

FINAL REPORT

The Gamesley Project

*Neighbourhood Learning In
Deprived communities*

**A High Peak CVS project, funded by Derbyshire
Learning & Skills Council**



Gamesley Project

Neighbourhood Learning In Deprived communities

Introduction

The NLDC programme in Gamesley has been a varied one. Our aim in running this project was to deliver a **range of training** designed to help **volunteers and paid workers within voluntary and community groups** to become more **effective** in what they do, by learning **new skills**.

This we have achieved, with some significant positive outcomes for people in the Gamesley area and those taking part in the training.

Capital element

Training Venue

There was an element within the funding to enable the Jericho Project to add disabled access toilets to the Community Café, to allow it to be used as a venue for training, as well as an added resource for people in the Gamesley community.

The work was delayed while awaiting approval of plans by the landlords (the local council), but was given the go-ahead, and after a tendering process the contractors started in Mid March. At the time of writing, the decorating was the only item outstanding.

Training outputs

The project provided a range of different styles of training course delivery and course length. In total, the training was accessed by 99 people from 16 different organisations in the area, with 114 full day learning experiences (target 105) and 80 mini (or half day) experiences (target 49). All of the organisations that benefited from the training worked with, or took volunteers, clients or beneficiaries from, the Gamesley community.

The 16 organisations were:

- Glossop Out and About club
- Gamesley Villa FC
- Gamesley Residents Assoc
- Gamesley Newsletter
- Glossop Cricket clubs
- Glossop Volunteer Car Scheme
- Hands On!
- Glossop Mayfest
- Glossop Community Transport
- Simmondley Youth Projects
- Glossop VB
- SSAFA
- Ants and Bees
- Age Concern
- Glossopdale Furniture Project

Initially, we expected to have a large take up of half -day sessions that we planned to be delivered in Gamesley between October –December 2003. Unfortunately, this was not the case (this was covered in the interim report in December) and therefore we had to rethink our approach. This we did in two distinct ways.

Firstly, we used some of the funding to increase the number of training sessions available in our main (part LID funded) programme, and encouraged groups in and around the Gamesley area to access these, particularly stressing the benefits of networking with other organisations from the High Peak. This proved successful, with 22 learners from Gamesley groups taking part in this programme. (These 22 learners have not been counted within our main training programme return)

Secondly, we increased the amount of time we spent liaising with groups to assess their requirements and then design training solutions that were appropriate to them. In budgeting for this programme, we expected the local planning and co-ordination to take 5 hours per week, but in reality this was nearer to 10 hours a week. This underestimation was mainly because it takes considerable time and effort to build trust and understanding with organisations, and because of the shortness of the programme – less than nine months – this work had to be carried out in a very compressed, intensive way. As a result, the majority of the training sessions and courses took place in the last two months of the programme, after building this trust and understanding.

Of the 16 groups that accessed training in total, the groups we provided intensive training to were:

Gamesley Villa FC

We identified and sourced a football level 1 coaching course, run by Derbyshire FA, for the club. This was run at local venues. 11 participants attended, with 9 completing the course and successfully receiving the coaching award. This training has enabled the club to will build capacity, by enabling them to expand to run other teams in Gamesley, including a girl's junior team.



Glossopdale cricket clubs

Initially, we were going to organise one emergency first aid course for approximately 10 learners. However, take-up from the local clubs (which are active within Gamesley) meant that this course ran three times, with a total of 31 delegates. A letter of thanks, from the chair of the local cricket development group, is attached.

Glossop Out and About club

This organisation combats social isolation by arranging day trips and an annual holiday for elderly and disabled people. Volunteers act as escorts, and the project provided 3 sessions to ensure volunteers were properly trained in manual handling, first aid and emergency evacuation procedures. 3 of the volunteers who undertook the training live in Gamesley, and in 2003 10 regular participants in the clubs activities came from Gamesley.

Gamesley Community Newsletter

We ran three sessions in Gamesley on writing and newsletter techniques, and in doing so helped volunteers re-launch the newsletter that had been dormant for a period of time

As a result, the newsletter group, in partnership with High Peak CVS partnership and the Gamesley Residents Association have been successful in applying for funding from the Gamesley Single regeneration Board (SRB) partnership, to pay for ongoing development support and production and printing costs of the newsletter for the next year.

Photos of the group visiting a similar project in Manchester were included in the December report

Glossop Volunteer Car Scheme

This scheme provides volunteer drivers to take disabled or elderly people to health or other appointments. The NLDC funding enabled the scheme to train 6 drivers to become **Passenger Assistant Trainers** as part of the Passenger Assistant Training Scheme - PATS.

These newly qualified Passenger Assistant Trainers will now be able to deliver the following modules to new volunteers (currently over 25 waiting to receive training), enabling the car Scheme to operate more safely and take the needs of its client group.

Module A: The Role of the Passenger Assistant

This is the 'foundation' module because it is a starting point for further training. It covers the role and responsibilities of a passenger assistant, including legal, practical and safety issues

Module B: Assisting Passengers with Disabilities

This module includes boarding and alighting from vehicles and safety information concerning wheelchair users. It is very similar to the relevant part of MiDAS - the training available to minibus drivers

Module C1: Supervising Children and Young People with Special Needs

This includes supervising children and young people with learning difficulties, autism, physical disabilities, sensory restrictions and emotional or behavioural difficulties

Module C2: Working with Adults Who Require Care and Supervision

This includes adult passengers with learning difficulties, dementia, physical disabilities, sensory restrictions and people in mental or emotional distress

Gamesley Residents Association

A day-long event entitled “creative problem solving” that enabled 6 members of the management committee to learn techniques and skills to address the issues that face their organisation.



Clockwise from top right: Visioning the future, Discussing the post it process, The post it wall, discussing ideas



Hands on!

A project for young people generally not in work, education or training, based in Glossop. The NLDC funding was used to pay for a number of specific training initiatives to improve the skills and effectiveness of this organisation:

- Go girls! Training event in London for the paid worker, on practical strategies for emotional development and building self-esteem in girls and young women. A letter of thanks is enclosed.
- A 4 evening programme for male volunteers on sexual health, relationships and how young people relate to others. 5 people took part.
- Running a community event. Residential training event for 4 people.

A full breakdown showing attendee numbers is attached – appendix i.

Planned training with groups that was not delivered

A number of other initiatives were investigated and additional groups within the area identified and consulted about the training they required. While these did not come to fruition, they have been included here to show the variety and depth of work that went into the project, and the potential for building on NLDC in future years.

Community Centre committee

The youth and community centre in Gamesley is currently being refurbished, and when it reopens will be run by a volunteer management committee for the first time. Before bidding for the NLDC project, we consulted with Gamesley on the Go, the council initiative responsible for the centre, and agreed to deliver the training for the committee as part of the programme. The centre was to reopen in December 2003, but due to building delays this will not happen until June, which is when the new committee will be recruited. This is, unfortunately, now outside of the time frame of the project.

Community Sports Leaders Award

Combined with the youth and community centre is a new multi-use games area, and we had planned to run a Community Sports Leaders Award course in conjunction with the Borough Council sports development team, to encourage increased sports activity within the community. This has also been delayed due to the building work

Jericho Project

An evening event for volunteers and management committee, covering team building, problem solving and planning for the future. Unfortunately, this did not go ahead due to a lack of numbers wanting to take part from the organisation.

Gamesley Bowls Club

Management committee training that did not go ahead due to lack of numbers.

Project follow up – impact assessment

As part of the project, we intend to assess the impact of the training we have delivered by sending an impact questionnaire to all learners, 6-9 months after the training i.e. Autumn 2004. We will make the findings available to the LSC when available.

Summary and suggestions

The Gamesley NLDC project, although successful, did not go entirely according to plan. The biggest hurdle, due to the compressed nature of the project, was building relationships with local groups and organisations. Also, the time scale did not allow any follow up work with groups as a way of helping them become more sustainable.

Therefore, for future similar funding rounds, we would suggest a two-year programme would be beneficial for obtaining the most positive outcomes. We have used the learning from this scheme in our similar New Mills LIDF project, which will run for 24 months.

Finally, this project was part of the Learning and Development Consortium NLDC joint bid. Integral to future joint bids we would like to see the Consortium providing more feedback and opportunities to share experiences with other organisations involved in these joint projects.

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5 May 2004



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