

Afasic Youth Project

Diana Williams

(Volunteer at Afasic and Speech and Language Therapist)

presenting on behalf of

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(Manager of the Afasic Youth Project and
North East London Development Officer for Afasic)

Afasic Youth Project

Fun and Friendship on Friday nights for young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)



Afasic Youth Project

- Who is the Project for?

- 11-19yr-olds with Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

- Why have a specialist provision?

- Because young people say that's what they want

- What makes it specialist ?

- How it's run and who runs it

Afasic Youth Project

- Staff
 - Clare (Project Manager)
 - Chi (Lead Youth Worker)
 - Sham (Speech and Language Therapist - SLT)
 - Sigan (Youth Worker)
 - Volunteers (currently about 10 – take it in turns)
(The combination of Youth Worker and SLT has helped maximise enjoyment and value of activities)
- Young People
 - Equal boys and girls (first time ever!)
 - Capacity in terms of staffing etc is for 35

Activities at the Project

Like any youth project might have

Aim to promote social communication and interaction, and build confidence

Respond to what members want and encourage choice

Attend to individuals' preferences, talents and support needs

Provide variety and extend experience

Challenge expectations and stereotypes

And have fun!

Afasic Youth Project

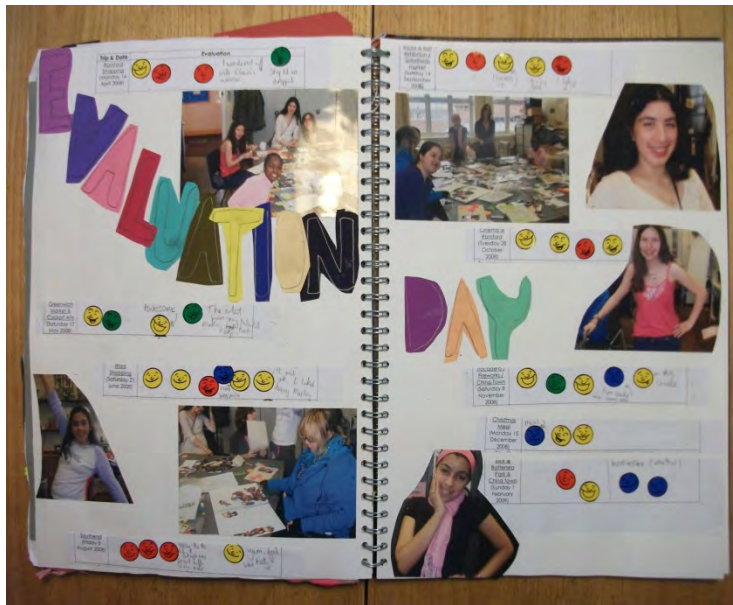


Trips and residential





Youth Achievement Awards



- ◎ Internally accredited and certificated program by Asdan
- ◎ Each challenge lasts between 15 – 30 hours
- ◎ Designed to progressively develop more effective participative practice (4 tiers)
- ◎ Young person involved in selecting, planning and then leading activities that are based on their interests.
- ◎ Develops social & interaction skills, team working, functional life skills, independence, planning and prioritisation, decision making and reflection
- ◎ Young people create a portfolio. (They need to be able to read it back themselves, so portfolios often include a lot of visual support.

Evaluation of Youth Project

Internal

From the outset young people were encouraged to say what they liked and didn't like about the activities in the club and this continues as a regular part of shaping the programme

Different methods used include–

- Young people getting the views of others with simple questionnaires – can be designed by members themselves
- Using videocam – recently got 2 busbi camcorders that are very easy for members to use to record each other's views
- Occasional questionnaires to parents – e.g. after residential

External

Evaluation by City University

(this included some broader social questions that covered similar areas as the 'Manchester Longitudinal Study' – Gina Conti-Ramsden, Nicola Botting, Kevin Durkin..)

City University Evaluation

Young people were invited to give their views of the club in an interview conducted by Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) Lucy Myers who had plenty of experience of hands-on work with adolescents. Especially through her previous job in Newham's Secondary Schools SLT service

Parents were also invited to participate separately – with the consent of their sons/daughters that they should do so

The confidentiality of what was said was explained to the Young Person

The results can be found in a form accessible to Young People, parents, funders etc, on a micro website linked to Afasic's England website - reached via www.afasic.org.uk

