

The Car Project



Introduction

This paper outlines the development and delivery of the successful Apex Stranraer Car Project.

Background

The idea for a car safety and maintenance project came when a number of our Lifeskills trainees showed an interest in the yearly Young Driver's project run by Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary. The young people had previously signed up and secured places but did not manage to sustain the programme. It was thought that if a similar project was offered through the Lifeskills programme, trainees would have a better chance of completing the programme.

At the Apex Scotland Open Day held in June 2011, Justina Murray, Chief Officer of South West Scotland Community Justice Authority (SWSCJA), spoke about the Three Town Motor project in Ardrossan and recommended that we should visit it. Arrangements were made to visit this project which is delivered by qualified mechanics and a youth development worker. They have pupils attending from local secondary schools and have established good links with James Watt College. This link provides access to Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ's). From this visit we gained ideas and advice on how to take this forward in Stranraer.

Project

The project was planned in partnership with Robert Erskine, a Youth Justice Social Worker who is also a trained mechanic. Robert was able to get involved in the project as some of the trainees are working with Youth Justice. Raymond Finningham, a literacy and numeracy tutor, volunteered for the full eight weeks. He previously managed a car parts company and he is also involved in the Young Drivers project.

Recruitment

Once a risk assessment was carried out we established that we could run the project safely with six young people. Five of the young people were from the Lifeskills programme and one young person from Crannog.

Number of Young People	Male	Female	Number of Males completed	Number of Females completed
6	4	2	2	2

Of the two young people that did not sustain one moved from the area and the other felt the project could not offer him anymore than he already knew.

Equipment

Each young person involved was provided with safety shoes or boots and a boiler suit. The Lifeskills trainees also painted the garage floor with special floor paint to protect it. The paint and brushes were donated from local supplier's Brushstrokes and Home and Gardens.

Activities

The project was planned taking into account the different elements of car safety, maintaining a car as well as studying for driving theory and hazard perception. The eight week plan (appendix 1) incorporated these areas and included presentations from the Fire Service and Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary. As part of the

programme we attended the Fire Station one evening to watch a RTC (road traffic collision) demonstration. This was a very powerful demonstration. While we were watching it one of the fire officers stood with us and was able to answer any questions. The young people who attended had a lot of questions for the officer and seemed to take on board the likely consequences if careless/reckless driving.

Confidence and self-esteem issues presented themselves at various times. For example during first aid, none of the young people felt confident enough to demonstrate that they could do cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) correctly on the "Resusci Annie" doll, however the trainer was understanding and we overcame this by having one young person in the room at each time.

Evaluation

On day one participants were asked to write a letter to themselves talking about how they felt about the project, being in the group and what their aspirations were for the project. This task allowed the participants to focus on the eight week plan and set their own goals. It also helped with the evaluation process. On the final week participants were asked about how they felt the project went and what they had gained from being involved. They were then given their letters to open and we were able to have a group discussion on what they had achieved. One of the incentives for the group was that if they attended 90% of the sessions they would get funding for their provisional driving licence. This incentive had appeared in all of the letters and one person wrote;

"I am looking forward to getting involved with the car project and learn new things that I don't know about cars and I want to get my provisional when I finish".

Another said;

"This project is going to help me learn about cars and how to drive and check they're safe and if I do the full thing a get my provisional".

At the end of each session we had a group discussion about how the session went. Each week positive statements were given, although the days when they were working with the car definitely received the most enthusiastic responses.

Conclusion

To date one of the young people has received his provisional licence and has driving lessons booked. He is eager to gain his full licence. This young person is interested in farming and has already attended a placement at a local farm. His chances of gaining employment will dramatically increase with his driving licence as most local farms are out with the Stranraer area.

The car project has generated a lot of interest from other agencies and young people. We hope to secure funding to run the project again.

Appendix 1**Car Project**

Week	Date	9.15-10.15	Break	10.30-11.30	Break	11.40
1	26.10.11	Introduction to Programme – what's it all about?		Walk Through/Talk Through		Tidy up, wash up, feedback
2	02.11.11	Changing a Wheel / Hazard Perception		Changing a Wheel / Hazard Perception		Tidy up, wash up, feedback
3	09.11.11	First Aid (Fire Service)		First Aid (Fire Service)		Tidy up, wash up, feedback
4	16.11.11	All Levels Checked		Driving Theory		Tidy up, wash up, feedback
5	23.11.11	Fire Station Presentation		Know your vehicle!		Tidy up, wash up, feedback
6	30.11.11	Pre Journey Checks		Driving Theory		Tidy up, wash up, feedback
7	07.12.11	Police Presentation		Police Presentation		Tidy up, wash up, feedback
8	14.12.11	What do you know??		Provisional Licence application forms		Presentation

Tuesday 15th November RTC (road traffic collision) demonstration at Stranraer Fire Station 7-8pm.

The trainees receiving their certificates, very proudly (as they should be!).

