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FAO: News Editors



PRESS RELEASE

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Local barber shop is a cut above the rest

A local barbers shop is opening a new and exciting diversionary initiative designed to engage with the young people of Radford, Nottingham.

The **Take Part Project** officially launches on **Wednesday 14th November 2007** providing 16-25 year olds with an opportunity to participate in workshops and training around subjects such as Health, Crime & Safety and Personal Development.

Local Barber, Colin Ramsden was inspired to initiate the project eight years ago when young people used to congregate outside his barber shop – C the Barba's on 169 Alfreton Road - in an area of high crime. Colin housed up to 35 young people in his shop on a daily basis due to the lack of youth provision in the area.

After five years of attempts to gain funding with no success, Colin finally approached the Neighbourhood Development Company (NDC) who fully refurbished the premises on Alfreton Road and equipped the project with the latest technology in-conjunction with One Nottingham.

NDC Media Officer Colin Nembhard has been working with Colin Ramsden on the project, helping to set up a strong partnership between the private sector, local colleges, youth services and the police. Local Strategic Partnership One Nottingham awarded over £60,000 of SRB money to NDC to set up the project.

Jovica Prastalo Head of Operations (NDC) commented:

"The Take Part Project is in my view, one of the most exciting and challenging projects that NDC has ever developed. It is also the most complex, as we combined several of our core regeneration functions to deliver it - physical regeneration, business support, education and community safety - in one of the most deprived parts of the neighbourhood.

We hope that the new infrastructure of computer suites, recording studios and communal areas, will enable the project to provide support to the young disadvantaged people who dropped out of mainstream education in a different and more efficient way.

“The partnerships we have developed, and the direct involvement of young people is, no doubt, the most important part of the project. Young people have been involved in all stages of the project, from the design of the space and selection of the equipment, up to the decision on the type of activities and training to be provided at the premises. But, for me, the special credit go to the Colin Ramsden, who after five years of providing support to young people from his small derelict barber shop on his own, got the recognition for that work from all the sectors and in particular, from the local authority and the local strategic partnership. As a Head of Operations, I am proud that NDC developed this brilliant project.”

The Official Launch will be held at 169 Alfreton Road on Wednesday 14th November 2007 at 1-4pm and will include performances by U.F.O (nominees for best unsigned act at this years Urban Music Awards), Willis Rose from Take 1 Studio and Nott's Movement. You will have guest's speakers from Nottingham Police, Notts Black Police Association, Castle College, The Broadway, and other partner organisations, service providers and the local young people.

For more information on the Take Part Project call Colin Nembhard (NDC) on 0115 9648391.

Ends/

For further information contact Farrukh Tariq (Marketing & Communications Manager) on 0115 9648390

Notes to Editors – Take Part Project

- It is funded by Neighbourhood Development Company and One Nottingham
- Photo opportunity at 1:15pm for official 'cutting of the ribbon'

Neighbourhood Development Company (NDC) runs the government's New Deal for Communities Programme for Radford and Hyson Green until 2010, and will also manage the £20 million worth of community assets to ensure the long term sustainability and regeneration of the area.

The National Evaluation and Ipsos Mori Data released in 2006 reported that:

- Unemployment had been reduced to 7.2% exceeding the NDC 10 year target
- The NDC programme had got over 1,100 people into work
- In 2005/6 The number of NDC Children staying on at school had increased to 65% (5% above the national staying on rate) exceeding the 10 year Target
- The latest figure (2004) for young people entering Higher education has risen by 12 % and is now 3% above the city average exceeding the 10 year target