



Community Investment

Youth engagement activities 2006/2007

transforming lives,
revitalising neighbourhoods



A message from Caroline Field

Director Community Engagement

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The Riverside Impact Fund and the Community Chest programmes for 2006/07 have successfully supported local and national youth initiatives. It has extended youth access and participation in and around communities where The Riverside Group work.

Supporting youth transitions has been a feature of regeneration, to help improve their motivation and to try to tackle isolation amongst our young people.

Participation and achievement are critical; common strands in different projects enable an awareness and understanding by linking non-educational interventions we can help young people achieve natural goals.

Funding is designed to support our communities and groups develop fresh approaches and new ideas that will benefit young people.

This report is designed to illustrate the range of projects The Riverside Group has completed.



A message from Ben Leech

Community Investment Manager

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Investment summary 2006 / 2007

At The Riverside Group we consider it important, as social landlords, to work with a range of community groups and organisations. We work together to resolve social and economic issues that help to regenerate neighbourhoods and make them more sustainable. We provide a range of services and activities for these groups and address these issues.

In recent years this has involved the provision of grant funding and staff support for youth projects and working with young people.

This report details all the projects focused on young people that have been funded by the Riverside Impact Fund and Community Chest in recent years and sets out the impact that these have had at local level.

These projects have addressed strategic and local needs. They have been extremely valuable across many neighbourhoods and positively received by tenants and residents.

Youth Engagement Activities 2006/2007

NAME: ST HUGH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIVERPOOL
PROJECT: CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY PROJECT
AMOUNT: £1,700 COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

Introduced three years ago, youngsters from year groups three to six are taking part in additional studies and activities outside school hours as part of the Children's University Programme. These groups are aimed at children who have limited access to leisure, rural and cultural facilities.

Riverside Housing has funded the project to support communities in the area by encouraging pupils to get involved in activities such as healthy eating programmes, first aid sessions, arts and crafts, gallery visits and recycling initiatives.

Pupils study two modules per year to gain credits towards their Children's University Diploma before



graduation in their final year of primary school. Some can continue the programme into high school where they can graduate with a Youth University Gold Standard.

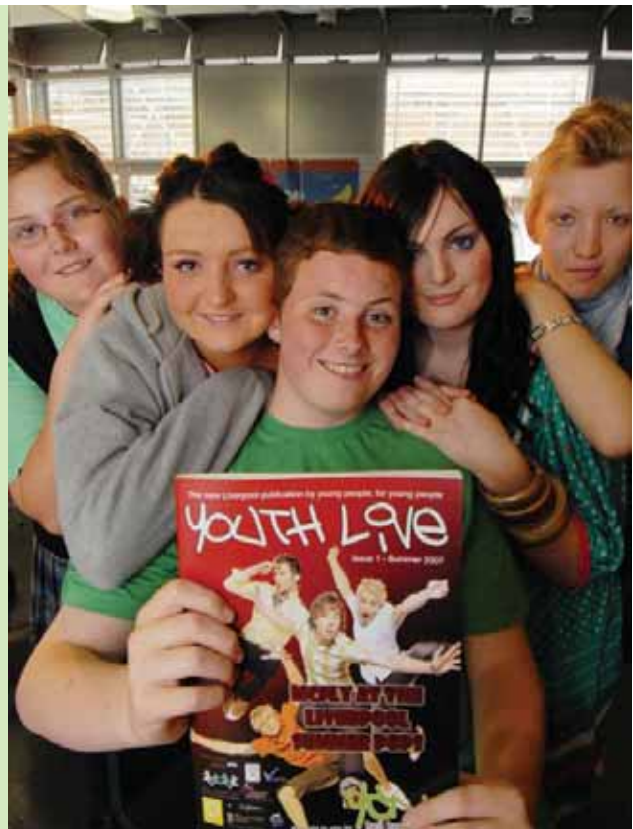
NAME: YOUTH VOICE, MERSEYSIDE
PROJECT: MAGAZINE
AMOUNT AWARDED: £500 COMMUNITY CHEST FUND



Youth Voice originates from the UN Rights of a Child, and gives young people aged between 13 and 24 the chance to get together and decide what is important in

their communities, what changes they want to see and what difference they could make.

Riverside Housing has contributed funding towards their magazine, which advertises Youth Voice brand events that help young people in Merseyside have a real chance to influence service providers over the things that matter to them.



Youth Engagement Activities 2006/2007

NAME: LIVERPOOL CITY LEARNING CENTRE
PROJECT: TEEN IDOL 2007
AMOUNT AWARDED: £5,000 COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

Well done to 17 year old Paul Hughes who beat 12 hopefuls to win Teen Idol 2007, compered by Merseyside actor Simon O'Brien (Brookside).

Now in its fourth year, Teen Idol, organised by City Learning Centres in South Liverpool and sponsored by The Riverside Group, includes talented pupils from 14 secondary schools in the south of the city.

Over the four years, many talented youngsters have used the event as a step up the first rung of the showbiz ladder. Throughout the competition, the youngsters worked alongside professionals and gained a deeper insight into the performance

industry and the complexities of setting up a show, whilst building their own confidence and self esteem.



NAME: KARL BROWN
PROJECT: WARRIORS HEALTHY BASKETBALL COMMUNITY PROJECT, LEICESTER
AMOUNT AWARDED: £16,000 RIVERSIDE IMPACT FUND



Riverside Housing has contributed towards a Basketball Community Development Project that will engage with young people from the inner and outer estates of Leicester who are at risk of becoming

involved in anti-social behaviour.

The aim of the project is to provide opportunities for young people to enjoy positive, developmental and sporting activities in a safe and friendly environment.

Karl Brown, will lead a highly experienced team to coach the youngsters and also educate them about the benefits of healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle. Those who wish to seek a career in coaching will be given the opportunity to complete



locally and nationally accredited awards such as First Aid, Junior Sports Leaders and Community Sports Leaders awards, to name but a few.

It is estimated more than 1,000 young people will benefit from the project's curriculum which includes basketball technique, team and self esteem building activities plus fitness and drug awareness sessions. Sessions will be held twice a week during term time and daily during half term weeks. Once a month the community will come together to battle for glory in a community tournament.

Youth Engagement Activities 2006/2007

NAME: COMMUNITY SEVEN

PROJECT: KENSINGTON COMMUNITY RADIO

AMOUNT AWARDED: £15,000 RIVERSIDE IMPACT FUND

A new community radio station was launched in the Kensington area – Kensington Vision FM. Leading local Registered Social Landlord Community Seven, donated almost a third of the funding required for the project, because of the opportunities they felt it opened to many of their tenants and residents. Other sponsors included: Liverpool Council for Voluntary Services, The Children's Network, Awards for All and many others.

Local residents operate Kensington Vision FM from the heart of the community. Those taking part have undergone intensive training and are responsible for everything from researching the subject matter, writing the scripts and presenting the shows to providing technical support.

After the two week launch period, the project continued in the form of regular downloadable 'pod casts' and recordings that participants made and put on the internet.

The station advertised training and employment opportunities available to residents. A great feeling of community spirit has resulted from this type of project and people have made new friends as they learned to work together. Their involvement has helped reduce social isolation.



Youth Engagement Activities 2006/2007

NAME: ST LEONARDS, SEFTON
PROJECT: YOUTH AND COMMUNITY HALL
AMOUNT AWARDED: £24,477 RIVERSIDE IMPACT FUND

Youngsters aged 10-13 are referred to this project to engage them in activities and offer them support on various issues.

Several youngsters have been identified as being most at risk of exclusion. The project provides four programmes of three month sessions, including: drug and alcohol awareness, sexual health issues, health, cultural awareness and participation.

Not only can the St Leonards Youth Centre help the youngsters, but other local support services will also be able to offer their services, ensuring that a full range of support and activities are there for those who need them.



NAME: STREETVIBE, LEICESTER
PROJECT: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS
AMOUNT AWARDED: £24,223 RIVERSIDE IMPACT FUND



Streetvibe is an outreach project targeting young people who are not engaged with activities and don't have access to youth provision. The aim is to increase participation of young people by using informal education and work to support those unable to attend mainstream facilities by developing mutual, respectful and trusting relationships.



They have turned an unused bus into a meeting place where young people can go for direct advice from detached youth workers and counsellors about issues such as sexual awareness, drug and alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour awareness. They can also visit for advice on improving their education and employment training opportunities.

Youth Engagement Activities 2006/2007

NAME: RIVERSIDE HOUSING, LIVERPOOL

PROJECT: PEEL KNOWSLEY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

AMOUNT AWARDED: £20,000 RIVERSIDE IMPACT FUND

This project enabled Riverside Housing to employ, through Connexions, a Youth Engagement Key Worker.

They are able to identify and assess the needs of local young people and work with them to develop individualised support plans alongside their parents/carers.



The Key Worker provides guidance and support to all children from the area between the ages of 8 and 19 with particular attention paid to those aged 13 plus.



They offer additional support to those considered at risk of becoming involved with crime or anti-social behaviour and tackle issues preventing them from taking up training, employment or education. This can include topics such as: anti-social behaviour, unauthorised absence from school, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy.

This project will contribute to the Riverside Impact Fund strategic objective of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

This contribution has reinforced the reputation of Riverside Housing as a major stakeholder in the development of Neighbourhood Management in South Sefton.

The development of the Neighbourhood Focus Team by Connexions and Sefton Council is a new method of working with young people at risk and Riverside Housing is the only Registered Social Landlord involved in the delivery of this work.

Youth Engagement Activities 2006/2007

NAME: EDGE HILL AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION
PROJECT: YOUNG SAVERS PROJECT
AMOUNT AWARDED: £20,000 RIVERSIDE IMPACT FUND

Young people in Liverpool are striving to become super savers, thanks to a new scheme from Edge Hill and District Credit Union targeted at local schools. Community Seven was so impressed with the project it awarded the Credit Union £20,000 from the Riverside Impact Fund, to get it up and running.

Over two years, 10 schools from the Kensington area of Liverpool will take part in the Young Savers Scheme which aims to teach the importance of saving and being responsible with money. It is one of the first Young Savers Schemes to be run by the pupils for the pupils and at the end of the two years each school should be self sufficient.

Following a short interview and tests, four children from each school will be selected as cashiers and will receive six weeks of training and experience in financial literacy. After the six weeks the pupil cashiers will carry on the role alone, but with teachers and credit union staff available for support if need be.

Other pupils will be encouraged to join the credit union so they too can learn to be financially responsible.

The Edge Hill and District Credit Union is a social enterprise, run by local people. All members are able to become shareholders and have some ownership of the organisation, including the young savers.

The Edge Hill and District Credit Union has over 1,000 members and over 400 young savers. It was founded in 1992 by local people. As a co-operative it operates on the principles of equality, democracy and care for the community.



NAME: NEW HEYS COMMUNITY SCHOOL, LIVERPOOL
PROJECT: ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE PROJECT
AMOUNT AWARDED: £500 COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

A group of year seven pupils aged 11-12 set up this enterprise challenge project to raise enough money to take the whole of their year, all 130 of them, on a skiing trip, in January, to Tignes in the French Alps.

The challenge has required them to fundraise for the last 12 months and raise the £60,000 needed for their trip.

The aim of the project was for the children to develop their enterprise and communication skills, filling one of the aims of the Governments



Every Child Matters campaign "make a positive contribution", enabling them to manage themselves and show off their entrepreneurial skills.

Youth Engagement Activities 2006/2007

NAME: RIVERSIDE HOUSING, LIVERPOOL
PROJECT: EVERYMAN/PLAYHOUSE YOUTH THEATRE
AMOUNT AWARDED: £15,000 RIVERSIDE IMPACT FUND

Riverside Housing have contributed towards a flagship youth theatre that provides support and training for drama and arts groups in Merseyside.



It is a place for people to explore themselves and the world around them, within a supportive and safe environment. It has allowed them to explore their own feelings, thoughts, experiences, attitudes and behaviour of other people.

They have provided placements for young people and trainees throughout the year. The skills learned through creating artistic work in a team setting with a work-like environment are invaluable for employment opportunities.

Individuals have been challenged and empowered in order to allow them to gain confidence and exceed their own expectations, and help to inspire them to make, on occasion, life changing decisions.

NAME: ST JOHNS COMMUNITY CENTRE, KENSINGTON
PROJECT: KENSINGTON COOKING PROJECT
AMOUNT AWARDED: £5,000 COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

The aim of this project was to promote healthy eating. A series of cooking sessions were filmed by local residents, who were given training in camera work, and then edited onto a DVD and promoted on the Kensington Vision website, along with a 20 page cook book.

Local residents were encouraged to get involved with cooking, providing those with the necessary skills to produce easily prepared meals, including cuisine from different cultures.

The cooking project was developed out of school time and has led to over 700 hours of diversionary activity for the young people. Groups involved in the process included: Kensington Academy, St Johns Pensioners and Drop-in Group, Sure Start, Kensington Junior Youth Inclusion Project and the Green Fish Café.



Youth Engagement Activities 2006/2007

CONTACT US

If you would like more information on how we may be able to help fund a project, please call us, visit the website or contact your local office.


Investment summary 2006 / 2007

Riverside Impact Funding

Project	Area	Grant	Project Cost
Young Savers	Community Seven	£20,000	£21,660
Streetvibe	Riverside Housing, Midlands	£24,223	£81,332.20
Warriors Healthy Basketball Community Project	Riverside Housing, Midlands	£16,000	£34,300
St Leonards, Youth and Community Hall	Riverside Housing, Liverpool	£24,477	£27,176
Peel/Knowsley Youth Engagement worker	Riverside Housing, Liverpool	£20,000	£55,465
Everyman/Playhouse Youth Theatre	Riverside Housing, Liverpool	£15,000	£29,520
Kensington Community Radio	Community Seven	£15,000	£48,250

Community Chest Fund

Project	Area	Grant	Project Cost
Kensington Cooking Project	Community Seven	£5,000	£16,789
Teen Idol 2007	Riverside Housing, Liverpool	£5,000	£14,400
Children's University Project	Riverside Housing, Liverpool	£1,700	£2,700
Youth Voice	Riverside Housing, Liverpool	£500	£1,500
New Heys School Enterprise Challenge	Riverside Housing, Liverpool	£500	£60,000

If you require this information in another format e.g. large print or audio cassette, or in another language, please call us on  **0845 111 0000**

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