

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report



Name of project: Words Are Not Enough

Project Lead: Sue Winter

Sub Group overseeing project: Transition Forum

Project Targets from original bid:

- Run an art programme over **8 weeks one day per week for 6 young people with learning disabilities and communication difficulties** and **6 teaching staff from Downs View Link College**
- The art programme will **use ideas from Resilient Therapy** to support the young people cope with challenges and difficulties of life as they become adults
- To make a **short film** to show other people about this work
- Have an **exhibition** of the young people's work
- To **learn from the young people** taking part in the programme **what works and what doesn't work well to plan future work**

The young people with learning disabilities will:

- **Learn new art skills**
- Find **new ways to tell other people what is important to them** through their artwork. This will help them plan for their future.
- Have the opportunity to **do artwork in a proper art studio space** at the Phoenix Studios in Brighton
- Each student will **get a copy of the film** of themselves taking part in the project
- **Learn through making art** about **ways of coping** with life's difficulties and challenges
- Have an **exhibition of their artwork**

The teachers will:

- **Learn art skills** that they can **teach other young people** with learning disabilities

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- **Learn more about the young people** with learning disabilities that they are supporting
- **Learn about Resilient Therapy** and how they can help build young people's resilience through making artwork

How the project will do this work:

- Sue Winter, the project worker, will work with Downs View Link College who will identify 6 students who they think would benefit from taking part in the project
- Downs View Link College will identify teaching staff to support the young people to attend art sessions at the Phoenix Studios in Brighton
- Sue Winter will run the art sessions
- Claire Griffiths, a film maker and a student on the M.A. Inclusive Arts Practice course at Brighton University will film the project
- Sue Winter will learn more about Resilient Therapy by going to the once a month meetings with other people learning about Resilient Therapy and putting it into practice through their work

How much 2009/10 LDDF money the project gets: £7,000.00

Name of person completing this report:

Sue Winter

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What the project has done in April through July 2009:

- **6 young people** with learning disabilities and communication difficulties from Downs View Link College took part in **art sessions once a week for 4 weeks at the Phoenix Studios** in Brighton
- **6 teaching staff** from the college attended these sessions to support the students
- The young people and the staff **learnt how to do: mono-printing, plaster casting and felt making.**
- The **young people and staff** had the opportunity to **work with Brighton artist Jim Sanders to make big chalk drawings together**
- We all **looked at the art exhibition** at the **Phoenix Gallery** that was part of the Brighton Festival
- The young people also had the **opportunity to film the sessions** with **Claire Griffiths, a film maker** who was filming the work we were doing
- We had an **exhibition of the young people's art work** at Downs View Link College. Lots of people came to see the work
- We have got **£1,000** from the **Youth Opportunities Fund** to **buy more equipment for more art sessions in the Autumn**
- There is an article about the **Words Are Not Enough** art project in **Network News**
- Sue Winter was invited to the **Sussex Advocacy Partnership** to tell them about how we are **using art** to help young people with learning disabilities and communication difficulties tell people what is important to them



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What the project has done between August and December 2009:

- Sue met with Sally Ward, who is a local artist and an advocate for a woman with learning disabilities. Sally read about the project in Network News and said she would like to **volunteer on the project**.
- Sue and Sally **planned** some of the **art sessions together**.
- Sue **showed the film** we have made about the project **to the young people** from Downs View Link College (DVLC), one of their **parents and staff**.
- **Each young person was given a copy of the DVD**.
- **6 students from DVLC** have taken part in **4 more art workshops in November**. 5 of the young people who took part in the first art workshops in May have taken part with 1 new young woman joining the group. She watched the DVD and it helped her to make the decision to get involved in the project.
- **Sue did some training** about what the project is trying to do with **3 staff** who support the students at Downs View Link College.
- The 4 art workshops have taken place at the Phoenix Studios. The students have each been given a tent, a big camping bag and a flag to decorate. We have done some printing, weaving and sculpture.
- We had a small **exhibition of this work at the Phoenix on 3rd December 2009**. Lots of people came to see they young people's artwork
- The **workshops were filmed** by Claire Griffiths from the University of Brighton. Each young person will get a copy of the film of them taking part in the workshops and of the exhibition.



This project is finished now