



**Press Release: August 2009**

## **South East Region ESF Community Grants**

**£1,250,000 will be available in Round 3 across the South East Region**

Grants of up to £12,000 are now available to groups within the south east region, and applications for the next round of funding need to be received by the deadline of noon on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

Surrey Community Action is working with rural council partners across the southeast to ensure that local groups receive consideration at the next panel meeting where awards will be decided in October this year.

Priority will be given to groups focusing on getting people back to work or to access further learning opportunities, including lone parents, women, the disabled or those with health issues, the over 50's, and those from minority ethnic groups.

Last year Chris Wilsdon, who was part of a group that received just under £12,000 from an ESF Community Grant, undertook training to learn all about broadcasting with local radio station Redstone FM with the goal of eventually finding employment. Chris was a complete beginner in radio, but that was not his only barrier, he was also blind.

Des Shepherd, Director of Redstone FM who helped train Chris said, "As a result of the training, Chris produced and presented his own radio programme, which boosted his confidence and self-esteem, and he then went on to secure a part-time job, which was a great result, and shows what a big difference these grants can make in people's lives".

Application forms can be downloaded from the Surrey Community Action website, [www.surreyca.org.uk](http://www.surreyca.org.uk), or can be obtained by contacting Graham Phillips, South East Region Community Grants Manager, email: [communitygrants@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:communitygrants@surreyca.org.uk) , tel: 01483 459292 ext 237.

The South East Region Community Grants programme is funded by the Learning and Skills Council and European Social Fund (ESF) and managed by Surrey Community Action.

Additional funding may also be available to help build capacity including training, and anyone interested should contact Allison Eneche, Capacity Building Manager, email: [allisone@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:allisone@surreyca.org.uk) or tel: 01483 459292 ext 228.

Surrey Community Action is a registered charity which works to strengthen and support the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) across Surrey through access to advice, training, funding and advocacy. Surrey Community Action actively encourages volunteering and the details of local volunteer centres in Surrey can be found on our website at: [www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm](http://www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm)