

Case Study – Brandwood Community Centre

Amount Granted: £10,000 (TSF Birmingham – Date Completed: August 2009)

The Project: The Brandwood benefit & money advice surgery

The Brandwood centre is run by dedicated volunteers providing a much needed community facility. We aim to create opportunities for social inclusion, citizenship and equal access for all by delivering a multifunctional community programme that fulfils the role of a one-stop shop.

The centre has provided a debt and money advice project for the past 5 years to improve the economic needs of the community.



Total number of people benefiting from this project: 67 (28 men & 39 women)

Area of Benefit: Kings Heath, Birmingham

Why was the project needed?

The Brandwood area of Kings Heath is an area of high urban deprivation, with high levels of unemployment.

Since the recent economic down turn the project has seen a steady increase in clients using the service.

We needed to secure funding to set up the Brandwood benefit & money advice surgery to meet the need for expert debt and money advice. Our clients needed help with making claims for benefits as some of them were unaware of the benefits they were eligible for.



The difference the project has made:

The project has assisted our clients with securing benefits and grants to cover the costs of heating and insulation, charitable payments to provide equipment for a disabled couple and to reduce the debt burden for several clients.

Quote:

"I was facing the real risk of losing my home before Christmas and the children going without any chance of gifts but I am now able to pay my rent and start to clear my debts, my children had something to open at Christmas and I feel like a weight has been lifted from my shoulders!"

TSF Birmingham is administered by:

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