



The Star Partnership

Star is a broad partnership of community and voluntary groups working together and supported by statutory organisations to develop and manage a diverse range of community projects in areas of deprivation in the District of Rochford.

Star Partnership projects aim to regenerate these areas by improving the health of the community, reducing crime and disorder, addressing social inequalities and achieving sustainable community development & empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 9 months, Star has continued to make progress to deliver a diverse range of projects serving communities throughout Rochford District.

- The Community Leadership Team has been launched to oversee Star Projects and the future development of the Partnership
- Positive coverage in the local press and media has increased considerably, with regular features in the Echo, Standard, Rayleigh Times, Yellow Advertiser and BBC Essex.
- Also since March 2004, a further £11,350 has been secured for Star Projects, bringing the total secured since July 2003 to **£66,950**
- Star projects have also attracted approximately £35,000 worth of 'in kind' Match funding (e.g. officer time, volunteer support, venues etc)

Star Projects	Location	External Cash Funding Secured
Dads n Kids Club	Rayleigh	£8,400
Youth Football Project	District-wide	£28,000
Mobile Toy Library	District-wide	£12,000
Footprints Youth Club	Rochford town	£2,000
The PACT Network	District-wide	£5,200
Rochford Infant Massage	Rochford town	£6,350
Farmers Market	Rochford town	n/a
Getting On and Getting Better	District-wide	£5,000
		£66,950

PROJECTS UPDATE

Farmers Market – 9 markets took place in 2004, 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. The 2005 programme of 9 markets has been set – running on the first Saturday of each month from March through to November.

Rochford Infant Massage – These classes going extremely well under the leadership of a local committee of volunteers. Two years Local Network Fund money has been secured to pay for the project and help with costs of training parents in infant massage. The project is well integrated into

other support services for new parents. The classes are established in the community and well integrated with local post-natal services.

Mobile Toy Library – Taking high quality toys and play equipment out across the district. Two local Baby and Toddler groups have agreed to host the project. Discussions are being held with other potential host groups. The project has been delayed to January 2005, due to the collapse of the company manufacturing the custom-made toy trolleys. A new company has been appointed.

Dads 'n' Kids Club – Helping Fathers and Father Figures build stronger relationships with their kids. Over the last nine months, membership of the Saturday morning club at the Warehouse Centre in Rayleigh has doubled to 60 families who use the club regularly. Recent activities have included Percussion and African Dance Workshops.

The PACT Network - Organisations working with Young People throughout the district have come together to form PACT – Partnership, Action, Communication and Training. PACT hosts quarterly events for voluntary and paid practitioners working with Young People. Our most recent event '*Young People Under Stress*' on 2nd October was a huge success, providing introductory training in Mental Health Support for Young People. The following event in November '*Money! Money! Money!*' will provide information on funding opportunities and is being run in partnership with RAVS.

Star Youth Football Project - Over 1000 young people have already benefited from the project, which uses football's universal appeal and the attraction of West Ham and Southend United football clubs to engage young people in their neighbourhoods, clubs and schools. The project comprises of the Neighbourhood Programme on estates, the Healthy Living Programme in schools, Girls Only Football Sessions and the Coach Education Programme – training young people in FA qualifications. Funding for a broader 3-year project from Summer 2005 is being sought.

Footprints Community Group Youth Club – Various members of the partnership have continued supporting the work of Footprints, a group of parents and their children living in and around St Clare Meadow in Rochford. The Youth Club regularly gathers in over 50 young people on Friday nights and has run other activities and trips for many underprivileged children.

Getting On and Getting Better – In late September over 150 elderly residents throughout Rochford District came together with local Schoolchildren to celebrate International Day for The Older Person. Activities included dancing, indoor bowls and pampering sessions. Advice was also available on healthy living, pensions and benefits, safety in the home, leisure services and home improvements. Students from King Edmund and Fitzwimarc Schools also gave up their own time to perform music and serve cream teas.

The Star Fund – We have been working in partnership with Essex Community Foundation to develop a long-term community projects fund through new ways of fundraising - accessing previously 'untapped' funds and taking advantage of various streams of match funding. A sub-group is working to develop support from local business people, and progress is being made.

Skatepark – A group of young people in Rochford and Hawkwell have formed a Star sub-group to move forward with a vision for a new Skatepark in the area. Progress has been slow and is dependent on consistent commitment from the young people themselves.

Star Community Leadership Programme – To develop volunteer recruitment, recognition, training and support and also to facilitate the self-assessment process of the whole partnership to fully establish Star's long-term vision, mission and plan through the leadership of the Star Community Leadership Team. Initial research amongst Star members is now taking place.

THE FUTURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Joint PCT/RDC Partnership funding for the full time co-ordinator post has been secured from October 2004 to October 2006. This funding, along with the progress of the Star Community Leadership Programme, will ensure the continued success of the Star Partnership and its Projects.

Russ McLean
Star Partnership Co-ordinator