

PRESS RELEASE

NDC Celebrates a Year of Community Grant Giving

Community Groups in Hathershaw and Fitton Hill are being invited to celebrate the launch of the innovative first ever Youth Bank in Oldham and to mark the number of community grants given out to local groups during 2007/2008.

The event will take place on the 28th April at Fitton Hill Youth Club between 5.30 and 7.30 pm.

Over the last year the NDC Programme has supported over 40 local groups and given out over 46 community grants, with some groups receiving more than one grant. This totals £55,000 worth of grants to help groups to grow, make a difference to their members, and help with the long-term regeneration of the area.

The event will give groups the chance to showcase what their grant money has been spent on and to display their achievements and talents. There will be a performance from the world renowned Siam Muay Thai Boxing Club and the versatile Performance Plaza.

Groups will also be given the opportunity to network and get new members, find out what else is happening in the area and support one another.

The event will also officially launch Oldham's first ever Youth Bank which started in November 2007. So far five grants have been given out to young people's groups in the area to help them improve, this totals £2,500.

The Youth Bank is a national initiative, which puts financial responsibility and choice in the hands of young people.

The launch will celebrate the young people's commitment to the Youth Bank and reward them for the 200 hours they've spent learning how to set up the initiative. All of the young people who sit on the Youth Bank panel have taken accredited courses to equip them with the knowledge and expertise to allocate grants appropriately.

The youngsters from the Youth Bank and members of the Community Team will also be on hand to advise and give out information on the grants available, which can be used by youth groups and other groups to go on trips, buy equipment or take up training.

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Lauren Ashworth, age 14 and a member of the Youth Bank said.
“The Youth Bank is a wonderful thing to get involved in; it’s great helping out other young people in the community. Setting it up has been a lot of fun and we are also learning many positive skills that may help us in the long term such as teamwork and money handling”

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