

KEYSTONE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

TRUST UPDATE

January 2015

Cambridgeshire School Work Clubs

The Cambridgeshire School Work Club Project, designed and funded as a one year pilot, reached the end of its profiled year of delivery at the end of December, but an extension has been granted by the LEP to March 2015. This will allow the project team to continue to support those students who still do not have a destination and remain at significant risk of becoming NEET.

Unfortunately the Cambridgeshire No NEET School Work Club Project has not been selected as one of the projects to receive further funding from the LEP in 2015.

Norfolk School Work Clubs

Fortnightly school work club sessions are currently being delivered in three Norfolk schools. Through these sessions the project aims to raise young people's aspirations and achievement by providing advice and information about job and training opportunities, involving their families and getting support from local employers, voluntary and community groups. The sessions are designed to complement existing school initiatives to support students to develop essential life skills and increase their understanding of their different options after Year 11. At the end of the first quarter 41 students had been engaged across the three schools. Keystone is particularly pleased to be working close to home in the Thetford Academy.

As the project progresses different options for enabling students to obtain a suitable form of accreditation for their participation in the School Work Clubs will be investigated. Currently the project coordinator collects evidence of the different activities undertaken by the students and is working with students to build personal portfolios demonstrating the skills and knowledge they have developed as a result of the work club programme.

Breckland Advice Project

The Breckland Advice Project aims to explore innovative ways to transform the delivery of social welfare advice in Breckland. Funded through the Lottery operated Advice Transitions Fund the project has established two advice hubs in Thetford and Dereham with a third planned for Watton in April 2015. It has been calculated that in the project's first year an extra 323 people have received free advice.

META staff are now fully trained as Citizens' Advice Bureau Advisors with migrant communities having improved access to multi agency and specialist advice. The project is also increasing access through developing a greater number of delivery channels through email and Skype which reduces time and cost of travel to clients.

To help more people access specialist advice and the preventative support they need, the project is commissioning Keystone to undertake a research study to identify existing advice services available, gaps in provision and barriers to accessing advice such as language and digital exclusion. This research is due to start at the beginning of February and information gathered will inform the service around future advice delivery in Breckland.

Stop Smoking Service

META continues to deliver a Level 2 Stop Smoking Service, commissioned by Norfolk's Public Health department, to migrant workers in Thetford and the surrounding area. The service operates five days a week and is staffed by NHS-trained advisors who are themselves migrant workers. The service is delivered in the Polish, Lithuanian and Russian languages.

ESOL

Twenty weeks of Pre- Entry and Entry Level ESOL delivery in Brandon, funded by Realise Futures with Lottery money, are due to commence in February. It is intended that the classes held one week day evening will cater to approximately 30 students over the lifetime of the project. A new ESOL tutor is being recruited for this purpose.

Recovery through Art Café

This project can now start having been awarded £5,000 match funding from Breckland Council. This compliments other funding already secured from the DAAT (the Drug and Alcohol Addiction Team), Norfolk County Council and Norfolk Community Foundation funds.

The project will provide a drop-in community facility offering arts and crafts activities where individuals who are overcoming difficulties can encourage and support each other at a vulnerable time. It will aid transition from dependency back into mainstream society, through building on levels of confidence and self-esteem needed for independent living and provides 'second stage' support from in-service treatment.

A*spire

The A*spire project reached the end of its initial three years of funding from Children in Need at the end of December. The project finished the year with a range of exciting activities including a trip to the Pantomime, an evening at the Thomas Paine Hotel learning about hospitality and a Christmas Fayre with carol singing planned and delivered by the young people themselves.

The project has been successfully delivered over the last three and Keystone will continue to fund sessions from Jan-Mar while waiting for a decision on new funding from Children in Need.

Participatory Budget Fund

Keystone has now launched the Participatory Budget Fund in Thetford and the surrounding rural parishes, giving community initiatives the opportunity to apply for up to £1,000. At the same time a panel of community members is being recruited to help shortlist and be involved in the public event scheduled to be held on Wednesday 4th March. Guidelines and the application form are available on the Keystone website. A short workshop is being organised so that interested parties can find out more about the scheme and get support to apply, this will take place before the end of January when the scheme closes to applications.

Innovation Centre

During November and December there were 101 conferences held and attended by 1,287 delegates.

There is currently only one office unoccupied in the building and the current building occupancy is 97%. The Keystone Innovation Centre welcomed a new tenant in December; Anglia Financial Solutions to Anglia Healthcare who moved into Office 2 on the 2nd Floor.

During November and December the building tenants had 1,323 visitors come to visit them.

St John' Communtiy Centre and Houses

During December the buildings were transferred to Keystone. A schedule is being prepared for equipment required to get the centre operational and should be ordered in January with the aim to open the community centre as soon as possible in the new year.

The houses are currently being looked at by Estate agents to get an idea of costs and rental income they could generate and will be looked to be rented out in the new year.

Green Ventures Bikes

The Bike shop is open Monday to Friday 10.00 – 5.00

The shop is located at 39 Brunel Way, Thetford

Local Food Group

The café is open Monday to Friday 9.00 – 2.30pm.

The café is based within the Innovation Centre on Croxton Road.