

Date for the diary

Monday 4 February 2008 – for immediate release

A Space Of Their Own

Tuesday 19 February 2008

The Town Hall, Manchester

A Space Of Their Own, a conference organised by GreenSpace and supported by Manchester City Council and Glendale, is taking place on Tuesday 19 February 2008 at Manchester Town Hall. The conference will focus on engaging young people in parks and green spaces.

Paul Bramhill, Chief Executive of GreenSpace, said “The involvement of young people is a crucial factor in providing safe, welcoming and vibrant parks and green spaces.

“One of the toughest challenges facing today’s park managers is tackling vandalism and antisocial behaviour caused by groups of bored young people with nothing to do and nowhere to go – but when they become engaged in park activities, young people feel involved in the park, which in turn fosters a sense of ownership and pride”.

A Space Of Their Own will be co-chaired by young people from Sefton Young Advisors.

-Ends-

-Notes to Editors-

- For further information, or to arrange a press pass, please contact:

Emma Donaldson
Communications Officer
T: 0118 946 9066
E: emmad@green-space.org.uk

- GreenSpace is a registered charity which works to improve parks and green spaces by raising awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals. For more information please go to www.green-space.org.uk

- **Presentations will include:**

Building trust and respect

Danny Walsh, Manager, DCT Ltd

One of the most challenging tasks facing park managers is consulting effectively with young people. Danny Walsh will look at how communicating with young people can be worthwhile for both parties, using practical examples from DCT Ltd in Preston.

The future’s bright

Dr Rosie Chadwick, Director of Prevention, Crime Concern

Positive Futures projects use sports and activity to engage with young people from deprived communities.

Dr Rosie Chadwick will reflect on the approaches taken by these projects, and by projects in a new Lottery portfolio that involve young people in transforming local public spaces

Beyond badges and campfires

John Asplin, Chief Commissioner, the Scouts Association

The Scouts Association is one of the largest youth networks in the world. John Asplin will advise local authorities on how they can tap into the Scout network to facilitate consultation and youth engagement.

Young people in Manchester

Eamon O'Rourke, Head of Leisure, Manchester City Council

Manchester is embarking on a new and exciting era with an innovative approach to engaging young people. Eamon O'Rourke will provide an overview of how Manchester is encouraging youth participation in service provision, with an emphasis on green spaces.

Youth provision in parks

Roger Hampshire, Crime Prevention Design Advisor, Thames Valley Police

What's the best way to involve young people in the design and implementation of youth-oriented equipment in parks? Roger Hampshire will consider how young people can be involved from concept to completion.

From MySpace to green space

Karin Williamson, National Programme Manager, BTCV

How can young people be encouraged to volunteer in green spaces? Karin Williamson will explain how youth volunteering project My Space? Our Space! is enabling young people all over the country to make a real difference to their environment.

Marketing to young people

Robin Hilton, Client Services Manager, Dubit Limited

How can local authorities learn from youth marketing experts to ensure that they provide the parks and facilities that young people want? This presentation will provide a guide to marketing to young people.

Workshops will include:

Young and involved

Natalie Callaghan, Young Friends Co-ordinator, Southwark LB and Young Friends members

What's the best way to start a young friends group? How do you recruit members and attract funding? This workshop will provide a hands-on, youth-led, interactive guide to starting a great young friends group.

Building effective partnerships

David Archer, Community Services and Play Manager, Chelmsford Borough Council

Partnership working with schools and youth groups can be very effective in helping to engage young people in parks. This workshop will consider the benefits and challenges of building effective partnerships.

Young people's Spaceshaper

Hannah Loizos, Spaceshaper Programme Officer, CABE Space

The Spaceshaper tool helps local authorities to involve young people in the design of green spaces. This workshop will present the tool and enable delegates to provide feedback on its development.

Design for life

Stuart Wallace, Strategic Green Space Officer, Kerrier District Council

Kerrier District Council involved young people from the outset in the design of an innovative teen play area in Redruth, Cornwall. This workshop will present a case study of the project and consider the benefits and challenges that the involvement of young people in design brings.

'Breakout' at Heaton Park

Visit Heaton Park and see the 'Breakout' in action. This site tour will examine the diverse range of activities on offer to young people in the historical setting of Heaton Park.

'Project Adventure' at Clayton Vale

Want to meet the next urban Bear Grylls? This site tour to Clayton Vale will see young people taking part in 'Project Adventure' in one of Manchester's areas of urban countryside.