

## Press release

11<sup>th</sup> August 2006

### **Summer activities kick into action**

**Hackney Homes is offering a range of free activities for children and teenagers, over the summer break including the Kickz programme that gives teenagers the chance to learn football skills from Arsenal and Leyton Orient players.**

The Kickz programme is the first of its kind, bringing together two professional football clubs, who are providing a range of sports activities for young people living in and around Gasgoyne 2 Estate, Chatham.

David Saxon Homerton's Neighbourhood Manager says: "The recent excitement about the World Cup highlighted just how popular football is in this country. It's great that this programme is giving our young people the chance to improve their football skills and meet these successful players."

He adds "We need to give young people more things to do on the estates and this is a positive programme that has been the result of feedback from young people and cooperation between Hackney Homes and the Metropolitan Police with support from Mulalley construction."

For the next four weeks there will be a range of football and multi-sports taster sessions held at Gasgoyne 2 Estate. All sessions are free and anyone interested in attending needs to arrive 15 minutes before the session start time. The main Kickz programme is due to start on the Gasgoyne Estate in September

Football sessions will be held at Gasgoyne Hard Court Area on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Between 6-7pm the sessions will be for 11 to 15 year-olds and between 8-9pm there will be sessions for 16 to 19 year-olds.

Multi-sports sessions will be held at Well St Common on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Between midday and 2pm the sessions will be for 11 to 15 year-olds and between 2.00pm and 4.00pm there will be sessions for 16 to 19 year olds.

Another school holiday programme is being conducted on Lordship South Estate in Stoke Newington.

The Summer Camp is for young people aged 8 to 14 from Lordship South Estate and neighbouring estates. It is held every day from Monday to Friday and will run until the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

The activities include tennis, football, dance and music, swimming, basketball, visits to adventure playgrounds and many more.

The project is jointly funded by Stoke Newington Police, the Community Safety Team at Hackney Council, PAYP the Lordship South Estate Tenant Management Organisation, and supported by Hackney Homes. Members of the TMO are also giving their time to coordinate the activities with the support of play coordinators.

According to Sara Rance, chair of the TMO, it is the first time such a programme has been run and so far it has given young people on and around the estate something to keep them occupied during the holidays.

It's a great example of agencies working together to make a real difference for the kids here," Sara said.

"School holidays can be a time when kids play up, but we've had about 30 to 40 young people at the camp every day and so far we've managed to avoid anti-social behaviour problems around the estate during the summer break."

Professional play coordinators are leading the activities and engaging the young people on issues like anti-social behaviour, health and drugs.

"The feedback from the young people has been really positive. It's given them some great play opportunities and a chance to socialise with the other kids. The parents are also happy with the programme and know that their children are doing something active and constructive every day."

The summer camp is free and young people are encouraged to attend daily. Young people do need to bring a signed letter of consent from their parent or guardian. The meeting point for the summer camp activities is the TMO community hall in Lordship Grove and registration is at 9.45am daily. Activities finish at 3.45pm daily.

Ends

**Press queries to Chloe Goddard on 0208 356 3528 or email [housingeditor@hackneyhomes.org.uk](mailto:housingeditor@hackneyhomes.org.uk)**