



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Community groups across County Durham and Darlington are celebrating after a cash boost of more than £5,000 from Durham Police Authority.

Two grants totalling £5,552 are now making their way to good causes following the recent round of Community Initiative Support Scheme applications.

The scheme was established in 2001, as a result of the Best Value review of the Police Authority and has recently been reviewed by the Police Authority Partnership Committee to make the scheme more easily accessible. Each year funding is set aside from the Police Authority budget to support this programme.

Community Groups can apply for funding for projects, involving young or vulnerable people, which support crime prevention and community safety. Applications are considered by the Police Authority's Community Initiative Support Scheme Sub-Committee. The Chair is Mrs Elsie Davies, who is an Independent Member of the Police Authority.

Mrs Elsie Davies said "supporting projects that empower local community groups to reduce crime and disorder is important to us and, where we can, we will help to fund these initiatives."

Applications for the Community Safety Grants are considered quarterly and the latest round saw two projects successful in their bids. Grants were awarded to Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans (BATH) of King James I Community College and Shildon Youth Group-Summer for Change Project.

Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans (BATH) of King James I Community College uses drama to look at issues which young people feel affects the communities they live in. They develop Live Performances; Workshops, short DVD films and documentaries based around those issues.

Mrs Elsie Davies said "The Community Initiative Support Scheme sub-committee were impressed with the work of BATH. It was encouraging to see local young people being given the opportunity to gain awareness of serious issues affecting families and communities.

We were very impressed that the young people associated with BATH were able to come to the meeting to tell us about their work, commitment and some

of the projects in which they have been involved. The Police Authority could see that belonging to the BATH group obviously gave young people opportunities to develop socially and emotionally through mixing with other young people in a variety of settings, peer mentoring and confidence building in developing and writing their own productions.”

Shildon Youth Group-Summer for change project helps to get young people off the streets and engage in positive activities to reduce anti social behavior in the area. The funding has been used to purchase positive activity provision for Young People aged 13-19 years during Summer Holidays.

Mrs Elsie Davies commented “Shildon Youth Groups engages positive activities away from the home environment, the young people are encouraged to learn new skills and gain awards in a secure environment. The Police Authority was encouraged to see such a positive project to support young people.

To find out more information about the Community Initiative Support Scheme please contact Durham Police Authority 0191 3835511 or check out the website www.durham-pa.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority’s vision

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing delivery of the highest quality policing.”

Our mission

“Working in partnership to ensure fair, effective and visible policing”

The Authority aims to: -

- Exercise strong and effective leadership in partnership working
- Engage positively with our Citizens and Communities to build confidence in local policing.
- Promote equality, tolerance and respect for human rights.

- Scrutinise and challenge police performance & procedures to secure continuous improvement
- Ensure Effective use of resources

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