



Wise Up Community Home Education Group

AGM 4th July 2009 2pm

Dalton Road Community Centre,
Aberavon

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Louise Murray (Chair) gave her welcome and introduction with the help of Jack, using the computer to give a slide show to accompany the welcome.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Careena Gordon-Evans and Shawna Garmen

Invitations were sent out to all members, Tutors, Funders, Volunteers and many others who have helped Wise Up become the success it is. We had many replies from our invitees apologising that work and holiday commitments meant they were unable to attend the meeting but wished us well and future success.

3. Committee Standing Down

At the end of the meeting the current Committee would be standing down and there would be an Election of new Committee Members. Any further nominations were very welcome.

4. Annual Report and Highlights of the Year

The annual report was available for scrutiny but because of a lack of funding to cover the cost of printing a report for all a pdf. File was offered to every member via a download to their computer, a binder was also offered to all members.

Throughout the year:-

Website has had more than 9,000 hits

55 families are represented on the email list

Telephone and email support has been given to many families and professionals throughout the year

We have built an impressive library of Home Education books and information

Outdoor activities

Playworks worked with us to have some fun with Water Play and Den Building days

RSPB came to Tuesday Club to show us how to construct bird feeders and arranged a day in Swansea to make bird houses and take part in birdwatching and migration activities.

Forestry Commission worked with us at Afan Forest Park.

Mentor Allan have provided Canoeing as the first in regular weekly outdoor activities for our 11-25 year olds.

There have been visits to

Natural History Museum in London

Brainiac Science Show in Cardiff

1940 War Museum in Swansea

Other activities at Tuesday Club have included

Scintillate, a series of science workshops

Dragonfly Creations, using green wood and hand tools to construct items such as flowers, jewellery, spoons and sturdy 3-legged stools

Sports Coach, John Evans has been coming since the inception of Wise Up, he is with us for 4 hours and includes all ages and abilities in his classes. Feedback about John has been amazing, with many children and young people who have previously shied away from sport now taking part on a regular basis.

Circus Eruption have visited us fortnightly to provide circus skills training which has helped many of our members who have balance and coordination difficulties.

Tan Dance, yoga, Spanish, film making, and many, many more. All our tutors have been fully prepared to work with a mixed age group.

There has been in excess of 60 activities provided by our Funders and our own fundraising efforts

As Louise talked about these activities photographs of the children taking part in all these activities were being shown, via the slide show.

Susie Jewell gave a report on the Comic Relief Funding.

£50,023 had been made available for 3 years to cover the appointment of a Mental Health worker, who would provide confidential therapy to individual young people as well as family support and group workshops. The exact scope of the post had not yet been fully determined, input from members would be sought and advice had been taken from interested parties. The advert for the post should be within the next few weeks.

5. Treasurers Report

Grants

NPT CVS Under 8's £600 This grant came at the start of Wise Up and enabled us to accumulate a wide range of toys and equipment for our youngsters.

Community Chest Grant £1000 This enabled us to secure our Sports Coach for the first 10 weeks.

Awards4All £5000 Helped toward our rent to the YMCA, A lockable cupboard and a supply of specialist reference books about home education.

Sports Grant £9,170 This provided weekly sessions with our Sports coach and fortnightly visits from Yoga and Tan Dance as well as some sporting equipment for use at Tuesday Club and at our outdoor play days.

South Wales Police Bluelight Fund £300 Helped towards Guitar lessons, some participants are soon to play at Taibach Rugby Club in a showcase of local talent.

Waterloo Foundation £20,000 This has provided us with wide-ranging and varied activities such as our visits to the various museums, Scintillate Science and Dragonfly woodcrafts.

NPT CVS Capital Grant £3,000 Film Making Equipment.

Fundraising £1,800 Car boot sales, Tombolas our regular raffle ticket sales and donations

We achieved a total of £39,070 - far exceeding our expectations when we started Wise Up in February 2008.

Future Aims

Our long term aim is to achieve enough funding to be able to have a permanent building for our use as a regional home education centre and to act as a community centre for alternative education provision for all ages and sectors of the community.

In the shorter term, we will be seeking funding for a full time worker and office space to alleviate the administrative workload from the committee, enabling us to network and attend various forums that are, at the moment, impossible to accommodate.

Huge change Tuesday club is now changing to Wednesday Club. We have found a new venue that is less expensive and has disabled access at Aberavan Community Centre. We have had a wonderful time at the YMCA but it is now time to move on. We hope to maintain our links with the YMCA maybe having some specific activities during the coming year.

6. Election of Committee Members and Officers

The following posts were unopposed

TREASURER Jayne Palmer

proposed by Julianne Howells seconded by Louise Vaughan

CHAIR Louise Murray

proposed by Janice Twigg seconded by Paul Cochrane

SECRETARY Careena Gordon Evans

proposed by Susie Jewell seconded by Libby Jenkins

Committee Members

Janice Twigg proposed by Louise Vaughan seconded by Julianne Howells

Louise Vaughan proposed by Susie Jewell seconded by Vivienne Tippings

Julianne Howells proposed by Susie Jewell seconded by Sian Legg

7. Thank-yous

Many thanks were extended to all our Volunteers, those present and those who could not make it today

Certificates and chocolates were awarded to

Carly

Sacha

Alexandra

Jack

for their many hours of voluntary work.

Thanks to Gail who has stepped down from the committee, She was awarded a certificate and chocolates. Gail's tireless work in the art room, helping the children and young people and doing far more than her share of the tidying up is hugely appreciated and we are delighted that she will be continuing in a committee support role.

Thanks to Julianne and Lesley for organising the fabulous buffet - a great success, they were each presented with a box of chocolates.

Also many thanks to Jayne and Jan who stepped in to the committee and are doing a grand job keeping the finances straight. Jan had chocolates and Jayne a bouquet of flowers.

Huge thanks were extended to Susie for all her work and the many hours she has spent offering moral support to us all. Susie will be staying on in order to oversee the Comic Relief Project. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Susie then made a speech thanking Louise and her boys for all their work in organising Wise Up and presented Louise with a bouquet of flowers and wished her a happy birthday.

8. Films Made by the Young People of Wise Up

We then closed the meeting by watching the films made by the children with Sub-Real Film Company.