



## Connecting the Coalfield Partnership

www.urban-2.org.uk

### tackling the issues... **face on!**

issue six

### what's inside

#### page two

Spyral Allotment  
Barnardo's No 49 Allotment

#### page three

Monitoring  
URBACT

#### page four/five

Physical Improvements in your area  
Haswell Children Centre  
ELCAP Refurbishment  
Hetton School Health & Recreation Facility  
Haswell Mencap  
Robin Todd Centre  
The Hetton Centre  
Hetton Lyons Nursery

#### page six/seven

Money Matters  
Connexions U2U  
Coalfields Regeneration Trust  
Streetz  
Construction Challenge

#### page eight

European Commissions Visit  
Annual Review Committee  
Contact Details



Since 2002 the URBAN II Programme has allocated around £7 million to the Hetton and Murton area from the European Union's European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This has been matched with a further £11 million from other sources. The money has been used to fund a number of different projects ranging from Support for Young People, Education & Training, Business Development and

Capital Investment. With just under 18 months left for projects to run, the Development Team are continuing to encourage existing and new projects with good ideas to come forward and take up funding.

You can find Max the goat at the SPYRAL Allotment.

Turn to page 2 for more information

# Nurturing the URBAN II Communities

## SPYRAL Allotment, Murton



The aim of the SPYRAL (Sandhill Project for Youth and Allotments) project which is off Davison Crescent in Murton is

to promote gardening, healthy eating and exercise to schools and the local community. This will also support the reduction of stress and levels of coronary heart disease and obesity in the local area. Thanks to URBAN II and Liveability, funding will pay for a range of environmental improvements including secure fencing, footpaths, sheds and a community seating area. It will transform the allotment into a series of self contained gardens where community members can learn about the health benefits of growing food and regular exercise. Funding will pay for a range of tools and equipment which will let the group actively take part in every stage of the improvement works.



An exciting school garden will be created with an outdoor classroom and raised beds. SPYRALs resident goats, Max and his girlfriend Snowdrop, pigs, sheep, geese, pigeons and hens will also feel the

benefits of Liveability funding with some new pens. Funding will also be used to build the capacity of the group and offer relevant training to SPYRAL members. Jimmy Naylor, group Secretary, said "We have almost thirty young volunteers regularly working on the garden. The funding means they can continue to work to improve their environment and learn new skills at the same time". The progress of the project is going really well. They now have a constitution and have received training on Child Protection, Committee Skills and Strimmer training. The site has been cleared and a new fence has been erected. On September 16th they had a barbecue to celebrate the launch of SPYRAL and over sixty people attended. Construction work began on the site at the end of January.

## Barnardos The Hive Allotment No '49'



Barnardos 'The Hive' Allotment '49' is a community based environmental project on Seaham Road allotments Houghton-

le-Spring. Since the project began in 2003 local volunteers have worked with young people aged 13 – 25 years in the running and development of an organic allotment garden. Staff and volunteers offer formal and informal education and practical organic gardening skills, raising awareness on environmental issues such as on recycling and encourage a healthy lifestyle by offering guidance and information to local people.



August 2006 saw the official launch of Phase II of the project, with a garden party attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Sunderland. No.

'49' is now able to introduce practical gardening skills certified by City & Guilds for young people. Volunteering opportunities for local people aged 16 and over are available for people who wish to share their own horticultural or environmental skills and knowledge with the young people. Protective clothing and equipment is provided. Creche facilities are also available.

Full training for volunteering is available through the Barnardos induction process with opportunities for learning and development. Accredited training is offered where young people can gain nationally recognised qualifications certificated by NPTC (City and Guilds group).

If you would like more information on the allotment projects, please contact the Development Team (contact details on back cover).

# Programme Information

## Monitoring requirements

As we move towards the end of the Programme, greater emphasis is being placed upon the monitoring of projects. Even those projects that are now closed are still subject to being monitored.

### Why do we monitor?

Firstly, it's because it's a Commission requirement. Secondly it allows us to check that funding is being used for its agreed purpose and that the terms and conditions stipulated in the offer letter are being complied with. It also allows us to check how projects are performing against their financial and output targets.

Help and advice on monitoring is available from the Development Team. In addition, an Introductory Pack is available for all projects. This pack sets out what records projects need to keep as well as the various eligibility rules and criteria specific to European funded projects. The pack is on the Programme website or is available from the Development Team.

If you are involved in an URBAN II funded project, expect a visit. The best advice we can offer is to be prepared so check the guidance and if there's anything you're uncertain of, contact the Development Team.

## Programme Monitoring Committee Update

The Programme Monitoring Committee met on 23rd November. At this meeting, members approved a proposal for the limited virement of resources between priorities to be submitted to the Commission by the end of December. This proposal has since been submitted and a response is awaited. The decision can take up to 3-months. The proposed virement will enable

the programme to move resources from measures with less demand to those measures with greater demand and thus to achieve full commitment of resources. As only a limited virement proposal has been put forward, the overall aims and objectives for the programme remain unchanged.

## URBACT

The Young Citizens Project, which ran for 2 years, ended in July 2006 with the local launch of the Toolkit. The event, which followed the formal toolkit launch hosted by Bristol, was attended by an MEP, local Councillors, officers from authorities across the North East, Government Office for the North East and the young people who participated in the project.

The 2 year project aimed to empower Young People to play an active part in civic life and decision-making. It was primarily a research exercise exploring different models of youth participation and involvement. Partners were able to share information, learn from others' experiences and disseminate best practice through the development of this Toolkit.

The toolkit can be downloaded from the URBACT website ([www.urbact.eu](http://www.urbact.eu)). Copies are also available from the Youth Strategy Officers at Sunderland City and Easington District Councils. It is now the work of these officers to ensure the recommendations of the toolkit are disseminated and implemented. Their contact details are:

Sunderland City Council  
Michael Elsy  
Youth Strategy Officer  
Youth Development Group  
E.mail: [michael.elsy@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:michael.elsy@sunderland.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0191 553 7416

Easington District Council  
Stephen Clark  
Youth Strategy Co-ordinator  
Community Safety Unit  
E.mail: [stephen.clark@easington.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clark@easington.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0191 5186340

# Physical improvement in your area

## Haswell & District Mencap Centre



John Cummings MP for Easington laid the foundation stone for the new purpose-built facility for the disabled and the whole community in October 2006. The centre which is behind the existing building in Church View, Haswell Village is now nearing completion and will offer computer suites, conference rooms, sporting facilities and courses for the local community.



This project will provide a modern building for the benefit of the community and will be a catalyst to promote life skills, life long learning, and will allow for the delivery of a variety of diverse activities such as production and recording, physiotherapy and alternative therapeutic services. The centre will provide access to learning opportunities, information, advice and guidance. The new facilities will provide: a health resource centre; a community centre; an integrated disabled young persons facility; further education lecture and training rooms; multi-purpose hall; physiotherapy centre; sound and light music centre; retail trading area; café and restaurant and catering facilities; and workshops and storage areas. The centre is now nearing completion, with the official opening planned for June 2007.

## The Robin Todd Centre (South Hetton Community Centre)



URBAN II provided funding for the building of the Robin Todd Centre, a new facility replacing the old centre. The centre includes a reception area, main hall, two general meeting rooms, IT suite, gym, kitchen, library/information and resource centre, games room, changing rooms, plant room and storage space. The centre provides training, social, recreational and health improvement opportunities for residents of South Hetton.

## The Hetton Centre



URBAN II provided funding for the design and build of the Hetton Centre, a multi-functional community facility or 'one-stop shop' in the centre of Hetton. The community facility allows for an integrated programme of educational, recreational, cultural and social activities delivered by Sunderland city Council and other statutory and voluntary organisation located within the building. The building is part managed by Hetton Town Trust.

## Hetton Community Childcare



Hetton Lyons Nursery

Hetton Community Childcare is part of the government's strategic policy known as the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative. The project is located at the 2 nursery schools of Hetton Lyons and Hetton. At Hetton URBAN II funded an extension to the current build. Hetton Lyons is a modular building and URBAN funds the erection of 2 new units added to the existing modular building to ensure sufficient space was created for childcare. The project has created jobs for local people along with the establishment of a community enterprise.. Facilities are also provided on a part day basis for those undertaking training courses in basic skills, parenting courses, family literacy and family numeric courses which will also take place on site using the nursery schools community facilities.



### Haswell Children's Centre

A community facility in Haswell providing a range of services to parents and families, helping them to increase their employability and job skills. The facility provides 26 full day care places, training and support to unemployed residents. The building comprises kitchen, large training areas, 2 consulting/meeting rooms, an administration area, reception area and an outdoor play area.

### Easington Lane Community Access Point

A two-storey extension built to the rear of the Access Point building. The extension houses a purpose built training room, an accompanying creche facility, lift housing and a kitchen/family room. The training room accommodates teaching and training sessions for upto twenty five delegates and is used for a variety of courses.



### Phase 1 Refurbishment of Haswell and Distract Community Association

To support and develop the existing facility as a community resource for the Haswell area, making it more accessible and useable by all. Working with Easington Community Development Team and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to carry out improvements to the community centre.



### Hetton School Education Health and Recreation Community Facility

A new build and outdoor area for sporting activity for use by pupils of Hetton School and the wider community. The development includes a floodlit multi-use external games area, an indoor multi-use hall, a health and fitness room, changing rooms, office space, and reception area.

## The Joint Coalfields Regeneration Trust/Urban II Grant Fund

For the past three years the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (the Trust), in partnership with URBAN II has been providing advice, support and financial assistance to community and voluntary organisations that are working hard to tackle problems at grass-roots level.

The Trust is currently distributing a second tranche of Urban II funds to groups in the area with activities supported under the scheme falling within the Trust's funding priorities of Supporting Communities, Learning Communities, Enterprising Communities and Supporting People into Work. Grants are available between £500 and £10,000 via our Bridging The Gap scheme and for larger grants up to £40,000 via our Main Grants programme. Easy access grants of up to £5,000 are also available via a Development Fund, which may be

used for various training and Upskilling projects such as committee training, CRB checks, project planning assistance and exchange visits.

Recent examples of our support include South Hetton Cricket Club to provide new changing facilities and equipment to promote more active participation in cricket by local girls and young women, and the Passport to Success programme at the Hetton Centre in Hetton le Hole, which is a Volunteer Training and Development Programme. Both are making significant and valuable contributions to community regeneration.

For further details please contact michael.dennison@coalfields-regen.org.uk or telephone 0191 428 5550.

## Streetz Cafe



The Coalfields Youth Forum was rebranded as Coalfields Youth R Us! in January 2006, aiming to give young people from the area a voice. The group has dedicated itself to the planning and opening of Streetz Café and Drop in Centre in Houghton Town Centre, which opened on 8th November 2006. The café will be led and managed by the young people themselves, with support from youth workers who will also provide advice and information.

Streetz provides activities for 13 - 19yrs including DJ, Pool, Internet, console games, advice and support in Housing, Health, Youth Enterprise and is currently developing a recording studio and the use of new technologies such as pod casting. The project is open Monday - Thursday and hopefully in 2007 they will open 7 days a week.

YMCA HERRINGTON BURN 0191 385 2822  
hbymca@aol.com



## Construction Challenge Adults

This project will recruit 25 unemployed young people who are not engaged in learning from the URBAN II area onto a 50 week construction traineeship with Sunderland Housing Group, R.Bau Ltd and

HBG Construction Ltd and other Local Strategic Partnership's partners of Sunderland.

Each beneficiary will be trained to a full NVQ Level 2 in their chosen trade, and employed from day 1 with a local employer, receiving the national minimum wage with an employer contribution of £60 per week per candidate. On completion they will be offered progression onto an NVQ level 3 and ideally remain in employment with their original employer. For more information on this project telephone: Dave McKay on 0191 5255583

# Project news page

## Money Matters Wearside First Credit Union are expanding their Service



**Wearside First Credit Union is expanding its service thanks to support from Urban II Funding. Free Money Advice Sessions are available to all local**

**residents in Haswell; South Hetton; Murton; Easington Lane; Moorsley; Hetton; East Rainton and The Racecourse Estate.**

The free Money Advice Service which runs city wide provide local people the opportunity to attend a short session where information and useful tips are provided on basic budgeting; what to look for when applying for a loan and healthy eating on a budget. The Money Advice Service is a starting point for people who may need further support with their finances but are unsure of where or who to ask for help. The sessions provide people with a list of useful contacts for money advice support; savings and

low cost loans facilities and even help is available to deal with the stresses that can occur due to money problems.

The short sessions they deliver have so far been very successful and provide not only a link for local people to deal with any money problems; they allow people to learn the skills to take control of their finances in the future.

Debt is an ever increasing problem in the UK. Sessions provide basic tools and information to help prepare for expensive occasions such as Christmas and cost nothing but a few hours of your time.

If you would like to attend a session or require further information please contact Kerry Graham on 0191 514 7491 or e-mail [kgraham@wearsidefirst.com](mailto:kgraham@wearsidefirst.com).

## Connexions U2U Project Visit Parliament



The URBAN II Connexions U2U Project Young Persons Steering Group have shown real commitment this summer by attending an OCN accredited course in Community Group Skills delivered to them by Learn East.

The course was delivered over 6 sessions during the summer holidays and all that voluntarily attended will achieve the Certificate. The group was arranged as a committee for the purpose of the course and were given the task of arranging a trip to London to visit Parliament. They each took on individual roles and looked at various issues including funding. As a result they volunteered to do a Sponsored Walk around the URBAN II area, using mainly the old railway lines previously used by the pits. The route covered Easington Lane, Hetton Lyons, Murton Bridge, South Hetton and Haswell and was approximately 6 miles long.

The walk was supervised by Susan Day and Kate Bowers, and took place on in September last year. It took approximately 3 hours to complete the walk. All money raised contributed to the cost of the overnight London Trip, where they visited The Houses of Parliament, seeing the Billy Elliot play on stage, the London Dungeon and having free time in Covent Garden.

## Official from the European Commission visits the area

Rita Labundy, the officer appointed by the Commission to provide support to the Hetton and Murton URBAN II Programme visited the area in December to see first hand the range of projects that have been supported.

A full day tour of the programme area including visits to a number of projects was organised. In addition to the Commission official, representatives from Government Office for the North East and members of the URBAN II Co-ordination Group participated in the tour.

The projects visited included the allotment projects in Murton and on the Racecourse Estate, a visit to Haswell Mencap to see the progress of the new facility being built and the range of activities to be run from the centre, as well as a visit to the Hetton Centre to see both the facility and the range of services available from within the centre itself.

Despite being a long day with lots of project visits packed in, everyone enjoyed the day and gained a real insight in to the issues facing the programme area, and the positive impact the programme's already had through the projects that have been funded. It is hoped that more tours and events to meet with projects will be organised during the remaining period of the programme. If you are interested in coming on a tour or attending an event, please register your interest with the Development Team.

## Moving on

Marc Dobson, has moved on to take up a new post with One North East. Ed Banks joined the team in October last year as the new Assistant Co-ordinator. Pictured from left to right are Liz Lillie, Partnership Support Officer, Ed Banks, Assistant Programme Co-ordinator and Alison Clark, Programme Co-ordinator

## Project Networking



Project workers from all URBAN II funded projects are invited to quarterly networking events. Workers can exchange information, access advice, support and contribute to the Programmes development

## Report from the Annual Review Meeting

The Annual Review meeting for the English URBAN II Programmes was held at the offices of the European Commission in Brussels on 13th October. The Programme Co-ordinator attended the meeting along with colleagues from Government Office for the North East. Along with the other English URBAN II Programmes, the Hetton and Murton Programme reported on its progress, achievements and successes to date.

The report was well received by the Commission representatives who attended the meeting, noting in particular their encouragement towards the range of projects that have been supported and the grass-roots approach taken by the Programme.



**URBAN II Development Team**  
Sunderland City Council  
Strategic Programmes & Europe  
Room 2.74  
Civic Centre  
Sunderland  
SR2 7DN

Tel: 0191 5531916  
Fax: 0191 5531159



## FREE OF CHARGE

This document can be made available in alternative formats or languages (braille, audio tape, large print) simply contact the Development Team.



Assistance from the European Regional Development Fund will provide over £8 million of grant towards a programme of projects with a total value of over £17 million.