

## Community Chest Report 2007 / 2008



### Community Chest – here for another 3 years!

Government minister for children, young people and families Ed Balls announced in July 2007 a further 3 years Children's Fund allocation to Local Authority. So the Community Chest has £55k a year for 5 – 13 year olds who want to do an out of school play or leisure activity but don't have the money in their family for it.

### New Logo, New Application Forms and New Multi Language Flyer

We have new logos designed by panel member Rosie from Bicester. And new application forms. The child or young person fills in the form. There's a silver star from Helping Hands panel member Jamie for children and young people who fill out the form themselves.

Please let us know if you would like the new multi language flyer in Panjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Polish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, Tagalog/Filipino, English and easy read symbols.

### Community Chest - Award Winning

In October BT presented Anisah, Zach and Courtney from the Fantastic Crew Children's Panel from Blackbird Leys with a Seen and Heard National Award. Thank you to all the award winners, sponsors, panel members and panel hosts.



### "I am ringing to say The Community Chest is making a difference"



*"The children really really appreciated the Community Chest help they got, they absolutely loved it and everything has changed, things at school are better, they all feel better, and they're more upbeat generally, especially mum."* Sponsor, family of 4 children

*"K started Ballet lessons last December at a local class, and has been described by her teacher as, 'a natural talent', and she has moved up already to a class with older girls. K loves Ballet so much, and I am desperately trying to secure more funds so that she can carry on! The parents wish me to thank the Community Chest as they say their English isn't so good"* Sponsor

*'I felt quite proud of myself and I am quite happy of myself. I wuud lick to say thankyoe fro the 96£ and I am plesd wev myself I am a golley and I love playing football and my manigur said I am a grayt golley.'* D in his own words, awarded for football age 8 years old. D has extra help in school and a parent with illness

### New Project! Community Chest Friends

Community Chest Friends gives money to bring to life the play, leisure or community action ideas thought up by children and young people between the ages of 5-13 years. A total of £20k is available between June 2008 – March 2009 to share amongst small groups in Oxfordshire. The money can be spent on whatever the group of children and young people decide will make the most difference to them. This is a chance for children and young people to get thinking, get planning and get doing! Deadlines to get your application forms in are:

July 31<sup>st</sup> 2008

September 26<sup>th</sup> 2008

December 19<sup>th</sup> 2008

March 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Community Chest Children's Panels



A very big thank you to

Groovy Fund – hosted by St Michael's School Steventon  
Funky Dudes – hosted by Orchard Meadow and Mabel Pritchard Blackbird Leys, Oxford  
Fantastic Crew – hosted by Starlight, Blackbird Leys Oxford  
OX4 Peeps – hosted by Peers School Oxford  
Chippy Chimps – hosted by Chipping Norton School, Chipping Norton  
Wa Gwan - hosted by Oxford Community School  
Green Giraffe - hosted by St Nicholas School, Marston Oxford

Once again the children and young people have shown what brilliant decision makers they are. Here's a selection of their decisions: "my opinion is yes, we want children to be happy and have fun" "I think yes because he loves horses and deserves to, he has difficulties, he should have a treat in his life and remember it" "I think he should go to cubs because he doesn't have a dad and his mum is poorly", "I think he should because it can calm him down when he goes swimming" "Yes his brother applied. It'll be good for his mum, she can have a rest" "I think she should go, it will give her a chance to go and do something with her life".

After 6 months being on a panel, members have said "I've had new thoughts and feelings" "being a good searer [sharer] and serer[sharing] thing's Equaly [equally] "listening pluse [plus] including others".

Panels receive training, a thank you trip of their choice, a celebratory tea party and certificate ceremony, personalised thank you booklet detailing their achievements and a mini Community Chest voucher. Partner organisations who host a panel receive hands on training in participation, an evaluation pack and a trained group of children and young people to continue working with. If you are interested in hosting a Community Chest panel please get in touch.

### Facts and figures

From April 2007 to March 2008 Community Chest funded 400 children and young people (220 boys and 181 girls). 127 were being awarded for the second or third time. Funding was granted for 257 after school activities, 91 playschemes, 37 school trips, 13 family day outs and 3 for equipment. 9 award winners had disabilities, 72 have extra support at school and 92 have free school meals. 73 award winners were from single parent families and 34 have more than 4 children in the family. 83% are from white background and 17% are from minority ethnic groups.

Information provided by sponsors who responded to evaluation questions on the difference an award winner's activity makes in their life shows that being able to take part in an after school play or leisure activity makes a positive difference to Oxfordshire children and young people. Friendships, bullying situations, behavior, mental health, involvement in community life and physical health all "improve" or are "much better". The evaluations show that doing an out of school activity can help children and young people avoid getting into trouble.

### Community Chest Project

Zoe Elford                      Manager  
Yarrow Davies                Recruitment, training and support for Children's Panels  
Michele Spillane            Administrator  
We look forward to speaking to you soon  
01865 256645 or email [communitychest@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitychest@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### BigVoiceOxfordshire .com

Coming soon...official launch November 2008. Go to [BigVoiceOxfordshire.com](http://BigVoiceOxfordshire.com) for info on Children's Rights and how Oxfordshire is listening to and acting on children and young people's views.