

Choysez Express

For the year 2008

New 'Community Chillin' Room at Choysez

A grant from the Volunteer Centre's Evolve Fund has enabled us to open up a new 'Community Chillin' room for our young people.

Two of our young people, Daniel Wilson and Jasmine Clark, applied for the funding which is designed to promote volunteering in young people from Wansbeck up to the age of 25. Their ideas have now become reality, giving our young people a welcoming space to relax and socialise in between activities. We are now hoping to use this new room as a base to launch after-school clubs to give young people somewhere to go.

Originally used for storage, the room has been given a seating area, television and pool table. Jasmine said, 'I helped apply for the fund and the Community Chillin' Room will be great for the after school club. It's mint!'

Mark Robertson, Youth Volunteering Development Officer with the Volunteer Centre, officially opened the room, and said, 'The Community Chillin' Room is an excellent example of what can be achieved by young people who are supported to develop their own ideas, which is one of the main principles of the fund'.



Go Wansbeck Grant

Choysez in Film Premiere

Over the last two years Wansbeck Young Filmmakers (WYF) has been working with young people in Wansbeck - including those at Choysez - to teach them about all aspects of digital filmmaking. The young people will now get to see their films at a special premiere at Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre. Aged between 9 and 21, the young people will see the 20 films they made on the big screen. The films, shot at locations within Wansbeck, include issue-based documentaries, ghost stories, live-action

drama, animation, comedies, music videos and more. Project coordinator Vicky Jones said: "Filmmaking promotes a strong sense of teamwork, planning, compromise, discussion, good work ethic, and interdependence. "The young people we have worked with now understand just how much work goes into making a good short film, and have gained skills they can use in many different contexts."

Currently in our tenth year, we have been given a grant through Go Wansbeck, which manages the Local Enterprise Grown Initiative (LEGI) programme. This extra funding has enabled us to recruit Kerry Thompson as a project worker. It will also help develop our residential activities in Kielder.

Chris Conroy, our centre manager, said: "We are thrilled with the grant from Go Wansbeck. It has given us a substantial boost and is allowing us to grow the business. We can now expand on our team, academic qualifications for the young people and our facilities."

Keith Raine, Go Wansbeck's programme manager said: "We are delighted with the impact Choysez has had on young people in the community



Chris Conroy and Kerry Thompson

over the last decade. It has some exciting ideas for the coming year, and Go Wansbeck is keen to support them."