

# Team Brief

## Celebrating achievement



Some of the award winners and nominees with the Mayor and Mayoress

The Mayor of Derby, Cllr Les Allen, presented the Chair's Award and thanked us for our work during the 'Celebrating Achievement' event at The Campus on 4th November.

The winner of the Chair's Award was a service user member who had been involved in local gang culture and made his own decision to leave that way of life behind and rebuild his life. Since then he and members of his family have faced threats and actual violence, but he has persevered and is now making good progress towards independent living.

The Chief Executive's Award and the Alan Hart, Keith Lewis and Sue Howard

Memorial Awards were also presented, by Phil Davies (Chief Executive of Derby Homes), Alice Sanghera (from Derbyshire County Council) and City Cllrs Ruth Skelton and Evonne Williams.

All award winners and nominees were then told that a local businessman had donated tickets for them to have a day out at Wild Park Leisure in Brailsford.

The event also saw the launch of a new members' reward card and presentations on each of our core areas of work. In a surprise addition to the programme, a group of residents presented a bouquet and gift to Supported Housing Manager Sue Griffin.



TTS, a company specialising in the development and retail of resources for schools, has become the first corporate sponsor of Project 165 by donating £200 of sports equipment.

The equipment – including footballs and cones – was handed to the Children's and Young People's Services team for use during P.E. sessions at local schools as part of the PPA cover we are now providing.

Catherine Jeffrey of TTS said, "Our partnership with YMCA Derbyshire seemed a perfect pairing, as we are both committed to innovation and improving opportunities for children."



Julie Marshall and Phil Davies



Lauren Hind and Cllr Williams



Wendy Lewis (left) and Alice Sanghera



Sue Griffin receives a surprise

# A message from the Chief Executive

The American economist and professor Theodore Levitt once said that “just as energy is the basis of life itself, and ideas the source of innovation, so is innovation the vital spark of all human change, improvement and progress”.

Looking at the breadth of our activities and services – from the Crashpads in Derby to the Furniture Project in Chesterfield, or from the Y-Play playschemes to Renew Maintenance – one could say that innovation is at the core of how we apply our unchanging mission and values.

In fact, every area of our work is marked by an innovative spirit and a drive to continue developing and seize opportunities when they arise to make a difference to the people we serve. This is because we really care about our work and the people we serve. We are not simply going through the motions.

This is what, for me, came out strongly at the Celebrating Achievement event on 4th November. The different presentations on our work demonstrated not only the value of what we do but also our dynamism and drive to continue developing new projects and areas of potential growth.

The other big thing demonstrated by this event was that everything we do is about changing lives and realising potential. The smiles on the faces of those who received awards were mirrored by the smiles on the faces of our team members who shared in the pride of those whose achievements had been recognised.

Clearly this is a challenging time for us as we await news of the scale and implications of funding cuts. Yet nobody who came to this event can have been left in any doubt that what we are doing together as a team is in many ways quite extraordinary. We are making a real difference because we really care. This is what sets us apart.

**Gillian Sewell**

## Catering project progressing well



We are now providing hot lunches prepared at Handyside Court to six extra care homes and sheltered housing complexes throughout Derby, with the help of our volunteers and learners. The project is providing valuable work experience to learners as well as building useful partnerships with Derby Homes and Anchor Trust.

In the picture above, Steve Finch serves a delicious dessert prepared with the help of volunteer Paul Hughes (inset) to resident Jean Baites at Holly Court in Mickleover – a sheltered housing scheme operated by Derby Homes.

## National YMCA brand on the rise

The YMCA is a big riser in this year's Charity Brand Index, rising 30 places to 37th from 67th last year.

This means that the national YMCA brand now ranks higher than some high profile charities like the Scouts in measurements including brand awareness, trust, attitudes towards the cause and general attractiveness to potential donors.

Cancer Research UK retains the top spot, ahead of the RSPCA in second and the Royal British Legion in third.

## Renew Maintenance

The Renew Maintenance team continues to stay busy. YMCA England are now using the company's services, initially with a contract to replace windows at Tees Valley YMCA in Darlington, and North Staffordshire YMCA are also now customers. Other contracts are in the pipeline.

The Renew Maintenance team has now increased to seven – comprising of Business Manager Steve Ball, Working Supervisor Andy Astley, one plasterer, one multi-skilled plasterer and three multi-skilled joiners.

## Marketing and Communications

The 'Celebrating Achievement' event at The Campus was a great success, and a number of guests signed up for the next Sleep Easy event by returning the slips in the programme.

Sleep Easy will take place on the night of 3rd March 2012, in the grounds of The Campus as last year. This time we are hoping to attract 165 participants and connect the event to Project 165.

**Dominic Baster**

## Our football team on run of good form

Our residents have taken part in several football competitions since receiving their new kit from local firm EMS Security Services Ltd, including the annual YMCA regional tournament in Worcester.

The kit has proved to be a great asset to the team with several residents competing to wear their favourite numbers. However, this didn't initially seem to improve their ability to win on the pitch, as they lost every game in their first tournament! This was not from lack of trying, however, as the team did win the award for best fair play and effort on the day.

I'm pleased to report that the team has improved from those early days and our best finish to date has been as runners up in the competition organised earlier this month by local youth organisation Enthusiasm, meaning that each player picked up a small trophy. We hope to continue on this run of success and, with our new kit, to inspire more young players to join up for future games.

**Marc Stevens**



## DFE families project taking off

YMCA Derbyshire is leading one of three major projects that form part of a Department for Education initiative to support families with multiple problems and complex needs.

Our remit is to manage and support a consortium of 12 voluntary sector organisations across the country, from Sussex to Sunderland, which provide support for vulnerable and disadvantaged families – including those at risk of homelessness or encountering other support needs such as substance misuse, mental ill health, abuse and offending.

The Families and Relationship Support Project aims to create stronger and more prosperous families and communities that are better skilled and prepared

to enable children to achieve their potential. It also seeks to develop innovative solutions, share best practice and establish a robust evidence base for consortium members to demonstrate positive outcomes and increase opportunities to secure funding.

Three local organisations are members of the consortium – Safe and Sound, Enthusiasm and Home Start Derby.

Liz Richardson has joined the staff team to coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of the project, in conjunction with Lesley Edwards who is managing the financial aspect. We will soon be launching a new section on our website to serve as a common information resource for consortium members.

## Good news from the Furniture Project

Good News! We have recently been successful in a grant bid to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to deliver retail training in Chesterfield as part of the Furniture Project. The training is due to start in December this year and will run for one and a half years. More details will follow, and hopefully some more good news on other funding bids that are currently being considered.

Since the Furniture Project first opened in May 2009, over 800 families have received assistance, over 6,000 items have been saved from the tip, more than 210 Furniture Packs have been provided, more than 70 volunteers have come through (including those on Community Service) and 48 people have learnt new skills through bespoke training.

**Mark Love**



## Matrix success

YMCA Derbyshire has been re-accredited to the Matrix Quality Standard for information advice and guidance services following a visit by an inspector last month.

The Matrix Standard is the unique quality framework for the effective delivery of information, advice and/or guidance on learning and work.

The email confirming our renewed accreditation stated: “You continue to be one of a number of organisations who have shown commitment to high quality service provision and who are working towards continuously improving their services.” Well done to all those involved in this success.

## ESOL launched

An ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) programme has been launched at Forman Street.

Learners on the programme are coming to us from Kingsmead School and include some from Roma families who have recently arrived in the UK from Eastern Europe. They will be taking the NPTC Skills for Life qualification along with functional Skills in Maths, English and ICT.

The aim of the programme, which is being led by Maureen Durham, is to develop the learners' language and cultural skills so that they are better prepared to develop their vocational training and employment opportunities.

## Reflection of the month

I thank Thee  
O Thou whose bounty fills my cup,  
With every blessing meet!  
I give Thee thanks for every drop—  
The bitter and the sweet.

I thank Thee for both  
smile and frown,  
And for the gain and loss;  
I praise Thee for the future crown  
And for the present cross.

*Jane Crewdson (1808–1863)*

## Comedy evening pulls in the pounds



Left to right: Elliot J Huntley, Chris Allen and Al Rudge

An evening of comedy and entertainment held in Chesterfield last month raised a net total of £300 for the Chesterfield Members' Fund and Project 165.

Around 100 ticket holders at the event in the town's Riverside Club were treated to routines from local comedians Elliot J Huntley and Al Rudge as well as two sets from singer and guitarist Chris Allen – a former residential member at The Campus who has recently brought out his own CD.

The event also featured a prize draw and a caption competition, and an enjoyable evening was had by all.



Chris Allen performing



Gil Bowles and Mark Love



Lesley Edwards wins a prize

## Children's event transforms Ilkeston centre for a day

Following on from a similar event at Forman Street in Derby last month, learners enrolled on the Foundation Learning Caring for Children programme in Ilkeston have organised and held an activity day for babies and toddlers aged 0 to 3, assisted by their tutor Carol Sloan.

The activity forms part of unit 018 'Keeping Children Safe' on the programme. To pass the criteria, learners had to work as a team to plan a safe environment for the children. During the planning stage each of them also had to demonstrate self management skills, a positive contribution as a team member, an ability to meet deadlines, problem solving skills, safe practice and communication skills.

The activity was enjoyed by all – including the babies and toddlers, staff members, parents and the learners.

One of the parents (Tracey) who was invited to attend with her two-year old son (Noah) commented: "As a first experience of being with other children of a similar age, this activity has encouraged Noah to share and join in with a variety of activities."

Vicki, one of the learners, said, "I had a great time painting and playing with the children. It was a fun afternoon." Another learner, Alice, added, "The children had a good afternoon playing together and with the toys. I have really enjoyed the day and learnt a lot."

Some 23 learners are currently enrolled on Caring for Children, Employability and Retail & Leisure programmes at the busy centre in Rosscarbery House, Ilkeston, which also serves as a base for the Tenancy Sustainment Service team.

