

July 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3

COVO Newsletter

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Pictures taken from the Transition Trips with the groups from Goodrich Primary School and The Charter School

COVO Connecting Voices – 020 7635 0007

.....School's out for summer!.....

Dear Readers,

Unfortunately due to a lot of time constraints we have been unable to update you since Easter but as another academic year draws to a close we take a look back on the work and projects COVO has managed to successfully complete and generate over this last term:

List of Projects

- **PAYP Transition Project at Goodrich Primary School and The Charter School** (Mar 09 – Mar 11)
- *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.*
- **NEET Project at SMWA** (Feb 10 – Jun 10)
Managing and monitoring the delivery and development of the NEET Project to be delivered at the above centre.
- **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.
- **Movement, Dance & Reminiscences Project at B.E.G.** (May 10 – Jul 10)
Delivering movement therapy and reminiscence workshops with the members of the Southwark Black Elderly Group.
- **Nursery Project at Slade Nursery School – Oxford** (Sept 10 – Dec 10)
Working with the staff and parents of the Nursery to deliver training and workshops in developing creative ways to engage with their children.
- **Colchester PRU Project** (Sep 10 – Jul 10)
Delivering consultations and training to the staff of 4 Pupil Referral Units based in Colchester.
- **'My History' – Black History Month** (Oct 10)
An intergenerational workshop to be held during Black History Month, working with the young people, adults and the elderly residents of Peckham.
- **Refresher sessions for the Play Project at Heber Primary School & Goodrich Primary School** (Sep 10 – Jul 10)
Providing ongoing support to the midday supervisors, school staff and management of the above schools.

Current Project Updates

PAYP TRANSITION PROJECT:

It was an emotional experience had by all as the final sessions took place with the Transition groups at Goodrich Primary School and Charter School. Goodrich even managed to squeeze in another trip, as part of the project, to the Royal Observatory where they learned how the changes and forces in the universe can relate to their own experiences of change. At the end of the project a certificate and DVD featuring images from their trips and an instrumental composition piece from one of their sessions was presented to each student.

NEET PROJECT:

This project ended on a very high note. The group of girls who participated in the project remained 'loyal to the programme' and benefitted from

developing individual strengths in various aspects of the project that they enjoyed. Congratulations to the NEET Team who made this project a great success! It is hoped that with further funding COVO will have the opportunity to continue the work further with this group.

SELF EVALUATION PROJECT:

As the Supplementary Schools are closing for the summer, contact has been made with all the Schools, final assessments of the students for this academic year have been taken and the next phase of the Self Evaluation is set to be completed by the end of the Autumn Term 2010.

PLAY PROJECT – HEBER:

The project was very successful; the playground was redesigned and newly marked with input from

staff and parents. A feedback questionnaire was recently given to the KS2 students about the new playground and activities and there were definitely some significant changes in statistics from when the questionnaire was initially given at the start of the project i.e. fighting went from 82% down to 57%.

MOVEMENT THERAPY FOR ELDERLY:

A poignant moment was had at the final session for the Black Elderly Group; they did not want these sessions to stop and said that they felt moved by the whole project. We are currently looking into more funding to deliver these sessions on a more long term basis.

Future Projects

For the new school term we managed to gain more projects in some of the places we are currently working in, as well as branching outside of London with a Nursery Project in Oxford and a consultancy & training project for 4 Pupil Referral Units in Colchester, Essex.

For the third consecutive year we have been able to raise funds to hold a workshop during Black History Month (Oct). This year COVO will be holding an intergenerational workshop at Peckham Library on Fri 15th October between 4-6pm

And at Heber Primary School and Goodrich Primary School, COVO will be holding further consultancy sessions and refresher training workshops for the staff and new midday supervisors.

Possible Projects

Subject to the outcome of funding applications we have applied to a number of foundations and investment companies who will award grants linked to the following projects:

Heritage - This project was featured in the last issue of the newsletter and basically COVO will be working with 20 local young people researching into the history of Peckham Market using various multimedia outlets to display their findings.

Paul Hamlyn – This foundation is supporting projects to organisations working with children at risk of NEET. Therefore we are looking to hold a project to raise the achievement of marginalized young people who are struggling in mainstream education by developing innovative tools to engage and motivate the young people in their learning and education.

Russell Investments Ltd & Land Securities Capital Fund - These companies are also supporting projects to those working with children who are not currently being reached/engaged by other support programmes and who have been specifically identified as those at risk of becoming NEET.



Pictures taken from the NEET Project at SMWA

Workshop Activities

COVO recently used the space to host a training workshop for potential freelance workers who wish to work with COVO in the near future. We had a total of eight participants who were given an insight into COVO's methodology and activities and were treated to a 'COVO style' lunch.

There are plans to host another workshop for those contacts that were unable to make the last one, as well as any other prospective candidates who would be suitable for COVO's projects.



Rental Space

As of May 1st 2010, we were given the opportunity to part manage our office building, 12b Asylum Road. In partnership with Southwark Council, COVO is able to let out the upstairs spaces to the public for churches, meetings, presentations and workshops.

We currently have two churches utilising the space on Friday evenings and Sundays and have had numerous enquiries further to advertising and general word of mouth.

For further information about room hire, rates and availability or if you are interested in participating in the upcoming COVO workshop, please contact Liza on 020 7635 0007 or liza@covo.org.uk



Pictures of our rooms for hire and from the Training day at 12b Asylum Road.

Management Committee

We are also looking for new members to join our Management Committee, so if you are interested in the work we carry out and wish to provide input to our organisation and have the time to attend a meeting once a month, please contact us on any of our details adjacent.

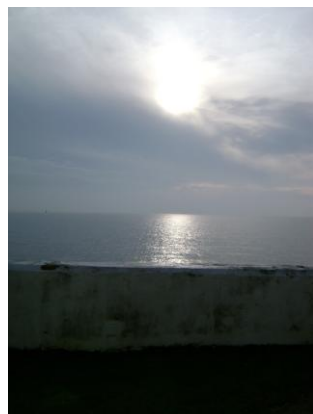
The final word...

Even though the schools are closed for the summer it does not mean we are not!

We are still contactable throughout the summer, messages and voicemails will be checked regularly and the office will re-open full time from Tues 31st Aug.

The next issue of the newsletter will be released at the end of the Autumn Term.

Until then readers, on behalf of the COVO Connecting Voices Team may you all have a wonderful summer!



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