

# THE WICKED PROJECT

QUARTERLY REPORT, OCTOBER – DECEMBER. '07



TIR COED



## 1. Overview of Tir Coed Activities:

1. The Tir Coed team has been meeting on a monthly basis, under the guidance of John Wildig, Company Secretary, to discuss progress and issues arising.

2. Chris, the Tir Coed Admin Officer, has begun making applications to small Charitable Trusts for core funding. Applications will continue to be submitted.

3. Chris, Gwyneth and Becky have been having quarterly financial meetings.

At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter there is a slight underspend in the BLF budget, however, this can be taken over to future quarters. The underspend in the Comic Relief budget, detailed in the previous Quarterly Report has been addressed by arranging extra activities for Young Carers as part of the Acorn Initiative and by organising the Acorn End of Year Cerebration.

4. The Tir Coed Annual General Meeting and six-monthly Board of Directors Meeting was held on October the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Prof. John Good resigned from the Chair, but not from the Board, and was replaced by Simon Hewitt. Two new Directors were welcomed to the meeting, namely Rachel Chamberlain of Forestry Commission Wales and Liam McPherson of Ceredigion Youth Offending Team.

The following reports and policies were approved:

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement, 2006/07;

Tir Coed Business Plan, 2007/08;

Tir Coed Strategic Plan

Reserves Policy

5. Gwyneth attended an event run by the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services – “Measuring The Difference” – looking at various methodologies and tools that can be used to measure the impact that our work has on the people we support.

6. The Project Officers, Chair and Secretary met with Mr. Hywel Lovegreen, Tir Coed's dedicated Big Lottery Fund Officer, for the first WICKED project monitoring visit. Mr. Lovegreen appeared to be very satisfied with the progress of the project during its initial six months and was particularly satisfied with the format and detail included within the quarterly reports.

Particular problems within specific counties and initiatives were discussed; however, there were no major areas of concern. The impact of a smaller number of participants than expected on outcome scores, as well as the difficulties with measuring the happiness target score at the end of the activity, were also discussed. Hywel agreed with the proposed adjustment to the milestone percentage - *“70% of activity/ programme participants have at least a 70% attendance rate”*.

Mr. Lovegreen also agreed that the annual “end of year” for the project could be moved forward a month to March of each year. This would simplify the financial accounting process as it would correspond with the end of the Tir Coed financial year.

7. John Wildig represented Tir Coed at a WCVA Regional Policy event – “European Structural Funds programme up-date”. As a result of John's networking, Tir Coed were invited to give a presentation on the WICKED project to WAG's Youth & Adult Learning Opportunities Division. Simon, John and Gwyneth met with Marcus Hill and Nikki Moulds of the Welsh Assembly Government's Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills.

The Department is applying to the European Convergence programme for funding towards “Reach The Heights” – a programme focusing on raising levels of achievement and stimulating skill levels of hard to reach young people within Wales.

The Tir Coed Chair and Secretary felt that the current WICKED project activities would fit well into this programme; therefore, Tir Coed expressed an interest in becoming a Project Partner.

Using the funding already secured for the WICKED project as match funding, Tir Coed, through the Reach The Heights programme, could draw down European funds. This would enable us to employ additional Project Officers to spread the benefits of the WICKED project to the counties of north west Wales, namely Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy and Denbighshire.

An updated Project Proposal Form is currently being prepared for Reach The Heights.

8. Both Becky and Gwyneth attended a WCVA training day on “Methods of Involving Young People”. This was felt to be particularly useful in identifying practical ways of engaging with young people.

9. Becky and Gwyneth had a very useful meeting with Sue Lewis, who administers Open College Network (OCN) accreditation for Ceredigion Education Authority. Sue was able to show us examples of the paperwork that she has compiled in order to deliver and verify OCN units. Sue was happy to share the templates with us.

10. John Wildig represented Tir Coed at the annual Coed Cymru Stakeholder meeting.

**2. Activities in the Third Quarter Listed Under each WICKED project initiative:**  
(Including achievement against targets and feedback)

**a) The ACORN Initiative**  
(Respite activities for Young Carers)

Activities under this initiative have been running during the October half term week and also at some Young Carers' Club Nights. Tir Coed has now run their first activity with Pembrokeshire Young Carers and they hope to be involved in the End of Year Cerebration, which is scheduled for February.

**Powys Young Carers:**

**2-day Willow lantern-making workshop** – This was the first activity to be run in the south Powys area and was attended by Young Carers from the Brecon group. The activity was run at Craig y Nos Country Park during the school half-term. Although 6 young people had registered an interest in the activity, only 3 took part in the workshop.

Although the number of attendees was disappointing, the quality of the experience was very apparent. The young people just didn't want to leave at the end of the second day! Large lanterns were made from willow and tissue paper. Following a Halloween-themed picnic, participants also enjoyed their time at the Forest School site building a willow den.

One participant was unable to attend on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day as she was going away to visit her family; however, the instructor finished the work on her lantern and Young Carers staff took it to her home.

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants took home a lantern	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence only.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	2 participants – 100% 1 participant – 50%	1 participant was visiting her family on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> day
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental awareness:</b>		
Participants can name at least one tree species	Yes, all participants that completed the self-assessment form named at least one tree species.	

Participants know that woodlands support wildlife – can name at least one type of fauna	Yes, all participants that completed the self-assessment form named at least one type of woodland fauna.	
Participants know at least one way that woodlands benefit the environment	Yes, all participants that completed the self-assessment form knew at least one way that woodlands benefit the environment.	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	No	All participants had scored themselves the max 5 at the start of the workshop.
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, all participants that completed the self-assessment form wanted to take part in more woodland activities.	

Feedback:

Likes - *“Making the lantern”*  
*“Building the den”*

Dislikes - *“Nothing”*  
*“The swans being nasty to the other swans”*

What did you make –  
*“Colourful lanterns out of leaves and willow”*  
*“A heart out of willow”*  
*“A willow tent”*

**Club night Christmas decorations from Willow** – Within Powys there are 6 Young Carers clubs that meet between 4.00pm – 6.30pm every other week. It was decided by Young Carers staff and members that they would like a club-night activity with a Christmas theme. As the week beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup> was National Carers Week, 4 of the activities took place during this week. The other 2 sessions took place in late November.

The sessions were led by Helen Porter (north Powys) and Anne Johnson (south Powys). During the sessions the young people were given a choice of decorations that they could make, including large stars, shooting star card holders, wreaths and sweet trays.

The young people threw themselves in to the activities, some of them growing so much in confidence that, by the end of the session, they were helping their friends to finish their decorations.

**Newtown Club, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>** – 6 young people attended, with others dipping in and out during the session.

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants took at least 2 decorations	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Yes, video footage was taken.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	N/A as only 2.5 hour session	6 participants
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	Yes, 66% felt happier	4 – happier 2 – scored themselves a max 5 at the start
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 83% wanted to take part in more woodland activities.	5 out of the 6 participants

Feedback:

Likes - *“Making the tray and big star”*  
*“Making the shooting star”*  
*“Decorating the star”*  
*“Everything”*

Dislikes - *“Nothing”* (x 6)

**Welshpool Club, Nov 21<sup>st</sup>** – Eight young people took part.

The Tir Coed officer was unable to attend. The Young Carers Activities Worker did not gather feedback from young people.

**Knighton Club, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** –

The Tir Coed officer was unable to attend. The Young Carers Activities Worker did not gather feedback from young people.

Feedback from Trainers of the 3 workshops above:

*“In general confidence and concentration grew as students realised what they could achieve. Those who were able to very quickly took on the role of helping others. Those who went on to make a tray were very pleased with themselves.”* – Helen Porter.

**Ystradgynlais Club, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** – This group has only very recently been established. Two teenagers took part in the activity.

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>TARGET ACHIEVED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants took home at least 2 decorations	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence only.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	N/A as only 2.5 hour session	2 participants
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	Yes, 100% felt happier	
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 100% wanted to take part in more woodland activities.	

Feedback:

Likes - “Making the wreath”  
 “Making and decorating the star”

Dislikes - “Nothing” x 2

**Llandrindod Club, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** – 6 young people took part.

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>TARGET ACHIEVED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants took home at least 2 decorations	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence only.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	N/A as only 2.5 hour session	6 participants
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-</b>		

<b>being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	Yes, 66% felt happier	4 – happier 2 – scored themselves a max 5 at the start
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 100% wanted to take part in more woodland activities.	

Feedback from Activities Worker:

*“Both groups (Ystradgynlais & Brecon) made things, so not only did they learn the skill of actually making something they also found out about the different types of wood. The instructors told them about the wood they were working with (willow & hazel), how to grow & harvest them and what they had been traditionally used for.”*

*“Outcomes included: patience, concentration, relaxation, listening, watching, artistic skills.”*

Brecon Club, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> –

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants took home decorations	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence only.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	N/A as only 2.5 hour session	10 participants
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	Yes, 77% felt happier	7 – happier 1 – less happy 2 – scored themselves a max 5 at the start
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 90% wanted to take part in more woodland activities.	

Feedback:

Likes –  
*“everything” x 4*  
*“being with people I know”*  
*“interesting”*  
*“making Emma Small a star”*  
*“making the wreath and star”*  
*“making xmas decs”*

Dislikes - "nothing" x 9

Feedback from Activities Worker:

*"The boys really concentrated and produced some really good things. One girl helps at a local church youth group and she now wants to teach them what she has learnt. Members of the Brecon group decided they could make things to sell on the youth club Xmas stall. Most of the group made something to give as a present – all were really pleased & impressed with their skills by the end of the session."*

**Ceredigion Young Carers:**

**3-day Willow lantern-making workshop at Denmark Farm**

This was a partnership project with the Shared Earth Trust run during the school half-term. Tir Coed funded the 1<sup>st</sup> two days of the workshop, while the third day and final celebration (a lantern procession and banquet) was funded by Shared Earth Trust.

Activities were led by Pod Clare.

The four young carers who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the items they produced were very impressive.

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>TARGET ACHIEVED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants took home at least one item	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence and video footage.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	100% attendance	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental awareness:</b>		
Participants can name at least one tree species	Yes, all participants named at least one tree species.	
Participants know that woodlands support wildlife – can name at least one type of fauna	Yes, all participants named at least one type of woodland fauna.	
Participants know at least one way that woodlands benefit the environment	Yes, all participants knew at least one way that woodlands benefit the environment.	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		

At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	75 % of participants felt happier	3 – happier 1 – less happy
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, all participants wanted to take part in more woodland activities.	

Feedback:

Likes -        “Making friends with trees”  
                  “Picture frames”  
                  “Lanterns and everything”  
                  Land art”

Dislikes -   None

What did you make –  
                      “Made lanterns”  
                      “Made pumpkin lanterns”  
                      “Made friends with trees”  
                      “Land art”



Feedback from Trainer –

*“The levels of effort and concentration that they put into their work grew day by day, and was rewarded with outstanding results of which they were rightly very proud. Also the level of friendship and interaction amongst the group developed very strongly.”*

Feedback from Support Worker -

*“I believe that they all gained confidence. At first they were not very confident with themselves, when it came to produce pieces of artwork. As the activities were carried out, their confidence grew. These activities had their full attention.”*

**North Ceredigion Young Carers – Llanfarian Village Hall, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** – Six young people took part in this activity. The Young Carers Activities Co-ordinator was particularly pleased to see two of the teenage girls who do not normally engage with activities. Christmas trees were made from Willow and recycled materials, as well as cards decorated with Lilandi.

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants took home at least 2 decorations	

Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence only.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	N/A as only 2.5 hour session	6 participants
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	Yes, 83% felt happier	5 – happier 1 – scored herself a max 5 at the start
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 83% wanted to take part in more woodland activities.	

### Feedback:

Likes - “Making the Christmas tree”  
“Everything”

Dislikes - “I liked everything” x 3

### South Ceredigion Young Carers – Theatr Mwldan, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> –

7 young people took part. Christmas trees were made from Willow and recycled materials, as well as cards decorated with Lilandi.

### Feedback from Support Worker –

*“Feedback from the young people after the Christmas decoration illustrated that all of them felt an improvement in their emotional state following this activity.*

*All young people who participated were proud of their achievements and therefore, in my opinion, all showed improved self confidence.*

*All the young carers involved were intrigued and amazed that they were able to create such wonderful decorations from wood and recycled material. All children showed a willingness to learn more about decoration making with Pod.”*

### Feedback from Trainer (Pod Clare) –

*“They worked on all the activities with great care and produced work of excellent quality which they were all pleased with & proud to take home.*

*They have learnt about geometric shapes, how to use various tools such as the glue gun, and most of all I think they learned and appreciated how rewarding & satisfying it is to make things yourself.*

*Quite a few of them told me at the beginning that they were not particularly “into art” and obviously did not expect to achieve a great deal, but they were surprised & delighted by what they did in fact achieve.”*

### SUGGESTION FROM POD CLARE – TO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER WITH YOUNG CARERS GROUP -

*“It is evident to me that the Young Carers share a strong bond and group identity – they are friendly & supportive towards each other, & conversation during the workshop was often among the whole group, which doesn’t often happen, in my experience.*

*I think it would be lovely to develop this further by bringing them all together to brainstorm & design themselves a logo, which they could then print as cards and on T-shirts etc. (I*

have silk screening equipment and inks). Maybe it could also be made into a big banner that they could take with them when they go out together or to fundraising events, etc. I have quite often done this kind of thing with groups such as mental health group, and it helps to strengthen the group ethos.”

## **Carmarthenshire Young Carers:**

Becky met with the Carmarthenshire Young Carers staff in October to review Acorn activities over the summer period. The feedback was very positive, one Support Worker commented that although she was sceptical at first as to whether the young people would enjoy Tir Coed activities, she had been pleasantly surprised to discover the young carers’ enthusiasm once they had taken part.

**2 x 1-day Halloween Willow Workshops** - 2 willow workshops with a Halloween theme, the first of these, for 8 – 12 year old, ran on 30<sup>th</sup> October and the second, for 13- 18 year olds on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Jo Steadman led both workshops, with Sian Cornelius supporting on the first workshop, and Helen Campbell supporting on the second. Both workshops were held at Trosordy House, Johnstown, Carmarthen.

- a.) The first, younger, group involved 8 Young Carers. First of all the participants were introduced to the properties of willow and how to bend it to create structural shapes. The group made a variety of Halloween-themed lanterns, including pumpkins, cauldrons and even a ghost out of willow using willow, tissue paper and glue. Although the workshop went well, the young people did get a bit bored towards the middle of the day, so it was decided to take the group outside to the playing field to play ball games. In retrospect, a shorter day would have suited this younger group better.



### Trainer feedback:

*“The children’s confidence grew as they ... started to see their sculptures taking shape” – Jo Steadman.*

### Support Worker feedback:

*“All of the young people appeared to be really pleased with what they had made and gained some confidence from this. (The Trainers) were great with the young people, really encouraging and patient” – Laura Skudra.*

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>TARGET ACHIEVED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and</b>		

<b>self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants made a willow lantern	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Yes	A mock interview was conducted.
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	Yes, 100% attendance rate	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental awareness:</b>		
Participants can name at least one tree species	Yes, all participants could recognise that they were working with willow	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	No: 4 = same 1 = less 3 = more – 37.5%	
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 7 wanted to take part in more woodland activities, 1 did not.	

#### Feedback:

Likes – “*Bending the willow*”  
“*making a cauldron*”  
“*All of it*”

Dislikes - “*sticki bits*”  
“*the football.*”

What did you make? –“*a pumpkin*”, “*a cauldron*”, “*a ghost*”

**b.)** 8 young carers attended the second workshop, all aged between 12 and 18 years. In the morning the group were invited to play with the materials and to create a structure each, with willow and masking tape. Patience and application were needed to achieve an end result, the group made some exciting forms: hats, figures, star wands and balls. In addition to this, some of the group were shown weaving techniques and managed to make a chair.

#### Trainer feedback:

“*Everyone supported each other and had some fun.*” – Helen Campbell.

#### Support Worker feedback:

“*I was particularly surprised by the group’s level of concentration throughout the whole day; they remained focused and interested in the task which was a great achievement. Their behaviour was very good through out the day despite one or two*”

of the group having demanding behaviour normally. I really saw an improvement in the group's commitment levels and definitely saw an improvement in their confidence levels." – Laura Skudra.

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	All participants made a willow item	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	No camcorder available	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	Yes, 100% attendance rate	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental awareness:</b>		
Participants can name at least one tree species	Yes, all participants asked could recognise that they were working with willow and dogwood	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	No: 5 = same 3 = more – 37.5%	4 participants scored themselves 5 at the start of the day.
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 7 wanted to take part in more woodland activities, 1 did not.	

#### Feedback:

Likes – “I liked it a lot”

Dislikes - none given

## **Pembrokeshire Young Carers:**

This was the first workshop that has run as part of the WICKED project with Pembrokeshire young Carers: the workshop ran as part of the Group's already established bi-monthly club nights. Hopefully this workshop will be the first of many more under the WICKED project.

**Club night Willow Workshop** – A willow workshop with a Christmas theme, which ran on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Jo Steadman and Helen Campbell led the workshop, which was held at Albany Hall, Haverford West. The workshop involved 19 Young Carers who travelled

from a variety of locations throughout Pembrokeshire. The creative potential of willow and rush was demonstrated by way of a display of seasonal decorations. The young people were encouraged to experiment themselves with the materials, making simple shapes, before being helped to make more elaborate forms. Decorations produced included wreaths, chains, balls, stars and Christmas trees. The activity sustained the interest of the young people right the way through the 2 and a half hour session, which, due to the late hour and young age of some of the children, was quite an achievement.

Trainer feedback:

*“The event was really well organised and supported.”*

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>TARGET ACHIEVED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, all participants produced at least 1 item.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Yes, video footage taken.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	N/A as only 2.5 hour session	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	No, Of the 4 that responded: 3 = same 1 = more = 25%	
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, all 9 that responded wanted to take part in more WICKED activities.	

Feedback:

Likes – *“da best workshop”*  
*“I loved everything! Thank you sooo much.”*  
*“Bravo!!”*

Dislikes - None given

**b) The WORKING YOUR WOODS initiative**  
(for 16 – 19 year olds not in education, employment or training)

**Powys**

Below is an update on the year 1 trainees:

All trainees are continuing with their Skill Build programmes.

**Trainees 1 & 2** - have had their Skill Build scheme extended for a further 13 weeks (the scheme pays them £50 per week while they gain work experience). They are working together in woodland near Llanwrtyd Wells which is owned by the family of one of the trainees.

Gwyneth visited recently and found both boys in very high spirits. They were proud to show the areas of woodland they had started to manage, using bow saws mostly, as well as the 6 bridges they had built to allow them to extract the timber.

They were hoping to have a good stock of dry timber to sell as fire wood during next autumn.

The trainees had built a small trailer from recycled materials, and a compost pit.

In a nearby shed was a sow with her piglets; the trainees were about to start fencing off areas of the woodland so that they could turn the pigs in to manage the undergrowth.

They have completed their Basic Chainsaw training and are currently practising with the chainsaw before applying for their NPTC assessment.

They have successfully completed a 2-day Emergency First Aid training course.

Other training planned is a 2-day course on Winching trees, to be run in early January.

**Trainee 3** - is continuing on his Skill Build scheme. Although he had started a work placement with a welding company, he has since moved to a mechanical workshop.

<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
<b>Increased skills leading to improved employment opportunities for young people</b>	At least 60% of participants receiving accreditation	66% have received accreditation
	At least 60% of participants showing a positive attitude towards career development	100% have shown positive attitude towards career development
	At least 25% participants progress to further training or employment	100% have progressed to further training

**Ceredigion:**

Below is an update on the progress of the 8 trainees:

**Trainee 1** – Has left the area. He has been allocated new foster parents in the Port Talbot area.

**Trainee 2** – is following a course in Catering at Llanelli College.

**Trainee 3** – has since found work with a local builder.

**Trainee 4** – is following and City & Guilds Level 2 course in Furniture Making at Ceredigion College in Cardigan. He is apparently doing very well on the course.

**Trainee 5** – is following a college course.

**Trainee 6** - is following the 6-month Diploma course in Green Woodwork at the Coppicewood College at Cilgeran. Although he has missed a few sessions, he appears to be very happy with the course. This trainee has very low self-esteem, but he is very pleased that his skills on the pole lathe have been praised by College staff. He has completed over 100 hours volunteering with the Coppice Wood College and will soon be receiving his Millennium Volunteer (a WCVA funded project) 100 hour Award. Recently, this trainee also successfully completed a 2-day Emergency First Aid training course.

**Trainee 7** – is also following the 6-month Diploma course in Green Woodwork at the Coppicewood College at Cilgeran. Although this young person is under a supervision order, his attendance at the College has been commended. He has also completed over 100 hours volunteering, both with the Countryside Council for Wales and with the Coppice Wood College, and will soon be receiving his Millennium Volunteer (a WCVA funded project) 100 hour Award.

**Trainee 8** - has not opted for any volunteer or employment opportunities.

<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
<b>Increased skills leading to improved employment opportunities for young people</b>	At least 60% of participants receiving accreditation	75% have, or are in the process of, receiving accreditation
	At least 60% of participants showing a positive attitude towards career development	75% have shown positive attitude towards career development
	At least 25% participants progress to further training or employment	75% have progressed to further training or employment

## **Pembrokeshire:**

Since the introductory sessions have come to an end, some participants have progressed to stages 1 and 2 of the programme. A brief summary of each participant follows:

**Trainee 1** - started a college course in September, but found it unsuitable and dropped out. Becky has been working with Iwan Parry (Coed Cymru) to organise a work placement for xxx at the Pembrokeshire Wood Store. The type of skills training on offer will be stacking and grading timber and dealing with customer enquiries, leading onto sawing and preparing wood and possible forklift work. Xxx has signed up with Pembrokeshire County Council training agency, Future Works, in order to get onto a Skill Build programme (4 days work placement and 1 day basic skills training with a £50 a week training allowance). A very enthusiastic xxx began his work placement on

December 10<sup>th</sup>. If all goes well, Becky will be visiting xxx at his place of work in the New Year.

**Trainee 2** - a work placement with Cilrhedyn workshop had been organised for this young person. Unfortunately, this participant had been unresponsive and has now slipped off both Tir Coed's and Careers Wales' radar.

**Trainee 3** - has now completed over 100 hours volunteering with the Coppice Wood College and will soon be receiving his Millennium Volunteer (a WCVA funded project) 100 hour Award. Xxx began a 2-day a week 6-month OCN accredited course with the Coppice Wood College in October, in which he is making steady progress. However, xxx has developed a serious health problem over the last few months, and despite this meaning sporadic attendance on some weeks, he is still persevering. Xxx's mum wrote to Tir Coed recently to say, "*Thanks again for giving xxx this wonderful chance. He loves it.*"

### **c) The Tree Wise initiative**

(For young people, 14 – 16 years who are, or are in danger of being, excluded from school)

#### **Powys**

To date, no progress has been made with setting up a Tree Wise project within Powys. The Project Officer understands that there has been a major reshuffle of personnel and offices within Powys County Council. Despite numerous attempts to liaise with the Education Department and the Youth Service, responses have been negative.

However, it's hoped that contact with individual schools will result in a more positive response. The Project Officer is currently liaising with 2 high schools to scope possibilities.

#### **Ceredigion:**

The Tree Wise initiative within Ceredigion started on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September at Pen yr Allt Woods, near New Quay. The project is running in partnership with the Ceredigion Education Authority, led by Heather Summers and supported by Ruth Spencer, both of whom attended the Tree Wise Support Worker training earlier this year.

Although there were initially 6 young people (referred through the Education Inclusion service), by the second half-term there were a core of 4 young people who attended regularly, with one other attending more sporadically.

Unfortunately, by the end of the Christmas term the group has been reduced to 3 young people. 2 of the participants dropped out because:

- One of the young people was finding it difficult to work in a team set-up; he was fine on a one-to-one basis, but his behaviour became problematic within a group setting. His behaviour was affecting the participation of other members of the group. After being given numerous warnings, the young person decided that he didn't want to participate further.
- The other young person was the only girl on the project. Despite the efforts of the female Leader & Support Worker to engage with her, she felt too isolated and left the project.

As well as the weekly practical activities, the young people are encouraged to join in the preparation of a group lunch, cooked and eaten around the camp fire whenever possible. They help to prepare the vegetables for soups, etc. and are expected to wash dishes and clear up.

The group has recently started on an ambitious project to restore and extend a woodland theatre which is situated in the woods. A specialist Trainer has been brought in to help them with this construction work.

This construction project, along with tool identification, is going to be accredited through the Open College Network (OCN). An existing OCN unit has been adapted to fit the work and this has recently been approved.

The 2 units to be delivered during the coming weeks are:

- Construction of a Basic Wooden Shelter;

- Identify Woodwork Tools and Equipment.

The OCN units will be internally verified by Sue Lewis, of the Ceredigion Education Department, who has been assisting the Project Officers and project Trainer with preparing Lesson Plans, Checklists and Assessment Methods.

It's hoped that shadowing Sue Lewis in preparing the paperwork and verifying these two units will give the Tir Coed Project Officers a better understanding of the OCN delivery process.

There are currently 3 participants on this project; however, the percentages below have been calculated on the basis of the 5 participants who attended for most of the Christmas term. The 3 participants present at the final session of the Christmas term gave feedback, as follows:

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>TARGET ACHIEVED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, all participants produced at least 1 item.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence only to date – participants not comfortable with video recording.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	4 have been attending regularly, 1 sporadically	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental knowledge</b>	All 3 who completed feedback form could name at least one tree species, plus at least one type of fauna, plus one way that that woodland benefit the environment	
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	1 – happier 2 – the same	1 had previously scored the max 5, so no room for improvement
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	All 3 who completed feedback form scored themselves the maximum 5 for “I enjoy taking part in outdoor activities”	

<b>Target:</b>	<b>Milestone:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
<b>Increased skills leading to improved employment opportunities for young people</b>		
At least 60% of participants receiving accreditation	60% of participants have been registered for accreditation	3 participants
At least 60% of participants showing a positive attitude towards career development	70% of participants have at least a 70% attendance rate	3 – good attendance 1 – moderate 1 – poor

Feedback:

Likes –

“Lighting fires”  
 “Makin stuff”  
 “Drums playing”  
 “Beach trips” (the woods run down to the beach)  
 “Walking through woods”  
 “Building”

Dislikes -

“Walking back”  
 “No gas at last session”  
 “Long walks up hills”  
 “Breakin my back carrying wood”  
 “Nothing”

What have you done & made?

“How to use tools”  
 “Building”  
 “How 2 build things out of wood – walkin stick, bird house”  
 “Carpentry”  
 “Woodwork”  
 “Drumming”  
 “Made soup”

Feedback from Leader & Support Worker:-

“Generally the confidence of all participants has increased, likewise their ability to communicate with each other & us.”

X – “His head is much less in the clouds, on the whole telling fewer fantasy lies, more grounded & rounded. His mother commented that she feels she has her son back, & that he comes home from the woods full of enthusiasm.”

Y – “As we get to know him, he is showing willingness to think things through, offer up ideas, take responsibility for general welfare of the tools. He is learning to listen & show more focus when kept busy.”

Z – “Of all the group, he is the one with least confidence, but he is really coming into his own. Marked difference. Discovering his ability to use tools, do manual work, all of which was very alien to him at the start of the project.”

Specific problems highlighted by Leader:-

Group – “Whilst a fourth member of the group (who has now left) was there, the other three were much less focused, less willing to work, less responsible. Since he left, their general response, focus, attitude, have all significantly improved.”

Venue – *“Lack of communication from woodland management group, upheaval of work space (JCB work, leaking hut, lack of heat source on occasion, cows loose, various people dropping in unexpectedly) has been challenging, yet we as a group have overcome all these obstacles, & we are proud of the young people who have continued to battle despite.”*

## **Carmarthenshire:**

The first session of Tree Wise in Carmarthenshire began 25<sup>th</sup> October, at Woodhouse Wood near St. Clears, after some teething problems. The original plan had been to take 4 young people from each of the schools that the 2 youth workers leading the project are attached to, Anwen Davies - Queen Elizabeth – QE- (Carmarthen) and Cynyr Ifan - Dyfryn Taff (Whitland). However, there were problems in getting pupils referred from Dyfryn Taff, as the teacher responsible for the underachievers wanted to refer all of these pupils, which would have left no room for pupils from QE. Also, the only day of the week available that both youth workers could run a Tree Wise Project on was a Thursday, which was also the day that most of the suitable young people from QE attend College, so numbers of participants have been low. In all, three sessions have run, with 2 young people attending.

To ensure higher numbers, the programme will change to a Wednesday in the New Year, with pupils from QE High. Anwen Davies will lead the project, along with a Support Assistant. Becky will be working on the possibility of developing a second Tree Wise project with Cynyr and either Dyfryn Taff and/or Newcastle Emlyn pupils in the New Year. More feedback will follow in the next report.

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>TARGET ACHIEVED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, both participants have produced at least 1 item.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence only to date – participants not comfortable with video recording.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	50% had at least a 70% attendance rate. In all, the average attendance rate was 83%	1 participant attended all 3 sessions, and the other 2 sessions
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental knowledge</b>		This target was not assessed, due to low number of sessions
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-</b>		

<b>being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity		This target was not assessed, due to low number of sessions
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again		This target was not assessed, due to low number of sessions
<b>Target:</b>	<b>Milestone:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
<b>Increased skills leading to improved employment opportunities for young people</b>		
At least 60% of participants receiving accreditation	No accreditation undertaken as of yet.	
At least 60% of participants showing a positive attitude towards career development	50% had at least a 70% attendance rate. In all, the average attendance rate was 83%	1 participant attended all 3 session, and the other 2 sessions

#### Feedback from 1<sup>st</sup> term:

Leader Feedback:

*“The participants were very keen to attend and really enjoyed the work. They naturally showed interest in working with the wood ie shave horse and sanding pieces of wood. They also stayed focused for the whole day when given an activity which showed their enjoyment of the sessions.”*

### **Pembrokeshire:**

Tree Wise in Pembrokeshire has had a flying start led by Youth Workers Anthony Harris and Matt Done. 14 sessions have taken place with 7 young people taking part. Those involved are 5 pupils with special needs from Pembroke School and since session 5, pupils from Pembroke school have been joined by 2 young people from Greenhill School (Tenby), who had been underachieving. The group has bonded well, with the more able pupils assisting the others. The sessions run every week on a Tuesday, with alternate weeks at the Green Links wood workshop (next to Pembroke School) and then either the Green Links woodland or Tenby Youth Centre (weather and activity dependant). One young person (from Pembroke School) has left the group, due to other commitments, leaving 6 participants.



Achievements so far include making wildlife boxes (bird and hedgehog), drum and rainstick making, creating a terraced work area in the wood, with wattle fencing, bow carving, willow lantern making, tree ID and bushcraft.

The young people are in the process of gaining their Bronze Youth Achievement Awards and wish to eventually progress onto Open College Network accreditation.

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>TARGET ACHIEVED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:</b>		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, all participants have produced several items.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Photographic evidence only to date – participants not comfortable with video recording.	
70% of activity participants have at least a 70% attendance rate.	57% had at least a 70% attendance rate. In all, the average attendance rate was 66.2%	4 boys from Pembroke School have been attending regularly. 1 left after the 4 <sup>th</sup> session 2 boys from Greenhill School only joined the group in session 5
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental knowledge</b>		Info not yet received, to be included in next report
<b>At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:</b>		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity		Info not yet received, to be included in next report
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again		
<b>Target:</b>	<b>Milestone:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
<b>Increased skills leading to improved employment opportunities for young people</b>		
At least 60% of participants receiving accreditation	All current participants have been registered for accreditation	6 participants
At least 60% of participants showing a positive attitude towards career development	57% had at least a 70% attendance rate. In all, the average attendance rate was 66.2%	4 boys from Pembroke School have been attending regularly. 1 left after the 4 <sup>th</sup> session

		2 boys from Greenhill School only joined the group in session 5
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Feedback from 1<sup>st</sup> half term:

Likes –        *“Working in the woods”*  
                   *“making bows and arrows”*  
                   *“Goat skin drums”*  
                   *“using the draw blade”*  
                   *“All of it”*

Dislikes -     *“nothing – it was all great fun”*  
                   *“rain”*  
                   *“Waiting for others to catch up.”*  
                   *“Tidying up”*

What did you make? –

*“dry stone walls”*  
*“posts for willow fence”*  
*“a fire”*  
*“cut trees for bows”*  
*“bird box”*  
*“a rainstick, I had to mark a chalk line, cut the bamboo, drill holes and use lots of different tools.”*

Leader feedback from term 1:

*“The group on a whole have developed friendship and trust within the group. The two groups from different schools have now begun to work together.*

*Each group member has attempted and completed each of the tasks to their own ability (for example):*

*Xxx has gained much confidence within the group and does not wander off as before.*

*Xxx has come to understand that good behaviour out with the group and in his other class work means has dose not loose out on the Tuesday (Tree Wise) group.*

*Simple tasks like the bird boxes were well appreciated by xxx’s parents. It’s one of the first times xxx has completed something and brought it home.*

*All group members have demonstrated the knowledge of tool safety and are always picking up safety faults within the group members and staff sometimes. Confidence in tool handling and greenwood work has come a long way since September.*

*It has been wonderful to be able to take groups out into the woods ... and not in front of a TV or computer.”*

## Support Worker Training:

1. A 2-day Emergency First Aid course was arranged for Support Workers. Due to the fact that Powys and Carmarthenshire Young Carers staff were already certified in First Aid, it was decided to base the course in Ceredigion, at Llwyncelyn Village Hall. Training was led by Strata Medical, a company who specialise in outdoor-based First Aid. 10 trainees attended. 9 of these successfully completed the course and were issued with a certificate that will be valid for 3 years. Unfortunately, one of the trainees was unable to attend on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day due to illness. He was issued with a First Aid Awareness certificate, valid for one year.

### Feedback

The table below shows the cumulative response of the 9 trainees who completed Strata Medical Feedback Forms:

	Poor 1 Low	2	3	4	Excellent 5 High
Did the training achieve its stated objectives?				1	8
Were you happy with the ratio of theory to practice?				1	8
Please evaluate the standard of instruction				2	7
Was the "instructor style" helpful to your learning?				1	8
Was sufficient account taken of equal opportunities?			1	1	7
Was the assessment structure adequate?			1	1	7
Please comment on the standard of teaching materials:					
Manual			1	1	7
Flipchart				3	6
Slides				2	7
Please comment on the standard of equipment				3	6
Please comment on the quality of the venue				5	4
Please comment on the standard of admin/organisation				3	6
Overall, please assess the quality of your course				2	7

Comments - *"Excellent instruction, clear, friendly, concise"*  
*"Excellent course, very hands on!"*  
*"Best first aid course I've attended"*

Suggestions - *"Maybe more sessions"*

2. A 1-day training workshop, "Safety and Support in the Woods" for youth workers, covering the safety and practical issues involved with running a woodland-based activity, was scheduled for the end of November. The workshop was to be led by Bob Shaw and Tony Eames, at Coed Tamsin, near Aberystwyth. However, due to other commitments, many of the youth workers that the course was aimed at were unable to attend; therefore, this course has been rescheduled for 2008.

3. Young Carers staff and volunteers have requested training in Willow work; they believe this would be a useful activity that they could offer to their young people over the long term, during club nights, etc.

**End of report.**