

Nomad Youth & Community Project 2007/08

The Nomad Project's continued aims are in summary:

- To support and assist young people and families - particularly those who are marginalized through social and economic factors
- To help those we work with make good and informed choices in all aspects of their lives
- To encourage people to be full and useful members of our local community and society as a whole.

Experience has shown that to be successful, it is vital for us to take a holistic approach to helping young people at risk of becoming involved in anti social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse or criminal activity. Not only do we need to work directly with them, we need also to help with their family needs, their school environment and, where appropriate with the police. Only by so doing can we hope to divert such youngsters down more positive paths.

In January 2008, we will be able again to have a detached worker going out into the community to meet young people in places where they congregate, such as Mill Meadows, especially on popular Friday evenings. This calls for close co-operation with the Town Council and the police, with our worker seeking to help young people find positive ways to spend their time in the town. Our plan is for the worker to develop and train volunteers to help him in his work, building up a small network of people able to communicate and help Henley youngsters.

Over 2007 we have sought to fulfil our aims in the Henley community through:

Work with Children and Families – we currently work with up to forty families and this has included two Drop In sessions a week (three sessions weekly are planned for 2008) for parents with pre-school children. These provide opportunities for training in healthy living, cooking, budgeting, structured play and reading and parenting training. We are also developing Family Learning Sessions in partnership with local schools and offer support and guidance with housing, benefits and health issues.

Summer Activity Programme – each year Nomad organises activities for children young people and families where there is social deprivation. These include:

- A day trip to the sea side attended this year by 110 people (funded by a local group)
- Family Fun Times at the River & Rowing Museum for parents and children – attended in 2007 by 15 families.
- A Bike Project to train young people in basic cycle maintenance
- Community Art Project – an on-going project alongside the footpath between the Gainsborough Estate and Greys Road,
- Kayaking in partnership with the EYOT Boat Club enabling young people to participate in a river sport.
- Children's Games Sessions – engaging children in local parks.
- Gainsborough Festival on the Makins Recreation Ground - provides fun and encourages community participation attended by approximately 450 people.

Nomad Football Project engages with young people aged 11 – 16yrs and provides training in life skills through sport. We currently have approximately 24 young people registered.

Support with Employment & Training – Nomad youth workers offer young people advice on writing CVs, interview techniques and finding suitable employment.

Nomad Life Skills Programme – is a modular programme that helps young people to address issues around communication, self esteem, handling anger, drugs and alcohol abuse, managing their time and healthy lifestyles including sexual health. Our work at Gillotts is funded by the school itself, as is the additional work carried out there on alternative curriculum programmes where we support children who have been temporarily excluded from the school.