



PARTNERS UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2008

Hot news

Keystone 8th largest asset holding UK development trust

Keystone is featured in Regeneration and Renewal Magazine (12/9/08) as the 8th largest asset holding trust in the UK and trust with a major increase in earned income 2007/08.

King Street Housing Society partners Keystone

King Street Housing Association (with their development partners Bedford Pilgrims) has joined Keystone to deliver the proposed community land trust supported by EEDA.

National Migrant Portal

Keystone has joined a consortium led by HTK Ltd to bid for the National Migrant Portal project led by EEDA.

Private sector partner for Keystone Research and Consultancy

Keystone's research and consultancy social enterprise has a new partner, **Safety Net Associates** who focus on crime and community safety contracts for local authorities and Government agencies.

Suffolk META launches in October

Keystone's successful migrant worker project will be running information and guidance sessions in five locations across Suffolk with the support of Suffolk County Council, GOE and local authorities.

Children and Youth

Young Parents Project

The Fathers group '**Dads Place** will now be running on Saturdays 12noon to 2pm.

The **Baby Buddies** group is well established. A trip was held to Fun 2 Play for the young parents and their children to help recruit new members.

Research is underway with young parents into the phenomenon of teenage pregnancy as a lifestyle choice. Young parents are developing the questionnaire that will go to other young parents with the results being published later in the year.

Workshops into the realities of teenage parenthood have now finished with a total of 342 young people benefiting from the project.

Imagine / Community Arts Project

The **children and youth arts group** has met every Tuesday at the Abbey Neighbourhood Centre with sessions for those aged 5-9 years and 10-15 years. Forty children have been attending both groups. Numerous parent volunteers are also supporting the activities and are receiving training and advice..

'**Street Art Comes To Thetford**' event took place on the Market Square on the 27th and 28th August. Children and their families had the opportunity to take part in creating a giant mural in tribute to the Olympics. This was very well received with over 100 people taking part and media coverage on Radio Norfolk and local newspapers.

The **Bollywood Brass Band Concert** will be held on Saturday 27th September 2008 in the Carnegie Rooms in association with Creative Arts East and Village Stage

Charles Burrell Community Garden Project: This project has been progressing well following confirmation of £24,000 funding towards the end of July. Meetings have been taking place with the relevant partners including the Charles Burrell Museum and the local High Schools. The initial series of workshops are currently being put together and will commence towards the end of September.

Keystone Community

West Thetford Community Work / Community Group Support

£5,000 has been awarded to the **Fulmerston Family Project** from Norfolk Community Foundation following support from the Keystone Community Worker. This money will be put towards extending the **Barnham Cross Big Sitting Room**.

Keystone has supported the set up of two evenings a week football training sessions taking place in Thetford following the confirmation of £10,000 in funding obtained from the Football Foundation and Norfolk Community Foundation.

A new group has been established to organise events and activities for residents of the Abbey Estate. Many of these activities will take place in the Abbey Neighbourhood Centre. The new group, named by local residents, is called **ANCHOR** and stands for; Abbey Neighbourhood Centre Helping Our Residents. The group has organised a Table Top Sale for Saturday 27th October and also a Halloween themed quiz night on Thursday 30th October.

META (Mobile Europeans Taking Action)

Drop-in service

The Drop in is currently running on Thursday and Friday each week. META has provided information and guidance to the following number of clients:

July	228
August	189

Benefits, employment and financial matters were among the most frequent issues discussed.

Workshops, events, activities

The bi-weekly Saturday sessions with CAB aimed at help and advise on money and finance continue. This project is supported by the Department of Work and Pensions and is called **“Now Let’s Talk Money”** with 45 – 50 clients being assisted with financial issues in July and August.

META continues to work closely with the CAB to assist with translations at pre-booked appointments in Thetford as part of casual staff training. META now has a bank of 12 new casual workers who speak Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian and Portuguese.

Four National Insurance (NINo) sessions were held in co-operation with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Hotline service

Numbers of clients using the META Hotline:

July - 75 calls

August – 56 calls

The team are now letting clients know that this service will be discontinued from the end of September 2008. Hotline staff have started to compile a database of agencies and employers in the East of England (concentrating on Thetford, Brandon and their rural surrounding areas) in order to continue to effectively promote our services to migrant workers.

TAVO (Thetford Association of Voluntary Organisations)

TAVO followed up a course on press releases with a visit to Archant Offices in Norwich. 12 TAVO members were treated to presentations from the Advertising and Marketing teams and talked to local editors and page setters on a tour of the offices. .

Keystone Grants

Shadwell Grants Scheme

15 ***Local Food Boxes*** are delivered weekly in association with the Local Food Group. The ***Fast Track Furniture Scheme*** has attracted over 10 referrals from Peddars Way Housing Association.

Green Grants

Keystone is managing Moving Thetford Forward's Green Grants scheme. Applications are invited from local groups.

Keystone Buildings

Abbey Neighbourhood Centre

New bookings from Norfolk Children's Services, Norfolk Wildlife Trust who are holding a Community wildlife garden project and Adult Education who will be running a ten week maths course. .

ANCHOR has lots of activities planned including a Table Top sale, Halloween Quiz night and a pool tournament. Local businesses have donated free entry tickets or cash prizes for the quiz night and Peddars Way have offered to provide trophies for the winners of the pool tournament.

The café continues to do well and has recently received some good press coverage in the paper. The café still has regular customers and continues to expand.

Innovation Centre

Im-Sense Ltd, a digital imaging company which started up at UEA, and Tulip Ltd are recent new tenants. The building is now 93% occupied.

During July and August there were a total of 43 meetings/conferences attended by 452 delegates.

Keystone Enterprise

Green Ventures

Green Ventures now has two linked shops open to the public. Total sales during July and August amounted to £3,540. The total tonnage collected and diverted from landfill during these months was around 4 tonnes from a total of approximately 300 items collected.

Local Food Group

After a relatively quiet summer visitors to the café and conference bookings have increased during September. A new autumn menu will be introduced shortly.

The LFG continues to manage the Food Box scheme delivering boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables to local families.