

**A new learning and development opportunity
.....Puts the learner in the driving seat**

DRIVING THEORY COURSE

17-19 years

THE COURSE WILL BE FOR 8 WEEKS

STARTS WEDNESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2005

6.30PM - 9.00PM

AT HAYWIRED THE NEW I.T CENTRE
HAY AVENUE



**WITH FREE DRIVING THEORY TEST
LIMITED PLACES BOOK EARLY**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT

CAFÉ K ON 0131 657 1595

SUPPORT WILL BE GIVEN WITH READING AND WRITING

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Driving Theory Course

Introduction

This report details the development of a learning opportunity within a community base setting carried out by Café K, in partnership with the Jack Kane Community Centre. The course was a follow on from the success of a previously run driving theory course in April 2005.

The course ran for 10 weeks with a group of 7 young adults made up of 3 males and 4 females whom all live in or have grown up in the Greater Craigmillar area.

The course was held in the new Haywired I.T Centre and was funded by Craigmillar European Programme.

Background

The following highlights the community development approach adopted for the course. It also demonstrates how the need for this learning opportunity was identified and the processes involved during its development and creation.

The aim of setting up the driving theory group was to attract young adult learners to learn together to overcome any dispositional barriers by increasing their confidence and improve their self-esteem. The group of young adults who participated in this learning opportunity all live in or have grown up in the Greater Craigmillar area which has been labelled as the most deprived area of Edinburgh. Some of whom attend the F.C.U.K drop in which is held in the Jack Kane community centre on a Friday night 7-9pm, and from friends and young people whom utilise Café K. Most of the young adults are in full time employment and some are in full time education. There are 3 young adult males and 4 young adult females within the group; they are all between the ages of 17-18 years. The purpose of this second driving theory course was to meet the needs of the young people from the greater Craigmillar area. With the success of the first course, the young people enquired if another course could be run again, as they were interested in taking part.

Therefore as there was a lot of interest from young people, a proposal was drawn together in order to acquire funding. Monies were made available through funding that had already been sought to develop youth services in Haywired through The Craigmillar European Programme.

The aims and objective of the driving theory course was to enable the



young adult learners at the end of the 10 week course to have gained knowledge and an understanding of safer road use. Thus, preparing them for the Driving Theory Course, endorsed by the Driving Standards Agency. The young adult learners also gained practical experience of sitting a mock driving theory test on the computers, and had a

pleasant and enjoyable time doing the course. Support was also made available if required in relation to literacy. All costs occurred throughout were covered by funding and this included provisional driving licence, and the theory test paid for at the end of the course therefore removing any dispositional barriers to the young adult learner. Other benefits of the course was to provide more educational opportunities to young people, for example young people felt that having a licence would open more doors for them in terms of employment prospects and of course for their own personal use.

During this driving theory course the young adults worked on the computers using the driving theory and the hazard perception cd-roms, there was also a series of focused sessions upon understanding and gaining knowledge of safer driving use. And this was done through written work sheets and various discussions on the driving theory test work sheet on the subjects listed below:

- How to book a driving theory test
- Fees and how much it will cost
- Documents and insurance
- Drink driving and the law
- Speed limits
- Stopping distances
- Road junctions
- Roundabouts
- Reversing
- Use of the horn
- Breakdowns and accidents

- Motorways
- Studs on the motorways
- Motorway breakdowns
- Motorway breakdowns
- Zebra crossings, animals, and single track roads
- Driving in the fog
- Changing lanes
- Turning right, turning left
- Flashing headlamps and fog lamps
- Waiting and parking
- Driving theory test paper

Benefits of the Haywired building

The obvious benefit of using the Haywired building was the location. This was as it is situated in the middle of Niddrie, and as most of the young people stay in the surrounding area it was easy for them to get there without the use of public transport or having to pay any travelling expenses. This was shown through the high level of attendance each week.

Another beneficial factor of using the Haywired building was the state of the art technology available for all to use. Wireless PCs, Internet access, Study type settings, were all available, thus allowing the young people to split into two groups to have more discussion in relation to the course. This was also beneficial as the young people would split up sections of the sessions to work on e.g. one group would work on theory and written work in relation to the course, whilst the other group would work on a different aspect of the course. Refreshments and snacks were also made readily available for young people throughout the course.

The fact that the building was so new and modern also leads to the young people appreciating it more and they were happy to be in these surroundings and were happy to respect the rules of the building.

The building was also a very safe and secure place to be, as the door was constantly locked meaning that strangers couldn't just walk into the building. Additionally throughout the course we had full use. Only the workers could allow people into the building. We also had phones and a direct alarm system to the police station so this made it a very safe environment.

The young people were very impressed with the new Haywired I.T Centre as it was a brand new building that was full of all the latest and up to date technology, the new Haywired I.T Centre was bright and spacious and is very user friendly the young people enjoyed their time in Haywired.



In conclusion the Haywired building was a complete success, very smart to look at with all the latest technology and in our opinions went a long way to making the course a complete success.

What the young people got out of the course

The seven young people who attended the course gained lots of knowledge on the Theory and Hazard perception test on CD ROM, as well as getting plenty of information on such things as drinking and driving, speed limits, Highway signs, stopping distances. They were also able to get information on the costing of driving lessons and licences. Each week we did group work they would spend an hour on each subject. The group would use the PCs then done the reading and writing part of the course, Doing this continually will hopefully have gave the young people the information and confidence they required to sit and pass the real theory test in the future. The young people also received a cheque to pay for their driving theory test on the completion of the course, as well as getting their provisional bought and paid for if required.

On the last night of the course the young people were also presented with certificates for their achievements by a member of the Jack Kane Centre management committee and also long serving member of the community. The local newspaper never turned up to take pictures of the young people although they were invited along to do so as they had done on the previous course. So we took our own pictures.



The young adult's adult learners have learnt to work together as a group and as individuals to overcome any barriers by increasing their confidence and improving their own self-esteem. The new Haywired I.T Centre was an ideal venue as it was local for the young people as they indicated that because of work commitments they would not be able to travel very far.

In conclusion hopefully the knowledge gained through this course will help all the young people pass their tests in the future.

Conclusion

- The project has been of definite benefit to young people as they have left this course with a greater knowledge of what is required of them to sit the driving theory test.
- We also believe that with so many young people gaining the required knowledge to pass their driving tests that this can only bode well, for the future prospects of the young people gaining employment. As well as their own personal gratification.
- We feel with the interest that this course received and generated from the young people in the greater Craigmillar area that this is a course that could run for a substantial amount of time given the right support and backing.
- Some of the young people felt that they would benefit from another couple of weeks as they were not quite confident enough to sit the hazard perception. So we accommodated them to meet their needs.

Future Recommendations

The following recommendations should be noted in regards to work with young people in the greater Craigmillar area

- Such was the success that more funding should be sought in order to develop another course to run in the near future within the Haywired I.T Centre.

- By extending the course from 8 weeks 10 weeks depending on the progress and the confidence of the young people taking part.

Acknowledgements

The driving theory course would like to thank the following for all their support throughout the project:

- Craigmillar European Programme
- Community Education
- Craigmillar Partnership
- Young People
- Jack Kane Centre management Committee

DRIVING THEORY COURSE EVALUATION

The young people were asked to fill out a personal questionnaire on what they got out of this driving theory course. This was their answers

My goals over the last weeks were?

- "Learn more about theory test and to build up my confidence"
- "Pass my test paper"
- "To understand enough theory to enable me to sit and pass my theory test"
- "To learn as much as I could and pass my test before anyone else"
- "To get through my course and pass my theory"
- "To learn more about the test and build up my confidence"
- "To improve my knowledge of driving"

What have you learned?

- "I have learned a lot since taking part in this course it helped me better to understand the rules of driving"
- "I have learned so much there is not enough space to write"
- "How to look for hazards and be aware of road signs"
- "More about speed limits and motorways"
- "Lots of different hazards and hopefully enough to pass my test"
- "Quit a lot"
- "I have learnt a lot because when I first started I didn't have a clue about anything"

DRIVING THEORY COURSE EVALUATION

What I can do now that I couldn't do at the start of the course

- "Most theory questions"
- "Tell other driving signals and signs and reinforce the Highway Code"
- "I can understand the rules of the road and to be safe and alert on the road"
- "I could tell you what signs mean tell you about speed limits and a few more things"
- "Say where the colours of the cat's eyes are on the motorway"
- "Theory questions"
- "I didn't really know any theory but now I feel confident that I may be able to a theory test"

What has helped the most?

- "Going on the computers and doing the mock theory test"

"Being on the computer"
"The PCs doing the mock test"
"CD roms"
"The exams on the computer"
"The tutor's advice"
"Going on the computers"

Has the course helped you with the language skills? If yes what?

"Yes it really has helped me. I now know the driving terms"
"Yes help me understand the theory test"
"No"
"Yes it really helped I now know the driving terms. These used to confuse me before I took this course"
"It helped to read the questions better"
"Yes it has helped me to understand the terms used to do with driving"
"Yes it was ok"

DRIVING THEORY COURSE EVALUATION

What did you think of the course?

"It was good and it was a good experience"
"A good laugh but still learning "
"I thought it was really good and very helpful"
"The course was great I got a lot out of my time at the course ""
"I thought it improved my knowledge of driving"
"It was really brilliant. I had great fun"
"I thought it was really useful"

What could be improved or changed?

"Less writing"
"Nothing"
"Nothing every thing was good"
"Nothing I liked it the way it was"
"Nothing it was all good"
"Going over stuff more and coming back to stuff and not moving on so quickly"
"Nothing"

Were the tutors helpful?

"Yes they were really helpful and easy to approach if you had a problem"
"Yes"

"Extremely"

"Yes"

"Yes"

"Yes really helpful. They gave me extra help when I needed it"

"All the time"

DRIVING THEORY COURSE EVALUATION

What I would like to do next?

"Take driving lessons and pass my theory test"

"Hopefully pass my theory"

"Pass my practical test and get a car"

"Pass my theory test"

"To go no and do further training example first aid childcare"

"To sit my theory test and take my driving lessons"

"Sit my test and begin lessons"

