

GYTOGETHER Special Edition

What is NRF?

NRF (the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund) is all about meeting the needs of people in the most deprived neighbourhoods. It aims to 'kick-start' improvements in services by allowing organisations to try out new projects or test new ways of doing things.

Great Yarmouth has received about twelve million pounds of NRF since 2001, finishing in March 2008. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which includes organisations from the voluntary, public and business sectors, has overall responsibility for deciding how NRF should be spent.

NRF has to be spent in specific areas in Great Yarmouth called 'Priority Neighbourhoods' which mainly cover most of urban Great Yarmouth and Cobholm, Lichfield and Magdalen. These areas have been identified as places of high 'multiple deprivation'.

An important part of NRF is that the local community should 'shape' services - in other words, the views of the community, voluntary and faith sectors should be taken into account when services are planned. For this reason NRF also funds community empowerment and supports 'Great Yarmouth People'.

The funding needs to be spent on key areas of housing, health, education, employment,

environment and crime as well as local targets - for NRF in Great Yarmouth these are teenage conception, income maximisation and community empowerment.

Since 2001, there have been around 200 projects funded by NRF – below are just a few of the current ones:

NRF Projects

Build Great Yarmouth Project

Construction Training Specialists Ltd (CTS) is a local training provider. Working in partnership with Norfolk Guidance Service in particular, CTS' role provides training, together with help to break down barriers to employment, to unemployed people in Great Yarmouth interested in a career in construction. The project has seen 70+ participants given a greater awareness of the construction industry, 60+ undertaking



taster training sessions in brickwork, carpentry and painting and decorating and 40+ participants so far successfully completing site induction and health and safety awareness training.

Approx 95% have passed health and safety tests in year 2 of the project. Successful trainees can apply for a basic CSCS card, thereby helping them to obtain work placements/ employment.

For further information contact Simon Cooper, CTS Business Manager on Great Yarmouth 442299.

Ageless Opportunities for the Over 50's!
NRF funding was awarded to Ageless Opportunities "to raise the awareness of and involvement in a range of activities, physical, recreational, social and cultural, for people over 50."

After finding out what activities were already running in the Borough for "older people", a Directory of over 80 social activities was launched in March 2007. The launch event was held at The Marina Centre and demonstrated cookery, Egyptian dancing, seated exercise, scrabble, and *self defence with a walking stick* (see photo below) amongst other things.



Approx 5,000 Directories were printed & distributed and a second update, featuring 110 activities, was published in January 2008 with 7,000 copies distributed.

In the first 5 months 15 groups having had a total of 141 new members!

New groups are already asking to be featured in the next edition! Pick up a copy of the Directory at The Marina on 15/03/08 or at The Priory, CLIP offices, JPH, GPs surgeries, Libraries or Northgate Hospital. For further information contact Kate Platt on Great Yarmouth 743055.

'Way to Go!' in Great Yarmouth

Eighteen (18) Schools in Great Yarmouth have taken part in a project called 'Way to Go!' run by the Travel Plan Team at Norfolk County Council. The project aims



Pupils from Peterhouse Middle School walking to school.

to encourage people to walk and cycle to school to improve their health and the local environment. Each pupil who takes part is entered into a draw to win a prize. The scheme commenced in September and has seen an increase in the

number of people walking and cycling to school. The 'Way to Go!' trophy holders for the 3rd year are Peterhouse Middle School with a huge 93% of people walking to school.

The scheme ends at Easter, but all the schools involved will continue to work towards decreasing car use on the school journey. For more information, contact Emma Luxford, Norfolk County Council Travel Plan Officer on 01603 638083

The Matthew Project

The Matthew Project received funding from NRF in Great Yarmouth to deliver two projects: Education and Outreach Services to Young People about the risk of Alcohol & Unsafe Sex.

The two projects covered:

- Outreach sessions using The Matthew Project Big Red Bus and the Voicebox Caravan
- Lessons & Lunchtime drop-ins in schools
- 1-2-1 Support targeting vulnerable young people
- Counselling for young people needing more intensive support



As a result, many young people have a greater knowledge about the risks of alcohol use and unsafe sex; many have

indicated in their feedback that they will make changes to their drinking and sexual behaviours; over 85% said they thought our sessions were 'good' or 'excellent'; over 100 young people have been signed up to the 'C-card' (condom card) scheme by The Matthew Project; feedback has also shown awareness of risk is increasing in the majority of cases and alcohol use has decreased and safer sexual practice increased for some young people; some young people have been referred on to and engaged with other services.

The project has also developed a network of strong partnerships with schools, colleges, Children's Services and a number of voluntary sector providers.

To find out more, contact Graeme Stewart, Youth Team Manager, The Matthew Project on 0845 8688172

Business Action on Employability and Skills (BAOES)

BAOES uses business support to help equip those who have been homeless & are now vulnerably housed OR are at danger of becoming homeless with the necessary skills to gain employment and move towards independent living. Many are ex offenders/recovering from alcohol or drug abuse.

BAOES is unlike any other programme in the area because the businesses taking part are totally committed and focused to improving the local area, supporting local

people and to engaging and inspiring their staff to train as Buddies and Job Coaches.

BAOES takes referrals from relevant agencies such as homeless, youth offenders, including those on alcohol & drug rehabilitation programmes, and provides training to help equip the client with the necessary skills to take them on into a work placement with one of several the businesses taking part in the scheme. At the end of the placement they are awarded with certificates of achievement and are given a one on one trained Job Coach - some have taken up vacancies virtually straight after their placements.



Job Coach presenting Certificate of Achievement to participant of programme

Since the programme started 11 clients have been offered/started work and many others have been uplifted by the programme.

For further information contact Jayne Barnard, Project Manager on 07786 987874

**Thank you!
from The NRF Team**

Neighbourhood Renewal Funding in Great Yarmouth finishes at the end of this month (March) – The NRF Team (Rachael Darnell & Sandra Goodrum) would like to thank all past and present NRF Project Leaders and workers for their hard work during the life of their NRF Projects and wish them every success in achieving continuation of their work...

We would like to acknowledge all those projects which have endeavoured to meet our quarterly claim deadlines, with a special acknowledgement to Emma Luxford (EV21 'Way to Go!' Project) who received an NRF Certificate for the earliest claim received before the quarter 3 deadline – to take a quote from the late Lord Chesterfield (British Statesman and Diplomat) "Promptness is the soul of business"

NRF Contacts:
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