

Sharing our Successes

Name of Project	Bevan Lee Fathers Group – Cannock (Supported by 0-7 project)
<p>Description</p>	<p>One of the central aims of the 0-7 project was to involve families in the planning and delivery of local services. In line with this, the project supported and funded the creation of a fathers' group on the Bevan Lee estate. The group was founded by a local father, Garry Edwards. Aware that there was a funding opportunity provided by 0-7, Garry designed, posted and distributed leaflets for local fathers on the estate. The objective was to inform them that a group was being developed and find out what they would like to do as a launch event. An initial meeting was well received and with the feedback a trip to the snow dome in Tamworth was arranged for dads and their children. On the trip, dads completed questionnaires asking them for their thoughts and views on local services, what would make a difference to them and their families, and what sort of activities they would like at the fathers group.</p> <p>Following the trip, further meetings were held with the fathers and Community and Initiatives worker Tracey Carroll. A committee was soon formed involving Garry and two other local fathers, Ian and Daniel. The fathers then planned together how the group would evolve. 0-7 offered to provide some funding on submission of regular planning, evaluations and monitoring.</p> <p>0-7 objectives were for the group to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved interactions between father/male carer & child/children • Improved confidence/self esteem in role as a father • Develop understanding of child's interests/learning • Peer support <p><u>The format</u></p> <p>The fathers decided to split the group into 2 sessions. Thursday nights would be an opportunity for fathers to meet, without their children, and have the opportunity to socialise and get to know each other. Saturday mornings would be sessions for dads and children together with the emphasis on developing good interactions.</p> <p>The Thursday sessions also provided the opportunity to plan the Saturday sessions. 0-7 offered to fund one session per month with the remaining Saturday sessions sustainable by using resources at the community centre or by visiting local parks or green spaces. Since January 2010, 0-7 has funded trips to the snow dome, water world and a balloon modelling workshop. Sessions not funded included Mother's Day card making, egg painting, bonnet making, tennis and park games, a town centre event and a family walk.</p> <p>In March, the fathers started a 10 week Adult learning programme on the Thursday night sessions with a focus on crafts.</p>

	<p><u>Success factors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group was created by fathers for fathers. • The group plan their own activities. • A mix between funded activities and sessions which do not require funding i.e. using resources available at the community centre or using local free parks/facilities. The group is now self sustainable. • Splitting the sessions - local fathers get the opportunity to socialise and get to know others on their estate and then at another session, spend quality time with their children. <p>With 0-7 funding coming to an end, the fathers have looked at ways of raising funds for the group. Recently, they organised a large yard sale on the estate which proved successful.</p>
<p>Further Information</p>	<p>Tracey Carroll Community and Initiatives worker – Bevan Lee Community Centre 28 Bevan Lee Road Cannock Staffs WS11 4PS 01543 578 332</p>