

Tower Hamlets

Social Services Strategy Group, 27 Birkbeck Street E2 6LA

Acting Director of Social Services: Ruth Hindley



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My Ref. jldocs\ltd332.....

Your Ref.....

Caroline Burns
and David Belshaw
Half Moon Young People's Theatre
Dame Colet House
Ben Jonson Road
London E1 3NH

19 June 1990

Dear Caroline and David

Positive Knowledge Project

It is a pleasure to put on record our admiration for what you have achieved through the Positive Knowledge Project over the past 6 months.

Our two Authorities have been concerned for some time to engage young people in the issues that HIV creates for them. Your project has on all counts been a very effective way of doing that for a substantial number of local young people. In doing so it has also complemented the rest of our Young People's Prevention Programme activities - as we had stipulated it should.

The speedy way in which you brought the project from an outline proposal to a fully consulted programme ready for implementation impressed us from the beginning. Since then one of the most positive features of the project has been its flexibility. In adapting to the differing requirements of schools, youth groups, special schools and intermediate education centres, you have shown a sensitivity to both staff and participant needs which has, I believe, been the cornerstone of your success. The fact that you have so many schools in Tower Hamlets requesting follow-up workshops is further testimony to this success.

The feedback has indicated that your workshops have effectively raised the difficult issues surrounding sex, sexual identity, relationships and drug use. You have done this in ways which have encouraged participants to make realistic choices about their own lives and practices.

One of our concerns from the outset was the accessibility of your project to all of our local communities. Your use of single sex workshops and your provision of workpack materials in 5 languages have obviously been very significant in achieving this. The way in which your written materials and dramatic techniques have complemented one another has further increased your impact and accessibility.

A central issue for our Authorities has necessarily been the question of value for money. In agreeing a 6 month contract with you we were

allocating a substantial portion of our budget to this work. The Steering Group set up by the DHA Health Promotion Service and by Social Services is, in the light of the project evaluation, confident that Positive Knowledge has been a good investment. We would encourage you now to publicise the project further afield and make your skills and experience available to others.

With all good wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Louw". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Jonathan Louw
HIV/Aids Co-ordinator
Tower Hamlets Local and Health Authorities