



**PEST Project
End of Year Project Report 2006/2007**

Key Tasks

1. Undertake baseline research with young people and staff from network organisations by identifying participant's learning needs, in terms of skills development.

Participant skill assessment is undertaken on an ongoing basis with each individual group, as different groups and individuals within a group have different learning needs and different tasks they want to achieve. This research is a key part of the planning and preparation process.

Article 12 in Scotland undertook research with their network organisations to assess the level of knowledge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) amongst the young people that access these services. A lack of knowledge was evidenced in this research and similar findings are evidenced in several other research papers. Based on this research, the 'UNCRC for Beginners' resource pack was produced as a toolkit for young people to use with their peers or youth workers to use with the young people that they work with to increase knowledge of the UNCRC. The pack includes a deck of playing cards with the 54 articles of the UNCRC on them and a workbook with group activities.

2006/2007 has marked the beginning of the third UK Reporting Process where the UK Government has to submit a comprehensive report on the state of children and young people's rights in the UK to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. Part of this process involves alternative reports being submitted by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the UK that offer evidence to support or dispute the government report.

The PEST project has used the 'UNCRC for Beginners' resource pack to facilitate the creation of an alternative youth-led report that will be sent to the UN Committee in Geneva, teamed with face-to-face training sessions and other forms of support to groups. This has had the effect of developing young people's facilitation and group work skills as well as increasing their knowledge of their rights as set out in the UNCRC.

Other practical tools used include Skills Spider Webs, the PEST Monitoring and Evaluation Tool, and 'I Want and I Got' Trees, used in individual sessions to assess if expectations have been met.



Comments from 'I Want / I Got' Trees sessions include:

"I want to be clear on what the UNCRC actually is."

"I want to know about children's rights and how to help young people find out about them."

"I want to have fun."

"I want to know what kind of report the UN Committee are looking for from us."

"I want to have a full understanding of the objectives of article 12 and how it can help me make changes."

"I got a much clearer picture and enjoyed the workshop; it was great fun."

"I found out lots and had fun."

"I got lots of clear information, it was very interesting."

"I got a lot of info."

"I now feel confident enough to go ahead and do this session to my peers."

2. Publicise and promote the concept of "*skills development through the medium of peer education*" by 1. Identifying the first three network organisations who will participate in young people's skills development training and 2. Identifying organisations out with the Article 12 in Scotland network with an interest in participating in future young people's skills development training.

The project was re-branded to become the PEST Project, with PEST standing for Peer Education Skills and Training. A logo and associated brand imagery have been produced. This has been used to produce a short information leaflet, promotional material and a webpage on the Article 12 in Scotland website.

Organisations within the Article 12 Network that wished to participate in this year's work were:

Fostering Network Scotland
Save the Children Travellers Project
LGBT Youth Scotland
The Glasgow Girls



Organisations out with the Article 12 Network that wished to participate in this years work were:

West Lothian Council
YWCA Livingston
LGBT young people in Aberdeen

Organisations that have expressed and interest in participating in future work are:

The British Red Cross
Edinburgh Green Spaces Trust
Aberlour Childcare Trust
SKILL Scotland
Barnardos
YWCA Roundabout Centre
West Lothian Have Your Say Group
Penumbra
Magdalene Community Centre
Power of 5

In year 2, PEST will work with Young Scot and the Scottish Peer Education Network to increase knowledge of the project at a national level. In addition, PEST has joined the West Lothian Participation Network, the Children 1st Participation Network and the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Children and Young People.

3. Enhance existing, and develop new, generic and subject specific (based on the outcomes of baseline research) skills development resources by designing course content and supporting learning information, including personal records of achievement and online support mechanisms.

Work in Progress resource pack: The idea of this resource pack is to collate the activities and ideas that are gathered over the next four years, through PEST work with groups, for publication at the end of the project. Some progress has been made on this task but it has been difficult to get a wide range of inclusions for the pack as this year PEST has focussed primarily on two topics; the 'UNCRC for Beginners' and Youth Voting.

New resources have been developed from the 'UNCRC for Beginners' pack and from the Youth Voting Initiative that PEST was a part of. Research into resources around the topics of communication skills, research skills and confidence building has been carried out. It is anticipated that this work will progress significantly in year 2 as the diversity of groups and subjects covered increases.

PEST

A Monitoring and Evaluation system with accompanying recording forms has been developed that compliment the workbooks used by the Youth Achievement Awards. Article 12 in Scotland became an Operating Agency for the Youth Achievement Awards in February 2007.

Those young people who choose not to participate in the Youth Achievement Awards are encouraged to keep evidence of their work that can be used to compile a record of their achievements and a supporting statement that can be added to a CV.

An online forum has been developed and will be utilised in year 2.

4. Facilitate and evaluate three training courses involving groups of 10 – 15 young people (core peer educators) who in turn will return to their communities and, with the support of project staff and other peer educators, share their learning experiences with between 30 and 50 of their peers (the multiplier effect). By 1. Equipping a predicted total of 195 young people with the skills necessary to educate and inform their peers on matters relevant to their needs and 2. Identifying achievements, areas of concern and potential for improvement.

As previously mentioned, the following organisations took part in the work of year one; YWCA Livingston, Fostering Network Scotland, West Lothian Council, LGBT young people in Aberdeen, Save the Children's Travellers Project and the Glasgow Girls. Due to staff changes LGBT Youth Scotland did not participate, despite showing an interest, as the PEST Coordinator experienced great difficulties in establishing contact and, consequently, a working relationship with the new worker. This has been found to be the main difficulty of this type of partnership work; it is often difficult to maintain continuity of staff and therefore support for the groups involved.

Predicted number of participants:

Core peer educators:	45
Multiplied:	150

Actual number of participants:

Core peer educators:	91
Multiplied:	1261

Unexpected outcomes (additional project participants)

Professionals	16
Students	40

PEST

It should be noted that the 91 core peer educators participated, in the training courses, to varying degrees due to their differing levels of experience with using peer education techniques, their knowledge of the topic – rights and the UNCRC – and the amount of time that young people wished to contribute to the project. However, it is considered to be strength of the project that it has the versatility to respond and adapt to the needs and wants of the young people involved.

The additional project participants (unexpected outcomes) are the result of 1. A request by West Lothian Council to deliver UNCRC training to a group of professionals working with young people and 2. A request from a lecturer at Adam Smith College, Fife to contribute to the course curriculum for child and social care students.

5. Organise, in partnership with participants, a ‘showcase’ event to 1. Give groups an opportunity to showcase their work and 2. To monitor the impact that the project has had at peer group, organisational and community level.

A showcase event was held at the Traverse Theatre on the 27th of June. 40 delegates registered, 30 delegates attended. A wide range of organisations was represented - including many organisations that were new contacts - from various areas of Scotland. These included Dumfries and Galloway Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Peer Education Network, Young Scot, Canongate Youth Project, SKILL Scotland and West Lothian Youth Action Project.

This showcase was more of a project launch event to attract new contacts, particularly as PEST is keen to work with organisations out with the Article 12 in Scotland network over the next 3 years. The event was a mixture of presentations and project case studies. The presentations looked at different applications of participatory practice when working with marginalised young people or tackling difficult subjects. The case studies were of UNCRC for Beginners and the UNCRC Reporting Process, Royston Youth Action Peer Research Project and the West Lothian Youth Voting Initiative.

The aim for year two is to be much more diverse and have more young people involved in presenting their work.

PEST

6. Produce regular monitoring reports and an annual report to 1. Identify achievements, areas of concern and potential improvement and 2. Publicise the project to a wider audience.

An End of Year Project Report will be produced at the end of each year to compliment the Big Lottery End of Year Report. Project reports are produced at the end of each piece of work. These are not always written reports.

An ongoing task of the PEST Coordinator is to organise meetings of the PEST Team, these meetings are recorded. The PEST Coordinator and her Line Manager have Skype, face-to-face meetings and an annual review meeting to discuss the progress of the project.

PEST project updates are presented to Article 12 in Scotland Management Committee meetings.

Publicity of the project is an ongoing task, as are most of the tasks above. Year one has proven that the timelines are useful. However, reaching the end of a timescale does not necessarily mean the end of a task!

Report produced by Tara McCarthy, PEST Project Co-ordinator.