

COVO Connecting Voices – 020 7635 0007

.....and the beat goes on.....

Hello again Readers!

COVO has been very busy preparing and developing new and current projects that the break of half term was practically non-existent!

But as we all know the benefits are rewarding for the recipients of our services, so keep up the good work everyone!!

This newsletter will highlight some of these new developments and the stages at which our current projects are at for this month:

List of Projects

- **Transition Project at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School** (Oct 09 – Feb 10)
Working with a group of 30 children, on the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.
- **London Youth Offer Transition Project at Goodrich Primary School and The Charter School** (Nov 09 – Mar 10)
Working with a group of 10 children in Year 6 and 10 children in Year 7 who are at risk of exclusion, dealing with the issue of Transition.
- **Nursery Project at the Clyde Early Childhood Centre** (Mar 09 – Mar 10)
Working with the parents of under 3's developing creative ways to interact with their children
- **School Council Project at Brockley Primary School** (Nov 09 – Feb 10)
Working with two groups from (Yrs 2-3) & (Yrs 4,5,6) in developing a framework for the implementation of an effective school council.
- **NEET Project at St. Michael Assoc. & SMWA** (Oct 09 – Mar 10)
Managing and monitoring the delivery and development of the NEET Project to be delivered by the above schools.
- **Self Evaluation of 20 Supplementary Schs in Southwark** (Apr 09 – Nov 10)
Ongoing support to 20 supplementary schools in Southwark to develop an effective baseline and monitoring system for their students.
- **Play Project at Heber Primary School** (July 09 – July 10)
COVO's flagship project to train Midday Supervisors and improve lunchtime breaks.

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Pic used for promo material for 'Transitioning Trees' end of project performance for Dulwich Hamlet Junior School

Current Project Updates

NURSERY PROJECT:

As the project is coming to an end, Chris and Luisa will be producing a video of the project showing highlights of the work carried out with the parents and nursery staff of Clyde Nursery.

TRANSITION PROJECT DULWICH HAMLET:

Angelo and Chris worked with the children to prepare for their end of project performance. The performance was presented to the school and 4 neighbouring schools on the 26th Feb 2010. A DVD of the project and the final performance was made and given to each of the participants as a keepsake of their experience on this project.

LONDON YOUTH OFFER TRANSITION PROJECT:

The project was given the go ahead to take both groups on

teambuilding trips at the end of March.

Luisa and Peter will be taking the children from Goodrich Primary to a Sailing Fun Day at the AHOY Sailing Centre.

Chris and Luisa will be taking the children from The Charter School to a 2 day Teambuilding Trip at the Calshot Activities Centre.



PLAY PROJECT: Suzi and Helena worked with the Midday Supervisors who redesigned the

playground in consultation with the staff, children and parents. Playground games were then introduced which the Midday Supervisors were initially sceptical about, but then became more involved and enthusiastic with them. Suzi says 'Overall the school is very supportive of the project and there are still lots to do!'

NEET PROJECT: In partnership with SMWA, COVO hired a team of 5 staff to work with 12 Year 9 girls at risk of exclusion from Peckham Academy. We welcome Jean Straus (Management Committee Member), Katherine Ashley, Yvonne Levene, Hadel Osman and Suzi (COVO) in their new capacities for this project, which will go on until June 2010.

Future Projects

Thanks to the Charles Hayward Foundation who awarded COVO a grant just before Christmas, COVO will be planning to carry out the Movement, Dance and Reminiscence workshop to a group of elderly people. This project aims to increase the mobility and co-ordination of the participants as well as decreasing their sense of isolation. The project was piloted with the Southwark Black Elderly Group last year, and they thoroughly enjoyed their experience especially in sharing stories and reminiscences of their past.

Possible Projects

There are also a number of possible projects that, if funded, will be added to the accolades of COVO's services:

Extension of the Transition Project from London Youth Offer. This will see the current project extended to work with a new group of Year 6 and Year 7 children going through the transition from Primary to Secondary School.

We recently handed in the application for Heritage funding to deliver an oral history project in September 2010-2011.

The project involves training 10 young people in Peckham in oral history techniques in order to interview market traders, elders and local residents and gather stories about how the area has changed over time, focussing on BEM migration and community cohesion. Based in Peckham library, the young people will go on outings to the Cuming Museum; BFI (British Film Institute); London Museum and Southwark Local History Library to learn about the area. They will be trained by the Oral History Society and professionals, take photographs and make videos which they will exhibit in an end of project exhibition/ community event. The oral history will be added to Southwark Local History Library archive



Picture taken from
Southwark Black Elderly
Group – Dance,
Movement &
Reminiscence
Workshop

Workshop Activities

Just to update you on the proposed projects that were featured in last month's newsletter:

HIP HOP PROJECT:

Further to their presentation to COVO's Management Committee, Matthew Venn and Sam Alty will be hosting two taster sessions of the Hip Hop Workshop mid March. Registration forms for each participant will have to be completed, and the parents of those under 18 will be contacted and requires signed consent so they are aware of their attendance at the workshops.

This project has also given us the opportunity to make contact with our neighbors at 12 Asylum Road, who have requested planning permission to build an extension

adjacent to our first floor. We hope to meet with them in the near future to discuss their plans as well as whether our activities will cause them disruption.

YOGA SESSIONS:

Giedre (Yoga Teacher) will be away for the month of February but Peter has met with another Yoga Teacher who is also interested in holding yoga classes at COVO. More information on these extra classes will follow soon.



Picture of 12b Asylum Road and the space where the proposed work of our neighbours will take place

Management Committee

As Jean Straus is now working on a project for COVO, she will be momentarily relieved from her duty as Secretary on the Management Committee but will still be attending the meetings as a Member.

The final word...

As the Easter Holidays are just around the corner, there will be no March issue as all the major updates have already been highlighted in this issue; the next one will be released at the end of April.

- The COVO Connecting Voices Team

About our organisation

COVO has been established since 1999 working mainly in the borough of Southwark but also delivering projects London wide.

We have extensive experience working in partnership with local government initiatives, out-of-school services, and various other educational settings.

We use a systemic framework, which is effective in helping participants to reflect on their personal practice while acquiring new skills. This approach develops a culture that enables children and young people to actively participate in their social and emotional development, while giving staff, teams and individuals the opportunity to embrace change and reflect on their personal growth to achieve the desired outcomes.

Creativity is central to our approach: the use of games, theatre, movement, emotional literacy and visual art enable participants in our programmes to break down barriers and develop a universal language that facilitates dialogue.

COVO Connecting Voices

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"We deliver services that address conflict, disaffection and underachievement in education and the workplace."

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.covo.org.uk

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