



Institute for Outdoor Learning Professional Accreditation Logbook Parts 1 and 2

Contact Details

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IOL Region	MIDLANDS

IOL LOGBOOK PART 1

Qualifications, Achievements and Work History

Your Qualifications

Please list qualifications which are relevant/important to the work you do in the outdoors. Here are some examples of qualifications you can list – please list them in most recent date first

- FE/HE qualifications e.g. BTEC etc
- Vocational awards/status e.g. teaching/youth work qualifications
- National and Local Outdoor Leadership Awards, NGBs, Coaching qualifications etc
- REC First Aid etc

Please only list qualifications obtained (list training courses in later section)

Date	Qualification/Level/Subjects	Awarding Body or Institution
2008	HSE First Aid at Work	St Johns
1997	Orienteering Teacher Leader (lapsed)	BOF
2000	Day Skipper	RYA
1999	Senior Dinghy Instructor Tidal	RYA
1998	Keelboat Instructor Tidal	RYA
2003	Windsurf Trainer 1 Tidal	RYA
2008	Senior Windsurf Instructor	RYA
1999	Windsurf Intermediate Planing Instructor Tidal	RYA
2002	Race Coach Level 2	RYA
2003	T15 Race Trainer	RYA
1998	Yachtmaster (Theory)	RYA
1998	Club Race Officer	RYA
2000	Powerboat Instructor (Safety Boat)	RYA
2001	Kayak Level 1 Instructor	BCU
2001	Canoe Safety Test	BCU
2000	Single Pitch Award	MLTB
1988	National Diploma Computer Studies	BTEC
1994	BA Hons Philosophy	University of Essex
2006	Certificate of Teaching English to Adults	University of Cambridge
1997	Archery Leader (lapsed)	GNAS
2003	Youth Work (locally qualified)	JNC/Essex County
2010	WGL	MLTB
2013	MIAS Level 1 MTB	MIAS
2012	MA Outdoor Education (Ongoing)	University of Worcester

Your Work History

Include jobs, any gap periods etc – please list most recent first, with BRIEF details of what you did

Dates	Employer Location/Address	Job/Role, Type of work	Key achievements
Jun 12	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Head of Centre. 90 Acre SSSI woodland site with 70 beds and range of curriculum and adventurous activity.	Realignment of the centre to an adventurous programme. Bookings recovered. Re staffing centre.
JUN10 - JUN 12	Powys County Council Staylitttle & Ty Gwyn Outdoor Centres	Responsible for operation of Powys Outdoor Education Service - two centres - watersports based in the Hafren the other mountain based in the National Park.	Modernisation of the service, refocus of the centres during period of economic downturn. Partnership working with RYA and outreach projects.
FEB 10 - JUN 10	RYA	Regional Development Coach Eastern Region. Widening participation for adults. Assisting clubs and centres in sustainable development plans.	Reformation of Essex University Watersports Club.
SEPT 09 - JUN 10	Colchester Behaviour and Attendance Partnership Essex County Council	Support Worker Outdoor Education. Programmes of outdoor education to address needs of KS3 persistent absentees and with behavioural difficulties.	Development of the programme. Evaluation by schools showed progress in self confidence and esteem
MAY 08 – SEPT 09	Integrated Youth Services Essex County Council	Team Leader 2 Complementary Education. Programmes of informal education to address needs of KS4 low confidence/esteem/attendance	12 programmes of high quality. 72 young people involved with an average of 3 accreditations each. Improved behaviour and attendance. 'Excellent' Ofsted.
DEC 06 – MAY 08	Ministry of Education Slovenia	English Language Teacher. Project work with several schools to pilot innovative lessons in English. European project – dual and team teaching subject.	Project was judged a success and rolled out across vocational schools after trial in Gymnasia. Students engaged with language more.
SEP 05 – JUL 06	British Council, Slovenia	English Language Assistant. Working in a vocational school for economics and business. Teaching English	Qualified as English Teacher. Trialled new teaching methods. Staff Training.
MAR 05 – SEPT 05	Thomas Cook (Neilson)	Flotilla Skipper. Ionian/ Peloponnese/Croatia. Providing flotilla holidays for up to 50 guests on 9 yachts on a weeks charter. Training guests unused to yachts.	Excellent guest feedback to head office. Delivery trips to Italy and across Greece.

FEB 2000 – MAR 05	Essex County Council	<p>Level 3 Youth Worker - Young Essex Assembly. Responsible for the project management and implementation of the Young Essex Assembly –A project to assist schools in delivery of citizenship curriculum subject.</p> <p>Level 3 Youth Worker - Educational Visits (secondment). Responsible for setting up an inspection system monitoring of all education visits undertaken by schools and the Youth Service. Monitoring of adventurous activities undertaken by schools.</p> <p>Level 3 Youth Worker - Ardleigh Outdoor Education & Brightlingsea Marine Activities Centre Responsibility for all management aspects of two outdoor centres. Member of ECC Outdoor Education Panel. Responsibility for the programming and delivery of the long term programmes of social / development work with special needs groups and personal development programmes with corporate clients.</p>	<p>Delivery of the project meeting all targets. BITE card rolled out across Essex. Young people starting to take full control of the decision making process.</p> <p>Inspection system still in place.</p> <p>Successful running of centre on minimal budget. Improved participation from schools. Improved throughput of target age range. Development of new activities (archery/team building/ orienteering) and programmes (developmental programmes for PRU/Mental Health/Special schools)</p>
MAR 99- FEB 00	South West Water, Exeter, UK. Siblyback Watersports Centre, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall.	<p>Centre Manager - Responsible for the all aspects of the centre operation. Line manager for a staff of 8.</p>	<p>Development of centre into an all-round holiday centre and schools outdoor education centre with land based activities to extend season.</p>
JAN 97- MAR 99	Stubbers Adventure Centre, Upminster	<p>Sailing Senior Instructor. Teaching of watersports. Staff development. Corporate programmes. Adventure training and selection weekend</p>	<p>Update of equipment and teaching at the centre.</p>

Other Adventures/Achievements which are relevant to your work

Use this section to tell us about other things that you do/have done, which have had an influence on the work you do. These might be:

- *Work Placements or Projects, Trips and Adventures, Outdoor Activities and Hobbies*
- *Journeys, Expeditions, Family Adventures, Pilgrimages, Active Holidays, etc.*

Where, What, With who?	When, How long for?	Key Experiences, High Points, Achievements, Learning
Led of NF Triglav, SLO with family, decent across southern slopes	4 days, via ferrata for 1 day m	Didn't reach summit (100m off) as experience more important than the goal
Queen Galadriel, Cirdan trust, Corporate parenting ECC.	7 days along the South Coast plus pre visits day at Danbury Outdoors teambuilding.	Stepped in to lead the visit at last minute.
Solo ascent of NF Triglav, SLO	3 days, via ferrata for 1000m	First big solo via ferrata

Stuart Meese

Walking the Slovene Alpine Way 800km and 72 peaks from Italy to the Pannonian Plains	1/3 rd Completed	Long trek endurance.
Working as an Assistant National Windsurfing Coach with the Youth and Junior squads	1 week each year for 3 years	Masses of personal learning from higher level coaches.
Running Team 15 – regional windsurfing competitions first for East Zone now for Wales	5 years every summer 4 competitions plus and inter regional competitions	Prize giving. Talent spotting. Improvement.
RYA Regional Liaison Officer for Windsurfing and RYA Centre Inspector	3 years	Making a contribution to the sport and wider sailing community. Helping develop practice in other centres and learning new and innovative developments in return
RYA Zone Windsurfing Coach	2 years	Talent spotting and development of young people
Campaigning on Sigma 38 as crew. Pit, Mast, Nav, Bow	Since 2000	Travel and racing around Caribbean, 4xCowes week, Cork Week, 2x Round the Island, JOG races both inshore and offshore, delivery trips across South coast and Irish sea, trips across the channel. 1st Place Black Group and S38 Cowes Week 2013 37th Place overall in Round the Island 2011 out of 1800 43rd Place RTI 2013
Campaigning Laser SB3	1 Year	Local regattas and series racing in both class and IRC fleets

Anything else about your career history that you think is relevant.

Assisted with Brightlingsea Harbour's initiative to prevent accidents in the Colne Estuary and enforce the newly defined speed limit with a harbour patrol. – Advice, enforcement, prosecution of offenders. Occasional rescue to craft in distress.

Range of Outdoor Experience

Use this grid to record the different types of groups and individuals you have worked with. The more different types of participants and environments you can gain experience with, the better.

Year	Location/environment	Aim of programme, Activities	Group/individual needs Particular challenges	Your role & responsibility, key achievements
2012-2014	Worcestershire	Multi-activity Targetted Youth Development Teacher CPD	Everything I had ever seen a bit of below and then more! Deprivation and loss of hope.	Head of centre, programme and product designer designer, Mentor and adviser to staff, APIOL and RP facilitator.
2010-2014	Snowdonia National Park & Mid Wales	Full range outdoor activities with school and youth groups, adults, corporate and development. Expeditions DofE etc From gorge walking to competitive sailing problem solving to power kites. Specialist disability centre for sailing.	Everything I had ever seen a bit of below and then more!	Head of centre, programme and product designer designer, Mentor and adviser to staff, APIOL and RP facilitator.
2009-2010	Essex (low level and open country)	DofE Bronze.	85 participants.	Assistant.
2009	Essex, Suffolk, (activity based) Peak District (Open Country and Craggs)	Raise attendance, lower fixed term exclusions, low level behavioural difficulties	Young people. KS3 Persistent Absentees, Behaviour difficulties. Special Educational Needs	Programme designer, manager, budget holder, and deliverer. Leader. School evaluated to be a success.
2009	Essex (activity based)	Raise achievement & attendance. Wider key skills, confidence and esteem. Classroom and activity based – outdoor education.	Young people. Small cohorts of 8 in KS4. Severe behavioural issues and high educational needs	Programme designer, manager, budget holder, and deliverer. Leader. Statistical evidence of success alongside anecdotal. Less exclusions, higher attendance.
2009	South Coast (coastal sailing)	Personal & Social Development Sailing - tall ship	Looked after children 12-16	Group leader. Objective met, trip able to proceed. Satisfied young people,
2008	Essex (activity based)	Raise achievement, attendance, wider key skills, confidence and esteem. Classroom and activity based – outdoor education and classroom.	Young people. Small cohorts of 8 in Key Stage 4. Behavioural issues and high educational needs	Programme designer, manager, budget holder, and deliverer. Statistical evidence of success alongside anecdotal. Less exclusions, higher attendance.

2008	Peak District (Open Country and Crags)	Climbing, Walking. Personal & Social Development	Yr 11 leavers with little direction and ambition	Assistant group leader, climbing instructor. Accreditations achieved in AQA/ASDAN/ OCN - personal and social development for most.
2006	Alps, Austria and Slovenia. Mountainous (less than 2800m)	Enjoyment, achievement. Walking, climbing mountaineering	Young Adults 15-19	Leader. Enjoyment, expanded skills
2005	Ionian/Peloponnese/ Croatia Sailing (coastal and offshore sailing)	Enjoyment, Sailing/ yachting skills	Adults. High expectations to be filled.	Skipper, Instructor. Fleet kept in good order, extremely high guest satisfaction levels
2003	Weymouth (coastal)	RYA/UKWA National Championships	130 Junior windsurfers U16 Scale of operation, staffing, creating an enjoyable, fair race for all.	Principal Race Officer – Junior course. Participant feedback excellent, improvement on previous years.
2002-2004 2011-2012	Running Team 15 – Eastern regional youth windsurfing competitions (Inland and coastal sailing)	Windsurfing, 5 years every summer 4 competitions plus and inter regional competitions. Talent pathway selections	8-16 Year olds, parents Competitive and driven looking to gain maximum from the coach.	Coach, organised. Zone regenerated, 2 nd largest fleet young people entering zone squads and development squads
1994-2003	Sailing & Windsurfing Centres Siblyback UKSA Alton Water Bradwell OEC Ardleigh & Brightlingsea OEC (Inland, coastal sailing)	Outdoor Educations	Adults – various challenges and motivations for booking onto NGB courses. Instructor Training	Centre Manager, Trainer, Chief or Senior Instructor, delivery. Satisfied and returning customers
1998-2002	HMS Bristol (coastal sailing)	Sailing	Sea Cadets	Senior Instructor. Self belief. Developed the team, delivered qualifications to all.
1997-1999	Stubbers Adventure Centre (activity)	Developmental and corporate work	Businesses, adults	Organiser, delivery. Expanded skill range into developmental work.

IOL LOGBOOK PART 2

Continuous Professional Development

Continuously developing yourself, extending your knowledge and skills and making a contribution to the outdoor sector are the hallmarks of an outdoor professional. Please use this space to list the things you have done.

Key People, books and experiences which have influenced you and your outdoor practice

Circa 1997 Eric. Langmuir – key reference and learning document for land based skills
 2001 - Brathay Course – opened my eyes to developmental work within outdoor education rather than performing an activity for its own sake.
 2003 Jem Hall – Coaching style. Trainers course in 2003
 2000-2003 - John Perrott – Management style.

Conferences, workshops, training courses and events attended

Include here anything that you have not mentioned in other sections

Date	Title, Location, Duration
1997-2005, 2010	RYA Trainers, Coaches, Principals conference, 2 days, Countrywide
2002-2004	RYA Eastern Region Conference, 2 days, Eastern Region
2002-2005	RYA Windsurf Instructors Conference, Calshot
2001	Brathay Train the Trainers, 5 days, Wicken House, Essex
2000-2005, 2008	ECC Child Protection Certificate, ½ day, Mersea Outdoor Centre
1999	English Tourist Board Welcome Manager, 2 days, South West Regional Office, Hay
1999	Lantra Tractor Driving Training, 2 days, Bodmin Moor
1997, 2002	RCN/ECC Manual Handling Certificate, 1 day, Stubbers Adventure Centre
2004	ECC Youth Action Training, 2 days, Brentwood
2004	LAYSER Citizenship and Young People, 2 days, Cambridge
1999	NCF Coaching Children, ½ day, Calshot
2010	ASDAN Moderator, 2 days, Wolverhampton
2003, 2008, 2009	Educational Visits Leader and Coordinator, 1 day, Harlow Outdoors
2002	RYA Inspectors Course, 1 day, Portsmouth
1997	Environmental Education Workshops, 2 day, Stubbers Adventure Centre
2012	RYA Windsurf Trainers Revalidation
2012	RYA Centre Inspectors revalidation
2011	OLC course director course / update course
2011	NICAS course director
2012	CSRT Training & Paddle CPD course
2010	DofE Assessor
2011/12	Forest School L3
2013	IOL Bushcraft Training
2011	Trueways Extended Bushcraft Skills
2013	MTA Navigation refresher
2013	MTA Security on steep ground refresher
2013/4	CPD - canoe site specific
2013	IOL Bushcraft Training
2013	Beyond SPA
2013	ML Navigation Refresher
2013	ML Security on Steep Ground Refresher
2013	Cross cutting and Logging
2013	OLC Update
2014	AHOEC CPD day

Membership of Associations and Clubs (relevant to outdoor practice)

Please write whole name so we can understand what area it relates to

Association, Club or Body	Number of years, Achievements Your role/contribution to the organisation
Royal Yachting Association	Since 1996. Conference, T15, Onboard development Regional Committee Member. Race Coach, Regional. Inspector, Instructor
British Mountaineering Council	Since 1996, instructor
British Canoeing Union	Since 1996, instructor
Oesterreichischer Alpenverein	Since 2006, participant in local walks and climbs for sektion Wolfsburg
Institute of Outdoor Learning	Welsh Committee, APIOL Mentor, RPIOL IF
Association Of Heads Of Outdoor Learning Centre	Committee Member N Wales 2010-11
Mountain Training	Regional Chair Midlands 2014, Exec member Member

Helping to develop outdoor learning – “putting something back”

Outdoor professionals want to share good practice, make a contribution – yours could be, for example:

Sharing ideas with colleagues or the wider community

Volunteering (e.g. committees, conservation work, youth/faith groups etc)

Running workshops, writing articles etc

What, where and with whom?	Your contribution (hours, days, years?)
Midland Network of Networks	Organiser, instigator, presentor
Adviser to Powys H&S panel on Outdoor Education	2 years
Setting up Onboard Project with Clywedog Sailing Club	Bid writing, project management. Recruitment, programme design and targets.
Committee Member Clywedog Sailing Club	2 years - club development
Regional Development Coach, RYA East	Assisting clubs with putting into place a sustainable development plan to increase participation in line with RYA and Sport England aims of 'more adults sailing more often'.
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Volunteer Colchester Townhouse	Assisting local DofE Scheme to both develop myself as a practitioner within this arena but also give back to young people some of the experience I have.
Regional Coach, RYA East	Developing participation in sailing, windsurfing in eastern region. Production of regional newsletter, zone forum and coaching news for region. Centre Inspector.
Essex University Sports Centre	Technical adviser on waters sport issues and club practice.
Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster Sea Cadet Units	Senior Instructor for yearly camp at HMS Belfast, Portsmouth. 3 Fleets with 60 young people on the water

Future Professional Development

Strengths – What I offer/am good at, at this point in time

Able to clearly to define vision and underlying values to it. Able to undertake research and prove worth of outdoor education offered.

I am able to communicate a vision of the centre I want to achieve. Able to define a centre making it visible, proactive and accountable.

A contributor to debate outside of the confines of the centre reaching into regional development plans both for my own county and Wales. Growing confidence in my own voice but with keen ear to learn from peers.

Still learning, evolving and formulating a better vision of the products and learning I want to achieve based on my contact with others, debates with peers and stakeholders.

Able to manage a large range of offsite, expedition and high adventure activities, design policy and practice for others, mentor and coach both my lead and junior team.

Leader development training - teachers, youth workers to enable them to also contribute to outdoor education. A missionary for getting outdoor education in the playgrounds,

Ability to manage risk against benefit. Provide the right environment for adventure and outdoor learning.

Ability to lead – I am a confident decision maker and with a sense of direction of what I want to achieve, able to direct and encourage others in my team to adopt the same direction and work with me to gain these goals.

Ability to teach – excellent communication skills and knowledge, a range of tool and techniques for getting these over. Empathy with the learner and their style.

Ability to inspire – Enthusiasm for learning and the sports involved in delivering. Passionate about the outdoors as an environment to stimulate and enjoy.

Ability to listen – receptive to feedback, either direct or statistical, always willing to modify and adapt to work towards a better solution.

Good with disaffected young people – fun, consistent, fair and firm. Ability to relate, listen and understand their frustrations, fear and motivation driving the lack of engagement, behaviour or needs created. Willing to work with children at a more 'adult level', appealing to their reason and understanding. Happy to give them responsibility and consequences that are real and not artificially constructed

Good range of outdoor skills or tools – I am multi-skilled across several disciplines allowing me to select the right tool for the job, weather, environment, student. Also stops me becoming jaded and bored with teaching in just one area.

Areas where I need/want further development

Wider and broader strategic view of outdoor education. Ability to practice strategic decision making

Alternate views and operation of outdoor education - comparative from other european countries of how they use outdoor education.

Leadership - still a way more to go especially in moving style to more emotional leadership.

Out of touch with developments in the sailing arena due to period overseas. Some technical skills have suffered. Lack of personal windsurfing with competing activities for time has meant this arena has suffered.

Current role is stagnant in term of development as an outdoor practitioner. No CPD offered in my current post so looking to develop other areas.

Where you are going next in your career – what are your goals?

What development activities are you going to undertake to help you get there?

Work with local windsurf trainer to update on syllabus and become current again. Attend regional conferences and assist work of regional development officer.

Re validate windsurf trainers, race trainers qualifications.

Gain WGL assessment and then quickly convert to ML.

Move jobs to one with prospects and development built-in, post must have element of challenge intrinsic to the job along with chances to externally develop.

I have just started as the Manager of Powys' Outdoor Education Centres and am looking forward to putting the learning I have found here into practice.

I am 2 years in as the new Head of Centre for the Frank Chapman Centre. Worcestershire.

The centre had stagnated and 'lost it's way' according to those close to it and has not had any leadership for the previous period.

This presented a particular challenge not dissimilar to that taken on in Powys. My aims were to create a vision with the staff and assist them towards achieving it for the centre, develop the centre with more activity focused goals and modernise and restructure the workforce to enable the centre to better meet the need of the Borough it serves.

I also want the centre to return to being a 'beacon' - acknowledged for it outward looking work in the field of outdoor ed.

I am now 2 year into this post and settled in. Centre is developing yet still has a long way to go. I am now having the opportunity to work on service wide projects overseen by the Service Head and would like to develop these more to push the service forward.

Personal Statement

Philosophy

A personal philosophy is greatly derived from an early affinity with atheist existential writers. The freedom to choose without reference to a morality or higher truth that this presents I find liberating, but it comes consequences, the responsibility of a choice for all, as a choice for all mankind. It helps to explain the separation between myself and the norms and role(s) I must adopt in a professional life.

Values

I have chosen my values from my experiences and culture, my exposure to them and their abuses. As such they have moved over time, maturity and with my associations and development.

As much as I value debate in forming my values, I value the ability to be cordial. The ability to debate passionately, disagree and remain cooperative and amenable is a skill and something to be valued. This value I cannot find any other origin in than my own personal comportment and a strongly held belief and experience that being a bit nicer to each other helps. I have little time for those who profess to speak their mind as a cover for rudeness.

I value fairness, rather than equality. To be fair involves a differentiation and distinction of a persons individual needs. Equality gives each the same which can be unfair. However fairness is a moveable feast, far harder defined by subjective ethics, upbringing, and cultural norms whilst equality can be measured, fixed and defined and a much less precise tool. This is often a controversial stance - to my mind, it is the act of levelling the scales. In action as a practitioner this would be the basis for my differentiation in sessions - helping some children more so that the outcomes were similar, a stance I have often had to defend to those seeing disaffected youths getting 'all the fun', as a leader this can mean that my actions are seen as unequal but in enabling my staff in areas such as training, where to raise all to the standard needed, time effort and resources are allocated differently.

My 3 main themes

RISK:

My fascination with risk is intrinsic to who I am. I find my day to day work and personal littered with decisions about managing risk. I still actively seek opportunities of real risk and find in managing risk my thresholds are generally above those to whom I work with.

CHANGE:

I enjoy change and the study period I am undertaking is helping to guide this - treading the line of the competing commercial needs v ideological (mine and others) stances.

I seek roles to drive change, and find nothing more challenging than the statement that 'we have always done it this way' or 'we have tried that and it doesn't work'

LEADERSHIP:

Whilst not a (to my mind) confident leader my concern motivation is to improve. I do not readily adopt a delegator leadership style but do seek to listen to the arguments and discourse and then progress to a decision. I am never afraid to reverse a decision if it is then wrong but my desire/rush to make a swift one can be the undoing of many.

When considering my style I recognise that I prioritise the three elements in order: task, the team, the individual and this predisposition can often bring me in conflict with the team looking for a more emotional / person centred management. However, the reverse is true in my practice as an outdoor educator where I see the individual engaging with the process as paramount concern and the task as disposable to obtain the right process.

Criteria Statements

Innovation

2013-14 Moving academic to practical: Development of a service wide young persons feedback and validating an new academic tool, helping move it into widespread and practical use. Part of which was also to give young people a voice in residential services development and make the tool accepted for a wider audience. Second part was to contribute to knowledge in the sector by testing if adventure had a measurable impact on the recorded outcomes for young people - Presented and published these results.

With Plas Dol Y Moch, with my contribution as a AHOEC working group member, we are looking at rolling out this tool, derivatives of it and developing it for all AHOEC members to access using AHOEC funding.

2011-13 New way of working: Partnership with WYA/Welsh Government LAPA funders/ Powys Council to develop new ways of developing sailing/windsurfing in Mid Wales. Formation of a new joint venture (Sport Wales, Powys CC, WYA) jointly employing OnBoard coach to work with single sailing club in Powys, following initial development work done by myself with the club. Mentored and provided structure, direction and resources to the coaches to create a strong a vibrant youth sailing scene in at the club with an introverted, aged and decreasing demographic. Developed school links to the club and extra curricula sessions and vital pathways onwards to membership.

The lasting effect - the club's success knows no bounds! With now several RYA National Squad members, multiple awards for 'most developed' and 'best club' trophies both in Wales and Powys judged against all sports, and it is providing thousands of opportunities for young people to access sailing and become club members.

DEVELOPMENT

2013-14 NETWORKING: Working with AHOEC Central, Worcestershire Environmental Education Liaison Group (WEEL), CLOtC, IOL Central to provide a joint 2-3 meeting per year of practitioners and leaders in the Midlands to share projects, ideas and report and present, set up in conjunction with John Rymer.

The first 2 meeting have been successful with 'membership' growing - 20+ at the meetings, and the mailing list (100+) and communication links are growing between members. It has trebled from 3 to 9, the regular attendance of AHOEC Central region and revived interest - now 5 new members.

The network meetings bring together many disparate sections of the outdoor learning community that rarely know about each other let alone sit in a room together, from teachers to forest school practitioners, PGL managers, RSPB rangers and media consultants. The discussions have been lively and challenging ranging from debates about intrusive risk assessment to the value of recording outcomes and space is given to ensure there is time to mingle and network and several new connections have been born of it. I have set up the 'Groupspace' to enable better communication and dissemination of information between us. Members are just now using to advertise and notify other members of events. And other members are also hosting the next meetings.

2013-14 GETTING INTO SCHOOLS: I have provided several workshops for Sandwell and Birmingham teachers / leaders and play workers in the use of outdoor education in their own setting (schools, playgroups, centres in events in similar formats as the IOL use. Attendance has been in the 40+ region.

From this I have specifically mentored 3 primary schools through the development of their staff, improvement of their sites and resources to provide provide basic environmental and outdoor Learning. I have also trained 70+ trainee teachers from Wolverhampton Uni in the basic use of outdoor learning in the classroom.

None of the above is my job - but outreach will pay forward - I hope.

REFLECTION

2012-14 MY TEAM: Worked with team through improved feedback (internal/external), regular 'community of practice' meetings, peer and management observation, to develop their practice and provide motivation and opportunity to access APIOL (1 mid process, 2 new this year) Peak of this was creating a new vision for the centre. My incoming was a transition period for the centre in which prompted a wide ranging examination of the teams attitudes to outdoor learning, our roles, risk and revitalising our product.

2013-4 MY PEERS: Worked equally with peers and service heads to develop a workable vision for a difficult period whilst campaigning for valuing children's voices in the shape of the service - from leading the reversal of our inward focus, engaging with our users in service shaping, resource planning and feedback. Also working to make IOL accreditation part of the SRES JD (only part successful)

2013-4 NEW BLOOD: Working with Kidderminster College outdoor education students teaching sustainable outdoor practices and Centre Assistants within the centre to mentoring through reflective processes and develop reflective techniques. Using RPIOL to accredit and structure.

SHAPING and CREATING

2012 Sandwell departments for targeted youth development, day visit outdoor service, DofE, play and residential outdoor education were not active users of each others services or resources and not communicating. I actively sought, the opportunity, ability to bring these groups together to discuss ways forward and share resources, foster links, share staffing and understand each positions. This was fairly successful with now the Youth Service and SRES joint working on groups and communicating (but not as much as they should still!) Staff and resources sharing and involving each other in workshops with Play Service (Forest School), training and recruitment. Still an ongoing process - but gathering momentum.

2013 In a new role as AHOEC Central chair during the consultation for Birmingham Centres I was immediately active to ensure that the consultation was widely distributed and that the process to which the centre were being subjected to was well known. As the officers of BOEC were unable to speak out for themselves I used my position as Central Chair of AHOEC to make the case to AHOEC executive that there should be a formal national response to such a large scale closure. I hope my little part added to the

overwhelming response to keep the centres and EOC/AHOEC did return a very comprehensive statement to Birmingham however it was not enough and my involvement was too little too late to persuade the council to provide a better outcome. I am now working with the AHOEC exec to provide a pre-emptive set of advice for future councils to guide them through 'spinning out' any provision in a manner that will provide better outcomes for users and centres themselves than has happened in Birmingham.

2013-14 NETWORK (Content): The Midland network of networks meetings set up in conjunction with John Rymer provides a forum to bring together many disparate sections of the outdoor learning community that rarely know about each other let alone sit in a room together, from teachers to forest school practitioners, PGL managers, RSPB rangers and media consultants. The discussion have be lively and challenging ranging from debates about intrusive risk assessment to the value of recording outcomes and space is given to ensure there is time to mingle and network and several new connections have been born of it. I have set the group up with a formal virtual space with access to subgroups being formed to enable better communication and dissemination of information between us.

References:

Ruth Iliffe for Development in Clywedog Sailing Club
National Development Officer
Welsh Yachting Association
Plas Menai
National Watersports Centre
Caernarfon
Gwynedd, LL55 1UE
ruth.iliffe@welshsailing.org
07824 990696

Colin Wood for Reflection / Innovation
Course Leader - MA Outdoor Education / IOL Regional Chair
University of Worcester
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Richard Oakes for Shaping & Creating / Networking
Service Manager
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