

MINUTES
DofE DEVELOPMENT GROUP MEETING
 Wednesday 16th September 2009
 Grendon Hall

1	<p>Present: David Balazik (Northampton High, DB); Ian Fraser (Bishop Stopford, IF); Jenny Green (GAH + leader, JG); Kurt Perryman (Chairman, H&S, KP); Anne Powell (Development Work, AP); Lesley Tebbutt (MAH, LT); Andrea Whiting (Wollaston, AW).</p> <p>Apologies: Johanna Russell (Expeditions Co-ordinator, JR)</p>	
2	<p>Matters Arising: IF asked if he could have another copy of the Expedition booklet. The progress of individual ID cards should be queried with Jo – people need to know reason for the hold-up. It is now possible to find Grendon Hall on Facebook (expedition info sharing).</p>	JR
3	<p>Chairman's Report: KP reported that the new Approvals system is now up and running. IF stated that his EVC hadn't been sure whether the new system was in operation yet. AW asked for confirmation that those who aren't in the EVC system can continue to send their approval requests to Jo - agreed. DB queried the definitions of unfamiliar country in relation to Category B and Category C notifications. AW and KP explained.</p>	
4	<p>Expedition Co-ordinator's Report: AP gave Jo's report in her absence. Locally designed leaders' questionnaires will be handed out during visits to schools, please ensure these are returned quickly. There had been a query about the NCC Transport Policy. KP reported that he had checked with Mick Jones, the NCC Transport Manager. DB had a query about who was allowed to train and supervise at Gold level relating to page 15 of the Expedition Booklet. He wondered about WGLA candidates who might not have any camping experience. AP said that we had a training policy of not allowing DofE leaders to go for NCC sponsored WGLA training or assessment without gaining the BELA first. This means that they should have had both BELA and DofE experience before they attempt WGL training. AW said that it was possible to send 'special' requests via Bob Burson. AP said that if DofE leaders wished to put in for funding for BELA, First Aid, Walking Group Leader or Mountain Leader training or assessment, we'd be happy to consider their request as long as we have budget available. Any contribution from school/organisation is also welcome. Jo would welcome suggestions on how to share leaders amongst</p>	JR

	<p>groups that might not have expedition qualified leaders at any given time.</p> <p>Jo is going to offer Open Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions in the 2010 season; and would appreciate any offers of help.</p>																			
5	<p>Expedition Worker's Report:</p> <p>The annual Presentation at the Lighthouse Theatre in July went well. The DofE team intends asking young people what format they'd like the event to take next year.</p> <p>A second BEL Award course ran during August. It is planned to hold a third course before the end of March 2010. There is already a waiting list.</p> <p>There are now 16 Accredited Expedition Assessors in Northants. The DofE team is holding further Expedition Assessor Accreditation courses depending on demand from local leaders.</p> <p>The eDofE went nationwide from 1st September 2009. Northants DofE team will be holding training sessions to encourage leaders to use this system for new participants in their groups.</p> <p>The new groups at Moulton School and Corby Business Academy are now active. New leaders have volunteered at Kingsbrook and Danetre Schools. They are currently taking part in DofE training before starting DofE groups.</p> <p>The Access Organisation initiative ended on 1st September 2009.</p> <p>Completions seem to be going well with 130 to date: 92 Bronze, 27 Silver and 11 Gold. These are the figures on DEAMS. There have been 15 completed Gold books sent to the office so far this year, with a further 6 carried over from 2008 – 09. The Gold figures do not tally with the database as we are still waiting for expedition numbers or GA6 completion forms from some Gold participants.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>April to August 2008</td> <td>66 Bronze</td> <td>37 Silver</td> <td>1 Gold</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April to August 2009</td> <td>84 Bronze</td> <td>25 Silver</td> <td>11 Gold</td> </tr> </table> <p>Forthcoming events:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Introduction to DofE training</td> <td>22nd September 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expedition Assessor Accreditation</td> <td>29th September 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7th October 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>County DofE leaders' update meeting</td> <td>11th November 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regional Leaders' Conference</td> <td>21st November 2009</td> </tr> </table>	April to August 2008	66 Bronze	37 Silver	1 Gold	April to August 2009	84 Bronze	25 Silver	11 Gold	Introduction to DofE training	22 nd September 2009	Expedition Assessor Accreditation	29 th September 2009		7 th October 2009	County DofE leaders' update meeting	11 th November 2009	Regional Leaders' Conference	21 st November 2009	
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6	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>AP sent a piece of paper around the meeting asking for comments or perceptions of DofE for Melanie to take forward to Peter Westgarth, DofE Chief Executive, when she met him in October.</p> <p>AP said that she would like feedback from young people about what form they would like the next Presentation to take. There are some simple questionnaires if this will help.</p> <p>AP reminded the meeting about the Leaders' Update meeting to be held at Grendon Hall on Wednesday 11th November.</p>	AP																		

	<p>She also reminded the meeting about this year's Regional Training Day at Stafford University on Saturday 21st November that is aimed at 'new' DofE leaders. There are still a few places left. Please let AP know if you have any new leaders who might be interested.</p> <p>Debbie Felstead, our Regional support, has offered e-DofE training in county for interested leaders. Dates and venues to be confirmed.</p> <p>It was asked whether e-DofE could be viewed as a spreadsheet – we think not.</p> <p>AW reported that Naomi Martin is now on maternity leave.</p> <p>AW raised the 'rarely cover' issue – it has since been raised as an issue through Region, and taken on to Windsor Head Office for discussion.</p> <p>The meeting suggested that a document should be sent to Heads suggesting including DofE in budgeting for the 2010 – 2011 school year so that money is available for next season.</p>	<p>AP</p> <p>AP</p> <p>MC</p>
	<p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.30pm. Kurt thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Date and time of next meetings: Wednesday 25th November 2009, 7pm, Grendon Hall. Wednesday 27th January 2010, 7pm, Grendon Hall.</p>	