

# Summary Evaluation Report

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## Coalfields Community Spirit Millennium Awards Scheme

### **Award Scheme Partner:**

County Durham Foundation, Jordan House, Forster Business Centre, Finchale Road, Durham, DH1 5HL.

Award Scheme Unique Reference Number: MC/05084  
Charity Number: 1047625



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 150 people were recruited as Millennium Award Winners, against a target of 140.
- 105 of these people have become Millennium Fellows. 29 people withdrew from the Scheme and the remaining 36 people completed elements of their Award (and in many cases have completed their community project) but due to personal commitments did not complete enough of the core training modules to be nominated as Millennium Fellows.
- The Award Scheme was extremely successful at recruiting 'grass roots' Award Winners with little or no community experience. This was of particular credit in the District of Easington (ranked 6 in the national deprivation indices), where there has been a history of unsuccessful community engagement in regeneration activities.
- County Durham Foundation organised a 30 - module accredited training programme covering all aspects of community project management and development, as well as several 'bolt on' specialist training courses. Over 1,800 training units were delivered in a 10-month period.
- 137 'qualifications' have been achieved by Award Winners, with some people gaining more than one, for many participants this is a first.
- Many of the community projects have been staggeringly successful – and the majority of Award Winners are still continuing to develop their projects further (or start new ones) with increased outcomes.
- To date, the Award Scheme has generated 38 new jobs and raised £3 million in additional funding for community projects in the

coalfield areas; County Durham Foundation anticipates that the final amount raised on Award Scheme projects alone could be double this amount.

- Award Scheme projects have directly benefited 160,758 people in their communities, 32.5% of the population of County Durham and 80% of people in the coalfield areas.
- The local influence of Millennium Award Winners has been considerable – they have gained employment with local authorities and community organisations; been instrumental in establishing community networks (as part of the Government’s Neighbourhood Renewal process); gone on to be elected officials or serve on County Durham Foundation grant committees. Many are now sought out as community representatives by opinion formers.
- Award Winners have successfully completed projects ranging from setting up support groups for the recently deafened; befriending Schemes for people leaving hospital; community regeneration projects; a young mother and child support project in prison; an ex-offender anti-drug project; a community crafts workshop; IT support groups for the elderly as well as new youth clubs for young people.
- Most importantly of all, they have proven themselves to be true catalysts and have shown a long-term commitment to the regeneration of their communities through active engagement and their acquired ability to inspire others.