

PEST Project Final Evaluation – Participating Organisations

Introduction

Throughout the duration of the PEST project, many different evaluation methods were applied to the work to monitor the outcomes of the project from the perspective of the young people involved, the PEST and Article 12 in Scotland staff and Management Group and our partner organisations.

A variety of formal and creative methods were used to suit the information that we required and the relevance to the participants. This included the use of the 'Skills Web' system that was developed specifically as a self assessment tool for young people participating in the project to monitor their own personal development. We also used online tools such as Survey Monkey to evaluate specific pieces of work as well as producing bi-annual updates and annual project reports.

In May 2010, towards the end of the PEST project, an evaluation was undertaken to gather feedback from partner organisations regarding the services that PEST had provided to them. The evaluation took the form of a survey that was emailed out to every organisation that PEST undertook work with over the course of the project. Not all partner organisations responded to the evaluation; a major factor was that many staff members that had previously supported work with PEST within their respective organisations had moved on to other jobs.

Below are the questions that PEST asked and the feedback that we received.

The Questions and Answers

- *How would you rate the support from Article 12 in Scotland?*

50% of respondents rated the support as 'Good' and 50% rated the support as 'Great'.

- *What support did you need that wasn't provided?*

"I felt that (PEST staff) provided all the support that was needed, and that had we had more people within the group then there would have been more scope for the group in general."

"Nothing - We got more than was expected."

"None. The support and service on offer was absolutely superb and fully met our training needs."

- *Has this project met your aims and expectations?*

“Initially there had been the idea of creating a workshop that the young people could take to organisations and schools as a way of peer educating people about self harm. Unfortunately due to numbers and reliability (of the young people) this wasn't seen to be appropriate in the end.”

“The young people that went got a lot of training from (PEST staff) which was aimed at how to set up a workshop and what you need to think about, with these skills there is no reason why they can't in theory go back to this idea in the future with other young people to move forward and set up their own workshop. Within the workshops the young folk did design and organise a leaflet and distribution list.”

“Young people were confident about the Rights of the Child.”

“The aim of the young carer's project is to increase confidence, skills, participation, and learning and encourage young people to be part of a consultation process to identify their needs and rights. Article 12 fulfilled these aims on behalf of the project.”

“Our project was designed to help improve the understanding of the young people in relation to themselves, their family and their city. Article 12 came and discussed potential ideas with the group and developed the project alongside the views and ideas of the young people. We wanted to improve the relationships of the young people in the group and develop their skill set within this environment that will allow them to move on successfully into further training, education or employment.”

- *What impact do you think the project has had on the young people involved?*

“It has given them more skills and a clearer way of looking at what is required for setting up a workshop/presentation, as well as looking at what they think is appropriate to include depending on target audience. They also got a lot out of designing and altering the leaflet.”

“The young people were encouraged to really think about what they felt was relevant and what had helped them in the past and now.”

“Greater awareness of Rights of the Child”

“The young carers took part in a very successful pilot event in October 2009 to identify and discuss issues around their rights. In February 2010 the young carers took part in a large event where they showcased what they had learnt. Approximately 100 people attended.”

“The young people were able to develop the relationships with each other in the group. This, for me, is the hardest but most rewarding factor from the experience. The group did not know each other prior to the PEST Project commencing really. Given the ease at which the PEST tutors put the young people, they immediately felt themselves to be part of a safe learning environment. The young people were then more open to thinking creatively about new ideas and had more confidence to try different experiences.

“The main idea of the project was around the theme of “Identity” and this allowed the young people involved to radically improve their self awareness and also the awareness of others – within their own peer group, within their local environments and their family situations. We had young people who become confident, who became vulnerable - in positive ways - who became open to new things, who developed a real sense of who they are and became less prejudiced against other nationalities.”

- *What is your overall opinion of the project as a whole?*

“The project was a fantastic addition to the support already on offer here at Options Plus. It allowed us to increase our contact time, and impact, by 50% per week which is a fantastic opportunity and really allowed for powerful and meaningful, lasting work to be done over the period.”

“The staff from PEST were exceptional and really led by example. They worked tirelessly to continually provide a service of the highest quality, but did so with humility, humour and a sense of fun along the way. Young people and staff felt safe and comfortable within their presence and this allowed them to take more risks and explore areas of their lives that they didn't feel safe doing so before.”

“The organisation levels involved in the planning, preparation and reviewing of the programme was continuous and thorough. I cannot think of a session where even so much as a pen was needed as the staff from PEST had everything planned meticulously.”

“I felt that the project as a whole was very open and welcoming to what the young people were bringing to the table and working with there and energised into the exercises ideas about what they wanted to get from the workshop. (PEST staff) were very good at getting the young people focused done as well as a bit of soul searching as to what had benefited and helped them in the past.”

“I think the skills the workers brought to the young carers were of a very good standard. They worked well with the young people.”

- *Has any or all of the PEST project work been mainstreamed at your organisation?*

“Yes - Role of peer educator activities.”

“No - Unfortunately with timing and numbers of people involved it was not appropriate to take the workshop forward and mainstream it. We are hoping to get the leaflets out and about though once they are finished. But as far as our organisation goes the work done within the PEST project is a separate thing.”

“Yes - The work delivered by Article 12 and PEST is to be consolidated and a report on the work/events and a Young Carers Charter of Rights is to be produced. The report and charter will be taken on board by Glasgow Association for Mental Health and the Young Carers Project.”

“No - However, due to the success of the residential part of the PEST involvement, we were able to use that as a successful tool to convince our funders to add additional funding to our own budget to allow us to put in place two residential events per budget year into Options Plus. This has allowed us to do some really exciting and dynamic work over the course of the previous two years and we have to be grateful to PEST for opening up this opportunity initially.”

Annual project reports that provide a breakdown of the work of the PEST project year-on-year are available at www.article12.org/pest.html

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