



youth work changes lives



West Lothian
Council



2nd February 2021

Dear Parent,

Thank you so much for your emails, I am very grateful for the positive feedback and comments. Over 34 young people participated in the group last Wednesday and it was a lot of fun, both for the staff and young people.

I wanted to write to each of you, just to give you some background and hopefully answer some of your questions.

I am a Community Education Worker, working in the Community Learning and Development team for West Lothian Council. I manage all youth provision in the Bathgate East area, including Additional Support Needs (ASN) groups. Following the lockdown measures put in place last March, I introduced online, virtual youth groups for the ASN groups and LGBTQ group in my area as a means to keep in touch and give the young people a focus each week, moreover to provide support and someone familiar to talk with.

The only free night I have is a Wednesday and so I thought that given current circumstances, I would like to provide a service for those young people out-with my area, who may be missing their friends and would like to have a wee giggle with other young people from across West Lothian. I wasn't sure how this service would be received, so I am delighted with the response, especially as I personally pay for the extended zoom contract as there is no provision to pay for this within WLC budget.

Due to data protection guidelines, I am not permitted to put the next new link on any social media platform, or forward it to the schools, therefore, I'm relying on all parents to contact me with their email address, so that in future, I can send the link directly to them. A member of staff is tasked with accessing and recording this information from all participants on Wednesday 3rd Feb.

Although Covid restrictions will hopefully relax in the near future, I intend to continue running this group for as long as the young people enjoy attending. The future of youthwork as a face to face resource is a little uncertain at this time, but we hope to move forward with a model of blended youth work – virtual and in person.

I have included the poster for this group in a Pdf format and would be very grateful if you would post it on your social media or twitter account. If you have a friend whose child would like to join the group on Wednesday, please feel free to forward my contact details.

I absolutely loved hosting the group on Wednesday and so did the staff. The young people who attended were amazingly bright and funny, and I look forward to getting to know them better. Next Wednesday, we have a Disney quiz, followed by a Hogwarts themed Escape

Room. Parents are also welcome to join in and we may even have a few 'oldie' questions included in the quiz!

I hope this answers any questions you may have, but if not, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks again

Jane Drysdale

Community Education worker

Mobile 07990788026

Email: jane.drysdale@westlothian.gov.uk