

Star Partnership Update – March 2004

The Star Partnership

Star is a broad partnership of community & voluntary groups working together and supported by statutory organisations to develop & 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 & disorder, addressing social inequalities and achieving sustainable community development & empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

Since December 2003, Star has continued to make progress to deliver a diverse range of projects serving communities throughout Rochford District.

- Three new Star projects have been launched - The Star Youth Football Project, Footprints Youth Club and the PACT Network.
- Positive coverage in the local press has also increased, and we expect more will follow from the work of the new Star Partnership Promotion & Publicity sub-group
- Stronger links have also been developed with all 14 Parish & Town Councils by means of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership conference on 11th February.
- Also since December 2003, a further £25,700 has been secured for Star Projects, bringing the total secured since July 2003 to £55,600

2003/04 Star Projects	Location	External Cash Funding Secured in 2003/04	Approx Value of in kind Funding (staff time, resources) Secured in 2003/04	External Cash Funding further applications in process 2004/05
Dads n Kids Club	Rayleigh	£8,400	£6,000	
Youth Football Project	District-wide	£28,000	£10,000	
Mobile Toy Library	District-wide	£12,000	£6,000	
Footprints Youth Club	Rochford town	£2,000	£2,000	£9,900
The PACT Network	District-wide	£5,200	£2,500	
Baby Massage	Rochford town		£3,000	
Farmers Market	Rochford town		£2,000	
Getting On & Getting Better	District-wide		£2,500	£5,000
		£55,600	£34,000	£14,900

EXISTING PROJECTS

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. The 2004 programme of 9 markets has now started – running on the first Saturday of each month from March through to November.

Baby 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. Long Term funding is being sought for venue costs and training costs for a second community volunteer.

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES

Community Transport – The Star Partnership has played a key role in developing this project and continues to share in the management of the service along with other organisations.

Credit Union – We are working closely with Net Credit Union Development Agency to support the development of an Essex-wide Credit Union with a strong presence in Rochford District.

NEW PROJECTS

Mobile Toy Library – Two years funding has been secured from the Home Office Local Network Fund including staff costs. Two local Baby & Toddler groups have agreed to host the project, due for launch in the summer. Discussions are being held with other potential host groups

Dads 'n' Kids Club – helping Fathers & Father Figures build stronger relationships with their kids. This Saturday morning club at the Warehouse Centre in Rayleigh now has over 30 families registered and using the club regularly. Here's some of the feedback we're getting...

"Great so far - kids demand to come every week!"

"I think its great and its helped me and the kids come closer together."

"Excellent! Very friendly, fun place to be! Dads and Kids made to feel welcome."

The PACT Network - 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 launch event on 20th March was a huge success, providing training in Child Protection & Drugs awareness.

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. Over 100 young people have already benefited from the project.

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. The Youth Club was launched in February and regularly gathers in over 50 young people on Friday nights.

PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Getting On & Getting Better – Following on from last years success, we will be repeating these events offering practical hands on activities & information and celebrating International Day for the Older Person on 1st October. We will also be partnering with colleagues in Castle Point on this.

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 develop support from local business people, and progress is being made.

Skatepark – a group of young people in Rochford & Hawkwell have formed a Star sub-group to move forward with a vision for a new Skatepark in the area. Initial meetings are taking place.

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.

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.

***Russ McLean
Co-ordinator
Star Partnership***

&

***Valerie Thomas
Head of Health Promotion
Castle Point & Rochford PCT***

March 2004