



## **PARTNERS UPDATE**

**MARCH 2008**

### **Hot news**

#### **EEDA award to support St Johns Community Land Trust (Mildenhall)**

EEDA has agreed a substantial award to Keystone Development Trust to enable the purchase of land and to further develop the project during the period April 2008-March 2009.

#### **Keystone extends charitable boundaries**

Keystone, with permission from the Charity Commission, has extended its area of charitable benefit to cover all of the Forest Heath District Council area.

Keystone intends to work with existing community organisations to create alliances and 'add value', focusing on asset/ property development initially.

#### **Mobile Workers, housing and growth report**

Keystone will be publishing a major report on mobile workers and housing issues across the eastern region in April. This report is part of the work commissioned through an EEDA Building Communities Bursary Award. The project team has included colleagues from King Street Housing Association and Anglia Ruskin University/Public Policy Consultancy Group.

A Housing Association is providing sponsorship to publish the report in A4 'book' form

#### **DTA Consultancy - 'The Pool'**

The DTA (Development Trusts Association) launched its own consultancy in 2007. – 'The Pool'. The Pool provides support to a range of clients drawing from a nation wide pool of 'practitioner associates'.

Senior Keystone staff have recently delivered the following contracts for the DTA Pool;

- **LB of Lewisham** - constructive review on an asset transfer

- **North Shropshire Council/ North Shropshire Community Asset Trust** - business and investment model, asset case study
- **Peterborough City Council** - lead on a critical friend review of an asset transfer (ongoing)
- **Birmingham City Council** – constructive review for the Rover/Longbridge site and establishment of a community development trust

### **Keystone Chief Executive honoured by the Institute for Place Management**

Neil Stott has been asked by the IPM to become a Senior Fellow (SFIPM). A Senior Fellowship is awarded by the IPM Board to individuals who have made 'outstanding contribution' to place management.

## **Children and Youth**

### **Kollectiv**

The Kollectiv continues to be successful, with a gig attended by over 100 young people taking place in February. The event, for several Kollectiv members was a first time opportunity to perform in public. It was featured in two editions of the *Thetford and Brandon*. A funding application to develop new opportunities for Kollectiv members will be prepared later this year.

### **Young Parents Project**

- *Workshop Development and Film Development*

Another Healthy Living Day will go ahead on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at the Connexions building. Again the workshop will be delivered to year 9 students.

- *'Baby Buddies' peer mentoring project*

The group is set to launch on the 8<sup>th</sup> April. Home start has been instrumental in helping Keystone provide a professional peer-mentoring programme. Home start will provide one worker and their building for the project. A web site will be formed to accompany the service.

- *Young Fathers group*

The young fathers drop in group is set to launch on April 14<sup>th</sup>, however work is already taking place with young fathers and individual visits are scheduled. A young Fathers worker is now working on the project. Referrals continue to be made from NHS and now also Connexions.

### **Detached Youth Work Project**

Funding of £1,000 was recently successfully granted from the Safer Thetford Action Group to undertake a series of detached youth work sessions around town utilising

Keystone's pool of casual youth workers. This project will be undertaken in partnership with Norfolk Youth Service and will last for 15 weeks starting at the beginning of April 2008.

Youngsters will be advised of activities taking place around the town which they may like to get involved with. Information will also be gathered which will be fed into a report looking at why young people congregate in these areas.

### **Imagine / Community Arts Project**

Terry Jermy began his new role as Community Arts Co-ordinator at the beginning of February following confirmation of further funding from the Monument Trust.

An Easter Town Trail and arts and crafts session at the Guildhall, Thetford took place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. – over 40 children and parents attended.

## **Keystone Community**

### **Community Group Support**

Funding was successfully received from Peddars Way Housing Association to enable Terry Jermy to continue with his community development work role covering the Barnham Cross Estate, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> February for one year. Terry will work one-day a week in this role, normally on Fridays.

### **Connecting Communities (META)**

#### ***Drop-in service***

The service was provided 3 days a week + every second Saturday and is extremely popular. In the first 2 months of the year, META provided 547 individual consultations and recorded 705 enquiries.

#### ***Workshops, events, activities***

- joint bi-weekly Saturday sessions with CAB aimed at help and advice in the area of money and finance. The project is supported by the Department of Work and Pensions and is called "Now Let's Talk Money" project.
- The project supported the Norfolk Police Headquarters and participated in 2 of their PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) training programmes. The project delivered the presentations on cultural differences and community cohesion.
- Four National Insurance (NINo) sessions were held in co-operation with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). 154 community members applied for a National Insurance number.
- In cooperation with Regional Language Network, the project prepared and delivered a workshop on Polish employment culture aimed at employers of Polish workers in Cambridgeshire. Six employers from farming and construction industry participated in the workshop.

- META project manager spoke at the Regional NINo conference held in Ely about migrant issues and cooperation between META and Job Centre Plus.
- Project also delivered a presentation at a national conference of DWP in London, where its “Now Let’s talk Money” Project was presented.

### **Hotline service**

Out of the total number of 140 phone calls in the first two months of 2008, 104 phone calls were from the East of England region. Callers key concerns included; welfare, employment and consulate issues. The most frequently used languages were Polish (62), Portuguese (27) and Lithuanian (19).

The evaluation of the whole Migrant Gateway project (META hotline, Hotline for employers and website for migrants) is currently underway.

## **Keystone Buildings & Enterprise**

### **Abbey Neighbourhood Centre**

The Abbey Neighbourhood Centre is seeing increasing numbers of community members through its doors following the opening of the Café by local residents Ricky and Sarah Allot.

### **Innovation Centre**

The British Red Cross has agreed, subject to lease, to rent one of the remaining three rooms in the building.

### **Enterprise Factory**

Two New tenants (including Freeze Creative Design) have moved into the KEF during March

### **Green Ventures**

Green Ventures has continued to experience good sales figures and items diverted from landfill.

Total sales during January and February amounted to £7,184, an average of more than £3,500 per month which is ahead of target. This is an excellent achievement especially since the relocation to the Abbey Estate during December which resulted in a much smaller retail and showroom area.

The total tonnage collected and diverted from landfill during these months was 3,334 tonnes from a total of 148 items collected.