

## FOREST EDUCATION INITIATIVE MEETING

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2005

Kate Jones	-	Great North Forest
Claire Longstaff	-	Groundwork N.E
Julie Fulton	-	Durham Wildlife Trust
Richard Hurst	-	Ewe Centre
Yvonne Conchie	-	Northumberland National Park
Richard Gilchrist	-	Forestry Commission
Lorna McLeod	-	YMCA Herrington Burn
John Allom	-	West Boldon Environmental Education Centre
Jeff Searle	-	Friends of Chopwell Woods
David Borrell	-	PGCE student Newcastle University
Paul Arrowsmith	-	PGCE student, Newcastle University

### Unable to attend

John McGowan	-	Gateshead Educational Business Partnership
Andrew Hampton	-	Northern Woodlands
Ian Robinson	-	Gill and Robinson
Karen Fisher	-	Local Nature Reserves Officer, Derwentside
Lester Crawford	-	Schools Regeneration Officer

### Possible contacts to explore

Thornley Woodland Centre Claire Smith? / John Hemstock  
Bill Quay Farm - Liz Beech ( Will know who to contact at Thornley)  
Debby Allen- Classroom Assistant, FS leader  
Cath Beddingfield, FS possible , Wingate  
School governors, LEA each Lea an officer Gateshead council should have list.  
Out of schools co-ordinator in Sunderland  
Forest schools

To provide Forest Schools you need

Providers these need to develop

Trainers at the same rate

Sites

Audience

John explained what he does/run. Delivers Forest Schools every Tue and Thur.  
Possibly could go and see what he does...how FS run.

Costs for schools £2 per child per session min £30

£18 - £35 per session if dealing with pupils out of school- ADHD etc

Lorna – extended schools budget, after school clubs or something different.

Special needs /Early needs FS activity based around 50% time outside, hence Greenstart, schools grounds. Richard run inset.

Specialists schools starting, setting up schools based on ethos.

Rural dimension, doesn't have to be rural but enables them to develop a broader environment issues, adds rural dimension to curriculum. Local farms/global dimension work.

Need to :-

Train more FS practitioners

Find more good quality sites

Richard,

FEI Big Lottery Fund Bid, 2007 –2010 - 5.5 million bid to have one FS National person and admin etc also Locally 50 officers.

Sites

Private land owners good but have safety implications, Public sites also other implications but want to promote site and publically managed

Possible to have cluster group who share delivery.

Kielder site good but far away, manage site for recreation. Local Authority in urban areas owning sites, Gateshead have sites and many welcome sites, eg Thornley

Would group be happy to work with council , is there capacity within the group. Organisational decision to pay for costs. Volunteers or self employed,,grants ? CVS support volunteer training.

Direction – sold to schools to help raise achievement

Get examples from schools in area-

- What barriers were met
- What done
- Safety issues/reg basis

PGCE lots of interest, No's for training day. Newcastle / Northumberland / Sunderland also PE department also Open University.

See university as a separate market, session aimed at just them.

Training day YMCA possibly contribute £400

John works with number of avenues, literacy/ numeracy through the environment

Long term aim to get trainers in area then train up trainers.

Difference in Forest Schools, gain confidence in different environment, smaller groups team building.

Forest Schools nearly a badge, term misleading, maybe outdoor school. But promotion branding a way of pulling stuff together

Every child matters

YMCA, John Muir Award pulls together Forest schools take community side of things and how to integrate into wilder places. John Muir lived in Yosemite set up National Parks appreciate wild places, Discover/ Explore / Share / Conserve

Yvonne thought good idea to have key person in school to have a relationship who would be trained in eco schools earth education john Muir etc relationship built up personal relationship . Sold to schools as an improvement, getting into schools

Claire different focus 4/5 schools in area

People interested in group

Lorna yes

Yvonne not interested in trees wood. Links could be made though

Claire yes

Richard yes could work in partnership see group as a key deliverer to give support to schools.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

9.30 GNF