

The West Partnership presents:

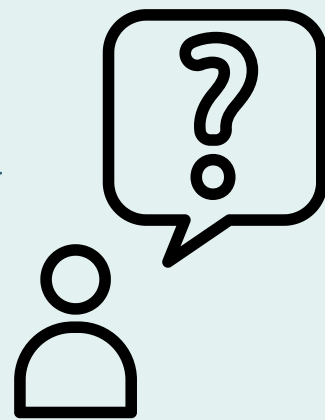
Community Learning and Development, North Lanarkshire Family Learning Bags



This storyboard details how the Community Learning and Development (CLD) team at North Lanarkshire Council responded to the needs of their families during social distancing measures. We hear how the team created bags that contained resources and activities that could facilitate family learning.

What was the problem?

North Lanarkshire's CLD team responded to the first COVID19 with flexibility. Their team supported families on personal devices and through socially distanced garden visits. Very quickly it became apparent that many families in their community were not well set up to engage in remote learning. As one of Scotland's 9 challenge authorities, North Lanarkshire has many areas of high deprivation. Access to learning resources in these areas was often a challenge.



Why is this important?

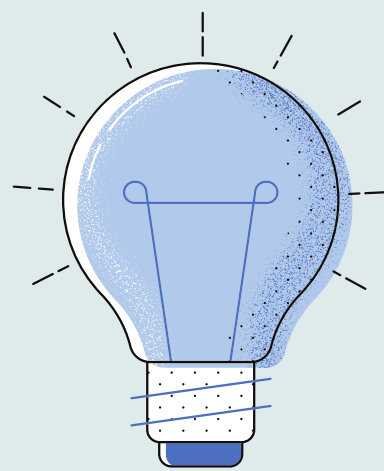
The impact of COVID19 has challenged all learners, yet its impact has not been felt equally. In order to continue work on closing the attainment gap, providing targeted approach to families from deprived areas is critical. The team needed to respond to those who perhaps did not have digital access and could not engage in digital learning. Providing tangible resources could solve this problem.



Aims of the change to practice

The project had a number of aims:

- 1) To ensure family learning and parental engagement could take place despite social distancing
- 2) To provide practical support to families from deprived areas who did not have access to digital learning resources



What did you do?

After assessing the context, the team decided to develop learning bags that would provide activities and resources. Bags were themed to reflect particular areas of learning (for example; health and wellbeing; literacy; numeracy; STEM). The packs included activity cards that would advise families on how to use the resources. For example, activities cards explained how playing cards and dominos could be used to develop numeracy. The team targeted particular areas and families to disseminate the bags. Bags were dropped off in a way which complied with social distancing measures. To support the families with using the bags, support was offered across the phone and also through socially distanced garden meetings. Throughout the process feedback from families was gathered and this informed the next bags that were collated.

What happened?

As of February 2021 the team had disseminated just over 1000 bags. Throughout the process families were asked to give feedback. The team repeatedly asked "how can we build on the previous bags?". The idea of season bags were generated by the families that had received the resources. In December 2020 the team delivered 350 learning bags across their community. These bags included cooking ingredients that stimulated family learning in the kitchen. Feedback from participating families has been overwhelmingly positive. The team facilitated a consultation group and also used survey monkey to find out what their families thought of the bags. A number of families have also progressed their involvement to achieve nationally recognised qualifications. As of February 2021, 65 children had received Hi5 awards from Youth Scotland



What are the key points you have learnt?

The team have identified a number of key points around their initiative. Firstly, providing support around giving out resources is of utmost importance. It is important support parents and children in their home learning. Secondly, the team believe it was important to have a strategic approach to giving out the resources. Resources were finite and getting them to the families most in need was pivotal. Thirdly, the team note that gathering feedback from families was key in keeping their bags relevant and in responding to the needs of their community.



What next for the project?

The team have identified a number of steps that they may wish to pursue in the future. They believe that post-Covid the use of learning bags could continue to promote family learning at home. The team have so far focused on providing family resources within their bags. They are considering parent and child specific items that may providing more specific learning opportunities for both parties. The team are also keen on continuing to identify families that could benefit from their learning bags.

