

STAR PARTNERSHIP

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the StAR Partnership's progress with initiatives within the District of Rochford.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In July 2002 the Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive updating Members on the StAR Partnership's progress. Since that time the StAR Partnership has had a change of Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator will attend the meeting to present the appended report, which updates Members on progress made by the Partnership.

3 FURTHER DETAIL

- 3.1 In September 2002 a workshop was held to investigate how the StAR Partnership projects could be taken forward and also how the Partnership could expand to cover the whole District. An action plan was drawn up as a result with some more ambitious actions being added.
- 3.2 In April 2002, a new Co-ordinator was appointed. Since this appointment was made, the StAR Partnership has been led with a renewed enthusiasm and is beginning to develop projects with a District wide remit.
- 3.3 Current projects and projects for future development will be expanded on by the StAR Partnership Co-ordinator.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The StAR Partnership partly arose out of the Crime and Reduction Strategy in an attempt to address some of the issues arising in that area.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the post of Community Development Worker will cease in September 2004. Should the Council decide to continue to support the development and expansion of the StAR Partnership further funding will need to be considered at that time. Up to now, funding provision from the Council has been provided by the Crime and Disorder Reserve allocation.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The success of the StAR Partnership provides a platform for the project to be rolled out to cover the whole of the District

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers the report presented by the StAR Project Co-ordinator and comment accordingly.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

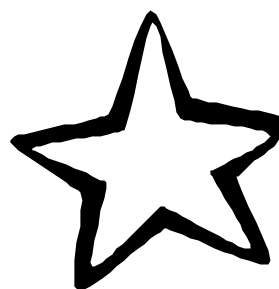
Background Papers:

None

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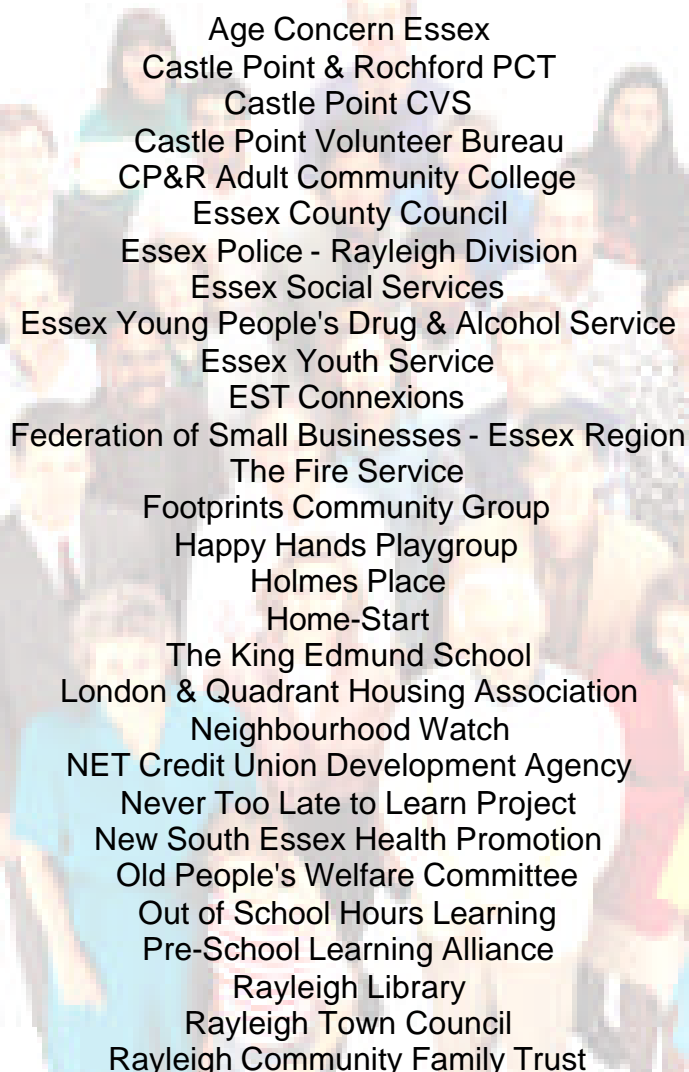
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The Star Partnership
working for a better Rochford

Star is a broad partnership of community groups and statutory & voluntary organisations working together to develop & manage a diverse range of community projects in the District of Rochford. Star Partnership projects aim to regenerate areas by improving the health of the community, reducing crime & disorder, addressing social inequalities and achieving sustainable community development & empowerment.

1 Member Organisations



Age Concern Essex
Castle Point & Rochford PCT
Castle Point CVS
Castle Point Volunteer Bureau
CP&R Adult Community College
Essex County Council
Essex Police - Rayleigh Division
Essex Social Services
Essex Young People's Drug & Alcohol Service
Essex Youth Service
EST Connexions
Federation of Small Businesses - Essex Region
The Fire Service
Footprints Community Group
Happy Hands Playgroup
Holmes Place
Home-Start
The King Edmund School
London & Quadrant Housing Association
Neighbourhood Watch
NET Credit Union Development Agency
Never Too Late to Learn Project
New South Essex Health Promotion
Old People's Welfare Committee
Out of School Hours Learning
Pre-School Learning Alliance
Rayleigh Library
Rayleigh Town Council
Rayleigh Community Family Trust

Rochford & Rayleigh CAB
Rochford Community Church & Projects
Rochford District Council
Rochford Methodist Church
Rochford Parish Council
Rochford Town Sports & Social Club
Rayleigh & Rochford Association of Voluntary Services
Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Project
Springboard Housing Association
Stambridge Parish Council
Thames Gateway South Essex
The Pension service
The Warehouse Centre
Youth Offending Team

Rochford District Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Star Partnership Update - December 2003

The last 12 months has seen significant development of the Star Partnership. In September 2002, the 'Revisit the Future' workshop brought together community & statutory partners to map out the way forward for Star. Despite the departure of the partnership co-ordinator, Paola Pedrelli in December 2002, Star has progressed to deliver a diverse range of projects serving communities throughout Rochford District.

In April 2003, a new partnership co-ordinator, Russ McLean was appointed. Since then, existing projects have been consolidated and more projects have been successfully developed through effective partnership working.

EXISTING PROJECTS

Toy Library – This has continued with a team of 3 community volunteers, a Health Visitor Assistant and the Partnership Co-ordinator. The team are developing a proposal for a Mobile Toy Library to take the service out to Parent & Toddler Groups throughout the district. Discussions are being held with potential host groups and external funding is also being sought.

Infant Massage Classes – These are going well under leadership of a community volunteer, with the support of a Health Visitor Assistant. The classes are established in the community and well integrated with local post-natal services. Funding is being sought for a second community volunteer to be trained.

Farmers Market – 8 markets took place in 2003, each one attracting approximately 400-600 people to Rochford Town. The range of produce on sale has increased, with fresh fruit & veg becoming very popular. Dates are now set for 9 markets in 2004 – running on the first Saturday of each month from March through to November.

NEW PROJECTS

Rubbish Riot – Over 50 people attended an environmental fun day at the Freight House on 27th October, using the Arts and other fun activities around recycling & anti-litter.

Getting On & Getting Better – Using the marketplace format for practical hands on activities & information, over 100 people celebrated International Day for the Older Person on 30th September in Rochford & 1st October in Rayleigh. In partnership with RAVS, transport was provided for 28 people from across the whole district, including Great Wakering, Canewdon & Hullbridge. A partnership sub-group has been formed to build on the project's success.

Dads 'n' Kids Club – helping Fathers & Father Figures build stronger relationships with their kids. This Saturday morning club at the Warehouse Centre in Rayleigh was launched as a six-week pilot in September. By the end of the pilot, over 20 Dads & 30 kids had registered and £6,900 had been secured from the Local Network Fund to run the club for its first 12 months.

The PACT Network - following on from the Rochford Young People's Substance Misuse Report, organisations working with Young People throughout the district have come together to form PACT – Partnership, Action, Communication & Training. PACT will host quarterly events for voluntary & paid practitioners working with Young People. The event programme is currently being developed and will be launched on 20th March 2004.

Star Youth Football Project - Running from January to October 2004, this is a pilot social inclusion and diversionary crime prevention project, using football's universal appeal and the attraction of West Ham & Southend United football clubs to engage young people in their neighbourhoods, clubs & schools. £23,000 funding has been secured from five external funders: Essex Drug Action Team, Essex Teenage Pregnancy, Essex Police, Connexions and Essex Community Foundation.

Footprints Community Group Youth Club – various members of the partnership have been supporting the work of Footprints, a group of parents and their children living in & around St Clare Meadow in Rochford. In July, a barbeque for over 100 young people was held at St Mark's Hall, along with a consultation exercise. The results have helped us to develop the Youth Club project, which will be launched in January 2004.

PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

The Star Fund – working in partnership with Essex Community Foundation, the purpose of this project is to establish a long-term endowment & grant-making fund for the District. A sub-group is working to build up support from local business people.

Star Babies – a weekly Parent, Baby & Toddler group, developed and managed by parents. Various members of the partnership have been supporting a group of mums in Rochford. However, the leading volunteers are currently unable to develop project further due to family commitments.

Star Community Leadership Programme – To develop volunteer recruitment, recognition, training & support. And also to facilitate the self-assessment process of the whole partnership to fully establish Star's long-term vision, mission & plan through the leadership of Star Volunteers. Wider partnership discussion is required before external funding can be sought.

THE FUTURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Within the Partnership, there is a broad understanding of Star's mission & purpose, yet there is a need for greater focus. Through the Star Community Leadership Programme, full partnership assessment should be undertaken in 2004 to establish Star's long-term vision, mission & plan.

The current partnership funding for the full time co-ordinator post expires in October 2004. If the post is to continue beyond this date, funding needs to be identified.

Russ McLean
Star Partnership Co-ordinator – December 2003