



Putting **unity** into the Comm**unity**



St Peter's Partnerships Annual Report 2008/09

[www.stpeterspartnerships.org](http://www.stpeterspartnerships.org)

## Chair and Chief Executive's Report

This has been our busiest and most challenging year since the organisation was formed in 2003. More importantly, we have improved the quality of our services and the scope and range of our activities, strengthening our position for the future.

St Peter's Partnerships contributes hugely to improving the life of local people. During the past year, we have worked with over 5,000 individuals and more than 25 community groups and initiatives. Our work has benefited from the support and dedication of 64 volunteers and our staff and volunteers have worked together tirelessly to ensure that our services are engaging and involving people at a personal, as well as at a community level.

Our work was highlighted at a national level earlier this year when we were awarded a Department of Communities & Local Government/Fire & Rescue Service award in the Equality and Diversity category for the work of Safeguard It - a fantastic achievement for local people and a great example of just how a powerful partnership between the community and the Fire & Rescue Service can improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in St Peter's ward.

More recently, Jack Davis, a founder member of the partnership, was awarded Local Hero status by the Development Trust Association for his work in supporting the development of the charity and his commitment to the community.

We would like to congratulate Jack and thank him for his hard work on our behalf.

We are especially pleased and proud that our services have also been found by external inspectors to be, "Accessible, flexible, holistic and diverse, truly reflecting the needs of local people."

We strongly believe that local people are best placed to identify community needs. Wherever possible we create opportunities for the residents to contribute to our plans and help run our services.

As government presses on with recession busting initiatives and funders become more focussed on targets to improve economic contribution, it has become more important for us to prepare to bridge the gaps in services experienced by the local community. But the real challenge is in ensuring that our services provide support to local people in ways that mainstream agencies are unable to do.

We are working with a range of partners from across sectors to plan joint delivery and to identify and secure new funds. Significant alliances have been formed with voluntary sector partners in order to strengthen our position and secure new work programs.

Our plans for the future include the roll out of a community newspaper and an expansion of our 'Grow Our Own' volunteer and staff training and employment model. We'll also be working with even more children and young people and their parents to make sure that our sessions are appropriate and fun. The social businesses will improve contracting potential through ISO9001 accreditation and an enhanced IIP standard later this year, providing even more work opportunities for residents.

Our achievements during the year and our plans for the future are made possible by the collective work of our trustees, staff and volunteers, along with the contributions from our funders and partners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked alongside us to help improve the quality of life for local people. If you are interested in our work and would like to get involved please contact us as we would be delighted to hear from you and can guarantee that you will benefit from the experience.



Linda Fletcher, Chair of St Peter's Partnerships.



Karen Buligan, Chief Executive.

"You would not know how proud I am of St Peter's. It is a massive achievement personally and for staff and for volunteers. Any resident, whether they belong to an association or they live on their own, can become involved in St Peter's."

Linda Fletcher, Chair of St Peter's Partnerships and local resident.



## Putting **unity** into the Community!

St Peter's Partnerships is a community led organisation based in the St Peter's ward of Ashton-under-Lyne, which was originally set up in 1998 by a group of concerned residents. It brings people together to promote a range of community initiatives, which tackle the underlying long-term difficulties facing the ward.

We pioneer new solutions to old problems and pilot new schemes, sharing the learning with partner agencies. We want to ensure that the experience and expertise gained through the regeneration process has a lasting benefit for our community. We work inextricably with local residents to ensure that the local skills and knowledge that already exists is utilised to the full. We provide skills training, information, along with advice and guidance and employment support in an appropriate and timely manner to help those who need to build confidence, so that they can participate more in the life of their community.

These principles are embodied in our unique 'Grow Our Own' program for volunteers, staff and community trustees. We aim to provide as many opportunities for local people to share as many positive experiences as possible. Our programs support and reward achievement and provide platforms for celebration enhancing the quality of life for local people.



"Local community members have engaged in this essential service (Safeguard It) in such a passionate manner that they have delivered a high quality service to the most vulnerable people in St Peter's. This has been a real success. A partnership that has worked for the people of St Peter's."

Andrew Heywood, Tameside Borough Commander, GMFRS.



"St Peter's is a very strong community. People have lived here all their lives and feel very committed to the area, and that is another challenge for us, to make sure that, that commitment and those skills and knowledge are extracted and exploited and used for everybody in the area."

Guy Heppner, Trustee.



## Involving the Community

Our Community Development team supports local people to get involved in activities which will help to make the area a better place to live. We bring local residents together and support them to achieve the skills and confidence they need to change their own community and influence the decisions that affect them.

We are supporting community groups and residents to develop a local allotment site, open to everyone who wants to get involved. The planning and production of a neighbourhood newspaper, written by local people and distributed free to houses in the area, will come to fruition in the autumn and provide a great new communication tool. Local people have repeatedly asked for better communications. The Charity designates funds for the St Peter's Community Grant Scheme to allocate to local groups awarded by a Community Panel. We also coordinate the St Peter's Community Gathering, a monthly networking meeting for people who are active in the community life of the ward.

In April we worked in partnership with Greater Manchester Police to plan the first participatory budgeting exercise in Tameside. 'It's UP 2U' gave hundreds of local residents and community groups the opportunity to decide how the Police should spend £35,000 locally and was a great success. We have supported 25 separate community organisations and our monthly blog and email bulletin provides news and information to hundreds of people and groups across the local area.



"One of the things that I've always tried to do as a councillor is to get the community involved. Without the community behind you, you go nowhere. Fortunately for St Peter's Partnerships, they enjoy what we do and give us 110% support." Jack Davis, Vice-Chair and local ward councillor.



"My mates think it's a good idea; my mum and dad love the idea of me becoming a volunteer. It's good all round." David Yule, SPY volunteer.



"Before St Peter's, the youths had nothing to do. They were roaming the streets and the residents didn't have a high opinion of where they lived; and now St Peter's is uplifted!" Joyce Bowerman, Trustee and local resident.

"I would encourage a lot more residents to get involved and have a bigger voice within the area. We are working very hard with the residents associations and with lots of other groups to try and involve a lot more people."

Brenda Eckersall, Trustee and local resident.

## A Learning and Working Community

Enterpris Plus programs offer tailored information, advice, support and training to local people. We recognise that often residents need training or refresher courses to help them to successfully apply for jobs, or simply to help them live their lives to the maximum. Our services are free to local people, take place in local venues and are managed by experienced staff who really understand the many barriers that some people face when trying to get a job.

Our 4 activity and learning centres: Cavendish Mill, The Richmond Suite, St Peter's Training Centre and Holy Trinity Community Centre are based in the community, delivering IT training courses, skills training, and pre and post employment support. Our social businesses Greenscape and Safeguard It, along with the charity services, provide volunteer opportunities and paid work supporting local residents towards a better future!

In the past 12 months we have provided almost 3,000 hours of information, advice and guidance sessions, helped clients complete 1565 courses, which have led to 381 qualifications being earned and most impressively, 70 clients have found employment through our 'Grow Our Own' initiative!

"Everything that I've achieved and the opportunities that I've had, I'm working to give these same opportunities to the rest of the people that we work with."

Adnan Zaman, SPY Trainee Instructor.

"I think St Peter's Partnerships is a very good organisation. Their interest is always with the local community and they will do anything to help local people; either put them on the path to jobs or help them to train to get jobs."

Marianna Findlow, Safeguard It Team Leader.



"I was unemployed for several months and through St Peter's People at Cavendish Mill I heard about the opportunity to work for Greenscape and the training that they provide. I've got 4 Health & Safety certificates and at the moment I am currently doing a Customer Service NVQ."

Adam Howard, Greenscape.

## A Young and Growing Community

St Peter's Youth or SPY creates opportunities for young people of different backgrounds to work together and build positive relationships. We promote citizenship, community cohesion and provide training activities to more than 700 young people aged between 5 & 19 years 'Because Every Child Matters'. Statistics show that our programs have helped to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Our philosophy is to support and encourage children and young people to become resourceful and active adults who will do the best they can in their adult lives. Our volunteers, who are all local residents, are supported with training to give them the skills to work with young people and their community through our 'Grow Our Own' initiative. By employing local people, our services are entirely culturally sensitive. By offering volunteers a range of training including youth work, coaching and outdoor education we double our capacity to deliver sessions for young people adding value and creating more impact.

30 new work positions have been created for volunteers who have signed up to the 'Grow Our Own' initiative. The program operates a reward by achievement progression route for volunteers who are committed and achieve their training goals and attendance targets. In turn this builds stronger and more cohesive relationships creating role models who can provide 'support from next door, not advice from on high'\*

The 26 members of the SPY team and 30 committed volunteers have provided over 4,000 hours of support through more than 60 weekly hours of activity sessions over 6 days a week. 44 local people were employed as casual workers during the year. All our activities are planned in conjunction with the children through sessions and the work of the Young Peoples Forum.

\* Choosing Health White Paper 2004.



"In the year to date figures for this area we are running at about a 13% reduction in terms of anti-social behaviour and again, about a 13% reduction in terms of criminal damage. So, for me, these are tangible, clearly measurable results."

Inspector Tony Alogba,  
Greater Manchester Police.



"Parents think it's fantastic. They can see a massive difference from where the young people used to be - lazy, bored and very disruptive - and now they've been involved in SPY, they achieve a lot more at school and are much better behaved at home, a lot more well mannered and respectable. They think it's great!"

Adnan Zaman. SPY Trainee Instructor.

"My friends and family are involved within SPY now. They are part of the activities that are going on and they can see and feel what's going on, so they are a lot more comfortable with it now."

Safia Zaman, SPY volunteer.



## An Enterprising Community

### Greenscape

Greenscape cares for our local environment. We are an award winning, landscaping, gardening and project management service with more than 25 years experience in managing projects both large and small. We are proud that we were the first landscape organisation recognized by Tameside Council's 'Buy With Confidence' scheme.

We provide a wide range of environmental services to commercial and private clients throughout Tameside, Greater Manchester and the North West region including: grounds maintenance, soft and hard landscaping, paving, fencing, weed control and void properties and site clearances.

We employ 12 staff and our 3 service teams take on 24 trainees each year from within our local community and train them in a wide range of relevant and valuable skills. In the past year we have worked on over 400 locations, erected ½ mile of metal fencing and ¼ mile of wooden fencing, cut over a quarter of a million square metres of grass, moved 200 tonnes of mixed waste and cleared 150 void properties!

### Safeguard It

Safeguard It is a groundbreaking, innovative enterprise borne out of a stunningly successful partnership between St Peter's Partnerships and the Fire & Rescue Service. Its aim is to promote a safer home and to cut the number of domestic house fires within St Peter's Ward.

Our team of 7 staff and 4 volunteers, through the 'Safer Homes Saves Lives' project, aspire to provide all homes in the area with a free Home Fire Risk Assessment, a free fire alarm and where appropriate, additional fire protection measures.

This enterprise won a national award recently in the Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Awards and in its first year has been instrumental in creating a massive 40% reduction in domestic fires across the ward! This innovative enterprise has certainly influenced the mainstream as it is now being rolled out over a wider area and eventually will become national best practice. If you live in St Peter's ward and would like to make an appointment for your free home assessment, call us now on 0161 214 8300.



Safeguard It, delivering free, impartial home safety advice to the community.



"I'm a community minded person and it (Safeguard It) has given me the opportunity to work with people in the community and do community work and have an effect as a person because it's my community and not only that, it's my family's community."

Michael McDonald, Safeguard It volunteer.



"I think that Greenscape has improved the area by giving facilities such as parks for the kids, making it a better place. Also, Doorstep Green is literally on my doorstep so we can bring our family here and let the kids come and play."

Shawn Carlsson, Charge hand, Greenscape.

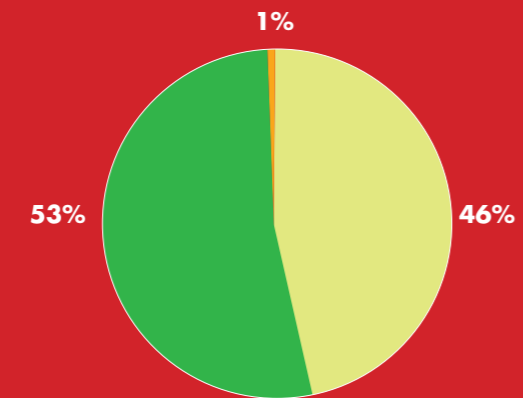
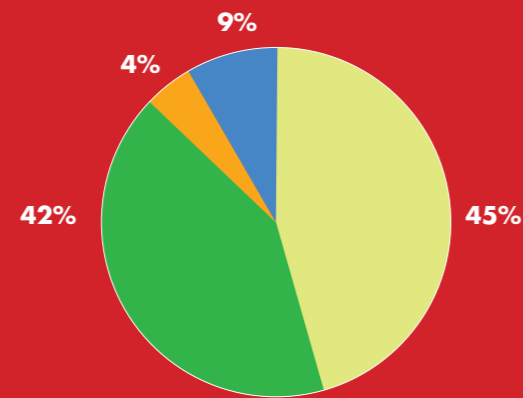


## Our Financial Health 2008/09

The year to 31st March 2009 was a successful one for St Peter's Partnerships, ending with a net surplus of £59,995. The total income was the highest level the group has achieved so far and was £2,192,612 which was an increase of 33% on the previous year. The total expenditure also increased in the year to £2,132,617, an increase of 24% reflecting the growth in turnover. We analyse the expenditure into three main categories: trading operations, charitable activities and governance costs.

In 2008/09 we spent £987,197 on trading operations, £1,122,009 on charitable activities and £23,411 on governance costs. Governance costs include the costs of complying with regulations, audit and trustee expenses.

Our reserves are held to ensure that we can continue our services should we suffer the impact of the uncertain funding climate and to ensure the longer term validity of the organisation. Our total reserves increased to £626,398 which is made up of £26,000 restricted funds and £600,398 unrestricted funds. We still endeavour to achieve our target, free reserves of three months' running costs. This summarised financial information has been extracted from the full audited accounts prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and The Statement of Recommended Practice.



Sources of income	2008/2009
Trading Operations	£978,011
Grants for Charitable Activities	£920,859
Voluntary Grants & Donations	£94,000
Sales of Services	£194,237
Investment Income	£5,505
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,192,612</b>

Expenditure Mix	2008/2009
Trading Operations	£987,197
Charitable Activities	£1,122,009
Governance Costs	£23,411
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,132,617</b>

"Our track record is very, very good in terms of delivering what we say we want to deliver. We have consistently exceeded our targets."

Guy Heppner, Trustee and Advisor.

## St Peter's Partnerships Value Statement

We aim to work alongside communities to create positive, innovative solutions and sustainable change. St Peter's Partnerships is Community owned and led. More than half the board of trustees is made up of local people, ensuring that we retain our focus on benefiting those communities with the greatest disadvantage or need.

### Active Participation & Enjoyment

Services work best when they are delivered, owned and enjoyed by the people who use them. We 'do with' rather than 'do to'. That's why 70% of our staff live locally and why we continue to attract over 100 volunteers from the community - many of whom deliver innovative services, with only a small amount of support from St Peter's Partnerships. Our work is guided by several important principles:

### Valuing People, Staff & Partners

Everyone that accesses our services will be made to feel welcome and valued. We treat everyone with courtesy, dignity, respect and provide the highest possible standard of customer service. Building trust with our partners and those who use our services is essential for even greater results. We do our utmost to do what we have said we will do and within the timetable agreed.

### Inclusion & Diversity

We believe the world would be dreary if everyone was the same; if they all looked the same, had the same values and beliefs. Diversity is about enjoying these differences whatever they are. We recognise that difference is a positive thing. We actively encourage anyone who wants to get involved. This means being aware and considerate of an individuals' needs and actively working to overcome barriers.

### Enterprise

An enterprising culture can help create opportunities that are both sustainable and innovative. We advocate for social enterprise.

### Community Development & Empowerment

Responding to needs identified by the local community, we support and encourage the development of activity that is led by them. We strive to work with people, not simply to provide services for them. We work to the National Occupational Standards for Community Development and the Manchester CLEAR model for Community Development.

### Care For The Environment

We will encourage actions to reduce, reuse and recycle waste in order to protect and preserve our environment for the future.

# St Peter's Partnerships would like to thank everyone involved in the production of 'Putting **unity** into the **Community**' and the DVD produced to accompany it.

You can watch the DVD on our website. Go to: [www.stpeterspartnerships.org](http://www.stpeterspartnerships.org)

"This may sound American, but St Peter's really are by  
the people for the good of the people."

"Thanks to them I'm loving life I have a career  
I am a new me."

"My mate called them the local lifeline and lifesavers....  
I know what he meant...I was an addict, addicted to failure but not now."

"At 50 odd I failed at school, I failed at college, I failed at marriage...  
WRONG! They failed me. Here I unlearnt bad habits and I am a client  
and every client counts here."

"I study here but I live in St Peter's, it's my community and  
I am proud of the difference they have helped us to make."

"They truly concentrate on our local community."

"St Peter's are central in, and to, our community."

Whilst anonymous, these are actual quotations taken from the Matrix Assessment Report, May 2007.



## St Peter's Partnerships

Clyde House Business Centre, Clyde Street,  
Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire OL7 0NQ

Telephone: 0161 214 8300

Fax: 0161 214 8333

Email: [info@stpeterspartnership.org](mailto:info@stpeterspartnership.org)

Website: [www.stpeterspartnership.org](http://www.stpeterspartnership.org)

*St Peter's Partnerships is a charitable company registered in  
England and Wales as St Peter's Community Partnership.  
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