

**nesa Young People, Creativity & Arts,
Interim Development Report 2006 – 07
For Norton Radstock Town Council**

Summary

Norton Radstock Town Council funding has been crucial and essential in the development of arts activities for the Young People of Norton Radstock and the **nesa** Young People Creativity & Arts programme development. This funding plays a key role in the leveraging and drawing down of additional match funding and the growth in partnership work to support a slow organic growth in delivery. Funding from 2006 – 07 has been allocated as below, **nesa** seek one year's funding at the current level of £5,500 for 2007 – 08. A regular funding stream and commitment to fund the programme for a longer period would support the 'Big Lottery' application and ensure stability of delivery in the long term.

As with previous years' funding agreements, the priority areas remain:

- Radstock Youth Centre Wednesday Evening Arts Night
- Saturday Arts Café Radstock Youth Centre
- Midsomer Norton Detached & Outreach work with Laterz Youth Club
- Mental Health Issues Based Work



The Funding, goodwill and support received from Norton Radstock Town Council has contributed towards a period of sustained growth, development and stability in the area of **nesa's** work with Young People (YP). It has enabled both the development and delivery of an extensive programme of arts activities for YP in both Radstock and Midsomer Norton.

The funding has also enabled a model of good practice to be developed over a period of years. This model has been influential in attracting other funding partners, including other Parish and Town Councils across Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES). It has also been influential in the increase of B&NES funding for the Young People, Creativity and Arts Development Worker post within **nesa**, which has now increased from 18hrs to 22hrs per week and is secured on a 3-year service level agreement. This has been an endorsement and reflection of the quality and value of the work delivered by **nesa** in partnership with the Youth Service, and in the context of a climate of diminishing funding resources generally in B&NES, an area of work that is of substantial value.

Last year 2005-06 total funding for the YP creativity & arts programme was £32,600. NRTC funding enabled 12 out of a total of 31 projects to be delivered, a total of 57 sessions out of 150 sessions and 806 admissions out of a total 2364, B&NES-wide.

This Year 2006-07 funding currently stands at over £61,000 this includes a Major funding award from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Young Roots scheme of £25,000. The Young People of Norton Radstock and the surrounding area will benefit greatly from this increase in resources and the delivery of a major project locally.

Match funding from Norton Radstock Town Council and other partners has enabled a further bid to 'The Big Lottery' Fund for £150,000 over three years. This application is in process and **nesa** will be informed by the end of December 2006 as to the success of the application.

Although this year to date has been marked by some significant successes there have been a number of difficult issues encountered. The re-organisation, refocusing and staffing issues within B&NES Youth Service, combined with a more strategic approach from **nesa**, postponed much of the Youth Arts programme delivery at the beginning of the year and during the summer period. However project delivery has now increased and is due to increase dramatically over the next six months.

Strategic developments have taken place to ensure a long-term approach to the **nesa** YP & Creativity area of work. The first development has been the creation of an Arts Council England funded post through B&NES arts development. A freelance contract has been undertaken to write and implement a long-term strategic framework for the development of Youth Arts for B&NES. Andrew Henon is undertaking this work on a freelance basis. **nesa** has begun a process of engagement with YP to enable them to form steering groups to develop their own arts projects and programme, this is at the core of the 'Big Lottery' application and is a direction that **nesa** are actively pursuing.

Key Project Partners

- Norton Radstock Town Council
- B&NES Youth Service
- Quartet Community Foundation
- Keynsham Town Council
- Community Safety Partnership (Young Minds, Peasedown St John)
- Peasedown Parish Council
- Bath City Partnership
- Heritage Lottery Fund 'Young Roots'
- Snow Hill Young Fathers

Specific Project Update April – October 2006

- **Radstock Youth Centre Wednesday Evening Arts Night**

Transformation continues at Radstock Youth Centre with the refurbishment of the Women's toilet facilities and a ceramics project to produce a custom-made tiled wall and washbasin splash back. This project also included and complimented a complete redecoration and making good of the facilities. A mosaic mirror project is also planned for this project.

DJ workshops have been delivered leading up to the Christmas party event in December.

A Carnival committee of YP is being formed to work on ideas for next year's carnival.

- **Saturday Arts Café Radstock Youth Centre**

A number of taster sessions have been programmed to engage YP in a variety of arts activities. Consultation is ongoing. Raising awareness of Mental Health issues will also be a focus for the YP Arts Café and drop in sessions.

- **Midsomer Norton Detached & Outreach**

A memorial stone-carving project is taking place at Laterz Youth Club. This sculpture project will celebrate the life of one of the YP who was fatally injured in a car crash earlier in the year. This project will form the early part of a larger project to raise awareness of excessive speed and YP inexperience of the dangers of driving too fast. Increasing numbers of YP die or are injured on local roads and this project seeks to address some of the issues.

- **Mental Health Issues Based Work**

Mental health issues and specifically issues of drugs and alcohol abuse have been integrated into the arts project delivery particularly the DJ workshop and DJ events. There are plans to deliver a painting project in Laterz Youth Club specifically targeted at YP at risk of drugs and alcohol abuse and the Radstock Centre party will act as an awareness raising event.

- **Strategic Working**

A number of YP have signed up to meet as a steering group to develop arts projects themselves and to contribute towards the B&NES-wide YP arts festival development. These YP are key stakeholders in the **nesa** 'Big Lottery' application.

The **nesa** programme is offering YP the opportunity to have their work accredited through Duke of Edinburgh skills and service section awards and **nesa** plans to deliver and develop the new Arts Council Arts Award as a major strand of future development.

Andrew Henon

nesa Young People, Creativity and Arts