

Heading for self-sustainability

Connecting the Coalfield Partnership

www.urban-2.org.uk

issue four

KECO and REGEN School North East

Groups that rely on applications for funding to carry out their activities and even continue their existence have to contend with the constant risk that the funding will run out. There is another way and REGEN School North East are helping organisations to find it.

REGEN School North East offer an integrated programme of training and support that helps organisations to develop of their own sources of income. Enterprise activity may offer a key to sustainability. Organisations within the URBAN II area can take advantage of a combination of training, mentor support and a network of other organisations. Participants will receive support as they develop projects that will generate income for their organisations. They can also gain a qualification.

KECO (Knowledge and Experience through the Challenge of the Outdoors) provides outdoor activities to a wide variety of voluntary organisations and charities. Operating since 2001, it works within the URBAN II and the wider area with the support of its volunteers.

KECO have already taken advantage of the integrated programme that the REGEN School provide. Three members have attended workshops, activity weekends and participate in the mentor programme. They originally wanted to build their business skills and knowledge and specifically wanted to learn more about business planning, writing funding applications and how to source potential funders. They came away with an understanding of the importance of making their organisation less reliant on funding and more self-sustaining.

Louise Atkinson from KECO commented: "KECO provides a service that appeals to the voluntary and community, the public, and the private sectors. We had not previously developed and marketed services to attract the private sector as we thought that because we have charitable aims we were not allowed to make a profit. REGEN School encourages you to think of your organisation not as a 'not for profit' organisation but as a 'not for loss' organisation. What we have learned is that we can make as much profit as we like from the private sector and can then plough that back into KECO to assist our charitable aims."

Local organisations that are capable of providing first class services through enterprise activities will also provide employment and training opportunities. They will be less dependent on, or independent of, external sources of funding and so have better control over their own futures. Such organisations could have a huge impact on the regeneration of the area.

The REGEN School North East programme receives support from the URBAN II Initiative. For more information contact John Sargent on 0191 2267344

★ **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 £7 million of grant towards a programme of projects with a total value of over £15 million.**

Question Time comes to Murton



Young people from Sunderland and Easington were given the chance to question local politicians as part of efforts to improve their involvement in local decision-making.

The young people are all part of the URBACT Young Citizen's Project, which aims to involve young people in decision making through exploring different methods of youth participation. The Young Citizens Project reflects the emphasis that the Hetton and Murton URBAN II Programme gives to promoting investment in young people. Other partners in this



The young people meeting with the Politicians

transnational exchange project include cities from the UK, Europe and Ireland.

The event took place at the Glebe Centre in Murton on Saturday 2nd July. The young people had 20 minutes to question each panel member using a 'speed dating' format.

Poised to take the questions were Fraser Kemp, MP for Washington and the Coalfields, Councillor Joan Freak, Easington District Council's Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion and Councillor Patricia Smith, Sunderland Council's Portfolio Holder for Education and Citizenship. It is hoped to arrange a session later in the year for the young people to question Stephen Hughes MEP, who was unable to attend on the day.

Speaking about the event, Fraser Kemp MP said: "I really enjoyed the experience and found the discussion tough, challenging and informative. The young people were a credit to our community".

This was the second of four key events to take place this year, seeing the young people question further the role they play in decision-making. It is hoped that later in the year the young people will also participate in an exchange visit to one of the other project partner cities from across Europe, as well as hosting a visit. At the end of the project, the young people will be able to feed their experiences about their involvement in decision-making into a toolkit of best practice for dissemination across the whole of Europe.

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Advice & Support

Contact Details

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Transport for URBAN II Communities

Easington Lane Community Access Point



Additional transport services are now available to groups in the URBAN II area. Easington Lane Community Access Point provide minibuses through a community transport project run in partnership with SureStart Hetton and Houghton. The project is supported by a grant from the URBAN II Initiative.

Membership to the scheme is open to all of the community groups of the area and enables them to book one of two minibuses free of charge. It is a runaway success with over 60 groups already taking advantage of the service and demand is very high.

Used as transport to training courses, social activities and places of employment, the minibuses are helping residents to take up more of the opportunities that are available. The buses are fully accessible, they have tail lifts and child seats and they are available 7 days a week including evenings.

The scheme trains volunteers in preparation for the MIDAS minibus test. This means that the groups can provide their own drivers and allows for the flexible use of the buses to best suit the needs of the groups. There is also a central team of drivers and volunteers that can provide a first class service to allow residents to access opportunities in which they would otherwise find it hard to get involved.

If your organisation is interested in becoming a member, you are interested in becoming a qualified minibus driver or you would like to know more about the scheme call 0191 5261071.

Hetton & Houghton Business Club

2 part time co-ordinators funded by URBAN II offering advice and support to new business start-ups within Hetton/Houghton area.

Membership costs £50 per year:

- Monthly informative newsletters
- Monthly meetings; guest speaker, buffet, networking opportunities
- Opportunity for mentoring with established businesses
- Free 50 word advert in Business Club N.E. magazine

For more information please contact Val or David on 0191 5121144



More opportunities for learning



Hetton as a Learning Community

For those residents of the URBAN II area that want to learn, the Hetton as a Learning Community project has made every effort to remove any of the potential barriers they may face. Based at the Hetton Centre, the project offers a mixture of non-accredited and accredited short programmes of learning. All of the courses are free and the emphasis is on the provision of a safe, non-threatening and friendly environment.

Efforts to make the opportunities as accessible as possible include support for less confident learners, courses run during child-friendly hours and childcare places available free of charge. Daytime courses are offered at the centre and additional evening courses are offered in partnership with Hetton School.

In addition to the learning programmes, the Hetton as a Learning Community project provides a series of annual one-off events including International Womens' Week, Adult Learners' Week and Family Learning Opportunities.

Courses currently available:

Confidence Building	Art and Crafts	Assertiveness
Return to Maths and English	Adult Teaching Certificate	Salsa Dancing
Basic Skills Support	Introduction to Guitars	Childcare
Family History	Watercolours	

To receive your copy of the new programme in preparation for the September term, or to find out about what is on offer, telephone 0191 5536790.

connexions

Driving Theory CD ROMs available to practice

At Robin Todd Centre 2-4 pm Thursday's
Drop in for advice and guidance

Hetton Centre in the Youth Room, 1.30-3.30pm every Wednesday
Drop in to look at vacancies as well



Keyfund Celebration

In January this year a Keyfund Celebration was held in recognition of the achievements of a number of groups of young people. The young people who had all participated in Keyfund projects received certificates from the former Mayor and Mayoress of Sunderland. After the presentations they took part in an evening of music, workshops and other activities.

The Youth Development Group, Youth Information, Connexions U2U, East Durham Youth in Action, KECO Sunderland, Health Promotions, Creativity within the Communities, Izzy Arts and Get Wired all contributed to the successful event.

The Keyfund offers groups of young people the opportunity to gain funding for projects and activities that they have planned for themselves. The process of planning and delivery helps them to develop their skills and confidence.

As the Keyfund project is now drawing to the end of its two year lifespan (November 2005), plans are in motion towards organising a Keyfund Party during National Youth Work Week (Oct 30th – Nov 5th 2005). If any young person in the URBAN II area would like to participate please contact Diane Laws. Tel: 0191 5172616 for more information.