

Field Worker's Report Youth Strategy Meeting 10/10/05

Jodi Lloyd

Since the last Youth Strategy Meeting, Llwynypia Boys' and Girls' Club has held an open night and is now open for normal activities. The club is open Monday to Friday, 17:30 – 21:00.

Publicity

In preparation for the opening of the club I designed and distributed promotional materials in order to generate publicity for the club.

- Brochure / leaflet – sent to local schools, distributed to homes throughout Llwynypia by the Sea Cadets, left in Ystrad Sports Centre.
- Posters – sent to schools, displayed in shops / businesses in Llwynypia and Tonypany.
- Posters and leaflets for volunteers – displayed in shops / businesses in Llwynypia and Tonypany, left in job centre in Tonypany, displayed in club on open night.
- Liaised with Rob (information officer) in order to place news stories in the Rhondda Leader
- Had a stand at the Youth Directory Services exhibition at the Sports Centre, publicising the three clubs.

A large amount of people attended the club's opening night, suggesting that the promotional activities and materials have been effective.

Open night

An open night was held on Monday 3rd October. The first part of the evening was for invited guests and Eddie Edmonds was presented with an award for long service. From 7pm the club was open to the general public. A large number of people attended the event and a few people expressed an interest in becoming volunteers. Rob has sent a press release covering the event, along with photographs, to the Rhondda Leader.

Contacts

Since the last meeting I have made a few contacts, which might be of benefit to the club.

- I met with Tracey and Cheryl from Communities First at the club. They also attended the open night and I am hoping to meet with them again soon to discuss how we can be of benefit to each other.
- 2 members of the Community Development team at Rhondda Housing Association attended the open night and expressed an interest in hiring out the social room and sports hall in order to deliver a workshop.
- At the open night I was introduced to someone who works for Sure Start Toy Library, which enables voluntary organisations to borrow a variety of equipment / facilities. This would enable the Boys' Club to introduce and deliver new activities with no financial risk.
- We have had a meeting with members of the shape-it scheme. The scheme is looking to provide community groups with pcs and free internet access so that they can produce content for a community website. If passed by the

management committee I will take the next step of filling out and sending off the application form to be involved in this project.

Activities

We are in the process of establishing a programme of activities and will soon look to introduce new activities.

I have received a lot of interest from female members in regards to dancing classes and this is an activity I am keen to introduce. It is possible that I would be able to obtain funding for this from the Diamond Jubilee Fund, although it needs to first be cleared by the Management Committee.

Problems / issues raised

Now that the club has opened we have encountered several teething problems and certain issues have been raised. Over the next couple of months I will be working with the management committee to try and resolve these problems / issues.

- A number of issues have been raised in regards to voluntary staff, in particular a lack of volunteers. I will be looking at various ways to increase the number of volunteers at the club including, amongst other things, incentivising the voluntary roles whether this is through offering training opportunities or other methods. If we are unable to attract sufficient volunteers we may have to revise the opening times.
- Security issues – as some adults attend the club to watch their children train it might be necessary to introduce some security measures to ensure members' safety. Viable options include a visitor's book, badges to differentiate staff and volunteers from members of the public, a staff photo board. These are to be discussed with the management committee.
- Effective systems need to be put in place – e.g. collecting and recording contributions, volunteer records, café stock and takings, membership records, accident book etc. This will be discussed further with the management committee.
- Volunteer and staff roles need to be clarified, particularly in regards to the differences between the roles of Club Leader and Development Worker.