



# Participatory Budgeting News *Update*

## Welcome

I would like to welcome you to the first Participatory Budgeting News update. This aims to give everyone who participated in our first event feedback on some of the projects voted for on the day.

The information has been provided by the groups and gives us an indication of the hard work that has been going on over the past five months. These initiatives are working to reduce the fear of crime, tackle anti-social behaviour and engage with young people in schools and local neighbourhoods.

It is particularly encouraging to witness the commitment and enthusiasm of community groups throughout Northumberland and Tyne & Wear and the invaluable contribution you are making to help support local communities.

I am very much looking forward to our next Participatory Budgeting Event this year and hearing about even more innovative and challenging projects to help build trust and confidence in our communities.

**If you want to be involved again, or find out more about any of the projects or organisations in this newsletter please contact Martin Jarrett on 0191 433 3323 or by email at [enquiries.npa@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.npa@gateshead.gov.uk)**

*Councillor Mick Henry  
Chair of Northumbria Police Authority*



## Gateshead

**Organisation**      The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company  
**Project Name:**      Hate Crime  
**Amount Awarded:**   £1,000

This project involves producing a film that explores issues around Hate Crime and people with learning difficulties. We are currently in the process of completing this piece of work and have filmed two personal stories. We have also had further discussions about the effect crime has on people's lives and what we can do to deal with it. We hope this film raises questions around how to be safe whilst enjoying the benefits of a full and varied life. We envisage this piece of work to be followed up by company members and to produce a further film that researches thoroughly the issues raised here.

**Organisation**      Gateshead Deaf Forum  
**Project Name:**      Keeping the Deaf Community Safe  
**Amount Awarded:**   £1,490

Gateshead Deaf Forum held an event on Saturday 5th September 2009 with speakers including Gateshead Police, Hate Crime, Victim Support and Safer Families talking to members of the Gateshead Deaf Community including Hard of Hearing and Deafblind people. It is hoped that after the event, the Deaf community will feel safer in Gateshead and the partners (ie Police, Safer Families etc) will have improved their access to the local Deaf community.

# Newcastle

**Organisation:** Stepney Bank Stables  
**Project Name:** Horses Know No Colour  
**Amount Awarded:** £590

Stepney Bank Stables used their Participatory Budget to run a Race Awareness Days called Horses Know No Colour. The day aimed to promote cultural awareness using the medium of the horse, local children and those from black and ethnic backgrounds. Not only did we hope to overcome barriers between the two groups but also to build the confidence and self esteem of the young people. These are great team building events with all participants getting to ride a horse which for many can be a totally new and life changing experience. At the end of the day we create posters to demonstrate what we have learnt from the event. During dinner there is also an occasion for all the participants to sample foods from different cultures and hopefully discuss how the day is going

**Organisation:** Newcastle United Foundation  
**Project Name:** Kickz  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,440

Kickz' project is a partnership between Newcastle City Council, Northumbria Police and Newcastle United Foundation which is the official charity of Newcastle United Football Club. Using the power of football we aim to target some of the hard to reach and challenging communities in order to create safer, stronger and more respectful communities through the development of young people's potential.

The project runs at Westgate Centre for Sport two nights a week and there is also a music project run in partnership with The Sage Gateshead. It offers 12-18 year olds the chance to take part in positive activity two to three nights a week, 48 weeks of the year. We have worked with 100 young people since it started in 2007 and 60 to 70 young people regularly attend the sessions which are delivered by Newcastle United Foundation coaching staff.

Kickz also aims to break down barriers between young people and local police officers who often drop into the sessions to help out. Several of the young people are known to the police and being part of the programme has completely changed their offending behaviour. Since receiving funding from the Participatory Budget we have also trained two members of our coaching staff in basketball as an alternative activity for young people, held two knife crime workshops and have introduced a session on a Saturday afternoon between 4.00pm and 6.00pm at Soccer World, West Gate Centre for Sport.

**Organisation:** Raby Street Play and Youth Centre  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,500

So far two of the planned open house summer holiday activity days have taken place which were aimed at children aged between 8 to 12 years of age. The funding has been able to provide more specialist arts & crafts activities including equipment and resources to facilitate general arts, games and sports. It has also provided a cookery project that also provides a healthy mid-day meal for the children accessing the sessions. The funding has also provided specialist bought in activities such as a dance instructor and 'music tech' where children wrote their own lyrics and used computers to sample music and produce a CD.

The sessions have been well attended, on average 44 children per day from mainly the Byker area. Byker Ward is ranked as the third most deprived in the City of Newcastle and by providing some activities the sessions have been targeted towards children most at need as well as providing activities to curb anti-social behaviour. Many of the children attending have diagnosed behavioural problems or have had issues around behaviour at home, school or with crime.

**Organisation:** Sports for Young Academy  
**Project Name:** Positive Activities Friday Night  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,500

Our organisation works in partnership with Newcastle Youth Service on the project "Youth Crime Action Plan" to deliver positive activities and support the most disadvantaged young people, particularly on Friday-Saturday night and Sunday in the target areas such as: Benwell, Elswick, Byker and Walker. So far we have had more than 200 young people aged 12 to 19 taking part in our activities.

Our project involves using football as a tool to help reduce the levels of anti-social behaviour and crime in Newcastle upon Tyne. The main activity we provide is football coaching. Our project will employ an experienced youth worker who will interact and assist the young people who come to our sessions.

The project is based at a local community centre "Murray House Recreational Centre" and we run three two-hour sessions per week where the young people can choose between a number of different activities provided: football, table tennis, pool and IT sessions as well as the opportunity to talk to the youth worker with any problems or concerns they have.

# North Tyneside

**Organisation:** Age Concern North Tyneside  
**Project Name:** Sound as a Pound  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,498

Original plans for distribution of the purse alarms have been changed due to many reasons (weather, lack of interest). European Neighbours' Day was cancelled. However it was replaced with The Big Lunch – similarly an event to increase social cohesion, which went ahead on Sunday 26th July despite the rain. Residents from the Triangle area of North Shields brought a shared lunch to a pedestrian part of the streets and a barbecue kept everyone in good spirits.

The alarms were distributed to delighted residents, and the event was supported by local community police, who also braved the rain to spend time with the residents. This was a very hopeful event in an area where a few local residents are trying very hard to encourage others to create a feeling of community spirit. Other alarms have still gone to the same older people as originally planned.

The opportunity was also taken to organise two further events to bring older people together and address issues relevant to their wellbeing – a Falls Prevention coffee morning, and a Stroke Prevention coffee morning. Alarms were distributed at both of these to very appreciative older people.

# Northumberland

**Organisation:** Northumberland stars  
**Project Name:** Installing domestic security equipment  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,500

Northumberland STARS was given funding to work with victims of crime, especially those who had experienced burglary, to improve their home security and reduce the fear of crime. Since the project started we have been to 21 homes and have a number of further appointments already booked in.

An example of the type of work we are doing includes a gentleman from Ashington who was referred to STARS by the police after his shed had been broken into and a number of items were stolen. Our handyman did a home security assessment and then carried out a range of jobs to improve his security. This included fitting a shed alarm, provided by the police; fixing prika strips to stop people climbing over his wall (a problem he had been having); changing his 3 lever mortice lock to a five lever lock; providing additional security for his patio doors; fitting a bolt on the back gate that can be padlocked and providing additional advice on home security in order to deter repeat burglaries.

**Organisation:** Choysez  
**Project Name:** Community Challengers  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,500

Choysez are very excited about the "Community Challengers" project. This project has taken a while in the planning as both the young people and the older members of the community were wary of each others motives at first and this gave us a slower start than anticipated however things are now moving at a pace.

The young people have persevered with this and two new groups have been formed of young people. A boys group and a girls group. The girls group have already attended a residential where they made their own movie, both a horror DVD and taking time out to talk about issues that affect them on camera. This is now going to be shown on one of the movie nights the group are planning with an older ladies group they have now befriended.

They are planning evenings of arts and crafts and movies as well as a day trip to Cragside. This project is really starting to get moving now, though the girls have stolen a march on the boys, the boys expect to catch up in the weeks ahead.

**Organisation:** Hirst Welfare Centre  
**Project Name:** Friday night league  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,500

The Friday night youth league has been running successfully on a Friday night with over 40 young people attending. Two teams have been recognised and have been given the opportunity to play in the area finals with Game On at the Power League North Shields. This will give the young people the chance to play other teams from the area and the chance to go to another venue which they may never have done. The league will continue to run until July then break for the summer holidays with it then starting again in September.

**Organisation:** The Hastings Initiative  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,475

The aim of this project is to break the cycle of bullying which seemed to be growing among children at school and in the playspace (usually streets near homes). In an attempt to stop this trend, or at least slow it down, it was decided to use drama as a way of challenging it.

Drama sessions were held for 6-9 years and 9-13 years. Overall the plays were very successful. Discussion groups followed each show which involved a great deal of laughter on recalling how one or other had looked, with workers probing and noting new friendships and a greater tolerance amongst members. The productions were well attended by parents and neighbours. The children don't want to end the drama sessions so at the start of the year in September, auditions will be held for a Christmas special show.

# South Tyneside

**Organisation:** Hebburn Detached Project  
**Project Name:** No to Knives  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,461

Hebburn Detached Project was successful in securing funding to allow staff to deliver knife crime discussion sessions to local young people. These sessions have been taking place, mainly in-house, and have been well received by all recipients so far. Since receiving funding for the sessions, we have had 58 young people signing the National No to Knives pledge.

Once our summer activities programme finishes, we will be seeking to roll this session out to other areas, and we welcome contact from youth groups who may wish to benefit. Staff from Hebburn Detached Project have recently completed a two day Knife Crime training course, run by Fairbridge Training, and this is allowing us to add more content to our session in readiness for "the big push" in September.

Sessions so far have been positive, and successful in provoking discussion among young people, and ideas for preventative action.

**Organisation:** The Boys Brigade 15th South Shields Company  
**Project Name:** Provision of roller shutter security door  
**Amount Awarded:** £758

As you know our group put forward a bid for the provision and installation of a roller shutter security door for the premises we use as a base for our weekly meetings. As a result we have a greater sense of security, not only when we are at the premises, but we are also confident that the door has provided a high degree of security to our equipment and instruments etc. when we are not on the property.

We are now in the process of raising further funding to extend our programme of refurbishment to the property.

**Organisation:** Friends of Jarrow Children's Centre  
**Project Name:** Safer Communities  
**Amount Awarded:** £531

The parents who attended the Home Safety workshop were positive about the benefits of attending and felt empowered to make changes in their home to make a safer environment for their children. The Drug Awareness offered the opportunity through 'Matrix' to learn about drugs that are widely available and their negative use in the community. The workshops were a valuable contribution to create a safer community for all.

# Sunderland

**Organisation:** Sunderland Dance Community Interest Company  
**Project Name:** Kool Kids, Easington Lane  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,122

Kool Kids offers Urban Dance activities as a diversionary activity to young people who may be at risk of becoming involved in anti social behaviour.

Street dance and Break dance are part of today's youth culture and is well recognised as an effective way to engage with young people. Our classes are a fun and exciting way to promote these areas of development in young people who would otherwise not want to take part in traditional sport and fitness activities such as team games or organised sport. They are also a means to allow us to engage with young people about wider issues such as alcohol and substance misuse, social isolation, teenage sexual health matters and positive lifestyle choices. Police Authority Participatory funding has enabled us to continue our pilot at The Youth Flatts Centre in Easington Lane on Friday evenings. It will also allow us to introduce boxing and boxercise at Kool Kids in the north area starting in September

**Organisation:** SAFC Foundation  
**Project Name:** Kickz North Seaburn  
**Amount Awarded:** £1,500

SAFC Foundation's Kickz project is a nationwide initiative which helps to engage young people through the power of football and sport and help to divert them from anti-social behaviour. Kickz provides young people aged 13-19 with provision in a safe and friendly environment that helps them develop themselves and engage in community activities.

Kickz Seaburn has been running for four years and recently young people requested an area where they could go if they did not want to participate in sporting activities. They secured the funding, took charge of researching and pricing up the items needed for their room and were then involved in choosing the colours, designing the layout and painting the room.

As part of the project they developed skills in budgeting, time management organisation and writing bids. The young people decided to name this room after a fellow member, Kane Scales who tragically died in a car accident this past February.

The room has already been put to great use with: a 'Baby Think It Over', a 'Learn to Drive' course and a first aid course planned soon.

Paul Dixon, neighbourhood sergeant for Sunderland North, said: "Kickz is making a significant difference to the number of antisocial behaviour incidents in this area. It is particularly good at breaking down the barriers that exist between kids and police - and is also a useful way for us to get key messages across about issues such as knife crime."