



ABCD Cymru / DART INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COURSE
for DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE

May 2007



ABCD Cymru run a specialist service for Black and Minority Ethnic disabled young people (aged 14 – 25 years). Through our work with the young people, they were able to express a demand for IT classes.

Funding was identified and, in partnership with DART, a bid was submitted to the Social Risk Fund.

The aim was to improve the young people's knowledge and skills and enable them to progress further within the education and employment sector, as well as to further enhance their communication skills.



We therefore provided a safe and welcome environment, where familiar people would be present (ABCD Cymru staff), and where individuals could learn at their own pace with plenty of support at hand from qualified and experienced staff, provided by DART.

The course also gave the young people an opportunity to meet with other similar young people, and it was great to watch friendships forming and flourishing over the weeks.

The ICT course ran for a duration of 10 weeks and each session lasted 2 hours. We initially hoped to attract 8 young people, but found that most weeks more than 10 young people would want to attend.

This course enabled the young people to: use and access Word documents, edit texts, familiarise themselves with a variety of keyboard functions and changing the appearance of font and text, accessing the internet, and using email.



The feedback we have received from the young people and their families was very positive. The young people not only enjoyed the learning aspect, but also socialising with their peers. They felt much more confident about taking up similar opportunities with other agencies in future.

The young people identified the need for holding female only IT classes. ABCD Cymru are currently liaising with an agency called Vision 21, who provide vocational training for young people and adults with learning difficulties and hope to offer this in the near future. We hope to build on this experience.

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