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'09

annual report

“Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful committed people
can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing
that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Once again our projects and activities have been very successful as I am sure you will appreciate as you read through this Annual Report.

However, this has not been an easy year due to the economic climate and like many voluntary organisations it is becoming increasingly difficult to get grant funding. We are already aware that one of our important funding streams will be much reduced after March 2010 and some current activities will cease. However, we are making every effort to find alternative sources of funding and to diversify the services we provide with our community.

Although we are sorry to be leaving our site on Gregory Boulevard, we are looking forward to our move to Tennyson Hall where we will not only have newly refurbished accommodation but also the opportunity to broaden our activities. We are very grateful to NDC (Neighbourhood Development Company) for providing us with this opportunity to be a part of a new community facility in Area 4.

I would also like to thank our partners who provide us with our funding, without whom we would not exist. Thanks again to Steph and Adam of 13 Souls who provide us with professional marketing and publicity services and play an important part in organising our events.

Once again, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our very dedicated staff team for their hard work throughout the year. A special thanks to Ruth for her hard work and her leadership and of course her bid-writing success. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who have helped to make this year a success.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for giving their time for meetings and for their continued support for the organisation, its staff and activities. I know we are all looking forward to the challenges of 2010.

Mick Stringer
Partnership Council - Chairman

Volunteering

transforming neighbourhoods & changing lives



“It’s amazing what can be achieved through volunteering from a neighbourhood perspective from bringing people together, to building a shared pride in where you live.”

- Ali Khan, Forest Fields Improvement Association

We recently calculated that the work done by Partnership Council volunteers over the summer alone would have cost around £28,880 - if paid workers had carried out the same work. In total, 95 people volunteered during that time, benefiting over 879 people directly and many more indirectly.

Many local services simply wouldn’t exist if it wasn’t for the hard work and enthusiasm of volunteers and that’s why we believe so strongly in encouraging and supporting volunteering. For example, we support a range of projects run by volunteers including activities for children and young people and neighbourhood improvement schemes. We also provide plenty of opportunities for individuals to volunteer.

In October, we began recruiting for six skilled volunteers to take on and manage a range of exciting projects at the Partnership Council - giving local people a unique opportunity to learn new professional skills and gain valuable work experience.

getting involved community
making a difference

Local Involvement

ensuring everyone has a voice

“Government alone will never be able to provide all the services that people need. That’s why volunteers play a vital role in transforming neighbourhoods and the lives of others.”

- Ruth Greenberg, Chief Officer, Partnership Council



One of the Partnership Council’s fundamental aims is to involve as many people as possible in local decision making - giving residents a sense of pride and ownership when it comes to their neighbourhood.

This year, with funding from One Nottingham, we’ve been delivering a local empowerment project for Area 4, which has included a whole range of activities. For example, we’re working alongside local people to ensure that as many residents as possible have a say in the neighbourhood plan for Radford, being developed by Nottingham City Council.

We also asked over 200 people for their views on the Council’s Sustainable Communities Act and as a result of those views, the Act was amended. Actions like this ensure that local people influence the decisions that are made on their behalf. Similarly, we’ve also ensured that local people have been involved in the redevelopment of the Forest Recreation Ground. Last but not least, we also run several forums for local people.

improving lives
diversity families

Sprout

where the grass is always greener



“More and more young people are coming to us for help to get their ideas off the ground and their enthusiasm should be recognised and embraced.”

- Rachel Wicks, Sprout

Our Sprout project was set up in January 2008 to help young people set up their own voluntary environmental projects. The project has really taken off this year and has helped to nurture an incredible amount of innovation and talent.

Sprout proves beyond doubt that many young people really do care about the environment. In the last few months alone, Sprout has supported 'Abundance', a project to harvest and distribute Nottingham's unpicked fruit and nuts to those who need it, 'Notts Plan Bee', a project to help save bees from extinction and 'Re-choose', an event showing how rubbish can be re-used to create art.

Sprout also runs its own events. For example, the project has teamed up with Nottingham Organic Gardeners to provide young people with the chance to learn about growing sustainable food.

the environment
volunteering green issues

Skills Exchange

the real meaning of community

“The Skills Exchange brings people from all walks of life together. It reminds me of my parents’ era when you would help out your neighbours and they would help you in return.”

- Mick Howden, Skills Exchange Member



Our Skills Exchange project has gone from strength to strength this year and now has over 200 members, including individuals and organisations. The youngest member is 16 and the oldest is 81 so the project definitely embraces all sections of the community!

Members volunteer their skills to help others in return for time credits, which they can spend on help of their own. In addition, the Skills Exchange organises a range of social events, from coffee mornings to theatre visits, enabling members to get together and make new friends. This year, the project also introduced a theme for each month, such as ‘get arty’ and ‘read a book’, encouraging people to get involved and try new activities.

The project was recently featured in the Nottingham Evening Post as a great example of how community spirit is alive and well in Area 4 and how, with the right support, local people are only too willing to help one another out.

sharing skills
inspiration bright ideas

Base Camp

giving people the tools to make a difference



“Base Camp gave me the confidence and practical help to start a community group supporting victims of domestic abuse, literally transforming lives.”

- Shazeda, founder of Ujaala

Our Base Camp project has had a major impact on Nottingham’s South Asian community this year - in more ways than one. Firstly, it’s helped to support 40 community groups, including helping groups to raise over £131,212 worth of funding.

Secondly, Base Camp has helped to identify several challenges, and therefore a great deal of potential, within the South Asian community. For example, the project identified the need for more female South Asian sports coaches and worked in partnership with Nottingham City Council to deliver a nationally accredited sports leadership course - enabling more women to become qualified.

Base Camp has also provided groups with training in marketing & communication techniques, how to become more sustainable and how to source funding. Base Camp-supported community groups include homework clubs, children’s sports clubs, support for those experiencing domestic abuse and adult learning courses.

community groups
empowerment people

Children's Forum

working with children to create a lasting legacy

"Children often get left out when it comes to planning and delivering children's services - their input really can make a world of difference."

- Michelle Wainwright, Children's Forum



Very sadly, our Children's Forum project ended in October due to lack of funding. It had been running for 10 years and has worked very closely with local primary schools and children during that time.

The forum brought huge numbers of children face to face with service providers, giving children a much greater say in how children's services are delivered. For example, it gave children the chance to design their own park, the new 'Pirate Park' on the Forest Recreation Ground this year. In addition, the forum developed the Parks Assessment Toolkit with teachers, to give children an ongoing say in how parks are improved in the future. The toolkit is now being used by Nottingham City Council.

The forum has achieved so much including making four films with children, launching a range of new projects and providing a whole host of after-school activities.

Thank you to everyone who has made the Children's Forum such a success.

change voices
young people

Moving On

a good time for looking to the future



Thank you to all our staff, partners, funders and volunteers for making 2009 such a happy and eventful year!

- Ruth Greenberg, Chief Officer, Partnership Council

The Partnership Council moved to a temporary home in November, before a permanent move to Tennyson Hall on Forest Road West in spring 2010. The move has inspired us to reflect on all the successes and good times we've had over the last 11 years on Gregory Boulevard.

Whilst equally, we're very excited about moving to Tennyson Hall and beginning a new chapter in the story of the Partnership Council.

Tennyson Hall has been left empty and neglected for several years and is currently in the process of being completely renovated. We're very happy to be one of three community organisations that'll be aiming to restore Tennyson to its rightful place as a thriving home for community activity.

community dedication
celebrating people

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