



Education **Futures Trust**

Quarterly report for Big Local Northeast Hastings

1. Key achievements

Staffing

Appointment of staff members, responsible for project delivery:

1. Coach to deliver the courses and to act as the contact point for the project
2. Chef for the family holiday courses
3. Support staff for both courses.

Debby Anderson has been appointed as the member of staff responsible for Big Local, and John Day has been appointed to the project to lead the community cookery courses, both under the management of the Chief Executive, Carole Dixon.

Support for the cookery course was provided by the coach, to ensure continuity of service, whilst the CoCoA course was supported by another of the EFT's coaches who was able to offer additional hours.

Courses

Materials for the **CoCoA course** were adapted to meet the needs of the audience, to include:

- learning self-promotion techniques
- polishing communication skills
- sharing experiences and expertise
- discovering new ways of working with others
- developing a CV and skills for work
- organising and taking part in a community event.

The CoCoA course was promoted, and then delivered at Orbit Housing meeting room. This course started on Monday 6th October 2014. Each of the course sessions lasted two hours and the final session was held on Monday 10th November 2014

As a result of the CoCoA course:

Our children. Our families. Our community.

Registered Charity Number: 1146171

Company Number: 7852922

Patron: Baroness Stedman Scott OBE

- two new participants were signed up to Progress
- 3 participants have since expressed an interest in volunteering
- 2 participants expressed interest in running other small community events aimed at raising the profile of the Big Local CoCoA course and the Education Futures Trust
- the final course session comprised of a community event which took the form of a leaflet drop across a section of Ore
- 2 participants met subsequently to look at developing other ideas.
- since joining Progress, completing CoCoA and starting to volunteer one participant has had a noticeable increase in confidence and with ongoing encouragement from the coach is starting to show raised self-esteem levels too. She has identified other voluntary roles that she would like to try and has also worked with the coach to identify employability skills that she has; such as good IT knowledge, enthusiasm and communication skills. Additional learning courses have been identified to further increase her confidence and reduce social isolation. The participant enjoyed seeing what activities were on offer at The Bridge and being able to use the café. She has shown interest in joining a gardening group that runs at the centre and has accessed the Community Fruit and Veg project too
- another participant has identified that she enjoys working in the community and has been very proactive in helping with distribution of promotional materials. Having overcome some barriers with her severe dyslexia she now has more motivation to be able to increase her skills. She has recently accessed a CV writing service at the Bridge to prepare for getting back into employment. She would like to work with young people and living on the edge of the Big Local area she has a good understanding of residents' issues and needs. She has worked hard to promote CoCoA in her children's school and is always keen to help out whenever she can
- Tesco Hollington booked for a community event run by 2 CoCoA participants and the coach on December 15th. Agreement to approach Aldi in Ore after opening with a view to holding an event in early 2015, which would hopefully recruit participants directly from Big Local area.
- A community event has been booked in Asda on Fri 9th January 2015.

Materials were developed for the **holiday learning cookery course**; the course was promoted and held at Broomgrove Community Centre. Feedback was that the participants thoroughly enjoyed the course and

commented on how much they had enjoyed spending time together and how much they had learnt.

Approaches were made to The Baird Primary Academy for use of their building for the holiday cookery course. Unfortunately their cooking facilities were too limited, but the enquiry resulted in the EFT holding 2 full days of **Family Festival activity** at the academy. This additional resource was provided to the local residents without additional charge to the Big Local, and demonstrates how partnership working can bring additionality. In total, 25 families, consisting of 60 residents attended the 2 days.

Feedback

Service user feedback gathered through the evaluation forms has been extremely positive.

Date:	10/10/14
Work covered	Setting up and running community event
Comments: What I thought How I felt What I would like to be different	Enjoyed the leaflet drop despite the evil weather and brapping fingers in a letter box. Good end result for the course.

CoCoA participants all speak very highly of the courses as having given them support in moving forward. They all have individual plans in place, supported by the coach to enable them to engage with additional learning to optimise their self-development.

“...gained knowledge on C/V writing and felt at ease with the group.” PW

2. Challenges

Recruitment to the courses has proved the key issue faced by the staff involved in the project. In order to manage this challenge the coach has been working to engage residents with the work and to promote courses.

In order to facilitate improved communication she:

1. has liaised closely with Jan Papworth, Community Development Worker for the Big Local, East Hastings to share information

- Outcome: use of the Orbit meeting room at Station Parade as the first CoCoA course venue. Jan Papworth invited to attend future community events
2. distributed the poster for the CoCoA courses throughout Ore Village in places such as Tesco Express, Co-op, Ore library, Sandown School and Hastings Academy and made contact with Jay Kramer in the Bridge
 - Outcomes: course details were submitted to parents via the school and Academy and also displayed in the Bridge.
 3. posters were sent out to Amicus Horizons, Orbit Housing, Hastings Voluntary Action, Children's Centres, Hastings Works, Hastings Library and distributed to Jobcentre staff
 - Outcomes – local housing association residents were made aware of the course and poster was included on Children's Centre Facebook page raising awareness amongst local parents, the general public and jobseekers.
 4. meeting with Mags Pawson at Ore Community Centre to talk about CoCoA.
 - Outcome - venue booked for the next course due to commence in 2015.
 5. attended a planning meeting for a wellbeing event being run in 2015 by Chances 4 Change. Promoted the CoCoA course and the Big Local along at this meeting
 - Outcome - will be attending the event on Friday 20th February at Horntye promoting both CoCoA, the Education Futures Trust and raising the profile of Big Local.
 6. attended the Big Local AGM on Saturday December 13th and networked with members of other organisations connected with Big Local.
 - Outcome – attendees showed interest in a Rhythm 4 Life course running in 2015.
 7. joined the Big Local Northeast Facebook page and website
 - Outcome – coach able to regularly keep in touch with what is going on within Big Local.

Venues

The intention for the holiday courses was to liaise with Hastings Academy over use of their facilities. This would have had the advantage of:

- providing high quality accessible facilities
- having a neutral venue

- giving opportunities for parents and children become familiar with the academy building
- residents viewing the academy as part of the community
- encouraging local children to apply to attend the academy.

However, despite numerous attempts, it has not proved possible to access the venue for any of the holiday periods during the financial year 2014 – 2015 due to maintenance work. Liaison will continue, and discussions are taking place with local primary schools/academies to see if it is possible to access their facilities in the future.

Identifying an appropriate venue that is attractive to service users is a greater challenge than anticipated. Residents of the Big Local area have clear preferences about the venues that they are prepared to use. Costs involved in using some of the community centres increase the delivery costs significantly.

3. Conclusion

Although there have been challenges with the work to date, there have been significant individual successes. The numbers attending the CoCoA course were low, but the personalised support that was possible as a result has paid dividends. The individuals have flourished and developed. The aim of encouraging members of the community to promote the work has been successful and achieved the desired outcomes.

Future work will be guided by the information gained to-date; with those involved so far being able to provide a steer to future direction.

The CoCoA course has been redesigned to emphasize the volunteering elements, as it was felt by attendees that the references to employment skills may deter participants. Additionally, there are other courses in the area that can provide this support should this be required and the coach can provide the support necessary to ensure that participants can access appropriate learning.

Although one CoCoA course was delayed because of recruitment issues, the coach has continued to deliver the service as requested: liaising, networking and promoting the courses, as well as the Big Local.

Carole Dixon
Chief Executive
Education Future Trust
December 2014.