



*The partnership to promote
excellence in learning*

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PRESS RELEASE

Taunton MP applauds new lottery funded youth project

Jeremy Browne, MP for Taunton, found out more about the Big Lottery Fund's BASIS Programme when he came to Learning South West on Friday, 11 January 2008. The new £494,000 project will support voluntary youth organisations across the South West region over the next five years.

The Regional Youth Work Unit (RYWU) at Learning South West, in partnership with the South West Network of Voluntary Youth Organisations, successfully bid for the award and will manage the project. The lottery funding will enable local voluntary youth networks to build capacity in the sector so that more young people can benefit from good quality youth work provision in their neighbourhoods, towns and cities.

The grant will also help Learning South West's RYWU provide information and advice to voluntary youth organisations, organise training events and produce guidance for good practice to broaden the range of opportunities available for young people aged 11-25, with the main focus on those aged 13-19.

Jeremy Browne MP said: "I'm delighted that Learning South West, a Taunton based regional charity, successfully bid for this lottery money which will benefit young people throughout Somerset and the South West. This is a prime example of how an independent, regional, not-for-profit organisation can add value on behalf of smaller organisations.

"I was also pleased to learn that Learning South West was also recently successfully assessed by Ofsted as a regional project manager of educational

projects. This organisation is playing a vital part in ensuring that public money benefits grass roots organisations and individuals.”

ENDS

Caption:

Jeremy Browne MP found out more about a major Big Lottery funded youth project coordinated by Taunton based Learning South West. From left to right: Sharon Adams, Jeremy Browne MP, Tim Boyes-Watson (Chief Executive) Gill Millar (Regional Youth Work Adviser) and Fiona Phur.

Notes for Editors

1.) For more information on the BASIS project contact Gill Millar, Regional Youth Work Adviser at Learning South West, on 01823 335491 or 07930 550322

2.) The Regional Youth Work Unit has been established at Learning South West for almost 20 years. It works with local authority youth services, voluntary organisations and others with an interest in designing and delivering youth work in the region. The Unit also co-ordinates the UK Youth Parliament in the region, which acts as a voice for young people, to help them influence policies and practices that affect their lives. The Unit has been described as a ‘Regional Hub’ that brings together initiatives from national youth organisations and government departments with local youth work providers and commissioners. Its aims match those of its parent body, Learning South West: facilitating networks of good practice, increasing involvement of young people and learners, and helping to ensure that the youth workforce has the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to meet young people’s growing expectations.

3.) For more information on the work of Learning South West contact Tim Boyes-Watson, Chief Executive on 01823 335491.