

PRESS RELEASE

Acis unveils cracking youth project

An innovative diversionary project for local youths is being launched in the run up to bonfire night. The Firecracker initiative is being headed up by Gainsborough based housing association Acis Group to get youths off the streets and get them involved in fun activities in a safe environment.

Firecracker, now in its second year, aims to tackle the issues of increased crime and anti-social behaviour during this period by engaging with youngsters.

Firecracker will be held every Friday for five weeks, from 7 October to 4 November between 5pm and 7pm. Up to 40 youths aged between 11 and 16 can be accommodated during each session, which will be held at the Park Springs Community Centre in Gainsborough.

Claire Glasby, Community Safety Manager for Acis, said:

“We are delighted to be hosting another Firecracker event following the success of last year. Firecracker 2011 promises to be bigger and better, with a whole range of activities on offer. We have some great partners involved who can engage with the youngsters, including youth workers, Police Community Safety Officers and members of the Fire Service.”

Firecracker will be offering youngsters the chance to participate in multi sports activities, graffiti art and even filming and producing a DVD and dance video. They'll also get a free hot meal and a drink.

Claire added:

“We are still inviting funding and prizes from local businesses to support Firecracker. During the same period in 2010 there was a 40% drop in crime and anti-social behaviour in the area and we're confident that Firecracker helped achieve this. Therefore, we'd ask people to do what they can to

support this fantastic project. There's been a lot of negativity around youths lately but Firecracker shows that there is much to be positive about."

Firecracker is a partnership scheme developed by Acis, YaSiG, CG Partnership, Positive Futures, Image Skool, West Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership, and Lincolnshire Police and Fire Services. Parental consent forms are required from those attending and are available from YaSiG, TVA Sports Centre, Park Springs Community Centre and Acis House. There is a free bus service from YaSiG on Bridge Street to the Park Springs Community Centre and back during each Firecracker evening.

Acis own and manage over 5,200 homes across Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire.