

# Case Study – Balsall Heath Cats

Amount Granted: £6,996.00 (Local Network Fund)

## The Project:

Balsall Heath Cats are a group of parents who had found it impossible to access play and leisure facilities with their children with special needs. They formed a group so that they could help their children take part in activities that other families take for granted. They want their children to be included as a normal part of society and their aim is to promote social inclusion through play.



The grant was used to organise twelve, monthly inclusive play sessions for children in the Balsall Heath area, and also to provide training for parents so that they could learn how to run a voluntary group.

**Total number of Beneficiaries: 150 (males = 60 / females = 90)**

White British: 1	Indian: 12	Pakistani: 98	Bangladeshi: 3	Caribbean: 6
Somali: 7	Mixed Background: 11	Yemeni: 20		

**Area of Benefit:** Balsall Heath, Birmingham

## The difference the project has made:



These sessions have greatly increased the self esteem and self confidence of both young people and their parents. They have met and worked with new people. Children have had accessible play provided in their own community. Some children have moved on to become Junior Helpers which has given them responsibility and improved the behaviour of more challenging young people. Our parent members have improved their social and communication skills and their confidence. They have taken part in training courses, socialised and become more aware of their own capabilities and skills. Parents have taken part in meaningful voluntary work which has led directly to parents returning to paid employment.

## Quote:

'Without this bid, we would not have been able to start as a group and provide opportunities for children with special needs to take part in everyday life.'