

# Safer Hastings Partnership



## KICK-OFF FOR FOOTBALL PROJECT

A NEW HASTINGS football league for teenagers has been set up by Sussex Police, in conjunction with the Safer Hastings Partnership and Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club.

Starting in January, the Hastings Friday Evening Football Invitation League is open to local boys and girls aged 12-17. The 6-a-side matches will take place from January to July, culminating in a tournament in the summer.

The top three teams will then be given the opportunity to play in a tournament organised by Brighton & Hove Albion FC.

PCSO Kim O'Connor, who is organising the league, said, "We want to provide this new league for local young people who play football but don't have the opportunity to play competitive matches against other teams."

"It's also a chance for teams to play other young people from different parts of the town, hopefully breaking down barriers between groups and improving relations with ethnic minority groups."

Skills will be taught by Brighton & Hove Albion staff at the launch night, which will be held at

Hornbye Sports Park from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Friday 16th January 2009.

There will be two leagues - one for 12-14-year-olds; the other for 15-17-year-olds. Each team must consist of eight players, so six on the pitch with two substitutes. Teams must be same sex, though male teams will play female teams in the league.

The project is funded by the Safer Hastings Partnership, Sussex Police, Ore Valley Forum and other agencies, and is also supported by East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, the Youth Development Service, Amicus Horizon Housing Association and Active Hastings (Hastings Borough Council).

With most costs being met by the agencies above, the fee per team has been kept to just £1 per week.

Matches will be played every Friday night from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

To register your team, contact PCSO Kim O'Connor on 07810 757668 or via email: kim.oconnor@sussex.pnn.police.uk. Or simply turn up to the launch event on Friday 16th January.



## Commendation for Digger



A HASTINGS Police Drug Development & Outreach Worker has been given a prestigious commendation.

Bryan "Digger" Graves, who is based at Hastings Police Station, received recognition from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The commendation was "for his outstanding commitments to drug outreach work".

The certificate presented to Digger states, "He has generated real partnership engagement in supporting people's health and vulnerability, and in doing so has significantly reduced the likelihood of reoffending."

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Ling nominated Digger for the award. He said, "Digger's commendation is well deserved - his commitment to tackling drugs and changing people's lives is beyond the call of duty. I'm very pleased that he has been recognised by ACPO."

Digger said, "I am honoured to be given this commendation by my peers for what I consider to be a well worthwhile job, which I enjoy and to which I am totally committed."

The award was presented to Digger in Belfast on Tuesday 18th November by Chairman of ACPO, Tim Hollis, and the citation was read out by Assistant Chief Constable Jeremy Paine.

## £30k to tackle underage drinking

THE SAFER Hastings Partnership this month secured an additional £30,000 from the Home Office to tackle underage drinking.

The funding was made available for activity seeking to reduce the harms caused by alcohol to the community as a result of associated crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

The Safer Hastings Partnership (SHP) bid for the maximum amount of £30,000 to enhance Sussex Police's Operation Abstain.

In recent years, underage drinking has emerged as an area of concern among Hastings residents, including young people themselves, who have used the SHP Schools Competitions to focus on this issue.

The money from the Home Office will be used to fund a variety of projects over the next three months, including:

- Alcohol education in schools - this will include drama workshops and advice for parents;
- Bottle-tagging - to enable Trading Standards and Sussex Police to identify the off licenses that sell to underage drinkers;
- Additional Test Purchasing Operations by Trading Standards; and
- Additional alcohol outreach by the Under-19 Substance Misuse Service.



Artwork by Sasha Giles, William Parker Sports College

## Family intervention

THE HASTINGS Family Intervention Project (FIP), run by CRI, launched in January 2006 with funding from the Government's Respect Task Force.

Its recently published Impact Report shows that it is making a significant impact in supporting local families with very challenging problems.

So far, 12 families have been through FIP, which provides intensive one-to-one work with members of each family on a daily basis, addressing needs such as offending, school attendance, and education, employment and training opportunities.

Mike Fagan, community safety manager for the Safer Hastings Partnership, said, "Referrals made to the FIP team are the most challenging that local agencies have to respond to. In many cases, they are those who are having the biggest impact on reducing the quality of life for those in their neighbourhood."

"Restoring some stability in these families does seem to have achieved good results in tackling some of the long-term issues in our community." For more information about the FIP, visit: [www.crinet.co.uk](http://www.crinet.co.uk).



[www.saferhastings.co.uk](http://www.saferhastings.co.uk)