

YOUR SAY YOUR WAY

Lewsey

PB Project Updates

In late 2010, more than 40 local people voted for the following projects to be funded to benefit local people. If you would like to volunteer or get involved with any of the projects, or simply to find out more, please speak to staff at the Lewsey Community Centre or call 01582 69 63 55. Here is an update on their progress:

Lewsey Mixers - £283.55

The Lewsey Mixers Group were granted funding to purchase some new equipment, to support the equipment they purchased with their funding from the first round of PB funding. The group have purchased their funded items and are waiting anxiously for their arrival. The group have really benefitted from all the funding they have received, which helped purchase new activities, a Nintendo Wii and many more items which are really beneficial for the less able users, as they can access it with their Zimmer frames easily. Since receiving their funding, they have had 2 new members, who also enjoy the array of activities.

The group have organised a social dance event which will take place on Saturday 30 July 2011. Anyone can attend this dance event to socialise, come and meet new people, play games and have fun. The group will also have an open evening in September to try and increase their group membership.

Victim Support - £1000

Victim Support was granted funding to run workshops in Barnfield West Academy to work on tackling bullying in schools. The workshops last for 1 hour and 8 have taken place in the school, with 2 remaining sessions planned. The workshops are interactive and have been developed to encourage participation and discussion. There is a balance of information provision and activities, in order to maintain pupil attention on the subject. Through consultation with the school, it was agreed that the programme would be slightly altered. The first 2 sessions were delivered to the ABAT team, pupils who provide support to pupils in the school who are being bullied. These sessions included interactive activities on identifying the feelings of the victim, active listening and the importance of peer supporters accessing support for themselves.

The student participation and feedback from both sessions has been very positive, with 185 students interacting. Students have said their feelings about bullying have already started to change and they feel more confident about informing staff that bullying is occurring. The school has also requested Victim Support return in the new academic year to deliver not only to students, but staff, parents and members of the wider community! This has been a wholly positive and welcoming experience for everyone involved in the project.

Young Voice - £2010

The Young Voice group was granted funding to run a series of workshops for young people to try new activities, create something using the talents they have or have developed and then host a showcase event. There is a core group of eight young people driving the project forward with their passion and ideas behind the scenes with support, but minimal input from youth workers. The group have designed a program and are in the process of interviewing potential performers and tutors. The workshops will include art forms like dance, drama, crafts, spoken word and music. In the spirit of 'Your Say, Your Way', Young Voice will be teaming up with young people from the Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Trust's studio project to assist with the music and spoken word workshops, as well as with members of Nu FOCUS to film and capture the highlights of the showcase night. The workshops are set to take place from Monday 22 August – Thursday 25 August, with the final presentation on Friday 26 August.

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Nu U Media - £1120

The Integrated Youth Service was granted funding to run a media and film project, based in the Lewsey area. The Nu U programme was originally designed to support NEET young people, after completing any life skills programme which targeted getting them back into work. Since being granted funding, the project has evolved and is able to offer more than the anticipated diversionary activity. They are offering work experience to a recent graduate in media studies, who will support the main tutor during the workshops. The group already has ideas to setup a hub of Film and Media for other young people. The group will also be working alongside fellow 'Your Say, Your Way' funded groups, by having an input into the Picture Me-Me project, as well as the Young Voice showcase. New workshops for Nu U will be taking place at the Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Trust on Tuesday evenings, after the summer term. For more information, please contact the Lewsey Community Centre on the number provided.

Children's Links - £2864.50

Children's Links were granted funding to run Play Ranger sessions at Lewsey Park. To date the sessions have been going extremely well and they are getting between 15 – 20 children per session. The children have expressed a real interest in the different kinds of activities the Play Rangers provide, as well as showing willingness to share and make new friends. Parents have enjoyed getting involved with the activities and have found cheaper activities and ways of having fun with their children. Some parents also want to start volunteering!

Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Trust - £3499

The Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Trust was granted funding to run the 'Atum Music Project'. The group aimed to improve local learning opportunities and support the increase of self-esteem/ life skills in young people. The young emerging musicians have participated in the music skills training programme and have been able to record their compositions at various stages of their training. The course ran over a 5 week period and consisted of 8 hours delivery per week. The course started on Saturday 19 March 2011 and was completed on Saturday 16 April 2011. 18 young people were involved and have benefited a great deal from the project. They were able to produce some song tracks, learn microphone techniques, recording vocals, recording live instruments, introduction to logic studio 9, musical compositions, lyrics and song writing and performance enhancement.

Part of the grant was also to purchase an Apple Mac Computer and which has dramatically upgraded the Music Studio and continue to be used by more local people.

Picture Me-Me - £1722.95

The group 'Feel Innovated' were granted funding to trial the 'Picture Me-Me' project in the Lewsey ward. 'Picture Me-Me' is a project designed to encourage young women, particularly 13-19 years, to take advantage of services available to them. It also targets and explores any issues relevant to them through poetry, creative arts and photography in workshops. The group have been working hard to make lots of local contact and with community projects, which has been strongly supported by Councillor Joan Bailey. A link has also been made with Victory Youth Group, in which two young people have been referred to contribute to the project. The group have linked with the local youth worker and the 'Young Voice' group. They will support the project by filming the project, in a 'fly on the wall' fashion. The group have also already had youth referrals from the social services 16+ team.

The Picture Me-Me Introductory session will be taking place at the Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Trust on Tuesday 7th June at 6pm. Any young people are welcome to attend, as well as parents and carers. For more information or to get involved, please contact the Lewsey Community Centre on the number provided.