

Good Practice: Youth

Examples of good practice shared by members of Coventry Community Empowerment Network working with young people

Page 1: young people in sport

Page 2: skills for young people

Page 3: providing space for young people

Edgwick Sports, Foleshill **Young people in sport**

Stuart and Elaine Parker first became aware of a problem of young people having nowhere safe to go after their window was broken by a football. Unlike most of us, instead of just chasing the footballers away, they became active in helping young people to access the local parks. For the last eight years, there have been up to 50 weeks of activity in Edgwick Park: some of the results have been a drop of 42% in crime around the park area, and with the better lighting people of all ages have felt more safe when using it. Elaine says that you now see families, older people and younger people all pursuing their own interests as well as the football games.

Both she and Stuart are adamant that this is a partnership initiative involving Area Co-ordination, youth services, the police, the parks services and Business in the Community – they have helped provide a £96,000 multi-purpose pitch. The Community Safety Action Team have also helped with funding. A further scheme runs during the summer months only at the Fisher Park: besides the football there is basketball for younger children. As this is a park surrounded by houses, there are no plans for floodlighting for the winter months. However, the last four years have shown that there is a real need for expanding the scheme and plans are progressing to open up a similar scheme in Red House Park, Stoney Stanton Road, on Tuesday nights.

Besides all this activity, there is an opportunity for the young people to take their interest further and gain formal qualifications which will then enable them to work in the scheme. Both Stuart and Elaine are hoping to see the schemes being run by the young people themselves in the future.

For further information, contact Elaine and Stuart Parker on 024 7668 9356.

MANDA

Providing practical skills for young people

MANDA (Manor Farm Neighbourhood Development Association) was already running a number of community activities at Henley Green Community Centre when they successfully bid for a Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) grant to work with disaffected young people.

Through sessional Youth Offending workers they run the Motor Project. The Music Project, until recently run by Manor Youth Project staff, has now begun a partnership with the Youth Service to run accredited courses. Both projects will provide practical skills to young people, as well as giving them a focus.

For more information contact:

Russell Burt, Young People's Worker, on 07904 959398, or
Pat Watson, MANDA Chair, on 024 7661 1200.

The People's Place, Stoke Aldermoor

Providing space for young people

The People's Place has grown out of the Lindfield Project, which was started by a Stoke Aldermoor resident, Pat Lovegrove. Pat, with the backing of her family, started with football on the Lindfield grass areas. Other residents became involved and from that grew the project to provide a permanent home for the young people of Stoke Aldermoor: The People's Place. Other partners have included the YMCA, Peugeot and Area Coordination.

The People's Place has been converted from a shopping area that was not in use. There are several rooms which are used for entertainment, for computers, cheerleaders or meetings. There are also storage, kitchen and shower facilities. It is a place for young people, run by local people with strong input from the young people themselves.

For further information, contact the manager, Ciara, Clare or Gill on 024 7663 5299 or 078168 74815

