

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Local Charities win £2 million to help young people**

Three Hampshire-based charities have come together in a successful bid to bring much-needed resources to some of the most deprived areas in South Hampshire.

The scheme will work with local residents, police, Councillors, and youth services to identify the most challenging young people in targeted parts of South Hampshire and use a range of creative and challenging activities to divert them from risky and antisocial behaviour into training and employment. The aim is to reach 700 young people over the next two years in areas such as Leigh Park in Havant, Elson in Gosport, and the more deprived parts of the two cities.

Wheatsheaf Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Youth Options, and Motiv8 are all established local charities with a strong track record of engaging the most challenging young people. This is the first time all three have joined forces to work on a single programme. An innovative feature of the scheme is that they intend to involve the parents and families of the young people, who in many cases live in areas where two or more generations have been out of work for long periods, increasing the levels of poverty and social exclusion

Jonathan Cheshire, Chief Executive of Wheatsheaf Trust, said "We are very excited at this tremendous opportunity to put some real support into some of the most deprived areas in South Hampshire with two outstanding youthwork agencies. We are particularly keen on family involvement, as we do not believe it is possible to reduce youth disaffection in the long term without tackling underlying issues such as the embedded culture of worklessness and benefit dependency."

Mark Dixon said.....

Charlie Adie said.....

What else?

For further details, contact

Jonathan Cheshire: 023 8023 7662 or 07977 423823 [jc@wheatsheaftrust.org](mailto:jc@wheatsheaftrust.org)

Mark Dixon: ???

Charlie Adie: ???

## **Notes for Editors**

Wheatsheaf Trust is a registered charity whose main purpose is social inclusion. It runs a range of projects designed to encourage and support disadvantaged groups to take up jobs and training opportunities.

Its Employment Access Centres in Southampton offer free use of computers for letter/CV writing and job/learning search on the web, resource materials and details of local job/learning opportunities. A team of skilled advisers provides individual assistance and support. In just over 8 years, the EACs have had 50,000 callers, registered over 10,000 individual users, placed 3,057 people into work and over 600 into training. The Trust also runs a similar project in Havant, which has helped over 1,500 local residents into employment over the last 8 years.

The Trust's Supported Work Experience and Training project (SWEAT) provides a stepping stone for people needing support to find their way back into the labour market after prolonged unemployment. Participants work on a range of construction, landscaping, and horticultural schemes aimed at improving the local environment whilst providing training, work experience and support. The scheme is currently being extended into other sectors such as care, retail, and business administration. Local businesses use the scheme as a cheaper and more reliable way of recruiting new staff.

The Trust also works with local employers to broaden understanding of the wider labour market and runs cultural diversity and disability awareness courses.

Further information from Jonathan Cheshire, Chief Executive.

023 8023 7662

[jc@wheatsheaftrust.org](mailto:jc@wheatsheaftrust.org)