



Annual Report

2010/11

GL11 Community Project
Fairmead
Cam
Dursley
Glos GL11 5JS

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Charity No: 1130096
Company No: 6855624

Introduction

Another year of steady growth is the theme running through this year's annual report.

Through expanded partnership working, strong community engagement and consultation, and responding to resident need, GL11 has:

- Added new courses to our training programmes
- Delivered IT as part of a national programme
- Developed new partnerships
- Attracted new funders
- Increased numbers of service users

Our activities are planned, monitored and reviewed with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

There are three fundamental strands to GL11's work:

- **Training and Education**
- **Drop-in Groups**
- **Volunteering opportunities**

Partners and Funders

Our work is only possible through joint working with partners and funders. These include:

Barnwood Trust; Cam Parish Council; Dursley Rotary Club; Dursley Town Council; Glos Adult Education; Glos County Council; Glos First; Glos Youth Service; Independence Trust; Lower Kingshill Management Co-operative; Magnox Electric; May Lane Surgery; Orchard Medical Centre; Parentline Plus; Prema Arts Centre; Stroud College; Stroud District Council; Treetops Children's Centre; Vale Vision; Zurich Community Trust.

We were delighted to be chosen as Sainsbury's first "Charity of the Year" following the opening of their new store in Dursley. The fundraising efforts of their staff and customers have been very much appreciated.

This included a spectacular Fire Walking Challenge in November when 30 participants took part in a 2 hour motivational talk before walking a distance of 20 feet over burning wood embers.

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We wish to recognise the financial support of all our partners, supporters and service users.

Thank you.

Trustees and governance

GL11 is a charity and a company limited by guarantee. It is the responsibility of our Trustees and Directors to oversee all legal and charitable aspects of GL11's work.

Board Members are:

Dave Butterfield
Geoff Wheeler
Paul Ayland (to 24.1.11)
Caroline Eardley
Serge Motee
Rose Stower
Shelagh Thomas (from 21.4.10)
Angie Fisher (from 29.6.11)

Quality Marks are clear indicators that an organisation is meeting nationally recognised standards. GL11 is committed to demonstrating quality service delivery and that it operates as a professional charitable business.

We have **Investor in People** status which shows our commitment to the professional and personal development of staff and volunteers.

GL11's **crèche is voluntarily registered with Ofsted** and is another clear indicator that staff are appropriately trained and we are committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all children and young people. Crèche facilities continue to be a key factor in enabling young parents to return to the world of training and education.

GL11 Staff

Our team of staff are dedicated and professional. They are committed to GL11 and providing positive experiences for our service users. They are:

Ann Wheeler
 Jane McKerron
 Viv Jones
 Gemma Gourlay
 Helen Jenkins
 Mandy Western
 Zac McKerron
 Karen Whitlock
 Stuart Heffernan
 Charlotte Trinder (from 3.10.11)

Staff changes in the year:

Departures:

Mandy Bailey
 Jacky Tolfree
 Jamie Vizer
 Charlene Smith

Arrivals:

Helen Stiley – Administrator
 Lola Durston - Reception

Training and Education

This year we have run 32 **courses**. In addition, we've provided 250 sessions through our drop-in social groups.

Visits by students and those attending drop-in groups total 5,924 during the year. Other visits to site totaled 2,290 – making a total of 8,214 visits in the year (an increase of 69 compared to the previous year).

We have introduced a number of new training programmes. We continue to see high demand for all computer and IT related courses and were delighted when our application to be part of a government run national IT programme, “**UK Online**”, was successful. Through this, GL11 became a **UK Online Centre** and we recruited 173 new students to this programme alone and they made 797 visits attending 76 sessions.

Made of Money – a family learning project focusing on money matters, improving communication, and reducing stress about money within families – was successfully piloted in February and March.

Health and Social Care Level 1 was introduced in September 2010 and we are delighted this year long course will run again from September 2011.

In spring 2011 we worked with AdEd (Adult Education, part of Glos County Council) to recruit local residents for an “**Introduction to Volunteering**” course to run in the summer term.



Introduction to Volunteering students

The Learning Community

TLC was a 3-year Lottery funded programme which ran from October 2007 and ended in September 2010. The broad aim of the programme was to:

- *Develop learners forum*
- *Raise the profile of learning*
- *Develop healthy communities partnerships*
- *Develop capacity giving local community access to training and development*
- *Link with local employers*

During its lifespan, TLC developed a number of partnerships and secured independent funding to help support an outreach programme through Magnox Electric.

This led to the delivery of Paediatric 1st Aid in Stinchcombe, Computers in Uley/North Nibley and Food Safety in Coaley.

The “Try To Remember” dementia project developed through health partnerships, was an excellent example of how partnerships created on one programme can develop into new initiatives. We have now made strong links with a range of health professionals including Alzheimers Society, Carers Glos, 2gether Trust and Age UK Glos – and we are developing new support for older people.

With the end of the TLC programme in sight, staff and trustees reviewed the status of work undertaken to identify areas that could be embedded into the overall work of GL11.

Health partnerships and capacity development are key elements now underpinning the launch (in autumn 2011) of new social groups and activities for vulnerable people – those with mild to moderate learning disabilities and adults with early memory loss.

Volunteers

Our volunteers play a crucial role in supporting GL11. The commitment from individuals varies greatly - from a regular weekly contribution of 6 hours to an occasional hour.

Volunteering offers mutual benefits: for the individual it can reduce a sense of isolation and offers opportunities to make new friends, and for GL11 volunteers make a vital contribution to us delivering our services cost effectively. Volunteers have supported us in many ways, including:

- *Room preparation*
- *Stalls at community events*
- *Toddler Group*
- *Fundraising*
- *Data entry*
- *Admin work*
- *Gardening and DIY*



Volunteers at 2010 Summer Fayre

We offer a sincere thanks to all our volunteers.

Drop-in Groups

Our drop-in groups and the number of sessions held are:

- 11 Over 50s

- 40 Bright Buttons Toddler Group
- 37 Sparkles
- 45 The Bike Shed
- 43 Bedlam
- 6 new Carers Support Group
- 68 therapy referral sessions
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In September 2010 we launched a new drop-in group – “Carers Support”. This provides valuable time for carers to meet together, to share with people who understand the stresses and strains of caring.

Children & Young People

Our three youth groups ran each week during the year and continue to meet the growing need for young people to have somewhere safe to meet, socialise and make new friends.

Sparkles is our teenage girls group and has been running for 6 years now. It is particularly nice to see some of the original Sparkles coming back to volunteer within the group.

Bedlam is our newest group which quickly developed a regular attendance and it is very encouraging to see new people coming along as the words spread



Bedlam

The Bike Shed where young people learn practical skills of bike maintenance continues to see mainly young lads, and a number have supported our community work by joining us at events such as the Stroud District Council’s Pride In Your Neighbourhood at Draycott, Highfields and Woodfields.

In response to changes in funding and low numbers during school holidays over recent years, a review was undertaken and the groups will run during term time only with effect from April 2011.

THE FUTURE FOR GL11

Recent and planned changes to public sector services (those delivered by the local authorities) have created much uncertainty across the county. The loss of local services for vulnerable people presents a real challenge for communities – groups and residents.

GL11 has shared our premises with a day care centre for many years, and in early 2011, Glos County Council (GCC) announced its intention to close that service. It formally closed at the end of June 2011. We are now in negotiation with GCC to take over this additional floor space.

In planning for how this space will be used, we have spent the year consulting with residents, service users, local groups and agencies to identify gaps in local provision. This consultation has included an Open Day where over 100 people visited, Coffee Mornings, questionnaires and meetings.

As a result we are now developing sessional activities and groups for adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities, and adults with early memory loss. The learning disability sessions were launched on 1 November and run one day a week. Support for those with early memory loss will be developed in the new year.

A number of new partnerships have developed since April 2011:

Stroud District Council – the first of what we hope will be 3 years partnership working to support local tenants and residents.

Barnwood Trust launched a radical and exciting 10 year plan to unlock opportunities for people with disabilities and mental health problems. GL11 is part of the Community Animation programme which is the first stage of the “Unlocking Opportunities” strategy.

We are part way into a 2 year **Action Research Project** led by the Countryside and Community Research Institute – which is a collaboration between the Universities of Gloucestershire and West of England. The research is focussing on the economic contribution of 3 voluntary sector organisations in specific localities in Gloucestershire. This will bring strategic benefits to GL11 by

providing an opportunity to raise our profile helping partners to better understand the contribution we make to the economy.

We have been invited by the leader of the county council to be part of a **County Innovation Group** – looking at ways of supporting local communities through the challenges and opportunities we all face.

It is important for GL11 to continue to take responsible decisions regarding its own financial situation, and that we encourage service users and partners to recognise the work we do, the value for money we offer, and that there is a real cost associated with delivering services.

Through our membership scheme we invite individuals and organisations to support our work and help us shape the future of the organisation.

GL11 will continue its efforts in delivering services which underpin and support district, county and regional strategic plans, whilst striving to offer beneficial and positive outcomes for all our service users.

FINALLY:

A sincere thanks to my fellow trustees, our staff, volunteers and all supporters of GL11.

Dave Butterfield,
Chair of Trustees