

PLAYING THE DIGNITY GAME

“Tidy Gin” Games Pack

Feedback comments on why people enjoyed playing a particular game

“It was fun and I learnt some things”

“It was easy to play and I liked the pictures”

“Enjoyed the scrabble, good to get you thinking”

“It does raise your awareness and it is fun.”

“Enables clients with different disabilities to enjoy activities”

Why did we do this?

Ensuring people are treated with Dignity and Respect is a basic Human Right, yet reports by the Commissioner for Older People In Wales and The Patients Association in to “Dignity in Care”, highlight there is often a gulf between good and poor practice in Wales. We wanted to develop an informal, easy to use, yet effective, way of generating discussion, challenging stereotypes and raising awareness of the issues around Dignity, Respect and Equalities, that could be used by older people in social settings.

Who did it?

The project was collaboration between Caerphilly’s 50+ Positive Action Partnership, Caerphilly county borough council’s Equalities Team and Social Services Directorate and Newport City Council’s Older People’s team.

How did we do it?

We spoke to a number of older people about the games they like to play. We then settled on 4 simple games Scrabble, Pairs, Wordsearch and a Quiz. We chose these because they were relatively easy to reproduce and had the potential to adapt or develop in a way that ensured they reflected the Dignity, Respect and Equalities agenda. We also produced a set of stickers to brand the game sets that used a range of images that reflect positive images of all the equalities strands and also used Caerphilly’s Age Is Just a Number! images, which promote positive images of older and younger people.

We then piloted the games within a range of structured and social settings. Including; a school setting, a 50+ lunch club, residential homes and day centres and collated the feedback from the 133 feedback forms we had returned to us.

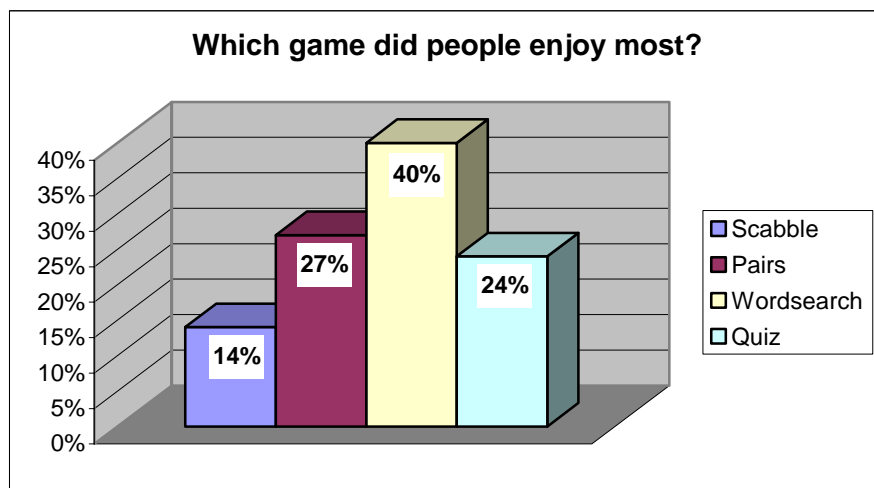
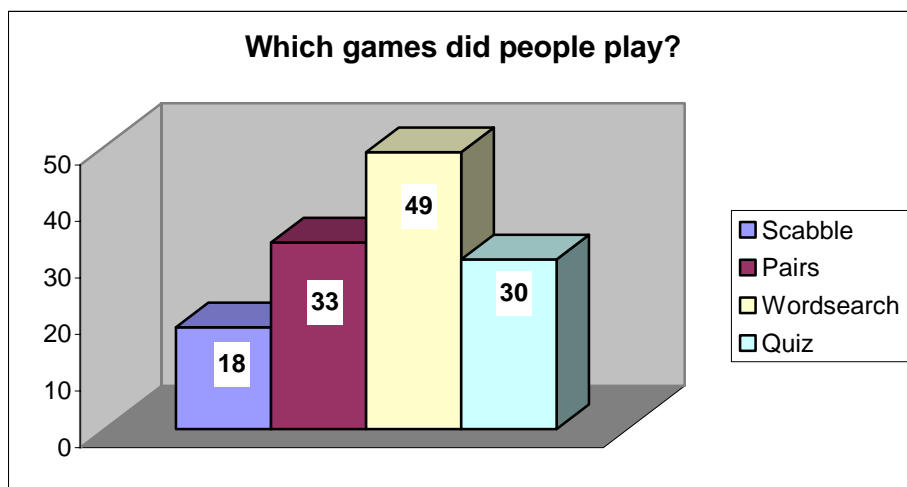
What problems did we encounter?

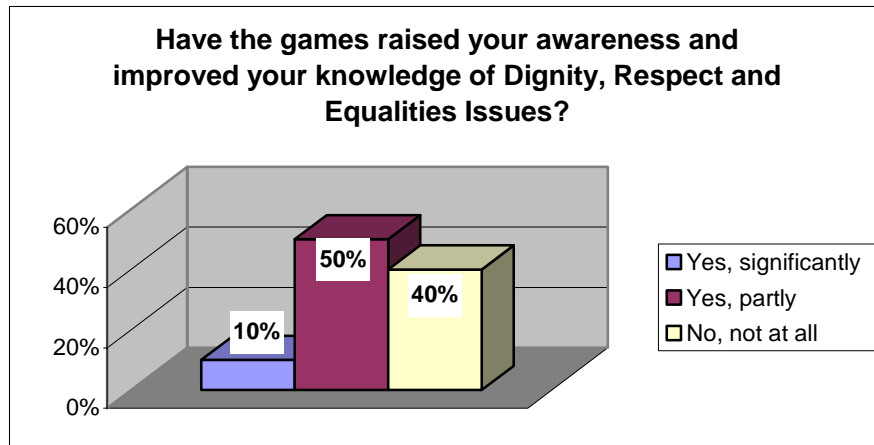
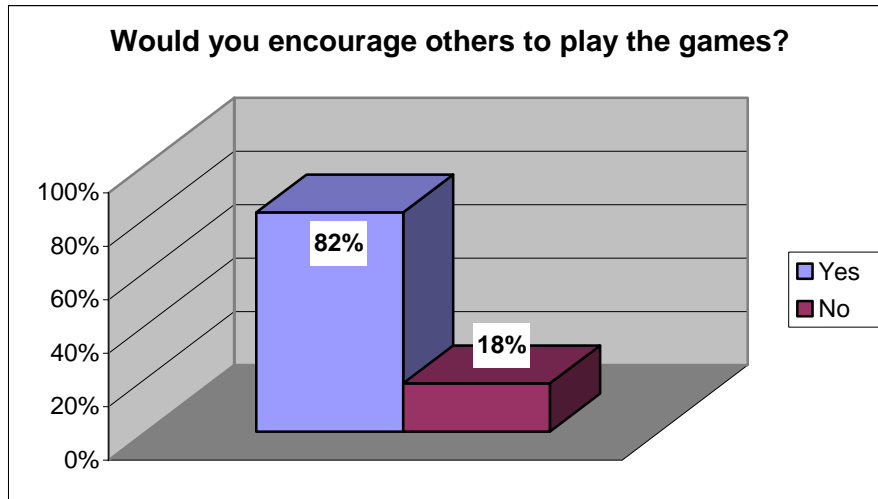
We underestimated the time it would take to develop and manufacture the games for a range of reasons:

- Capacity of the officers on the project group
- Reorganisation within Caerphilly's Design and Communications Team
- The issues around finding suitable Wordsearch software and then how does one translate the wordsearches into Welsh as there appears to be no Welsh Wordsearch software.

Feedback from Pilots

The following results are taken from the 133 feedback forms we received.





The feedback from pilots show people, as one would expect, had personal preferences for certain games, but overall they were all popular.

Interestingly when asked whether it raised their awareness of Dignity and Respect, although for 60% that was the case, 40% said no. We were not however disappointed with this figure, as we deliberately aimed the games at the subtler end of raising awareness to ensure that the games were perceived as fun rather than learning, which the additional information comments provided would suggest was a success.

Laughter was mentioned 11 times

“Fun” came up 31 times

“Easy” quoted 21 times

The one comment that was raised a number of times was the size and style of the text in the English Wordsearch, was requests for capital letters and in a larger size font. We did try to resolve this issue, but the software we were using did not allow for capital letters. We would therefore suggest as learning for others that when producing Wordsearches to try to use capital letters if possible. When translating the Wordsearches into Welsh, this request was actioned.

What were the Outcomes of the pilot?

- As the feedback charts show, these games were all well received and are effective at raising awareness of Dignity, Respect and Equalities.
- The additional feedback comments provided also reflect that the games engage people, are fun and easy to use.
- One unexpected outcome is that children also find these fun and they are a good learning tool that could be used in intergenerational interaction.
- The games are now used regularly in Caerphilly County Borough Day Centres and at a local school which hosts a 50+ lunch club.
- Feedback also showed that a number of the staff enjoyed organising these sessions.

How can other people use this resource?

To ensure low cost and easy access to this Games pack for all those interested across Wales, we created a webpage:

http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/en/cross_themes/50plus/dignity_games.html

On the webpage people can download the following via a PDF file:

- The Scrabble - Additional Rules and 'Double Word Score Counter'
- The Pairs Cards
- 10 Quiz Cards
- 20 Wordsearch Sheets.

All that is then required is to purchase a Scrabble Board and photocopy the Wordsearches etc.