



Working in partnership with **Fair Share Trust**

£423,218 has been awarded to 44 Voluntary/Community Groups during Apr 08 – Mar 09

The Fair Share Trust is a ten year project (ending 2013), which targets those areas that suffer considerable disadvantage and have previously received less than their fair share of National Lottery funding.

The total fund value for each area is £800,000 giving an estimated spend each year of £80,000, these funds are available through a grant application process to any organisation which is able to demonstrate that their project meets the criteria listed below (see website for more details)

The 3 Principal aims of Fair Share are:

- ⊙ To build capacity and sustainability in local communities, including support for community assets and planning and involvement in local regeneration.
- ⊙ To build social capital through offering funding for local social developments, supporting job creation, skills development, social networks and community engagement in local organisations, activities and initiatives
- ⊙ To improve the local environment, enabling communities to make it safer, healthier, greener, cleaner, better designed and more welcoming to all groups.

A key issue for the Fair Share Trust is the lack of capacity of its community groups to lead on regeneration of the area. This lack of capacity may not just apply to geographic communities, but also to certain communities of interest.

Birmingham & Black Country Community Foundation covers the following 4 areas:

Alumwell (Walsall); **Great Bridge** (Sandwell); **St Andrews** (Dudley) and **North Solihull**

Total fund value over 10 years – £3.5million

See a couple of short stories overleaf...

Short Story: Seeds of Hope (North Solihull) – £90,000 grant

We needed to secure funding (Jan 2009 – Jan 2012) to cover the costs of a project worker and cleaners over three years. Without a full-time project worker, there would be no one to organise and support the provisions on offer. Our provisions are vital to the local community, but without the support and advice from a project worker they would be non-existent.

Seeds of Hope were set up in 1998 to promote and encourage a range of community activities in Kingshurst, Solihull. Seeds of Hope provide a vibrant meeting space for members of the local community hosting everything from bingo and over 50's dance classes to moms and tots groups.

"The company is good, we play bingo and it's nice to get out!"

"When Margaret lost her husband, we were there for her."

"Our project worker really looks after us, she keeps an eye, and she's very good to us."

"This is the best place our group have ever been!"

(Agnes, Edna & Muriel, the Over 50's Club)



Short Story: StART (Dudley) – £33,154 grant

The community hub that the funding supports has been used by a wide range of individuals, voluntary groups, and organisations. The young people had access to social and educational activities such as Wolf Mountain, Laser Quest and Blackwell Court that would otherwise not be accessible. Parents regularly commend the wonderful service we are able to provide to the local community.

Most importantly, the experiences that the young people gained have given them and their families the confidence to take part in new activities, while broadening their horizon for the future.

"I enjoyed myself and wish that these trips can happen again for the StART because they do so much for the community and help so many people throughout the year."

StART (St Andrews Residents Trust)

