



Pilmény Development Project

# **Leith Walk Primary School & Pilmény Development Project**

## **Junior After School Youth Club**

Report and Evaluation on 6 Week Pilot Project  
February - March 2010



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### **Thoughts from Mr Crabb at Leith Walk Primary**

"At Leith Walk Primary School we had identified that there was a very severe shortage of after school provision for children at the earliest stages of the school. When the Pilmeny Development Project approached the school, looking for ways in which we could build links between the project and the school, it was decided to explore the demand for this. PDP surveyed parents and the Head Teacher consulted with the Parent Council. These consultation exercises provided reliable evidence that there was a demand.

When the details of the provision had been established there was a substantial interest from parents and pupils for pupils to be part of the club. A particular strength of the provision was the wide range of activities being offered. Almost all of the current provision in schools is funded from Active Schools and is therefore by its nature almost exclusively active and sporting in nature. However, the club offered by PDP offered opportunities for sports, culture and creativity.

The club was well attended and very thoroughly enjoyed by pupils. There was a real 'buzz' in the air each Tuesday as pupils excitedly made their way from class to club. Parents spoke very positively of the provision. It is hoped that the success of this project will allow us to develop it further in future."

Mr Crabb  
Head Teacher  
Leith Walk Primary School

## **Summary**

Leith Walk Primary School and Pilmeny Development Project (PDP) successfully worked in partnership to provide youth provision out with school hours. The result was a 6 week pilot project for 20 junior 5 - 8 year olds (primary 1 and 2). An after school youth club took place on a Tuesday straight after school. This ran from the 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The project was evaluated formally and informally. The numbers attending evidenced that this quality, low cost provision, was well used and enjoyed by the children. The majority of parents/guardians said they would like to see the after school youth club continue, that it be run on more than one night and that they would like to see additional provision developed for children of other ages. PDP and Leith Walk Primary School should continue to work together, to find ways to continue and develop this work further.

## **Background**

Earlier research undertaken by Pilmeny Development Project and Leith Walk Primary showed:

- There is no out of school or similar provision in the local area close to the school
- The closure of the nearby Calton Centre in Montgomery Street negatively affected local provision for young people in that part of the area.
- Young people and children are hanging about after school with nothing to do and nowhere to go
- A 'not for profit' activity club would be welcomed by local parents (particularly lone and working parents)

A questionnaire was developed by PDP which showed that there was interest in an after school provision at Leith Walk Primary and that was a particular need for younger age provision (5-8 years old). Children and parents identified the most popular activities they would like to see were:

- Drama
- Dance
- Music/singing
- Arts and crafts
- Game/sports, swimming
- Reading
- trips
- and having fun!

## **Policy context**

PDP recognised that a pilot scheme would be in-line with current National and Local government Single Outcome Agreement priorities and strategic objectives within City of Edinburgh Council Integrated Children & Young People's Plan (2008-2011) – in particular 'to increase the number of young people involved in after school activities, including those from disadvantaged groups'. It is also very much in line with 'Believing in young People, framework for improving youth work in Edinburgh (Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium) and the key Scottish government Policy guiding young people's learning - Curriculum for Excellence.

## **Aim, objectives and benefits**

### Aim

To explore the demand for an after school provision offering sports, culture and creative opportunities aimed at children in the earliest stages of school.

### Objectives

- By providing opportunities for young people to participate in extra-curricular, community based recreational and educational activities
- By providing an opportunity for children to have fun in a safe environment.
- By evaluating the provision with Children and parents and producing an evaluative report on the Pilot Project

### Benefits/Outcomes

- Promotion of an active and healthy lifestyle for local 5-8 year olds
- Improved self esteem and increased confidence of young people
- Encouragement of positive behaviour with young people
- Development of socialisation skill of young people
- Benefit to the wider community and meeting local young people's need to engage in quality leisure and activities which are more stimulating than the local area can currently offer

## **Pilot Project**

An after school youth club pilot project was run by Pilmeny Development Project, for six weeks in Leith Walk Primary School, from the 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010. It was aimed at P1-P2 children (aged 5 – 8 years) and took place on a Tuesday straight after school. Class teachers brought the children to the classroom provided by the school for the Pilot. 20 children participated with an average of 16 attending each week. PDP youth worker, two sessional youth workers, volunteers and a student ran each session and specialist help was brought in for some sessions (e.g. the community Policeman, Vocal Vibes). Using the suggestions from children and parents in the pre research stage a programme of activities was developed which offered a range of opportunities for sports, culture and creativity. Healthy snacks of fruit, vegetables and fruit juice were provided by PDP every session and on the final week a trip to Clown Around was organised.

### **Attendance Overview**

	23/2	02/03	09/03	16/03	23/03	30/03
Boys	5	6	7	6	6	6
Girls	9	11	11	9	11	11
TOTAL	14	17	18	15	17	17

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Informal and formal evaluation was undertaken using the LEAP (Learning, Evaluation and Planning) evaluation tool. The LEAP process looks at the following key questions:

- What is the need?
- What difference do we want to make?
- How will we know we made a difference?
- How will we go about making the difference?
- What resources will we use?
- What methods will we use?
- In what ways will we use them?
- How are we making sure it is happening?
- Have we made a difference?
- What are the lessons we have learned?
- What will we need to do now?

See Appendix 1 Leap Template for further details.

Informal evaluation was also undertaken via sessional recordings, parents, staff/volunteers and the children themselves. Comments from participants are included in the Highlights section of this report.

### **Parent/Guardian Evaluation**

We gave parents and guardians evaluation forms, which around 50% filled out and returned. The results are detailed in Appendix 2. They show that parents felt there was a good balance in price, snack and activities. The majority of parents said they would like to see the club run on more than one night and 50% said they would like to see some additional provision for children of other ages.

### **Staff Evaluation from Arlene Cassidy (student)**

I am a third year Community Education student on placement. I was provided with the chance to work with Pilmeny Development Project. During this time I was given the opportunity to work as a volunteer in their pilot after school club at Leith Walk Primary school. The pilot ran for six weeks and was aimed at P1-P2 children. The number of parents interested in the after school provision has helped in making this successful. The need for this type of work has been clearly identifiable.

The resource provided by the school was the room used to carry out the sessions but all alternative resources were supplied by PDP. Each session was planned and alternatively themed i.e. music, emergency services, friendship. Some of these even coincided with projects the children were doing in class. The more popular sessions were based around a visit from the Police who sent the local Community Officer. The children were allowed to ask questions and see all the equipment they use also trying on children's sized uniforms. Not only was this experience educational but made friendly and fun. They also found the session based on music entertaining with the opportunity to make musical shakers –which they decorated to make them unique- and Martin from Vocal Vibes who taught them new songs and how to use different singing voices. These are just a few from the variety of activities that were planned. Some of the activities I felt we could have used more time and therefore the time consumption of tasks had to be carefully monitored.

In the six weeks of the provision being available there was a great response from the children involved and their parents/guardians. From the feedback given they were enquiring about the sessions running longer, which is a positive outcome for the provision and the project.

### **Highlights**

All of our activities are about having fun in a safe, supported environment. Although they can be taken quite simply as 'fun activities' they were chosen to support project objectives. Our highlights came from the primary 1 and 2 members themselves .

We asked them what they remembered and what their favourite part of the club was. Highlights from the 6 weeks with quotes and pictures from the children included:

**"I enjoyed it so much" Rekka**

The Terrible Greedy Fossifoo was a story from the local library. It was chosen as a fun way to talk about rules and behaviour for our first week. We all learnt that it is nice to be kind and share and that no-body wanted to be like a terrible greedy fossifoo. We agreed at the club to act like the nice fossifoo!



"Greedy monster went from bad to good" Emma

Picture coloured by Lewis

We also worked together to produce a giant snake where everyone coloured in a little bit and brought them together to show an impressive multi coloured snake with lots of different shapes and patterns.



Model painting was very messy. Everyone chose from a selection of characters including hedgehogs, cats and bears and added their personal touch of colours and patterns.

"I like doing art  
at school so it's  
fun here too" Joanna



"Painting was my  
favorite activity"

Quote and picture by Freya

We got musical with Martin from local children's choir vocal vibes who taught us some Scottish songs with actions. We sang 'Down in the Jungle' and 'Three Crows'. We also made musical shakers.



"We made fun music  
shakers to take home"  
Quote and picture by Emma



Local community officer Kevin came and talked about the police uniform and different aspects of his job. Members got to try on vests and hats and even spoke to another officer on Kevin's 'walkie talkie' radio. We all made colourful hats too.



**Picture of Kevin  
(left) by Luana  
Police Hat  
(right) by Lewis**



Every week we had a healthy snack of fruit, vegetables and fruit juice. During the six weeks we had a selection of apples, bananas, oranges, cherry tomatoes, pears, grapes, cucumber, blueberries, raisins, dried cranberries, kiwi's and more! Snack time was a good opportunity for everyone to get together and was a clear favourite when we asked members what they liked the best.



**"At snack I got to  
try new things"**

**Quote and picture by Emma**



**"I enjoyed snack time  
especially apples  
& bananas"**

**Quote and picture by Amel**

Games were a big part of our activities and we played a mixture of old favourites and new games. It was a fun way to keep active and a good chance to burn of energy.



We finished our six weeks with a trip to Clown Around! It was very exciting to get on the bus as a big group and to spend time together having fun. There were trampolines and a big adventure play area.



## **Resources**

A range of resources were brought together to enable this work to be undertaken. PDP successfully applied to Ponton House Trust for a contribution towards core funding. PDP and LWPS also provided additional 'help in kind' through the venue provision, PDP youth worker time, administration and management etc. It is estimated that a minimum of £700 per 6 week session would be required to run this type of provision under similar arrangements. With a weekly charge of £1 per child this would bring costs to approximately £600. (Actual cost £5.00 per session per child).

## **Key Findings**

- The aims, objectives and outcomes initially identified for the Pilot Project were successfully achieved
- The pilot project demonstrated an after school local provision was needed for LWPS.
- The 6 week pilot for those in primary 1 and 2 and the numbers attending evidenced that this quality, low cost provision was well used and enjoyed by the children
- The partnership between Leith Walk Primary and Pilmeny Development Project was key in delivering the programme and both partners contributed the resources required to support the pilot scheme.
- Increased involvement of parents/guardians as volunteers would be welcomed

## **Next Steps/Way Forward**

1. Leith Walk Primary School and Pilmeny Development Project are keen to continue working in partnership to further develop after school youth club provision in line with children's needs.
2. The interest in extending the club to more nights or to pupils in the older primary should be noted. We should work together to explore this in more detail and to find a suitable solution.
3. Funding and resources should be sought into to allow the club to continue.
4. Staff costs make up a large part of the budget, new volunteers should be sought for the after school youth club and parents/guardians encouraged to get involved.
5. We should seek fundraising ideas and identify parents/guardians who may be interested in helping with this.

# Acknowledgements

## Thank You

### Ponton House Trust

provided grant money to start after school provision at Leith Walk Primary.

### Leith Walk Primary School

Head teacher **Mr Crabb** who attended many meetings and arranged many of the behind the scene details to get the club started. The **office staff** who undertook the production and collection of many forms and answered many questions at the school. The primary 1 and 2 **class teachers** who brought members down each week. The **members** for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the weeks and the **parents and guardians**, who filled out the many forms, collected the members and showed great support for the club.

### Pilmeny Development Project

The staff Steven, Chris and Arlene who put in lots of effort every week to keep things running. Mo Airnes – Youth Worker who planned and ran the programme. The administrator who managed the budget and paper work at the project.



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Appendix 2 Parent/Guardian Evaluation  
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