



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

To Whom It May Concern

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:

Clive Prior

Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrchol:

E-Mail:
E-Bost:

Our Ref:
Ein Cyf:

DCP/Conv/D2E/30.7.14

Your Ref:
Eich Cyf:

Date:
Dyddiad:

30th July 2014

Re: Down to Earth – Community Facilities Programme

The COASTAL Project has been a major initiative, part funded by the European Social Fund, under the auspices of the 2007/2014 West Wales and The Valleys Convergence Programme. As a Regional Strategic Project, covering the 6 local authority areas of Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, the Project was aimed at the promotion of vocational guidance, employment, skills training and lifelong learning opportunities for individuals who are currently economically inactive as a result of illness, disability, (Mental Illness, Learning Disability, Physical Disability, Sensory Impairment) substance misuse problems and/or the serious social disadvantage associated with the transition from long-term care into adulthood.

Throughout the course of the Project's 5 year life, the relationship with the Down to Earth Project has been exceptional. During that time, the COASTAL Project has referred a wide range of disadvantaged groups, including all of the above, from across the South West Wales region, plus groups of adults recovering from serious traumatic brain injury. All of these groups have been involved in the full range of personal development and training provided by the team at Down to Earth, with the majority of the training having delivered fully accredited qualifications to the individuals concerned.

The nature of the Down to Earth experience is unique, in its combination of traditional crafts and skills, blended with cutting-edge environmental technology, all of which made the experience for our participants one that will endure and provide excellent life skills. This unique and inspiring combination is strengthened by the welcoming and supportive staff team and their incredible



DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CYFARWYDDIAETH GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND SKILLS TEAMS ALLIANCE
CYNGHRAIR TIMAU CREU CYFLEOEDD A SGILIAU
17, West Street, Gorseinon, Swansea, SA4 4AA.
☎ ☎ TELEPHONE/TELEFFON: (01792) 222690 **National Rate** - 0844 892 0459
FACSIMILE/FFACSIMILE: (01792) 222699
<http://www.coastalproject.co.uk>



CONTACT THE ABOVE FOR THIS INFORMATION IN YOUR PREFERRED FORMAT
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Deddf Diogelu Data

Ystyrir pob cyfathrebu yn anghyfyngedig os na nodwch ar eich ateb 'Gwybodaeth Gyfyngedig'.

ability to relate to all participants, irrespective of disability or disadvantage and to engage them in meaningful activity, even though many come to the Project with no previous formal education or qualification. With regard to the COASTAL Project participants, this experience has often been the crucial factor in engaging some of the most difficult to reach client groups and supporting them to achieve an impressive array of outcomes.

Whilst the COASTAL Project itself is nearing the end of its life, many of the services and activities established by the Project will be sustained by the Third Sector partners and the sponsoring Local Authorities, as part of their efforts to modernise and restructure the way in which support services to those individuals with serious illness and/or disability are provided. The proposed new training facility at Little Bryn Gwyn is an inspired venture and will hopefully provide an extended range of opportunity for the above groups, which I am certain will be utilised by the current partners within the COASTAL Project.

Having worked alongside the Down to Earth Project over the past 5 years and seen the evidence of the difference that the Project can make to the life of the individuals using the service, I have no hesitation whatsoever in supporting their bid for funding for this incredibly exciting new venture.

D. C. Prior

Clive Prior,
Project Director.