

Lottery grants for groups that help children and sex workers



BY RACHEL BUTLER

MORE opportunities will open up to youngsters with disabilities thanks to a large cash award of lottery money.

Fun-ability, based at the St James Centre, in Malcolm Street, Derby, was given £364,925 from the Big Lottery Fund.

Janet Tristram, from the centre, said it was good news for Derby.

"Thanks to the generous support from the Big Lottery Fund, Fun-ability will be able to give 150 young disabled people the opportunity to enjoy clubs, activities, trips and adventures, enabling them to truly say that they are living life to the max."

The extra money means that Fun-ability will offer term-time evening and weekend clubs, plus a school holiday programme including activities and day trips that will provide short breaks for parents and carers.

It can also provide training to disabled and non-disabled volunteers aged over 14 to give them experience towards employment or advanced training.

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Another Derbyshire group which is celebrating receiving a lottery grant is Women's Work, in Normanton.

The charity, which helps female sex workers turn around their lives, has been awarded £483,492 for a project called The Bigger Difference.

The project will work with vulnerable women who are at risk of substance misuse or offending through prostitution, to help them improve their life chances, health and well-being. They will be given respite help and support through drop-in services, counselling and workshops.

The lottery grant means the project will have funding for the next three years.

Dionne Reid, chief executive of the charity, said: "This project will have a significant impact on the lives of many women, helping them to improve their health and make safer lifestyle choices."

The Big Lottery Fund awards money to community groups and projects that improve health, education and the environment. Since June 2004, it has awarded over £3.6bn to projects - mostly to voluntary and community sector organisations.

Fun-ability and Women's

Work were among five charities in the region which got a slice of the latest windfall, totalling £1.9 million.

Mick McGrath, head of the Big Lottery Fund in the East Midlands, said: "Each project is making a big difference to its local community."

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Volunteers and children from Fun-ability, at the St James Centre, Derby, celebrate their grant.

Picture: Lucy Shaw
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