

# Nomad Report for Henley Town Council April 2010

During the last 12 months Nomad the Henley based youth and community project has continued to serve children, young people and families in Henley through many and varied ways including:

1. **Rainbow Children's Centre Services** based in Henley at the D:Two Centre in Market Place. Nomad also delivers Children's Centre Services into Sonning Common Woodcote and Goring. Many families and children under five benefit from the activities which range from messy play sessions, stay and play sessions, exercise groups, music sessions, healthy eating sessions and much more. Families are also able to access advice and guidance on health, housing, benefits, finances and employment.
2. **Nomad Youth and Families Services** offer support to children, young people and families who experience a range of challenges. Often disadvantaged through economic and or complex social issues, Nomad workers organise activities for children and young people to enable them to develop their self esteem and confidence in positive ways and to provide them with practical tools to handle their anger, communicate more effectively and move towards achieving their full potentials. Many parents also receive support in their roles.
3. **Community activities in 2009** have included:
  - Family Day Trip to Bournemouth with about 200 children, young people and adults enjoying a blustery but dry day on the beach. This annual event has become extremely popular with children and adults asking months before hand about the date for the next trip. Smiling faces and seeing families spend an enjoyable day together are great rewards.
  - Family Fun Day on Makins Recreation Ground in the middle of August is also proving a popular event. Almost 500 children, young people and adults enjoyed a day of fun with bouncy castles, inflatable bungee run and assault course, face painting, aqua slide, football, ball pool, tuck shop and BBQ all free. A visit from the double decker BOOM BUS - kitted out with music equipment, large screen TV and electronic games provided good entertainment for many for the young people and some adults too! Most importantly it didn't rain.
  - Active 09 was a week of afternoon activities run in partnership with the YMCA Henley for children and young people aged 7 – 14 years. Up to 70 young people attended over the week.
  - National Play Day was celebrated at Mill Meadows also during August with a community art and craft session. Over 100 children and parents joined in and even had fun painting in the rain.
  - The Nomad Football Team (14 – 16 years) has established a regular football date with the local constabulary. The Police have kindly agreed to play a match a term and spare the boys no mercy. A 4 - 0 drubbing

the first match turned into a 2 all draw for the second match. The lads cannot wait for next fixture.

- Friday Evening Information Point at Mill Meadows was organised every Friday during the school summer holidays. Manned by a detached youth worker and volunteers, Nomad was able to provide a presence in an area that has large crowds of young people congregating. In general the young people are very good natured, but on occasions fuelled by excessive alcohol there have been issue of anti social behaviour resulting in damage etc. It was a valuable exercise and good relationships were developed with young people and local Police. With appropriate funding it is a project that Nomad would like to develop.

This is a snapshot of some of the work that Nomad has been involved with. Once again we would like to thanks all the local charities and organisations and in particular the Town Council for their continued support. We seek to make every pound count, your gifts, grants and donations do go a long way to making a difference in the community.

Sue Prior  
Nomad Project Manager  
30/03/10