



March 2014

Dear All

Welcome to our Spring update.

Learners and Coaches

Learner numbers are a bit low at the moment as a few people have dropped out and there haven't been that many new referrals since Christmas. Learners have given up for various reasons, mostly very valid, such as family pressures, employment etc. Megan is working very hard to spread the word (see below) so hopefully we will be able to encourage a few more people to come forward.

I am aware that we currently have coaches who haven't yet had a learner so don't forget that there are other ways you can support FRED, e.g. helping out at publicity events, marketing, fund-raising, joining the Management Team. Please let me know if you would be willing to get involved; we are a very small team and could really do with more help.

Management Team

Changes in the Management Team – our treasurer Frank recently decided that he would have to give up his involvement with FRED. He has done sterling work getting our finances in order and leaves everything much more organised than when he took it on. Janet Williams, another MT member, has kindly agreed to take over the role.

Funding

I'm happy to say that our finances are currently in a healthy state, so please don't forget to claim for any travel expenses incurred on FRED's behalf. If you need a claim form, please let me know.

We have a planning meeting on 9th April where we will be discussing a range of funding opportunities, as there are various pots of money available for small local organisations for which we can hopefully bid. We will also be discussing how to make best use of the website and planning for inclusion in summer events in the Forest.

Contacts Team

Megan has been working very hard making contacts over the past few months:

I had a very positive response from the Salvation Army in Broadwell, Coleford. Their premises are used by various groups and they have a second-hand shop with lots of people coming and going throughout the week so plenty of opportunity to promote FRED. They have offered space in their premises to use for reading sessions.

Green Square - basically a housing group but they support their tenants in various ways. My learner is supported by Green Square; Carol tells me Green Square have three projects in the Forest for 'struggling young mums' - a potential source of learners.

Forest of Dean District Council - Following a brief discussion with the leader of the council at the Blues gig, I have emailed him asking for suggestions how the council can help us to promote FRED locally.

Family Lives - used to be Parentline - supports families. If they respond I will emphasise how parents can bond with their children by reading together, this is not an option for non-reading parents.

Turning Point - addiction/ mental health charity. Does a lot of post-recovery work with clients to improve their skills to get them into work.

Gloucestershire Healthwatch - FRED's entry has been confirmed in this online listing.

Facebook

For those of you interested in Facebook, Megan has now set up a FRED page which needs to be used! Please log in and type FRED in the search box to get started. If you need any help, please ask.

Resources

I recently bought a few more books for our resource bank, some of which can be photocopied. They include the following:

The Rescue and The Telegram, 2 reading books with exercises

A crossword book

Everyday Worksheets books 1 and 2

Basic Comprehension

Copies of these will be put in Coleford and Lydney libraries and in the Forest Road Centre.

Learner Feedback

I recently sent out Learner Feedback forms to all working coaches asking for comments from their learners about how their experience with FRED has helped them. We are hoping to get some useful comments which can be used (anonymously) on the website and in other publicity material. I have received some already and would welcome a few more.

Many thanks as always for your continuing support of FRED.

Sheila Priest

Coach Co-ordinator