

Family Learning Day

Saturday 30th April 2016

Wallyford Community Centre

Evaluation Report





Project Proposal

Wallyford Community Centre proposed to run a Family Learning Event which will give parents, grandparents and carers the opportunity to play, share ideas, be creative and have fun with their child/children, the chance to develop their own skills as well as connect with other parents.

Family learning supports parents, grandparents, carers and other family members to be an active part of their children's learning, as well as becoming learners themselves. This event will include many different types of activities and will take place in the community centre and delivery will include other partner organisations. Family learning aims to raise aspirations and create a long-term change in the culture of the family and patterns of learning. The combination of adults and children learning is crucial in building resilience in

families, in creating community well-being, economic prosperity and social cohesion.

Wallyford is gradually expanding with new builds therefore creating a new community. The family learning day will provide the opportunity of integration between the new build families and the old build families through the community lunch. This will provide opportunities for new relationships in the community.

Objectives and Aims

The objective was to promote greater interaction within families and help them further their communication, bonding and attachment through activities that encouraged them to participate together.

The day aimed to enable families to:

- Spend quality time with their children through fun activities
- Understand the importance of spending time with their children
- Enjoy activities as a family
- Create activities that are easily transferable into the home environment
- Integrate literacy skills through fun workshops and worksheets
- The chance to network with the wide community
- Share experiences with other families
- Develop new friendships and support networks
- Highlight the services and supports available to parents/carers and children through stalls such as 'DadsWork', Changeworks, playgroup & CLDs services
- Allow integration of both the old and new communities in Wallyford

Family Learning Day Content

Workshops

Making Fruit Animals

Pop-up library

Learning how to DJ

Balloon making

Archery

Guitar lessons

Build your own cardboard city

Face painting

Fire Service

Countryside rangers

Various arts and crafts e.g. make
your own play dough, face masks and placemats



Information and Guidance Stands

DadsWork

Youth group information

Playgroup information

Reading is Braw

Summer Programme information

Community based Adult Learning
opportunities

Changeworks

Wallyford Junior Gala Team



The event ran from 10am until 12.30pm where a community lunch was provided from 12.30 onwards which allowed for families to network, chat to friends and ultimately bring the community together. All activities were free, and the event was run on a Saturday which removed some barriers to participation; consequently enhancing attendance.

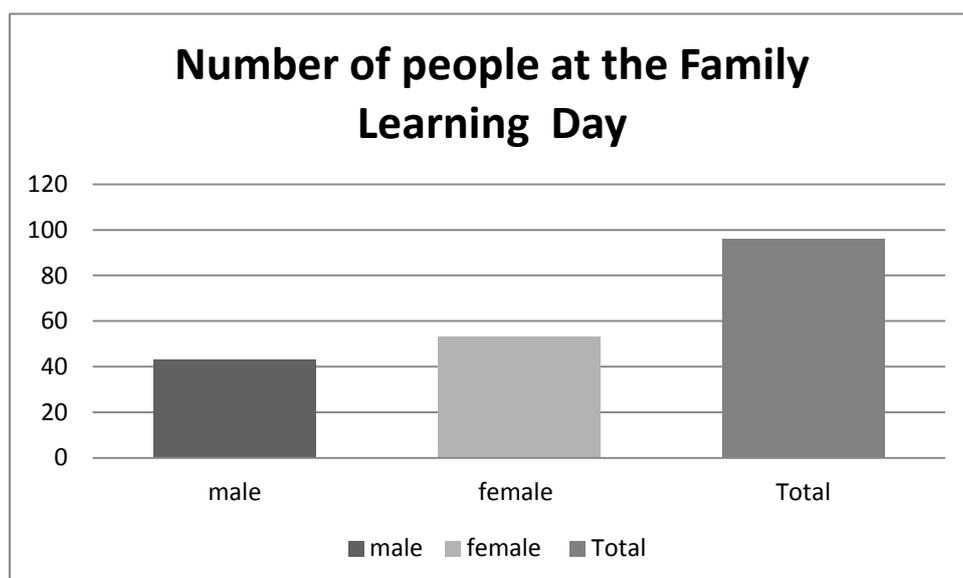
The workshops were enjoyed by all that attended as proven by positive individual feedback. Participants were made aware of follow-up activities such as the Summer Programme which they seemed interested in.



Methods used to track participants

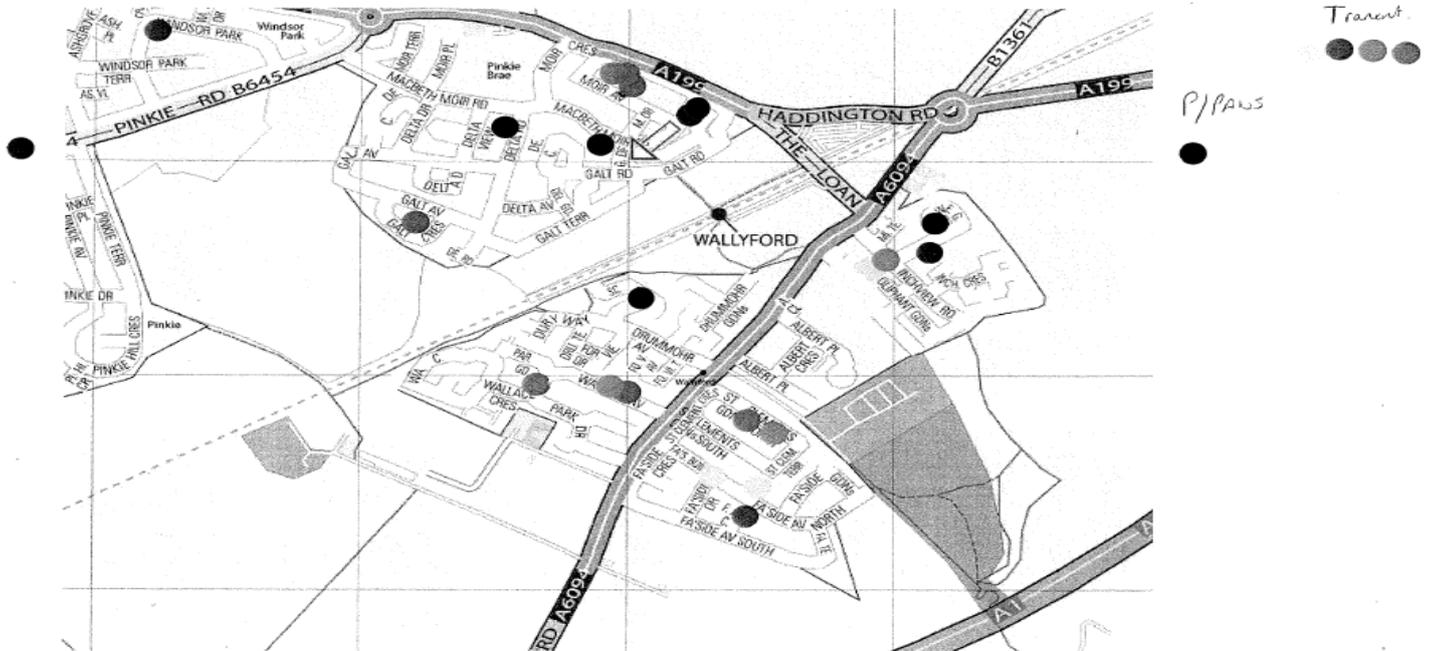
For this event, we were interested in tracking the ratio of male to female and also where participants came from. To do this we used participatory appraisal methods through mapping and evaluation.

The information congregated:



In total 97 people were recorded as attending the events; of which 53 were female and 44 were male.

The results showed that females are seen to still be predominantly the main carers in the community. Currently females are perceived as the main carer in society, by comparing our results this seems to reinforce this perspective. However this is a small sample and needs to be taken in context; this was very small sample/event and a larger event may provide different results.



http://www.streetmap.co.uk/place/Wallyford_in_East_Loathian_447611_783511.htm

03/05/2016

The majority of the participants came from the old builds in Wallyford, however as the results indicate we are attracting people from the new builds. Others participants came

from outlying areas such as Tranent, Musselburgh, Pinkie and Prestonpans. This shows that we are reaching out to other communities' as well.

The mapping method supported us in identifying who in the community we were reaching and this will be used in future events to support us to target those we are not reaching. Consequently, attempting to maximise community participation and engagement



Evaluation

As participants were leaving they were asked them to comment on the three questions below. This was completed by asking them to respond on sticky notes and pin them to flipcharts under the categories on the wall at reception. Below is a summary of the feedback we were provided with:

'I am leaving and would like to say...'

- Well done to everyone involved in another great event
- Thank you for a fun morning
- Enjoyed the community lunch
- The volunteers were great
- Amazing time, all my kids loved it as well as us adults
- I loved doing the arts and crafts with my children

'What did you enjoy?'

- Everything! – there was something for everyone of all ages
- Great variety of activities
- Nice to have a catch up with neighbours and other families

- Learning to DJ was amazing
- Fabulous event, kids were entertained
- Learning about birds' nests and making them
- Arts & Crafts , especially face painting, placemats and animal balloon making
- Archery
- Soup 'Yummy Yum'
- Reading is Braw
- Cardboard city
- Fun fruit

'How can we do better?'

- More time
- Have more times, not just once a year
- Advertisement → 'how do you advertise this event?'
- Two suggestions of fancy dress as an activity
- More outdoor activities (weather permitting)
- More placemat sheets as very popular

This evaluation shows positive feedback and that the event was enjoyed by all. However we did not manage to get evaluation from everyone that attended as we wanted to keep the event a fun day. However, to allow us a fuller evaluation we also gathered feedback through observation, photographic evidence and supporting agencies and organisations.

Observations

Through observations from staff at the event we managed to collate other feedback.

Some observations that were made on the day were:

- Great turn-out and families engaged together at activities
- Event was so good one woman wanted to give a donation as her and her children loved the day
- Multiple books were taken home from the pop-up library which re-enforces the embedding of literacy skills for both the parent and child
- Individuals signed up to future courses
- Parents and children liked the idea at the messy-play stand with the use of shaving foam and said it was very therapeutic
- At the community lunch there were lots of conversations between families and staff giving the opportunity to build new relationships and networking

Colleagues who ran the pop up library commented on the value of the day in terms of networking, raising awareness and future opportunities.

Overall Event

As the event ran smoothly and with the steady flow of participants, I would recommend using the lay-out of this event again. It managed to get all participants evenly spread throughout the rooms which allowed for maximum engagement as there was no congestion in any areas.

Conclusion

The Family Learning Day provided an overall positive experience for everyone that attended. Participants were fully welcomed into their local community centre providing the opportunity for old and new to share experiences, ideas and get to know each other. Another successful event that should be continued annually as it provides great opportunities for families in the local area.

The event embedded literacy skills among parents and families and provided them with new skills. It encouraged social capital by providing families the chance of networking and building new friendships.

Reccomendations

- Re-considering the placing of the fire engine as was further up the car park than planned, meaning that less people used this activity
- Although the flow of people through the event was steady , it could be suggested to start the event later , possibly 10.30am to try engage with the highest number of people in the community
- Lunch was a success, however there was a lot remaining; it could be a suggestion to cut-down how much is made for the next event which would reduce the budget.

Wallyford Community Centre staff and management committee would like to praise all the volunteers and outside staff that helped to making this event a success. Also, a big thank you, to the community for taking part, and making the day a positive venture. Finally, a big thank you to Support from the Start and CLDs Community Based Adult learning for funding this event.

In addition we would like to acknowledge that a lot of the management committee and Wallyford staff volunteered their time on Saturday to help deliver this event and to help make it the success that it was!