

MLA EAST OF ENGLAND LEARNING NETWORK PROJECT

Background Information

Service name	Luton Museums Service
Description of activity / project	Free Transport Scheme
Timescale (or ongoing)	Phase 1 – October 07 to March 31 st 08 Phase 2 – financial year 08-09
Main audience / user focus	Selected local primary schools
Partners	
Project / programme objectives	To provide free transport to Wardown Park Museum for schools in areas of high and multiple deprivation
GLO and GSO piloting objectives	GSO Stronger and Safer communities (2) Supporting cultural diversity and identity GLO Knowledge and Understanding GLO Skills – Social and Communication Skills GLO Enjoyment, Inspiration and Creativity GLO Attitudes and Values – Attitudes towards the Museum and Luton
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- What** were the key outcome(s) measured
Impact of visits on children's learning and enjoyment of learning
Impact on teachers' attitude and approach to using museum visits in their teaching
Impact of visit on perceptions of the museum and Luton in both adults and children
- How** you measured the extent to which the outcome / outcomes were met
(Include any of the following developed for your project: questionnaires; interview or focus group guides; observation schedules)
Comments cards and teacher questionnaire completed on the day of the visit
Interviews with teachers and group interviews with children a few days after the visit
- Who** you collected evidence from
Teachers, Classroom Assistants, other adults accompanying visits, Children
- Who** collected the evidence
Formal Learning Co-ordinator and Learning Officer
- How** you analysed the evidence

The comment cards and questionnaires responses were tabulated on a spreadsheet for ease of analysis and the interviews typed up. The evidence was then coded against GLOs, GSOs and outcomes.

6. **How** you presented the findings

(Include a summary of the findings)

I wrote a report using the data, presenting key evidence and conclusions for each outcome and an overall conclusion.

7. **How** you used, or plan to use, the findings

(For example to inform service development or for advocacy)

The findings will be used for advocacy within the service and in the region. They will also be used for service development both in terms of the continuation of the project and more broadly.

8. Comments on the piloting process

(Including what you learned, what went well and any challenges or problems)

The process has been very useful. I have gained in depth practical experience of using the GLOs and GSOs in a real work context. It has enabled me to re-evaluate the tools we use to evaluate our schools programme and the outcomes on which we focus. The regular meetings were important in that they provided milestones and enabled me to prioritise this element of the scheme in my workload. There were challenges in gathering the evidence. These included the reluctance of some adults to complete even the simplest comment card and the difficulty of arranging interviews with children and teachers in schools. Also even this comparatively small sample took a long time to get into a form in which it could be easily coded and analysed.

The adult comment cards generally worked well, albeit that there were a few individuals reluctant to complete them. The responses we gathered from the classroom assistants, dinner ladies and parents who accompanied the visits were really interesting and generated evidence of learning we hadn't anticipated. The card could still be improved but it is a tool we will use again.

9. Finally, give details of anything that surprised you about the piloting process.

It was the personal responses of the accompanying adults that surprised me; that the visit was a learning experience for them as well as the children. It seems to have surprised many of them too and I have decided to include a few comments from them in our next brochure along with the traditional comments from teachers and children.