**Playworks Holiday Project**

February Wellbeing Camp at Duffryn Community Link -
Fostering Wellbeing and Community Support

**Project Overview:**

The February Wellbeing Camp was a targeted initiative designed to provide a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment for children and young people during the school holidays. Recognizing the financial pressures school breaks can impose on local families, the camp aimed to alleviate these burdens by offering a welcoming space with enriching activities, nutritious meals, and opportunities for play and social connection.

**Key Outcomes and Impact:**

* **High Engagement and Positive Experience:** The camp experienced a significant volume of parent applications, demonstrating a clear need and strong interest within the community. Feedback from both children and parents was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the children's enjoyment of the diverse activities offered. The sunny outdoor free play was consistently cited as a particular highlight.
* **Enhanced Social Development and Confidence:** A significant and encouraging outcome was the natural fostering of interaction and friendship among children from diverse backgrounds. This organic social mixing contributed to a noticeable boost in the children's confidence and social skills.
* **Provision of a Safe and Nurturing Environment:** The camp successfully provided a secure and supportive setting where children and young people could feel warm, safe, and enjoy their holiday. This offered a vital alternative to potentially less stimulating or supervised environments.
* **Addressing Food Security and Financial Strain:** Recognizing the financial challenges faced by families during school holidays, the camp provided crucial support through the consistent availability of nutritious meals. Furthermore, the organization proactively addressed potential food insecurity by discreetly offering extra food for children to take home when needed or requested, demonstrating a sensitive and responsive approach to the needs of the community.
* **Positive Feedback and Demand for Future Initiatives:** The consistent positive feedback received from both children and parents, coupled with their expressed eagerness for future camps, strongly underscores the significant positive impact of this initiative. This enthusiasm indicates a clear demand for such provisions and highlights the camp's success in meeting the needs of the community.

**Qualitative Evidence:**

* "My child came home every day buzzing about the activities and made some lovely new friends. It was such a relief knowing they were safe, happy, and well-fed during the break." - Parent Feedback
* "The outdoor play was the best! We got to run around and play games in the sunshine." - Child Feedback
* Observations from camp staff noted increased confidence in previously shy children and the development of supportive peer relationships across different age groups.

**Conclusion**

The February Wellbeing Camp served as a highly successful initiative, demonstrably providing a positive and impactful experience for participating children and their families. The high application rate, overwhelmingly positive feedback, and observed social and emotional benefits clearly indicate the significant value of this provision.

By offering a safe, engaging, and supportive environment with nutritious meals, the camp effectively addressed key needs within the community, particularly concerning financial strain and potential social isolation during school holidays. The eagerness for future camps further emphasizes the success of this initiative and highlights the ongoing need for such community-focused support.

This case study provides strong evidence for the positive impact of the Wellbeing Camp and supports the need for continued investment in similar initiatives.