



case study

equal opportunities



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The Objective One Partnership
for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

WILD YOUNG PARENTS PROJECT

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the project

The WILD young parents project is a partnership between WILD and Cornwall College, to deliver high quality, tailored training to young mothers across Penwith, Kerrier and Carrick who are currently disengaged from mainstream training, learning and employment opportunities.

The Programme has invested £145,857 from the European Social Fund (ESF) in the project which has a total cost of £331,492.

This project offers young mothers in Mid and West Cornwall the opportunity to obtain the advice and guidance necessary for them to progress into further education or vocational training, through Cornwall College, or into voluntary work and enables them to escape the spiral of economic disengagement and poverty.

measures of equal opportunities adopted

Many of the women joining the project lack confidence and some lack basic skills. Through group work such as "My Story" they are encouraged to write about their own child and during the process learn basic skills and also develop ICT skills to the point where some are able to go on and take the European Computer Driving Licence. Some of the mothers have gone on to take higher education courses with at least one achieving a higher degree and now writing for a national newspaper. Some of the staff members on the project were themselves young mums with disabilities.

Equality of opportunity is embedded throughout the project with staff and the young mothers undertaking both equal opportunities and diversity training. This includes awareness of racism, homophobia and sexual orientation. All outreach centres are fully accessible and equipment is sourced to enable women with disabilities



to participate fully. Child care is always provided. Peer education programmes further raise awareness of equal awareness through sessions on perceptions and stereotyping, ethnicity and disability.

WILD is used as a sample group by Cornwall College to check out accessibility to the services of the college.

benefits of equal opportunities

The economic benefit of the project is in bringing the participants into or closer to mainstream training and/or employment. The young mothers will all have completed a portfolio of work and will have a sense of what they can do, what they want to do. In some cases this may mean going on to further training, into voluntary work or staying at home to look after their own child without feeling guilty. They will all have taken steps to escape the poverty and deprivation traps so often associated with young single motherhood. They will be able to look after their own children with increased confidence and will be able to give their children a better future.



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lessons learnt

Jo Davies, project manager, said *“Group work helps the young women to identify the wider opportunities by looking both at the skills they already have and those they are able to develop.”*

Jo said that they have always had a strong commitment to equal opportunities. They have learnt that the user groups have a right to be involved and that they are now actively working with young lesbian and black and minority ethnic mothers.

For more information about how you can incorporate equal opportunities into your project please contact the Objective One Partnership Office on 01872 241379 or email objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk.



Young parents receive awards for community work