

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Project Name: THE BALSAM PROJECT

Project Number: SATS 1 & 17

Start Date:
13.9.06

Finish Date:
31.3.07

The logo for Somerset Rural Renaissance is a green square with a thin black border. Inside the square, the words "Somerset", "Rural", and "Renaissance" are stacked vertically in a white, serif font.

Introduction and Scope

1. This Final Evaluation Report requires **Wincanton Community Venture** to provide a report on the success or otherwise of **The Balsam Project** in achieving its stated aims and objectives. It moves beyond the scope of the Quarterly Progress Reports already completed for each claim, by reviewing the wider impact of the project. Please refer to the guidance notes

Project Aims and Objectives

2. Please provide a brief narrative summary of the project's success or otherwise in achieving its broad aims and objectives as given in your original application and your M&E plans as appropriate. Describe how you achieved them, and if you didn't achieve some of them please explain why.

The project was entirely successful in providing a fully equipped training kitchen and a Children's Centre Nursery facility.

Immediately post completion the first cooking training course was run with young offenders as planned and this was followed by use from a range of other groups. It has proved a very popular venue for demonstrations and creative activities and also for events where food and outdoor space are required, as it opens onto the gardens.

The Children's Centre Nursery was completed in March 2007 and the Nursery was running by September 2007. It provides full day care for children aged 0 – 5 with 6 places for under 2's and 30 places (daily) overall.

Project Outputs

3. The agreed Outputs for **The Balsam Project** are set out below. Please report on the progress the project has made in achieving these Outputs, including, if relevant, detail of how the project overcame unforeseen difficulties in relation to delivering on the Output targets. Where possible outline the tools you used to measure them

4. Outputs Summary Table.

Output Type	Target total All years	Total achieved to date (31 March 08)	Future years (08-09)
1	8	8	
1a	2	2	
3	1	0	1
6	50	62	25
11	1	1	
12	1	1	
13		2443	3000

5. Report on Outputs Progress:

The business created (the Children's Centre Nursery) was established in September 2007 and has therefore been running for nearly a year, employing 8 members of staff. The advent of the Children's Centre has meant the creation of one permanent F/T post (Family Support Worker) and the safeguarding of 2 F/T posts, Receptionist and Children's Centre Manager.

A number of courses have been run in the new facilities supporting skills development have been run, including English for Speakers of other Languages, Cooking Skills, Spanish, Make Your Experience Count and Assertiveness training, bringing the numbers of people assisted in skills development to 62.

The new Nursery and the training kitchen accounted for the new facility and the new service respectively and the number of recorded uses overall to March 2007 was 2443.

Project Outcomes

6. The agreed Outcomes for **The Balsam Project** are set out below. Please report on the progress the project has made in achieving these Outcomes, including, if relevant, detail of how the project overcame unforeseen difficulties in relation to delivering these Outcomes:

7. Outcomes.

Outcomes Summary Table:	
Outcome	Progress on Achievement
Developing cooking skills	This has been a highly successful project which has just been allocated continuation funding. 7 courses were run Jan – July and a further 5 will run Sept to Dec. All focused on healthy food choices on a low budget and targeted groups to reduce health inequalities.

Parenting Skills	It has proved very difficult to engage young parents in any type of training activity (with the exception of cooking) however a very successful young parents peer support group has been established which enables all workers involved with it to deliver specific parenting and health messages informally in a familiar setting.
Flexible teaching space	This has worked well and the kitchen has been well used by Adult Learning and Leisure, Yeovil College, Child Contact, the WRAP group (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) Weight Management group as well as all the Cooking Skills Groups
Weight Management	A peer support group managed by the Balsam Centre for people wanting a holistic approach to losing weight. Weekly weigh –ins, diet and nutrition advice and physical activity underpinned by support from the project worker and other group members. This helped 21 people to lose weight, take more exercise and eat a more healthy diet.

Wider Impact

8. Please comment on the wider impact of the project across the region/area. Please also report on any evidence that you may not already have used.

9. Commentary on the Project's Wider Impact:

The facilities provided by the project have helped to establish the Balsam Centre firmly as the leading Centre for integrated health, social and educational provision in this area of Somerset. Since its completion, as an exemplar of its type the Centre has been the subject of a visits from Education, members of County and District Councils and the voluntary sector and local partnership organisations. The England Chair of the BIG Lottery visited in June 2008 and was particularly impressed with the opportunities to access different types of services which underpin physical and mental health and wellbeing in the community. He intends to take a personal interest in the project in the future.

Ongoing Sustainability

10. Where relevant, please report on the ongoing sustainability of the facility/service delivered by this project. Where project completion also represents the termination of a service delivered by the project funding, this section is not applicable.

11. Review of Ongoing Sustainability.

The ongoing partnership commitment from Somerset County Council for delivery of Children's Centre Services has made a huge difference to the sustainability of the project as a whole. This was followed by a financial commitment from the Primary Care Trust for 08/09 with a view to a longer Service Level Agreement. In addition the local health centre has approached the project with a view to funding some activities e.g. weight management. The project itself is able to generate an income stream through the letting of office space to tenants and rooms for sessional activities.

Publicity

12. Please report on any key publicity undertaken. You should make specific reference to any SWRDA/Somerset Rural Renaissance inclusion in any publicity. Please include copies of any publicity materials or indicate if already provided.

13. Report on Publicity Undertaken.

As this has been investment in a capital project contained within a larger capital project, both of which have been funded by several funders, explicit publicity for RR alone has not been appropriate, however all partners, staff and Board of trustees have been entirely aware of the key role of Rural Renaissance. Press releases and interviews have acknowledged the support of Rural Renaissance. The Balsam Centre would be delighted to display a plaque if one was available.

The Project Experience

14. Please report on the project experience overall. Please indicate what you would do differently in future and in addition include anything else you think will help to show how you spent Rural Renaissance funding eg letters of support from beneficiaries, businesses or users, other reports etc. You should consider including lessons learned that could be disseminated to other Organisations delivering related projects or those using a similar delivery model. Please also include suggestions as to how relationships between your organisation and the beneficiaries of the project and also your organisation and Somerset Rural Renaissance could be improved/revised. This will help inform our thinking on future funding programmes.

15. Review of Project Experience.

The project would simply not have been possible without RR and it has given Wincanton Community Venture the ability to complete an ambitious scheme to develop new opportunities and health and social services in its area of benefit. It has raised the profile of the organisation.

Whilst all the RR staff have been extremely helpful and supportive, some of the processes

that underpin the reporting are quite demanding and potentially difficult to deliver e.g. names and details of people accessing courses run by third parties.

It may be difficult because of the variety of projects, but for those similar to ours perhaps a standard monitoring sheet could be developed, which would help project managers to collect all relevant data on beneficiaries from the outset. For those projects with outputs rolling forward it would be good to agree an end date for collection of data at the outset.

One further comment is that use of e.g. colour on forms to differentiate quarters might be quite useful for managers running more than one project in more than one year.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contained in this claim and supporting document/s is true and accurate.

Signed		Date	08.08.08
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