



Birmingham & Black Country Community Foundation has worked in partnership and administered funds on behalf of **Urban Living Community Cohesion Chest** £175,000 has been distributed to **Voluntary/Community Groups, improving Places and Supporting Communities in Pathfinder Areas**

Urban Living is a housing 'Market Renewal Pathfinder', focusing on improving places and supporting communities. The Pathfinders have been set up to deal with the wide range of problems that affect local homes –overcrowding, lack of housing choice, empty properties, and run down neighborhoods.

Simply improving housing is not enough. Our aim is to support communities in making their area a good place to live; one that is cohesive and an area where people choose to live and promotes a sense of pride. This is why we link with other organisations, together we are working to tackle issues such as crime, transport, health, education and lack of job and leisure opportunities so that the whole area can be improved.

The objective of the community cohesion grant is to give organisations the support to make a difference in their area.

Birmingham & Black Country Community Foundation were given an additional £75,000 to distribute in grants of between £1,000 – £10,000 to voluntary / community groups during April/May 2010.

Short Story: Centre Sport – £4,500 grant

Shoot 4 Boots project involved:

- ⊙ A 1 week summer holiday coaching camp (non residential) in a park in Sandwell
- ⊙ Shoot 4 Boots coaching sessions, young people were invited to attend and take part in free coaching sessions. They also had the opportunity of receiving reconditioned football boots (collected by members of the management from professional football clubs, academies, centres of excellence and football clubs)
- ⊙ Identifying suitable young people to put forward for further training in sports coaching to explore their leadership potential.
- ⊙ Benefited 44 boys and 9 girls

The project has been very positive to participants, providing young people from deprived areas with the opportunity to benefit from sporting activity which they would otherwise not have access to. The benefit to community cohesion has been achieved by bringing together people from different backgrounds to mix and make friends; there has been an increase in the uptake of physical activity.

