

£8.5 million of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) has been awarded to Great Yarmouth to meet the needs of the people in its most deprived neighbourhoods. Funding is given to a wide variety of projects with the aim of improving public services in order to meet the government's 'Floor Targets' (the minimum level at which a public service should operate). Community involvement is an important factor in NRF.

NRF is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year of what was initially intended to be a 5-year programme. The

government plans to extend funding for a further 3 years, however it is not yet certain which areas of the country will be funded.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council administers the fund, but overall responsibility for spending NRF lies with our Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which is made up of voluntary, public and business organisations. If you want to find out more about the LSP or have a look at projects past and present, please go to our website [www.gylsp.org.uk](http://www.gylsp.org.uk).

## NRF PROJECTS

### Family Support Outreach Worker for Home-Start

Earlier this year Leah James joined Home-Start, one of the UK's leading family support organisations established in 1973. They offer support, friendship and practical help to families who face a variety of difficulties including isolation, ill health, relationship problems, bereavement, post-natal illness and multiple births.

Leah, who is funded part-time by NRF, makes home visits to those families who have serious and complex needs and works alongside them to offer support and practical help. Above all, Leah can offer time and a flexible, 'hands-on' approach, often spending several hours a week with a family. This short-term, intensive support enables families to make positive changes in their lives and ultimately access mainstream support.



## NRF Projects

**The Safer Communities Team** (formally known as the Priority Policing Area), managed by Dave Gladden, works to build local partnerships and improved community confidence through action to reduce crime and disorder and improve the environment. The area covered by the team has recently been expanded from the former Regent Ward to include Nelson Ward.



The second **Environmental Action Day** held on 10 August was a huge success. It brought together some 150 police, fire-fighters, council workers, community workers and volunteers who cleaned up graffiti, cleared litter and removed abandoned cars in Regent Ward.

In October the **Nightsafe** scheme was launched. The campaign is introducing a series of initiatives to ensure that adults and families can come to Great Yarmouth

for a fun evening without being affected by alcohol-fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour

**Acorn Grants** award funding of between £500-£10000 to small voluntary and community groups to fund a new activity or the start-up of a social enterprise. One such programme is the Disabled Garden based at Great Yarmouth College.

The garden is designed to be an accessible and enjoyable space for disabled people, as well as a place where new skills can be learnt. Garden manager, Liz Armstrong explained that the raised beds within the garden were built by college students on a bricklaying course, the garden also contains many scented plants as well as a central water feature. A range of especially adapted tools are available and Liz and the gardener Michael, who is himself disabled, are available at the site on Monday mornings. Besides the garden, there is also a well-attended Disabled Gardening Club that meets monthly.



Other projects in Great Yarmouth to receive Acorn Grants included 'GY Skids', who received funding towards a social enterprise for 'virtual' driver training, the Redundancy

Advice Network who hosted a series of workshops for unemployed people over the age of fifty, INDIGO Dyslexia Service who help dyslexic people gain and retain employment and Norwich Puppet Theatre for a project to engage pupils who are excluded or at risk of exclusion.

## What happened next? *An update on past NRF projects*

**Toy Library:** NRF funded set-up costs for a base for the Toy Library, due to be finished in January, and for the purchase of a van to deliver the service to schools and community groups. You can't fail to notice the van as it's emblazoned with colourful artwork which is bound to catch the eye of any fun-loving kid! The Toy Library forms part of the Children's Centre in the ongoing Priory School Development, which offers a wide range of facilities for children, including an integral nursery. The Toy Library building itself was formerly a garage, which has now been renovated to provide



a storeroom on the ground floor and office facilities on the first floor. The service is manned by the Toy Library Worker, Jason Brown and part-time Support Worker, Catherine Wilkinson, whose posts are both funded by Sure Start. A wide variety of toys, equipment and books are available for loan to all nurseries and for the benefit of under fours living in the Great Yarmouth Sure Start area.

Jason visits groups on a monthly basis to swap library books and toys. The Toy Library also provides items such as karaoke machines to after-school clubs, runs multi-cultural events at Great Yarmouth public library and sells art and craft equipment to playgroups and nurseries.

**The Handyperson Scheme**, operated by the Safe at Home Agency, carries out much needed minor repairs and adaptations to the homes of older, disabled and vulnerable people. A multi-skilled handyperson identifies risks within a home by way of a home safety audit, which has been developed in conjunction with Social Services and the PCT. They can carry out on the spot repairs to items such as loose stair rails, trailing electrical leads, insecure windows and



doors; larger jobs, such as replacing a rotten window, can also be dealt with swiftly.

The scheme is helping to reduce the possibility of falls and accidents within the home, thus preventing hospital admissions. This valuable and badly needed service helps owner-occupiers and private tenants to remain living in their own homes thus maintaining their independence. In the last year the Agency received 123 enquiries and 111 people were helped. Tribute has been paid to the scheme for the speed and efficiency of the service provided to clients in emergency cases.

The Scheme continues with funding from Norfolk Supporting People budget, capital funding is now provided from the Borough Council's Private Sector Renewal budget.

## NRF PROJECTS ...

**ANOTHER AWARD FOR EAZ** - Great Yarmouth Education Action Zone (EAZ), in partnership with Great Yarmouth College and Skill Force have been awarded the Regional National Training Award for their unique project 'Campus Yarmouth'.



The scheme allows 14-16 year olds to study for vocational qualifications in engineering, catering, construction, hairdressing and business administration at Great Yarmouth College. Students must also take 5 GCSEs and gain broader skills and awards such as First Aid Certificates and Duke of Edinburgh awards through the Skill Force programme. Figures show that Campus Yarmouth improves attendance and a large proportion of students go on to further education or training. There are about 200 youngsters currently on the scheme.

**COBHOLM RANGERS** John Graves and Jackie Harrison took up their posts in May this year to provide a visible, uniformed presence on the streets of Cobholm. They work closely with social landlords and other organisations to respond to and discourage anti-social behaviour and low-level crime. The other key part of the role is to collaborate with other agencies to deal with environmental issues such as littering and fly-tipping. John and Jackie are linked by radio to the town centre control room which has a CCTV camera in the area. They also have use of a video camera to record evidence of anti-social behaviour that can be passed on to the police if further action is required.



The rangers have carried out a survey to get a feel for what residents see as the most pressing needs in the area. They held a summer barbecue in the area and are currently extending their patrol to respond to need and provide more cover in the evenings.

**Contact Details:** The NRF Team are based at Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Way, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QE.

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