findings	
Peer Mentor	23
Recommendations	25

ANSON CABIN EVALUATION REPORT 2014

Introduction

This year's evaluation reflects the continuing growth of The Cabin as a key provider of children, young people's and family provision in Manchester. It has been a year of consolidation in terms of projects but growth in terms of new children, young people and families being engaged.

There has been particular growth in attendance at Saturday sessions, especially from children with BME backgrounds. Locally the BME community now represents over 70% of residents, up from 50% a decade ago. Work of note in 2014 includes:

- Continuing support of Manchester Youth Academy (MYA) with The Cabin employing youth workers to delivery sessions on their premises and opportunities for young people to attend both MYA and Cabin provision.
- The Cabin being the only non-school or uniformed group delivering the Duke of Edinburgh Award in the City.
- Several children moving on to stage 2 of the Adventure Service Challenge.
- Ongoing participation in the project with the University of Central Lancashire to reduce school truancy. Through this there has been continued engagement with Burnage Media Arts College and Denton Community College in training young peer mentors.

The main evaluation reflects outcomes for three main funders during the year: The Big Lottery Fund, Children in Need and Manchester City Council.

We were hopeful that we would be able to include a comparison of statistical measures of deprivation from 2007, when the first Big Lottery and Children in Need grants were received, to last year. However, no new statistics have been released since those for 2011, which we reported on last year.

Methodology

The main evaluation tools were questionnaires conducted at the end of large community events, trips, the summer programme and during November/December. This was designed to capture as many people's input as possible. We were clear that the questionnaires could be completed either by each child/young person themselves or by interview, the latter being appropriate where there were literacy issues.

The measures in the main annual evaluation were the same as in 2013 except for the removal of one question measuring confidence change, since the new question introduced last year was seen to be a better at evidencing the effectiveness of the work of The Cabin. For the children there were seventeen questions in total. Fourteen were quantitative questions asking for a rating on a 0 – 10 scale, with two point intervals shown (i.e. 0,2,4,6,8,10). Satisfaction in these areas would be measured by a score of 6 or above. This method also gave us the opportunity to identify an average and to see the spread of scores. One question was a comparative question to identify how they thought of other ethnic groups.

Three questions were qualitative asking what would increase their involvement with the provision and ideas for other events and activities. Other comments were also invited.

For the adult evaluations, some questions are specifically directed at parents whereas others are for all those who benefited directly from activities. Questions were similar to

those asked of children but from their perspective and with the addition of whether the Cabin had helped the parent engage in other activities i.e. employment/training/ voluntary work etc. and how the Cabin had helped them. We added the latter question to the children's evaluation for this year.

There are four questions that relate across all ages, to measure if participating in activities has increased social interaction; strengthened people's sense of community; helped people believe they can do more with their lives; and, particularly in relation to visits and outings to rural environments, helped people feel in better health.

As with last year, it is important to note the new intake to the Cabin, particularly through family and community events. This is a key issue in analysing the findings, particularly where children have not attended over a longer period, to show the full benefits of engagement. There was particular effort this year to capture more young people who only attended the Summer programme and this has an impact on certain findings. More significant is the extension of youth work to the nearby Manchester Youth Academy (MYA). These young people do not attend the Cabin but staff are responsible for developing and delivering work with them. With these young people being new to our work, and being less involved in the range of our work, this has clearly reduced several overall ratings.

Analysis of all the evaluations is presented below along with recommendations for the Cabin going forward.

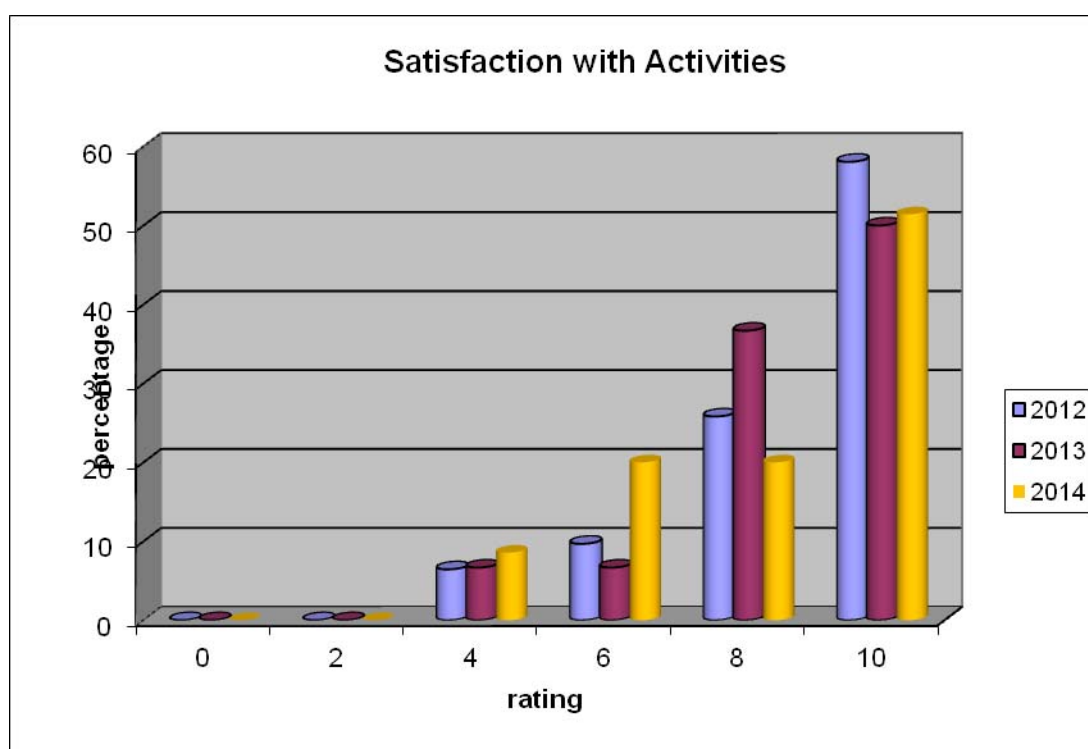
FINDINGS

The findings below show the performance of Anson Cabin as evaluated by children and parents.

Satisfaction with Activities

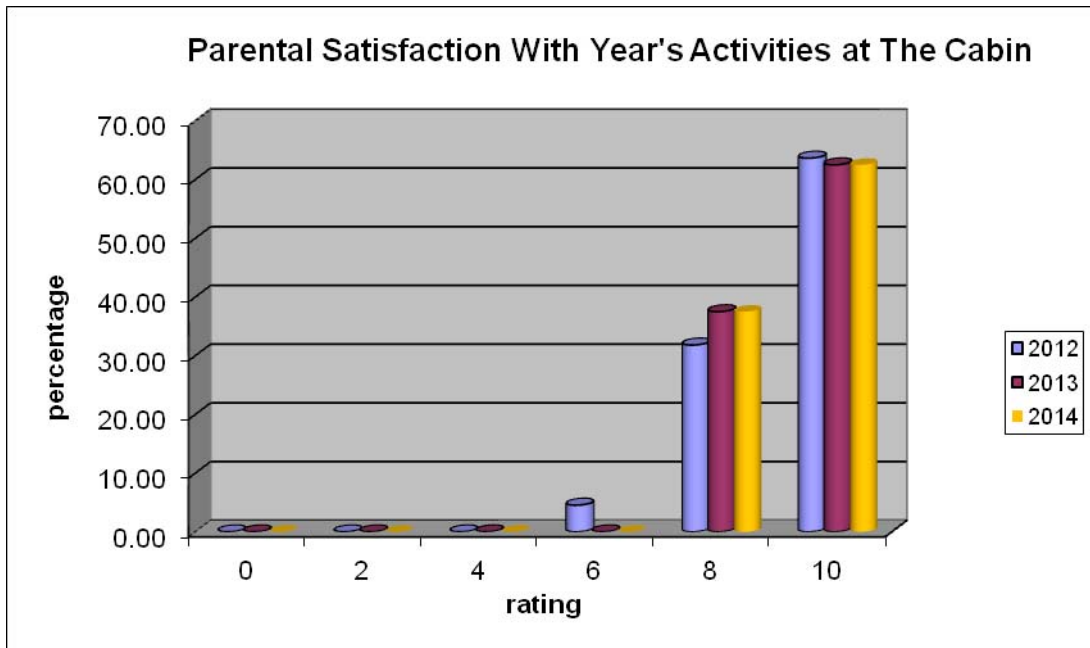
The question asked was, “Were you satisfied with the last year’s activities put on by the Anson Cabin Project?” The results continue to show a very high rating with over 50% of children still indicating that they were totally satisfied (10 out of 10). The slight decline in the average rating is due to new participants but the 91.4% indicating positive responses to the question is not a significant change from last year.

This is an excellent outcome and the sustained high satisfaction rating confirms that the project’s work is rated very highly by children. However, there is clearly work to do to better link the young people at MYA to the wider Cabin activities and consideration should be given to running other community activities at their venue.



	2012	2013	2014
Percentage Satisfied:	93.6%	93.3%	91.4%
Average Rating:	8.71	8.60	8.29

The parental rating again shows 100% satisfaction, with all respondents rating it 8 or 10 out of 10. The sustained positive response in this key rating should be immensely gratifying for the project. This is even more remarkable given the substantial number of new participants, particularly over the summer. This indicates success in helping new participants to integrate with their peers alongside ensuring feedback to parents on their children’s development is working well. There is clearly no complacency as the work progresses.



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage Satisfied:	100%	100%	100%
Average Rating:	9.18	9.25	9.25

Involvement with Planning & Delivery

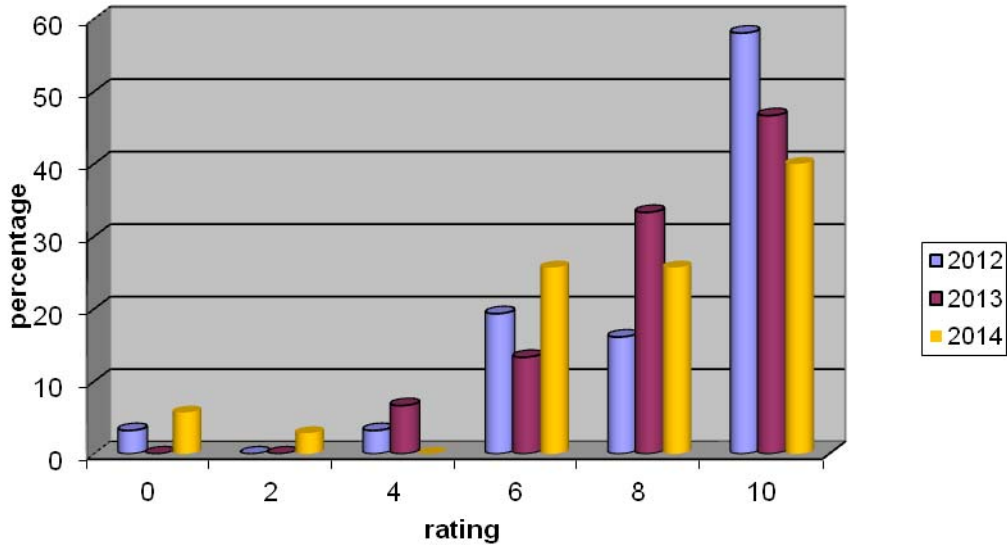
There were two questions asked about helping to run activities at the Cabin. These were only asked of children. The first was, "Did you have the opportunity to be involved with planning and delivering the activities?" The average rating is much lower than in 2014 although the proportion of children saying they had such opportunities over the year remained high with over 90% giving positive ratings. This is clearly due to younger children involved with play work who are new to the Cabin or just engaged in holidays. There is no concern in terms of teenagers.

The Children's Board is still working well, however the Cabin should continue to keep other methods of engagement with under 12s. This includes monthly planning with children and weekly activities they have decided on being posted on the wall. The Children's Board are not keen to produce written reports for the Management Committee, but did do a video for the AGM. It is recommended that the video option continues but that it is accompanied by a short written piece highlighting key points.

The reintroduction of Junior Play Workers was postponed as some of the children were clearly not mature enough. It is recommended that this be revisited with an induction process to ensure that the roles are valued and taken seriously. In the longer term, other ways of creating intrinsic motivation should be tried.

The Youth Board has not been active although 2 young people are still part of the Central Manchester Youth Forum and the Cabin ran a Leadership Skills Training Course for both groups during the year with 14 participants. 12 gained Level 2 accreditation in at least 2 units. This certainly helped embed their involvement with directly planning their own sessions at The Cabin and, as recommended last year, they helped plan trips out and programming for residential. Opportunities for young people to apply for their own funding should also be identified, including nominating The Cabin for appropriate awards.

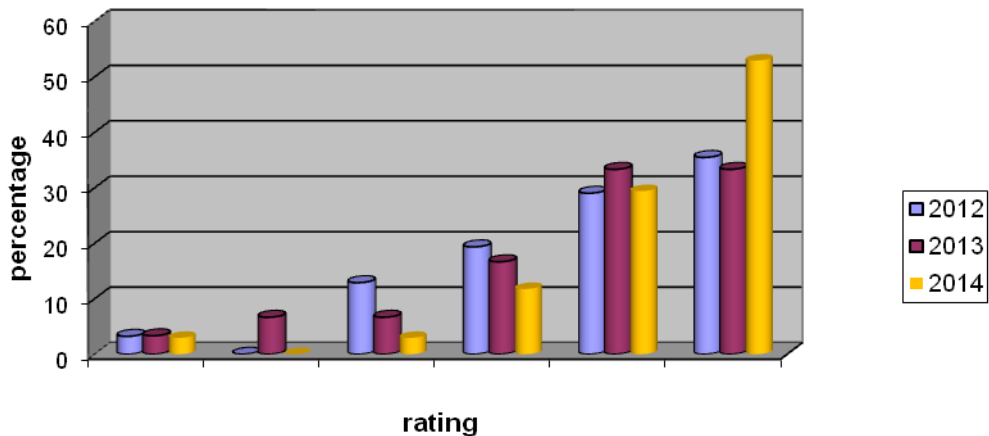
Opportunity to be Involved with Planning & Delivery



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying have opportunity:	93.6%	93.3%	91.4%
Average Rating:	8.39	8.40	7.66

A second question, “Do you have the ability to help run activities for other people your age?” is designed to see how capable the children/young people perceived they were. The percentage of those responding positively is comparable to previous years but there should clearly be more work done to improve skills, particularly among younger children. The possibility of teenagers volunteering and mentoring children could be explored, linked to Duke of Edinburgh Award and similar opportunities found for children linked to the Adventure Service Challenge.

Ability to Help Run Activities



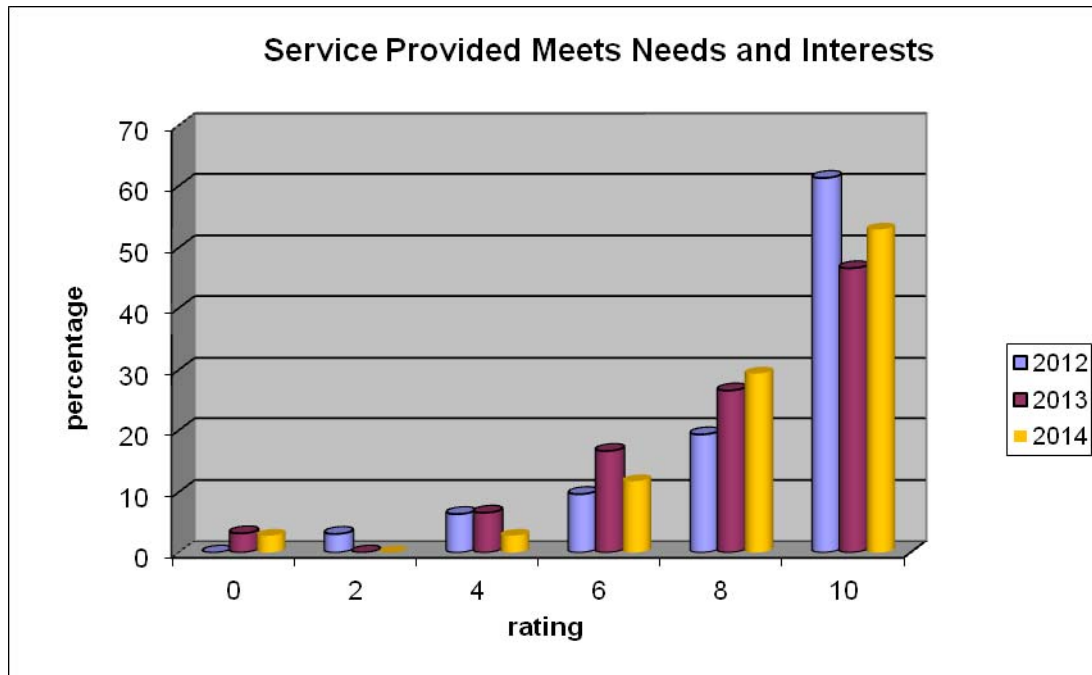
	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying able:	83.9%	83.3%	85.3%
Average Rating:	7.55	7.40	8.18

Meeting Children’s Needs and Interests

The question asked was, “Does the service provided meet your (child/ren’s) needs and interest?” Both children and parents again responded very positively, with 100% of parents again giving a rating of 8 or 10. Further analysis shows that the slightly lower ratings from the children and young people are due to those who only attending summer programmes or have very little involvement other than the summer. If we were to put those ratings aside, there would be 100% saying that their needs and interests are met.

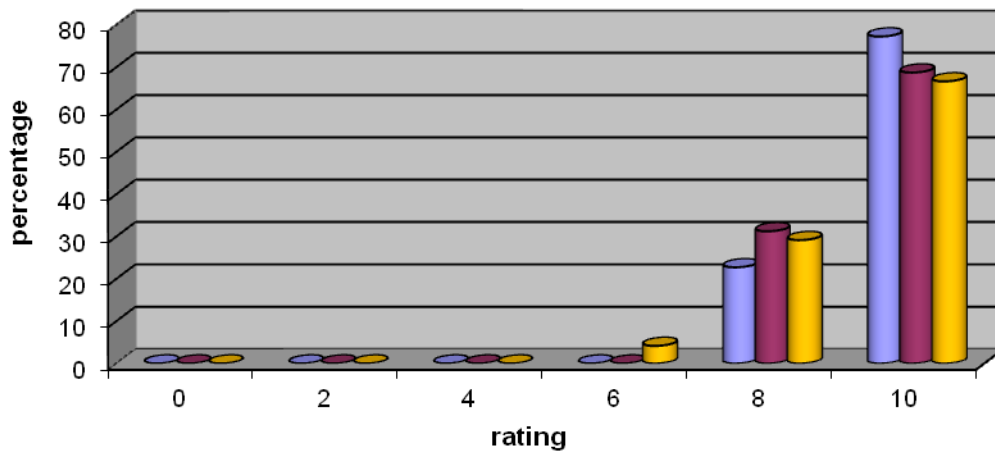
There are clearly high expectations of the Cabin and it is clear that, in the main, this is being met. However, as well as the continuing challenge to have as much diversity in ongoing provision as possible to meet different needs of children, there is possibly something to be done within the summer programme to both further engage with non-regular attendees and identify what would help them participate throughout the year. What is clear, from both questionnaires and additional consultation, is that the continual innovation within all The Cabin’s programmes keeps a high level of excitement and enjoyment.

One particular success has been the quarterly family fundays, with parents and children participating together, which clearly has a positive impact, as also seen from the qualitative responses later in the report.



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying does:	90.3%	90.00%	94.12%
Average Rating:	8.58	8.07	8.47

Service provided meets needs and interests of children (parent response)

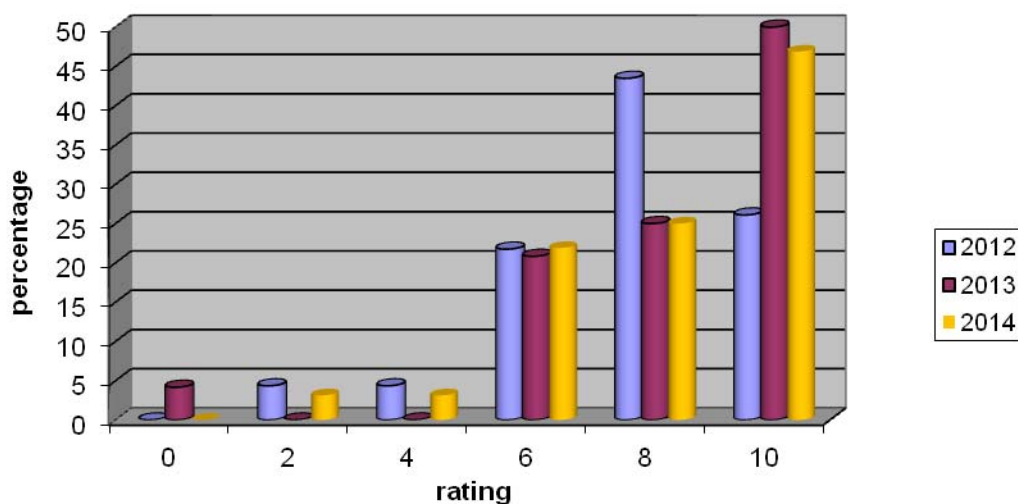


	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying does:	100%	100%	100%
Average Rating:	9.55	9.38	9.25

Skills

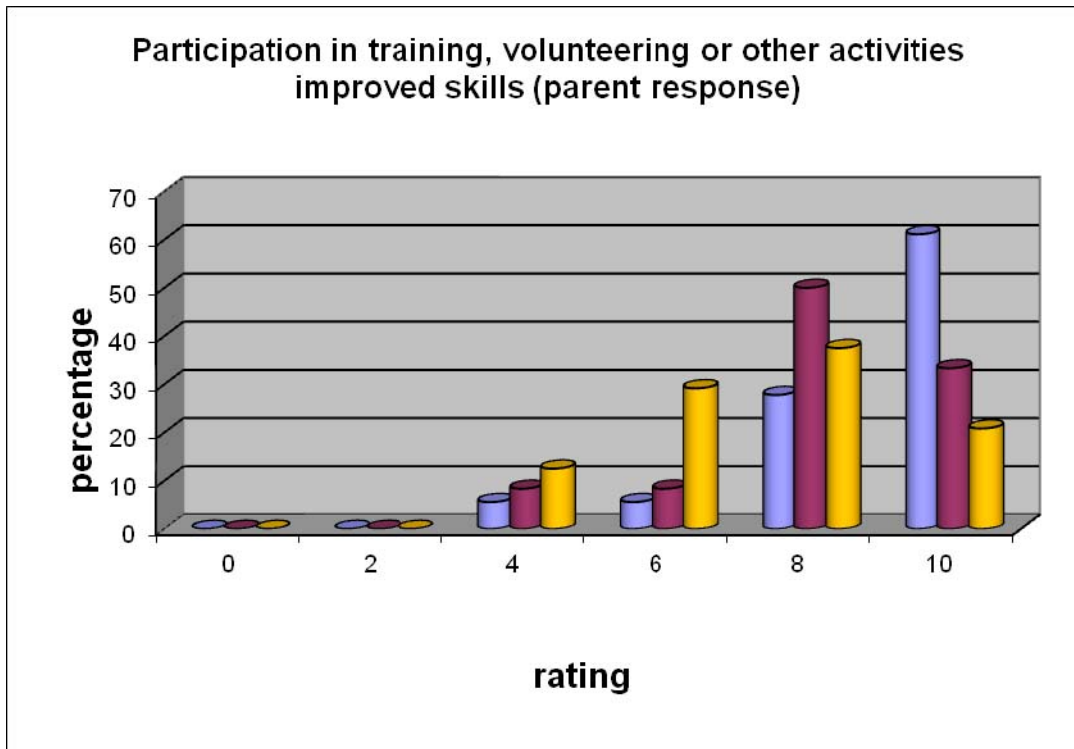
The question asking whether young people participating in training, volunteering or other activities had improved their skills showed an excellent result with no significant change from 2013. Nearly 94% reported a positive improvement. The slight reduction, as with last year, is related to responses from those participating in summer programmes. This is impressive as there has been less specific leadership training this year. The Adventure Service Challenge, Bike Right and Duke of Edinburgh Award are clearly making a strong impact on young people who place a high value on these opportunities that stretch them.

Participation in training, volunteering or other activities improved skills



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying it has:	91.3%	95.8%	93.8%
Average Rating:	7.65	8.25	8.19

The small dip in parental response, noted last year, has this year become a significant drop. Whilst still remaining reasonably high, there is a clear need to address this. Some may be due to the larger summer programme involvement but may show some discontinuity in parental understanding of the outcomes from these programmes, particularly where children are just starting the programmes. Using postcards when children have positive experiences or achievements plus a new 'report card' for children and young people at the end of the summer programme or October half-term could help here.

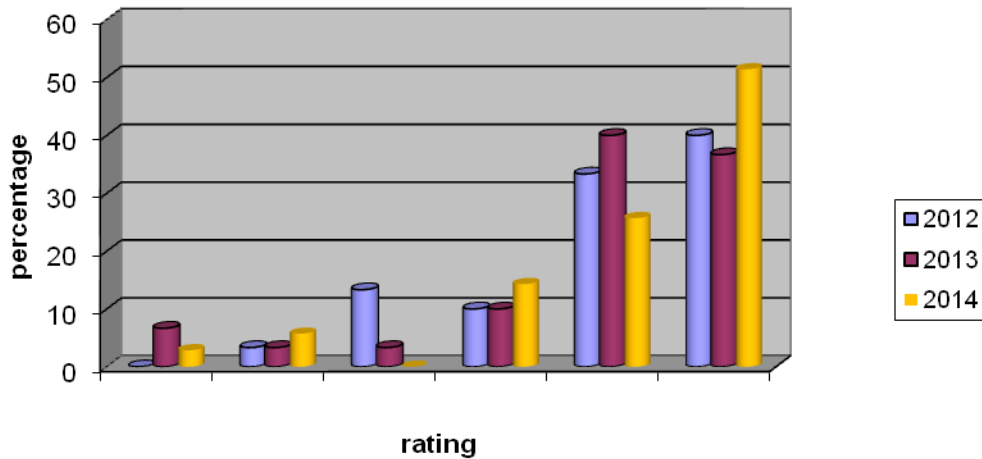


	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying it has:	94.4%	91.7%	87.5%
Average Rating:	8.9	8.2	7.33

Aspirations

The question asked was, "Has coming to the Cabin made you believe you can do more with your life than before you came?" The over 91% of children and young people giving a positive response encouragingly continued the upward trend from 2013. The very high average rating is also encouraging

Children believe they can do more with their lives

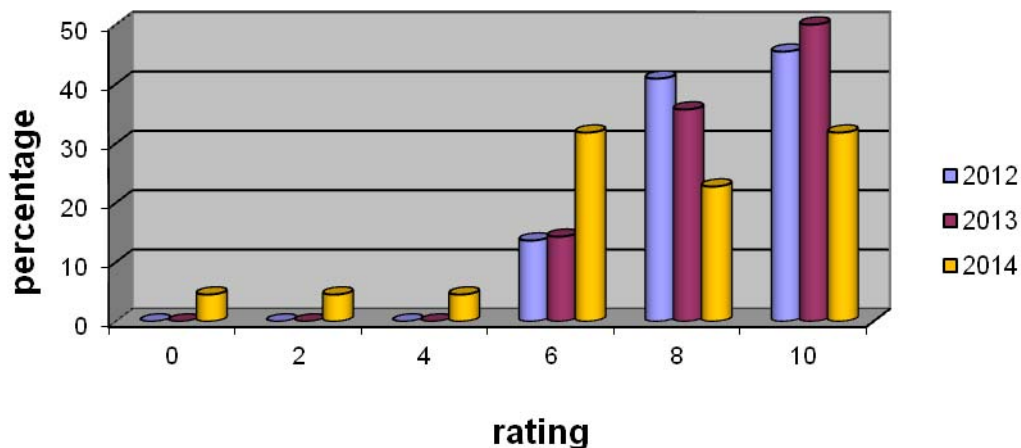


	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying can do more:	83.3%	86.67%	91.4%
Average Rating:	7.87	7.67	8.17

The average rating was down slightly due to some '0' responses from teenagers. The scores are still very high, showing that The Cabin makes a real difference to aspirations of the next generation. Last year's recommendation of focusing more on life opportunities should be pursued with the teenage group, expanding their ideas of what they could achieve, using local role models, visiting places of work or discussing different jobs.

The same question was also asked of adults in terms of their own benefits from coming to the Cabin. The 100% positive response and sustained high average rating shows that, by delivering projects that involve families as well as children, the Cabin is fulfilling a major need. This continues to confirm that community, as well as children's and youth, work is something the Cabin can deliver successfully and generate positive outcomes from. The increased opportunities for families to undertake activities together, as recommended last year, has clearly been positively received but there are still opportunities to work with the Residents' Association to deliver more adult activities. It is recommended that the RA develop their own job club, helping residents with CVs, interview skills and job searches.

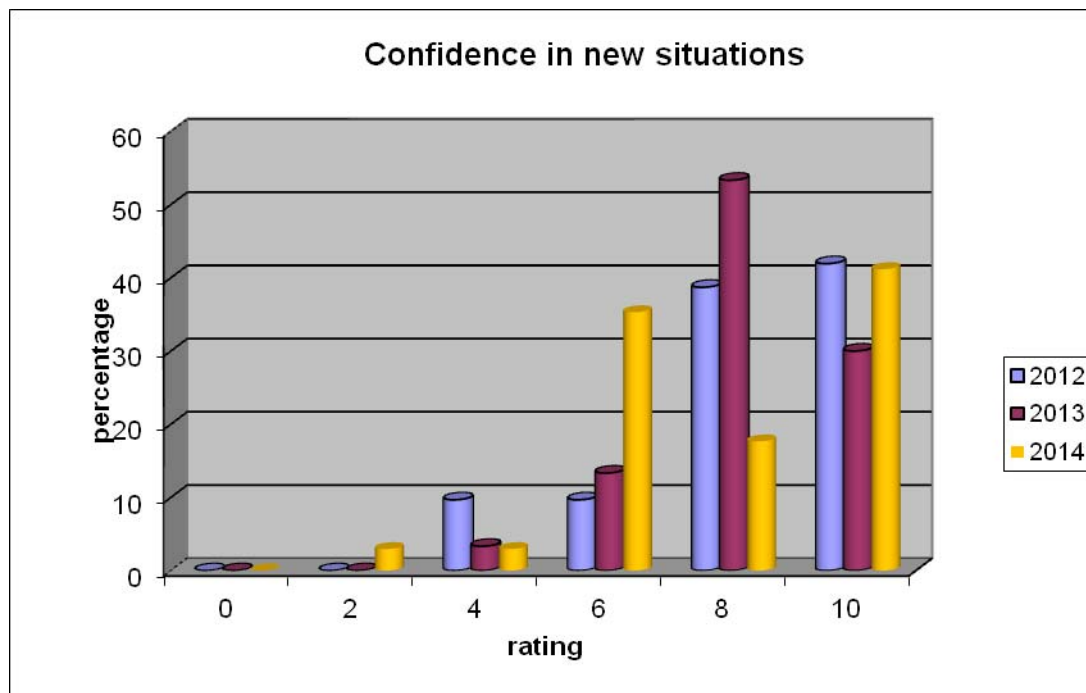
Parents/adults believe they can do more with their lives



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying they can do more:	100%	100%	86.4%
Average Rating:	8.64	8.71	7.18

Confidence and self-esteem

There were two questions around confidence and one measuring impact on self-esteem. The first asked, "How confident would you say you are in new situations?" The 94.1% positive response achieved represents a continuing strong response after last year extremely high response. Continuing initiatives to help new participants integrate with their peers clearly continue to work well. The average of 7.83, whilst still good, reflects the larger numbers of newer users to activities. The Cabin needs to re-focus its efforts on ensuring that newer users are welcomed and supported. The buddy scheme needs to be more rigorously applied, especially with the diverse ethnic groups coming into the project.

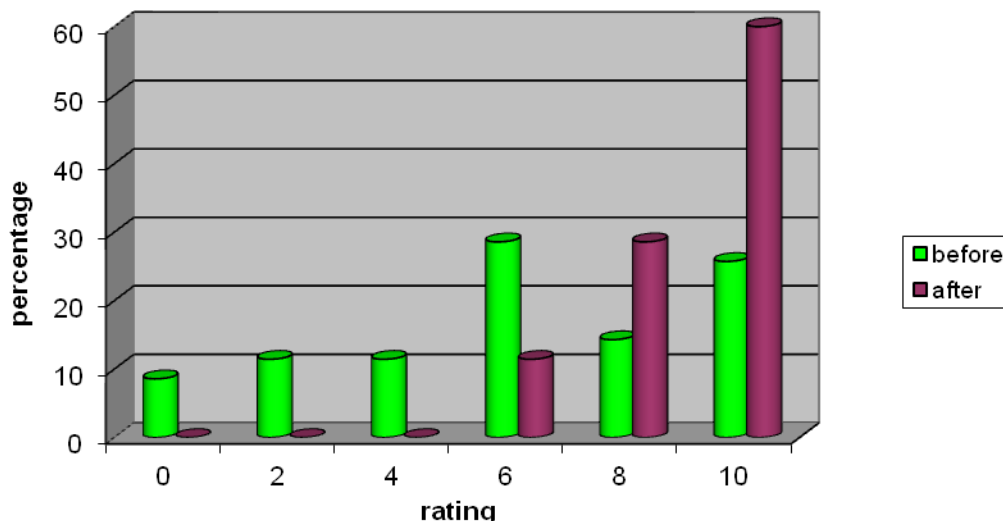


	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying confident:	90.3%	96.7%	94.1%
Average Rating:	8.26	8.20	7.82

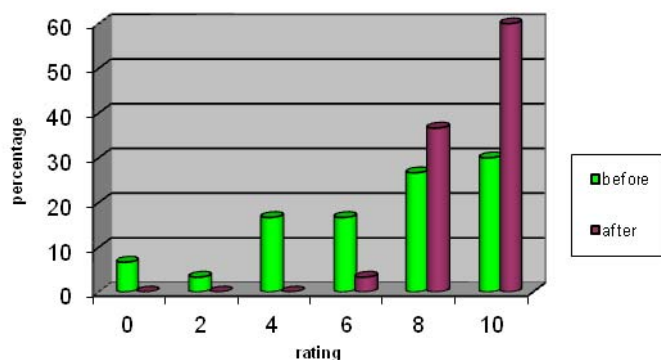
The second question on confidence was in two parts and asked how confident children and young people felt they were before coming to the Cabin and how confident they are now. This shows far more clearly the perception of change for participants and is a huge affirmation of the Cabin's work. The fact that all those saying they were not so confident prior to coming now indicate they are confident continues to be a wonderful achievement. It is particularly worth noting the larger number of children saying that they were not confident before coming, which shows the more challenging client group the Cabin are now working with.

The over 2.8 point jump from before to after average ratings is a remarkable achievement. The much lower starting average again shows the more challenging group the Cabin is working with and the achievements are excellent.

Confidence Before & After Participation at The Cabin 2014

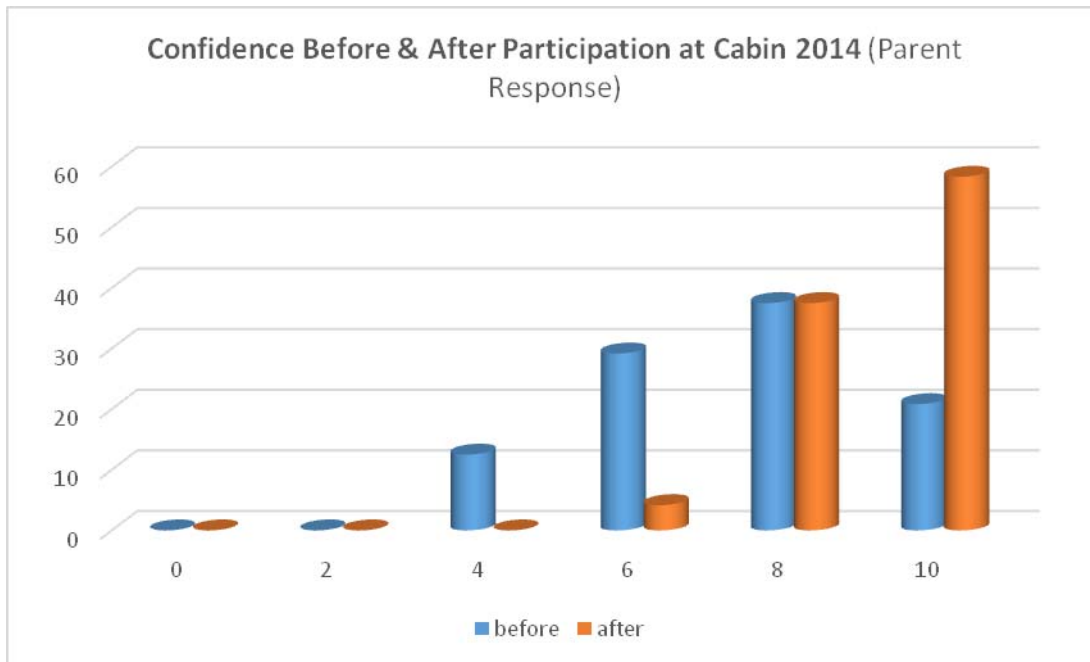


Confidence Before and After Participation at The Cabin 2013



	Before 2013	After 2013	Before 2014	After 2014
Percentage saying confident:	73.3%	100%	68.6%	100%
Average Rating:	6.87	9.13	6.11	8.97

We introduced a new comparative question for parents this year to match the one for children. This reinforced the continuing parental positivity about the impact of the Cabin with all those reporting lack of confidence before their children came to the Cabin, reporting positively after. The change difference is lower than for children because of the higher rating of confidence before coming, although the absolute measures are higher. This may show a lack of awareness of some issues children are facing, so a recommendation of earlier reporting to parents on where their child is and some form of report card around December and May is made to improve the information parents have. Regular family events, with parents and children participating together, should certainly continue. Exploration of partnering with schools for family clean-ups should be undertaken.



	Before	After
Percentage saying child confident:	87.5%	100%
Average Rating:	7.33	9.08

Taking the results on confidence as a whole, children, young people and parents are reporting the Cabin having a positive impact on their confidence. The positive results from evaluations should continue to be fed back strongly and used as a tool to promote family events, volunteering and all the other opportunities that the Cabin has to offer.

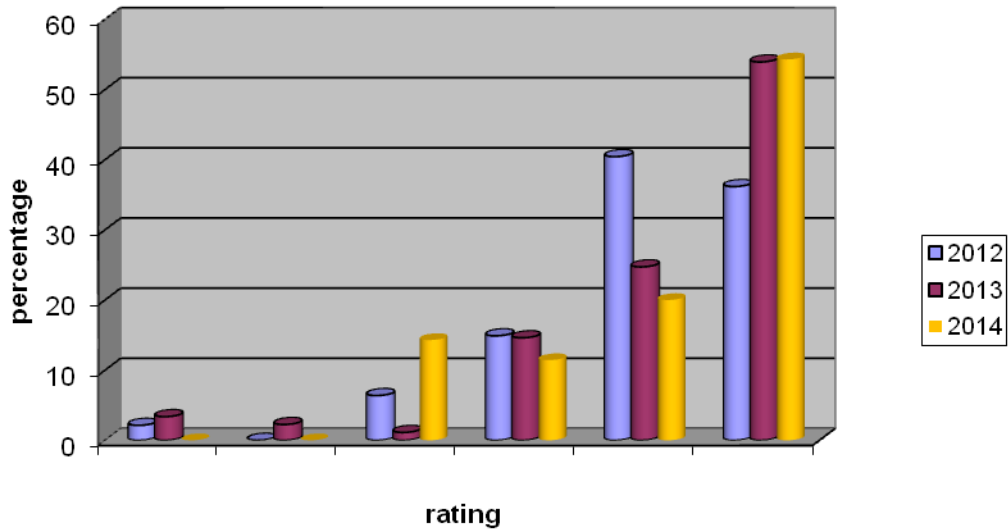
School holidays should continue to be a focus to build relationships and give new opportunities that build young people's confidence and self-esteem. There should continue to be a drive to encourage those attending in holidays to also attend regular activities. These evaluation results should be used in promoting what regular participation achieves, emphasising the increase in skills and confidence along with the achievements of participants.

The success of the holistic ethos of open access play in giving so many children and young people from deprived backgrounds a belief in themselves should also be promoted. Unfortunately, the Play England 'Quality in Play' accreditation, which evidenced this success, has now ceased to exist. The Cabin should, however, be confident to continue to trumpet the high quality of all its provision and is continuing to use some of the best practice honed over many years.

The question relating to self-esteem evidences the positive impact of the Cabin on its users. There is a clear positive view of the Cabin's impact on self-esteem. However, further analysis shows that the average ratings have been pulled down by some lower scores from teenagers. Whilst only making a small difference overall, this is of concern and work should be done to address any underlying issues. Improving self-esteem is a key measure of success for youth work and programmes to improve body image, self-identity and managing stress should be considered. The Cabin's focus on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is positive but should not be at the expense of diverse programming.

What has worked well is the increased focus on well-being within the holiday programmes that has resulted in there being no significant difference between their, and other children's, ratings.

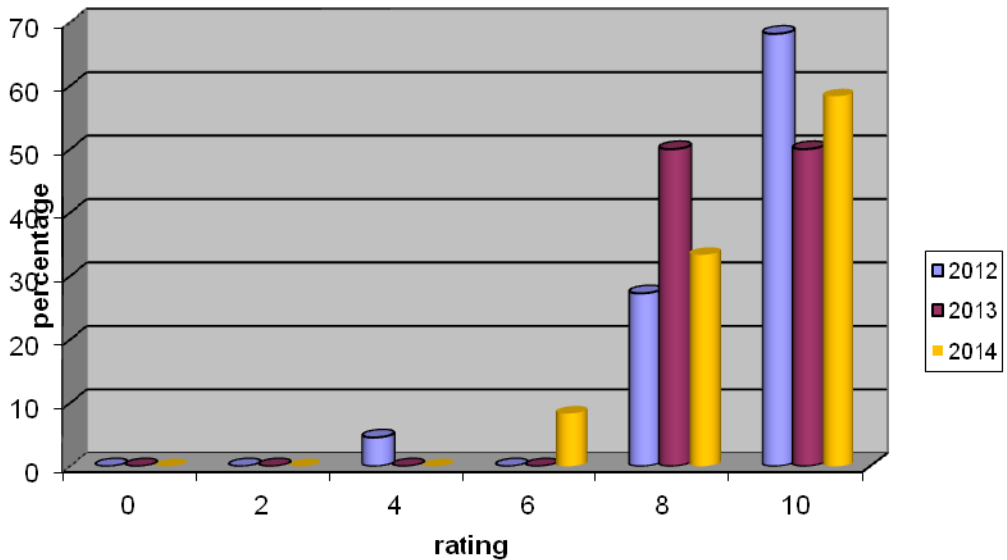
Cabin helps you feel better about yourself



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying helped feel better:	91.5%	93.3%	85.7%
Average Rating:	8.00	8.34	8.29

The parent ratings, as previously, are extremely high reflecting positive views as to the effect of provision on the well-being of their children.

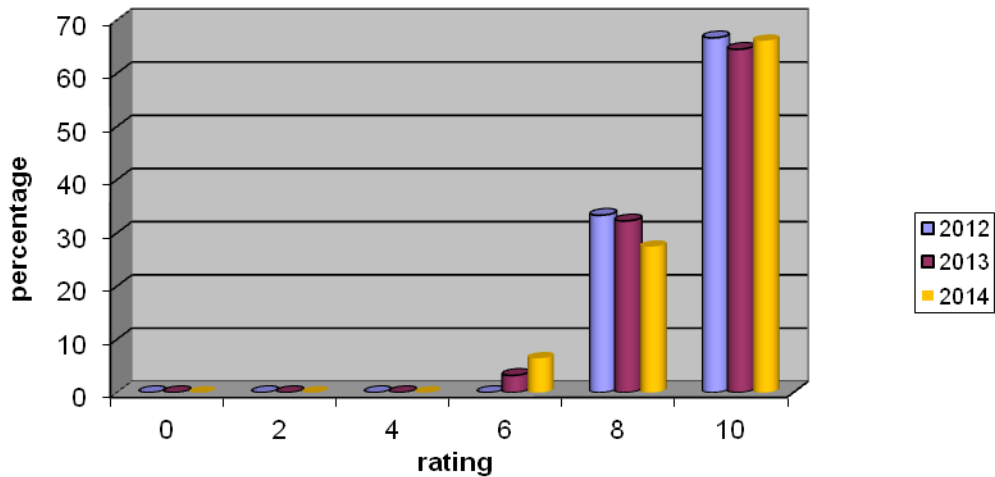
Cabin helps children feel better about themselves (parent response)



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying helped feel better:	95.5%	100%	100%
Average Rating:	9.18	9.00	9.00

Adults themselves continue to have a positive response to the activities they participate in helping them feel better about themselves. The marginal decrease in average rating is not significant although more emphasis on well-being within trips and family activities should be considered. A parent group, as previously recommended, should be established.

Participating in activities helps adults feel better about themselves



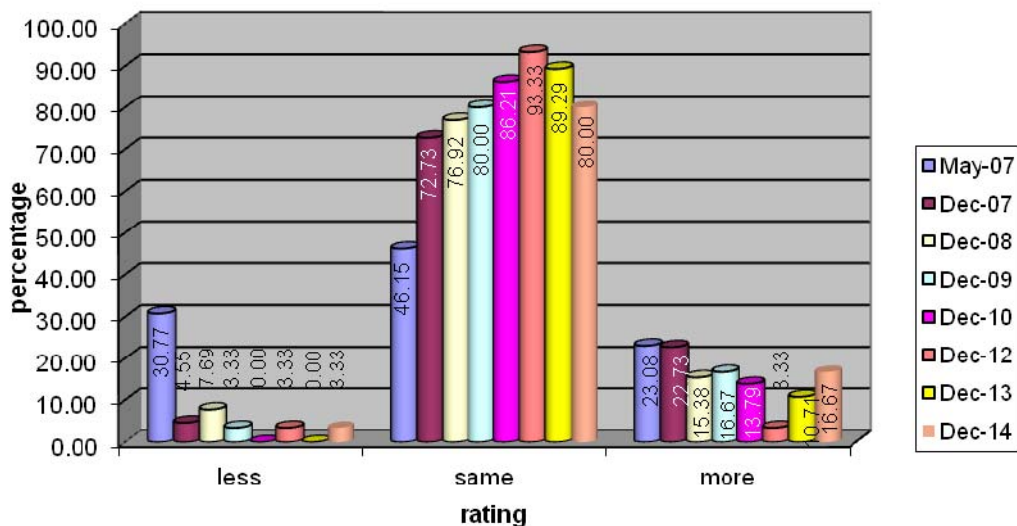
Percentage saying helped feel better:	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Average Rating:	100%	100%	100%
	9.33	9.23	9.19

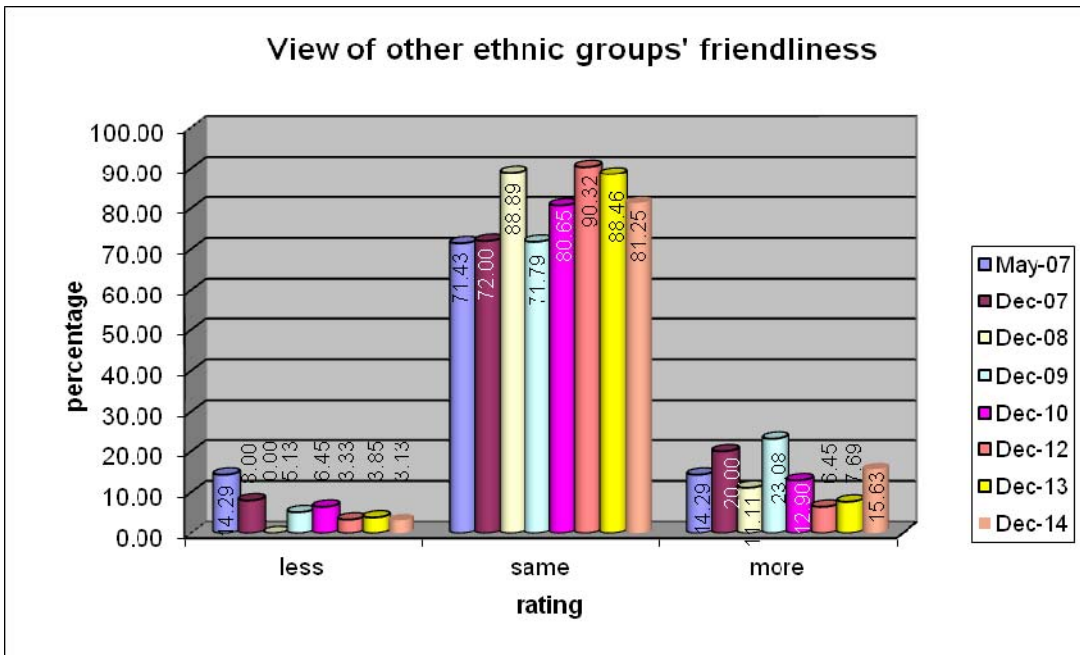
Relationship between ethnic groups

The questions asking what the respondents thought of people from other ethnic groups as compared to their own ethnic group continue to show the remarkable, sustained improvement from the baseline in May 2007. They ask whether they were more, less or as intelligent and more, less or as friendly. 97% of children and young people now view their peers from other ethnic groups as the same, or more, intelligence and friendliness. Whilst it would be nice to see 100%, the result continues to endorse the Cabin’s approach to celebrating cultural and ethnic difference in a community that continues to see increasing diversity of cultures and religions.

The higher number saying more friendly and more intelligent is of concern and more should be done to strengthen identity for all involved. It is noted that there has been a significant increase of children from Lithuanian background and specific celebration of their, and other Eastern European, culture should be added to the programme.

View of other ethnic groups’ intelligence





The Cabin still has a good balance of ethnicities in the staff team but the Management Group are all white. Last year it was recommended that a recruitment campaign should be run to bring in local volunteers, particularly from Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds, both for activities as well as to join the Management Committee. Whilst people have been asked, none have come forward. A more concerted effort to change this should be made so that the Management Committee better represent the increasingly diverse nature of the local area.

Community and Health Impact

Three questions were asked across all age groups to find whether participation in activities had improved community cohesion and health. This focussed on events, visits and family activities as well as the regular Cabin programme.

The first two questions relating to the impact of activities on social interaction and sense of community again showed significant correlation, emphasising the validity of the findings. There was a decline in both results, with that around sense of community being significant. This may be due to the continuing challenge of the increasing diversity of the community, However, the over 90% positive rating still indicates continued success of the project activities in this area.

The comments relating to the qualitative questions on the survey again back up this positive view, with most saying they are happy with the current programme and several again asking for even more trips and larger-scale events. The comments also indicate the contribution these activities make to community cohesion:

“Cabin is brilliant. Brings children of the community together.”

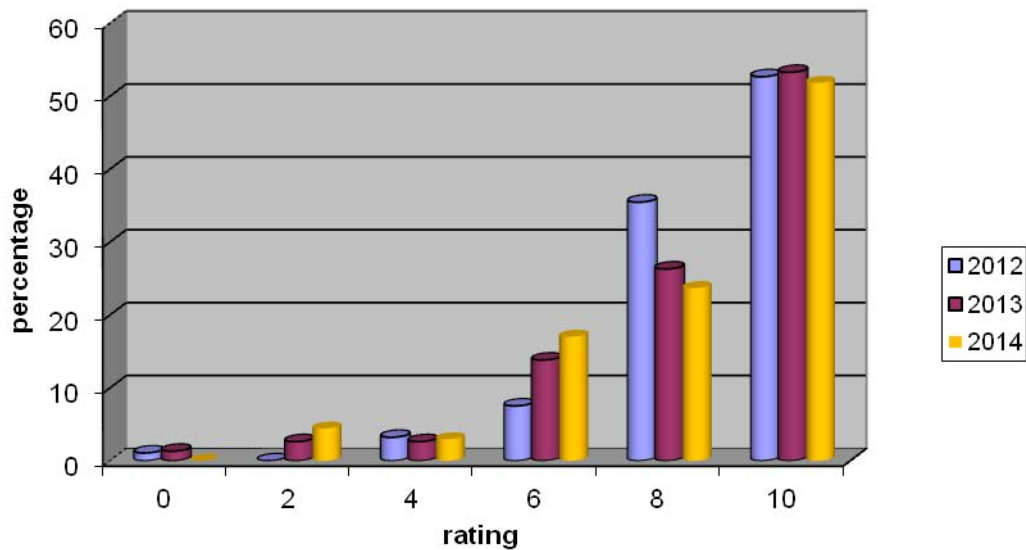
“Given my daughter a place to make friends when she visits during weekends.”

“The cabin helps me by my daughter mixing well with other children other than school.”

“I feel a bigger part of our community and that my children are equal.”

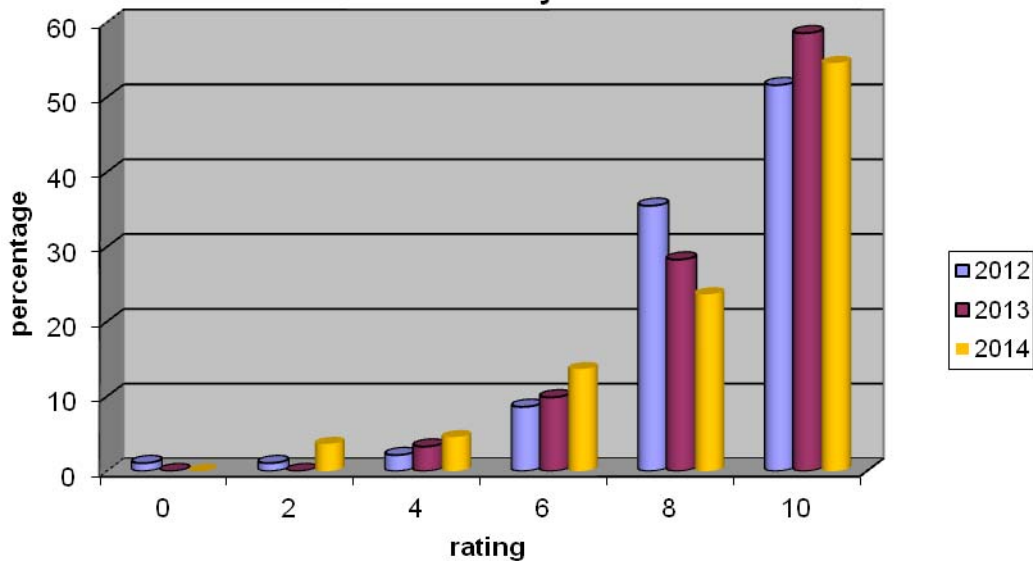
As with last year, there was no negative comment anywhere! Last year we warned of complacency but this certainly does not seem to be the case. We again stress the importance of the Cabin continuing to innovate and involve residents in decisions about trips and events as much as possible.

Participating in activities increased social interaction



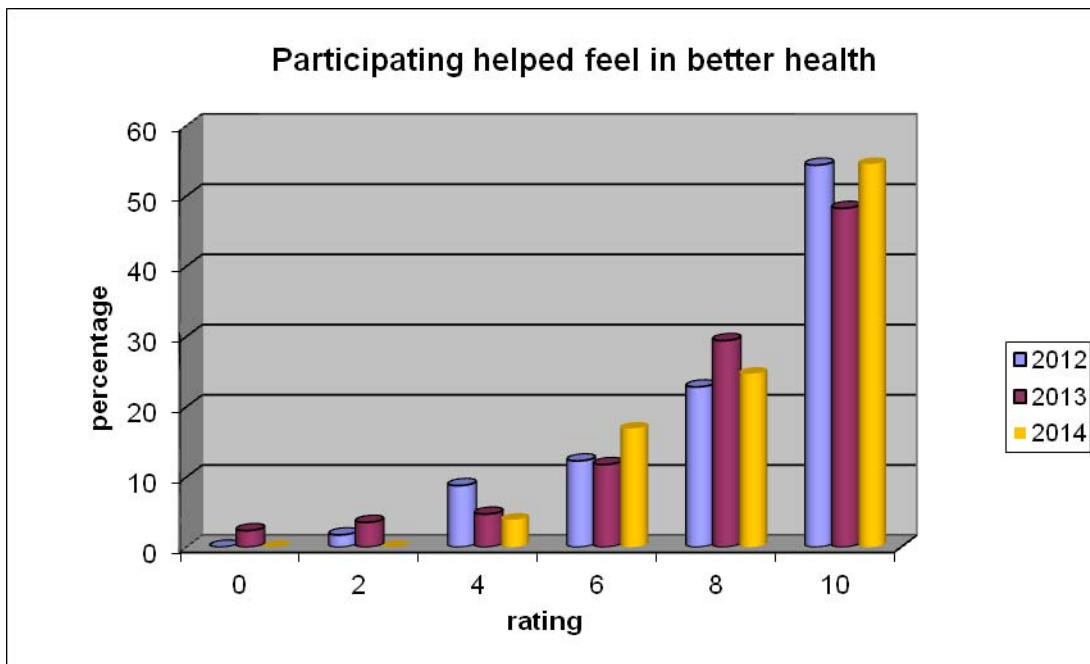
	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying more:	95.7%	93.4%	92.6%
Average Rating:	8.69	8.42	8.31

Participating in activities strengthened sense of community



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying stronger:	95.7%	96.7%	91.8%
Average Rating:	8.62	8.84	8.42

The focus on health has continued to work well with almost 90% of people again reporting that participation in visits to rural environments had helped them feel in better health. There is some disparity with adults a lot more positive than children – 96% compared to 84%. The Cabin, through satisfying the desire for trips, is reaching a wider group of people who were then able to gain a health benefit that they probably were not seeking. More up front health activities should be tried to see if even greater impact can be achieved, taking advantage of the adults overwhelming positivity. A healthy living (eating, exercise, lifestyle) campaign and programme, on similar lines to that already in place for children, should be implemented.



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying healthier:	89.5%	89.4%	96.1%
Average Rating:	8.39	8.14	8.60

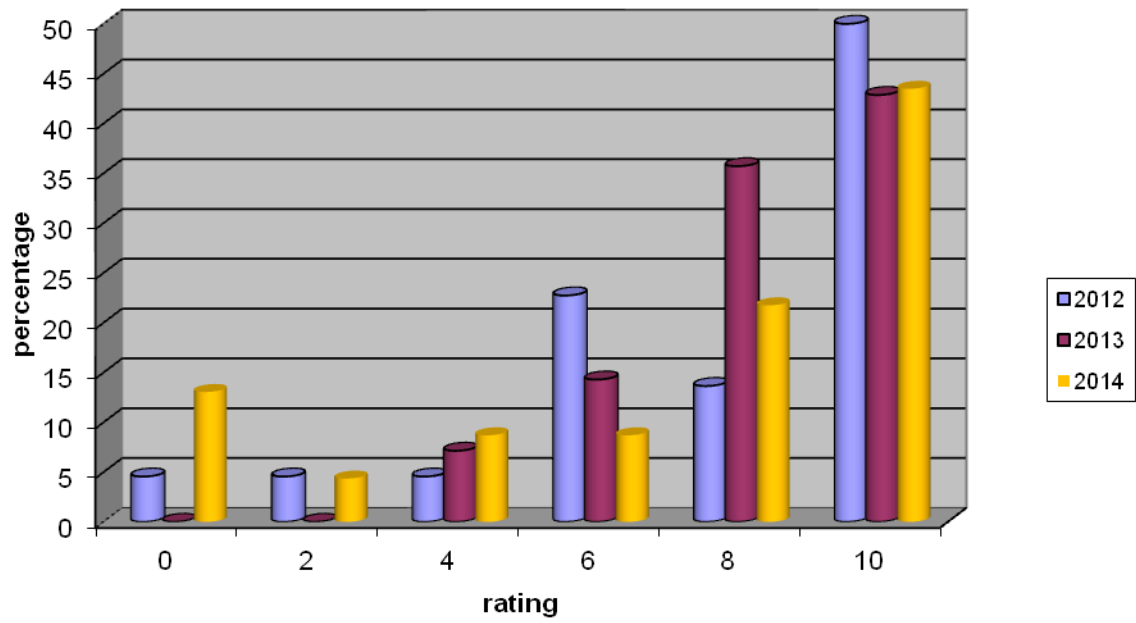
Enabling Parents' Development

The single question asked of parents only, "Has the Anson Cabin Project helped you to engage in other activities i.e. employment/training/voluntary work etc.?" showed a significant decline in ratings after last year's significant improvement. Just under 74% of parents said it had helped compared to 92% previously. The qualitative responses do not reveal reasons for this as those with low ratings have given little response. This could indicate that these individuals are not taking up the opportunities on offer or, at the particular time of completing the evaluation, did not recall what they had actually engaged in. Interestingly, all those giving lower ratings on this gave positive ratings to the questions of increased social interaction and stronger sense of community.

It is also worth noting that there was no parenting course, or parenting group, established during the year, which may have contributed to these lower ratings. It would therefore be sensible to look to introduce a parenting group at the Cabin with the focus on support. Learning can then result from that mutual support, with some input, rather than focusing on training, which may prevent some parents from participating. A 'Stay and Play' group, with parents participating in activities alongside their children on a weekly basis, should also be explored.

There continues to be positive qualitative feedback on what the sessions for children and young people do for adults as well as the programme of activities that parents themselves can get involved with – community events, rural visits and training. The Cabin needs to be more vociferous about being a play, youth and community project and look for further funding to support the latter.

Helped parents engage in other activities



	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Percentage saying helped:	86.4%	92.9%	73.9%
Average Rating:	7.73	8.29	7.04

Comments from Qualitative Questions

The high level of satisfaction with what is on offer can be seen in the qualitative responses from children, young people and parents. There were no negative comments but many requests for more of the same, or new, activities. This continues to reflect the diverse offer the Cabin has been delivering, which has widened the outlook that participants have.

The main theme in responses, as in previous years, was for more of what already exists. The responses show a hugely positive view of activities already being undertaken and, in the main, a desire for more of the same. Some responses recognise that affordability is an issue and that there is an ongoing need for funding.

Another issue mentioned in a few responses was for more community involvement and consultation. The community needs survey undertaken in 2010 should be repeated as soon as is practicable to both identify any changes in need that have occurred and should be responded to as well as build new evidence for potential funders. Undertaking this, and community consultations, in partnership with the Residents' Association, Housing Association and Local Authority would be a sensible approach.

Below is a collation of responses:

Suggestions

Trips, as with last year, are extremely popular with many people asking for them to continue or have more. Suggestions for trips from last year should be kept and explored with the possibility of including options in the community survey to identify what might be most popular. The joint trip with Slade Lane was well-received with opportunity to meet new people, and this could be repeated and expanded.

Ideas for future trips include:

<i>Community trips</i>	<i>Theme parks</i>
<i>Family trips</i>	<i>Alton towers</i>
<i>Joint playscheme trips</i>	<i>Flamingoland</i>
<i>More joint trips with Slade Lane</i>	<i>Seaworld</i>
<i>Different trips</i>	<i>Waterpark</i>
<i>Camping (many mentions)</i>	<i>Swimming (most popular sporting)</i>
<i>More adventurous trips</i>	<i>Golf</i>
<i>Mountain biking</i>	<i>Rugby</i>
<i>Gorge walking</i>	<i>Cricket</i>
<i>More nature walks</i>	<i>Tennis</i>
<i>Nature orientated trips</i>	<i>Gymnastics</i>
<i>Abseiling</i>	<i>Ice/Roller skating</i>
<i>Raft building</i>	<i>Adventure play</i>
<i>Big parks</i>	<i>Concerts</i>
<i>Heaton park</i>	<i>Pantomimes and plays</i>
<i>Derwin valley</i>	<i>Cinema</i>
<i>Beaston castle on a good day</i>	<i>A trip to Salford quays and we can swim in the canal</i>
<i>Beaches</i>	

Fundays also had many mentions, which shows that the Cabin is creating wonderful experiences on the estate. This is extremely important as it not only allows local people to be active and enjoy themselves but improves their positivity towards the place that they live as well as the people in their community.

Comments and ideas for future Fundays included:

<i>More community events like this</i>	<i>More family days</i>
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More activity days
More days like today
Dress up day
Circus skills

Winter/Christmas funday
Bouncy castles
Face paints
Contests

As in previous years, there was a lot of very positive feedback on the wide variety of activities as well as suggestions for more. The word 'More' was used over 50 times in evaluation comments with requests for more of almost everything. Comments on activities included:

<i>More hands on activities</i>	<i>Computer playing</i>
<i>More varied activities</i>	<i>More toys and games</i>
<i>More community activities for families</i>	<i>More equipment</i>
<i>Painting, arts & craft, clay modelling</i>	<i>More outdoors play</i>
<i>Graffiti</i>	<i>More sporty things and sporty activities</i>
<i>More hamma beads</i>	<i>Get a secret room</i>
<i>Roleplay/Acting</i>	<i>More evenings</i>
<i>Weaving</i>	<i>Longer hours</i>
<i>Knitting</i>	<i>More activities for all ages</i>
<i>Talent shows</i>	<i>More sessions</i>
<i>Playing outside</i>	<i>PS4</i>
<i>Running to be healthy</i>	<i>Time to introduce yourself</i>
<i>Trampoline</i>	<i>Parents involved in the activities helping with food and drink etc</i>
<i>Racing</i>	<i>More educational activities</i>
<i>Slides and swings</i>	
<i>Water fights</i>	

There were also a host of comments similar to this one, *"Nothing – already good," "They are already amazing," "More funding for the Cabin to continue their good work and make it even better and a wider range of activities and trips."*

There were a number of general comments sharing the view that what was being delivered was already excellent as well as praising the staff:

- Cabin is very fun and I like coming*
- Keep up the good work*
- My daughter goes places with her friends that I don't go*
- Just knowing that they are there for us*
- Cabin is a really fun place where you can make friends*
- I think the cabin is brilliant for the children of the community it brings them together*
- Cabin does an extremely good job with all ages and little space for improvements as it's brill as it is.*
- Cabin staff are hard-working and amazing.*
- Anson cabin is the best place ever and the staff are hard-working people*
- It's epic. Cabin's so awesome*
- Keep up the good work*
- Thank you*

Some excellent feedback came from the evaluations after the rural trips. Participants were asked to identify the main contrasts they found between the rural environment and the urban one they live in. The responses evidenced the real achievement in broadening the outlook of both children and adults:

- Hills, rabbits and RAF planes*
- Sea, sand and seagulls*
- Castle forest caves, fields, birds and rabbits*
- Open spaces much more trees and nature than in the city*

- *Variety of birds*
- *Hills, grass and trees*
- *The castle and caves, loads of trees*
- *Hills, rabbits, trees, butterflies*
- *Stunning setting with beautiful views*
- *There were a lot of hills and castle ruins to explore as well as wildlife*
- *Beach Sea seagulls*
- *Hills, trees, castles, bushes, bridge, nettles, rabbits and rabbit holes, rabbit poo and cliffs*
- *Trees, lakes, castles and tunnels*
- *Go in the waterfall*
- *Castles, caves, gift shops, rabbit droppings, bats, old things and kind of a bit strange*
- *Castle, caves and rabbits*
- *Castles, caves and a forest*
- *Castles forests and rabbits*
- *Rabbits, robins, caves*
- *Castle, forest, caves and rabbits*
- *Wrecked castles, fields and bridges*
- *Crocky trail is more quiet and our environment has lots of buildings and is noisy*
- *Rides, walks and more fields*
- *More grass*
- *The lake play area*

How Cabin has Helped

Both Children and Adults were asked specifically as to how The Cabin had helped them. Whilst the children's responses are simple, all the responses show the huge value placed on the Cabin by local people. The additional opportunity for parents to access education, training and work opportunities is also evident.

Children

- *Brook helps us understand about personal hygiene and STIs*
- *Personal hygiene*
- *Bike ability and cooking*
- *Walking a lot and visiting professional people about things*
- *By doing the ASCS*
- *Helped my skills by helping me do better things in life and making me feel healthier*
- *It has helped me because I can communicate better*
- *A lot*

Adults

- *Look after my children/ love cabin*
- *My son likes it, it makes him happy*
- *More confidence and more involvement in the community*
- *Yes kids absolutely loved it*
- *Interesting and fun activities, which the children can enjoy*
- *I am on the management committee and the cabin gave me more confidence*
- *My boys have somewhere to go in the holidays while I am working*
- *The cabin has helped me a lot to understand the children*
- *Helps when on evening courses*

- *As a working parent I know where my child is while I am working especially after school and during holidays*
- *It's made me feel a bigger part of the community and now I feel that my children are equal*
- *Things to do for the kids*
- *Helps kids socialise*
- *With life skills, confident building, relationship building*
- *Kids enjoying themselves makes me happy – always helpful*
- *Given my daughter a place to make friends during weekends when she visits me and her family*
- *Community links*

RECOMMENDATIONS

The success of the project and the positive view, and benefits reported, from both children and parents are again clear in this annual evaluation. There is, therefore, a reiterated endorsement of the main direction, projects and activities of The Cabin.

We continue to make recommendations that are about minor improvements rather than major changes. Several recommendations are repeated, with some amendment, reflecting the need for the project to continue to evolve rather than introduce any radical change. However, with the strength of many aspects of delivery, we believe that The Cabin can afford to take more risk in its innovation, and this is reflected in the forthright nature of several recommendations.

1. Explore the development of a uniformed group – guides, scouts, lads & girls Brigade – possibly based at Manchester Youth Academy.
2. Look to further improve links between the young people at MYA and Cabin activities. Running a Cabin Funday at MYA, as well as other events, should be considered.
3. The Children’s Board should continue to produce video reports for the Management Group but this should be accompanied by a short written piece highlighting key points.
4. The reintroduction of Junior Play Workers should be revisited with an induction process to ensure that the roles are valued and taken seriously.
5. Opportunities for young people to apply for their own funding should be identified, including nominating The Cabin for appropriate awards.
6. Young people should be encouraged to progress to senior stages of the Adventure Service Challenge with opportunities to volunteer supporting those undertaking junior stages.
7. Teenagers volunteering and mentoring younger children taking the Adventure Service Challenge should be explored, linked to Duke of Edinburgh Award.
8. Consultation should take place during the summer programme to engage with non-regular attendees and identify what would help them participate throughout the year. This should be followed up in September to encourage participation in regular activities.
9. Using postcards to be sent home when children have positive experiences or achievements should be instituted.
10. A new ‘report card’ for children and young people at the end of the summer programme, around December and May should be piloted.
11. Focusing more on life opportunities should be pursued with the teenage group, expanding their ideas of what they could achieve, using local role models, visiting places of work and discussing different jobs.
12. New programmes for teenagers to improve body image, self-identity and managing stress should be developed and run.

13. The Residents' Association need to be more involved in the delivery of activities for adults. The quarterly family fundays, with parents and children participating together, have been a great success but improved branding, e.g. 'Family Saturdaze', should be considered. Marketing could include: "Experience The Cabin together."
14. The high concern shown in qualitative feedback on future funding should be addressed with a 'Friends of the Cabin' group, with parents running fundraising events and eliciting sponsorship, advertising, donations and legacies. This should be launched at a family funday with parents and grandparents also recruited on trips.
15. Further skills improvement for 11 to 13 year olds should be added to the Adventure Service Challenge with camping, textiles, teamwork, marketing and design sessions.
16. The buddy scheme needs to be more rigorously applied and new, re-introduction sessions for those over 8s run occasionally to maximise the opportunity for children to feel comfortable fitting in.
17. The Cabin should establish its own parenting support group that learning can result from rather than focusing on training.
18. A 'Stay and Play' group, with parents participating in activities alongside their children on a weekly basis, should be piloted.
19. Specific celebration of Lithuanian, and other Eastern European, culture should be added to the programme.
20. A healthy living (eating, exercise, lifestyle) campaign and programme, on similar lines to that already in place for children, should be implemented to see if even greater impact can be achieved on healthy living behaviour, taking advantage of the adults overwhelming positivity. The RA may wish to take this on.
21. A more concerted recruitment campaign should be run to bring in local volunteers, particularly from Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds, both for activities as well as to join the Management Committee.
22. New named roles should be tried to give different opportunities for responsibility, such as Publicity Team, Events Team and Trips Team. These teams can be made up of children, young people and adults and treated as sub-groups of the Management Committee, reporting back to it.
23. Camping trips in half-term holidays, in partnership with MYA and M13, should be run. Partnerships should aim to increase viability, get additional staff resource and give opportunities for new friendships.
24. Positive results from the evaluations should be fed back to the community, used to promote the family events as well as volunteering and other opportunities. A specific flyer showing the positive impact of the Cabin over the last 8 years should be produced and distributed both locally and to stakeholders.
25. The 2011 'Replication by Other Communities' report should be updated to include additional evidence of success. A sharing event should be held towards the end of 2015 to disseminate best practice identified.

26. The community needs survey undertaken in 2010 should be repeated as soon as is practicable. Community consultations, in partnership with the Residents' Association, Housing Association and Local Authority, should complement this exercise.
27. The Cabin's celebration of cultural differences should be continued with both internal programming and visits. A project for young people to plan multi-cultural projects should be explored.
28. As recommended last year, mothers and daughters events, with a dance, pampering or other positive health focus, should be explored. 'Lads, Dads & Comrades' events should also be piloted with football, other sports and skills sharing explored. Cookery could be looked at across genders. A new Events Committee should take these on.
29. As previously recommended, to enable more ball activities in the back area, some additional protection for the new, double glazed windows should be sought and an additional 3 feet of mesh should be added above the existing fence.
30. More use of regular press releases should be made to maximise exposure in the local press as well as radio and, possibly, television – North West Tonight and Granada Reports. A new Publicity Committee should take this on.
31. The Cabin should look to brand itself as a play, youth and community project and be more vociferous about this wide-ranging role. It should look for further funding to support community work either on its own or in partnership with the RA and/or Eastlands.
32. It is recommended that the Residents' Association develop their own job club, helping residents with CVs, interview skills and job searches, this being outside the scope of The Cabin's remit.