



. . . . *Impact.*

Inclusion and Transitions Newsletter for DofE in Edinburgh January 2010

Welcome to this, the first issue of *Impact*, and the second of this Newsletter focusing specifically on Inclusion and Transitions within the DofE in City of Edinburgh. The delivery of the DofE to a wide spectrum of marginalized young people here in Edinburgh has increased significantly in the past few years. This is built on an ever growing and dynamic range of three-way partnerships between organizations which are working with the target group in one way or another, FOTA (Friends of the Award) and The City of Edinburgh Council. By working in this creative way, each and every one of these partners is able to bring all of the benefits of the DofE to many of our young people in the City who would not otherwise have access - young people with everything to gain from involvement in the DofE programme.

So who says that the DofE is all that it is cracked-up to be, and especially with this target group? Well we do, of course. But so does HMIE – in its` Inspection Report of 2009, the value of the DofE for marginalized young people was highly praised and highlighted for future action. The research report `Passport to Possibilities` gave some hard data to quantify the benefits in terms of both behavior, achievement, and so much more. And the City of Edinburgh Council has never been clearer in it`s` determination to exploit the value of the DofE for this target group. With FOTA as the key partner in promoting this, it is keen to forge active links with any and every organization in the City that is similarly keen to use this great opportunity to the full.

So with the New Year upon us and 2010 now a reality, this is an excellent time to dust down the DofE materials, to go on-line and get *e*-energised, start talking about it again, and get those young people on-board. There are lots of other professional staff, key workers, and volunteers out there throughout the City already including the DofE in their way of working with young people. They know that it works; that it works well with their young people. And from where I`m sitting, I can truthfully say that this applies to every type of agency and the full spectrum of young people.

Peter Wright
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The Building Blocks:

Physical + Volunteering + Skill + Expedition = Full Award

The completion of a whole Award may seem to be a daunting prospect for many of our young people, so why not take it a bit at a time, in more manageable chunks? Each section of Award activity can be a target in itself, in a timescale for success. The young people will see their involvement as each of the activities that they took part in; in terms of its challenge, interest and fun. The Councils` DofE office is happy to help you to help the young people to take one step at a time, so issuing `Sectional Certificates` for each activity successfully completed is what we are about.

The Red Phonebox:

making the vital connection . . .

About a dozen young people who started their DofE with a partner organization have now joined the Red Phonebox as a means of either completing one level, or progressing to the next level of Award. Clearly, this is working well for most of them, as they regularly come back for more! Red Phonebox meets on a Wednesday evening here at the DofE office, and the individual young people get a monthly half-hour appointment to meet with leaders, who monitor and support them in their various activities. This is a relatively new venture – its aim is very simple though: to ensure that every young person who has been involved through an Inclusion partner organization can continue, and work effectively towards completing their Award.

So we are asking you to help make this happen for your young people (past and present) by having a trawl through your records, and making the connection via myself to the Red Phonebox. Those who are currently involved in the Red Phonebox appreciate that someone helped make that connection for them – so please, do your part by ensuring that no one misses-out.

I want to meet up with you:

making use of my senior citizen Bus Pass.

Yes, there are advantages in being able to exploit free bus travel; and I`m keen to make use of this, to support or advise you in your use of the DofE programme with your young people. Whether you are well under way with the DofE, just started, or want to get going with it now, please do get in touch and arrange a suitable date/time for me to meet with you. I`m here to help, not harass – keen to assist, not inconvenience. Experience has shown that regular interaction with the DofE office goes a long way in maintaining use of the DofE programme with your young people. That`s what I`m here for. So if you don`t get in touch with me, I`ll be getting in touch with you . . .

Explore 0-ten:

open mixed-ability Gold expedition.

Plans are now moving forward for a **Gold** venture in 2010 – 11 which will involve significantly less walking, but much more in the way of project work, than a conventional Gold. The intention is to apply to Young Roots for a grant to help pay for it, and to structure it in such a way that young people of every ability can participate fully. Once again, we need you to make the connection now. Are there any young people that you are/have worked with that would get something positive out of this specially structured opportunity?



Life Skills and Fitness Activities programmes:

accreditation for current work.

They're generic, flexible and may make it possible for you to have your current work with young people accredited for DofE purposes. Next time someone complains to you that using DofE will involve lots of extra work, you can sharply reply that *'it ain't necessarily so!'* These two programmes are being piloted locally, and in each case offer scope to include a range of generic activity which can be linked together to form either the Skill or Physical sections of the Award. In the fullness of time they will be available on www.theawardinedinburgh.org, but in the meantime, if you would like a copy and/or advice on their use, please contact Peter.Wright@theawardinedinburgh.org

Training Needs:

well what would you like?

The team here at the City of Edinburgh DofE office is currently working on plans for leader training in 2010 – 11. There will of course be the usual Induction, Safety Seminar, Child Protection, BELA, Emergency Aid, and Leader Networking, etc. It would be good to hear at this stage, if there is anything that you feel would be widely relevant and useful in your delivery of all or part of the DofE. This is of course with the caveat that money is tight, but we will always do what we can to respond. We want to make things happen.

So an email to me will hopefully enable us to ensure that your training needs are being taken care of in some practical way.

Friends of the Award (FOTA):

leader support, exped` support, equipment, and more.

Our Mission Statement is clear and simple: *'To work in partnership with Operating Authorities and local organizations throughout the area, to compliment and support their delivery of the DofE and target resources to ensure that the DofE is Open to All'*. That's what we aim to achieve: we are here to help you in your delivery of DofE to your young people. **Impact** will provide regular info up-dates, I'm available to support and advise, Fraser Robertson is here to give advice and support on all Expedition matters, and www.theawardinedinburgh.org contains a comprehensive range of support and admin materials – please remember that this is our in-house website, so its important that you are familiar with its` contents and can find your way around it.

FOTA is a charity: SCO27771.

Green Team:

our very own in-house volunteering opportunity.

The GT programme for 2010 is out now – ask for a copy, or visit www.greenteam.org.uk it's full of single-day and weekend projects in lots of great locations, and Green Shoots might well be able to provide something specifically tailored for your group. Penny Radway and her staff team will be pleased to advise.

www.theawardinedinburgh.org

Expeditions:*a memorable experience for all concerned!*

Yes, the Expedition will most surely be the one part of the DofE which everyone will remember, most will find challenging, and there may well be a lot of fun woven into the memories and experience. Realistically though, it will be the most demanding part to organise, with the various Health and Safety considerations to be met. But you don't have to re-invent the wheel, as many other organizations and leaders have been there before, and there's a wealth of experience you can tap. The key to success is plan early, and don't leave it till the last minute. This is where Fraser Robertson Fraser.Robertson@theawardinedinburgh.org comes in – he is our Expeditions Officer and will gladly give advice and support, access to training and equipment, link you with other leaders, and keep you up to speed with both DofE and Council requirements.

Feel the *Impact*:*young people and organizations and the DofE*

Well they wouldn't be using the DofE if they didn't think it was really worthwhile, now would they? So here is a summary of the range of Inclusion organizations that are currently exploiting the use of DofE with their young people right here in the City of Edinburgh:

- Residential care and education
- Youth Offending Services
- Special Schools
- Mental health services for young people
- Voluntary youth organizations
- Community Learning and Development
- Further Education (Special Needs)
- Support to homeless young people
- Services for unemployed young people
- Learning support – young people at-risk of exclusion
- . . . and more.

Next issue of *Impact*:*this is not the end.*

With the intention that *Impact* will appear roughly every 6 weeks during 2010, the next issue will find its way to you around the 1st of March. If there is anything you'd like included in it, please let me know at least a week prior to that. And I'm planning to include material on projects or developments which will be of wider interest, so you may well be hearing from me . . .

Now forward this:*don't keep it to yourself.*

There will almost certainly be others in your organization that are helping you with the delivery of the DofE, or you may know of colleagues in partner agencies for whom *Impact* would be of interest. So please share your copy of *Impact* by forwarding it to at least five other people – right now, would be a good time to do this.

Many thanks.

Peter Wright
Projects Officer – Inclusion and Transitions