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## **Press Release**

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# **Youth Opportunity Funding Provides Free Fun**

A GROUP of young people from North West Chelmsford are celebrating after receiving £5,000 from the Youth Opportunities Fund.

Under the guidance of Chelmer Housing Partnership (CHP) Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Malin Blom, the group from North West Chelmsford submitted an application to provide free half-term pastimes for young people at the Melbourne Sports and Activities Centre.

The week of activities – such as Thai Boxing, table tennis and trampolining - witnessed 407 visits by children and young people to the centre.

Christine Chester, Youth Opportunities and Capital Fund Manager, said: “The Youth Opportunities Fund is about empowering young people, whether they submit a funding application or judge one to get the services that they want.

“Currently we have the annual funding for the next three years and we welcome all submissions – especially applications which provide positive activities for those who don’t always get the chance to participate in events, such as homeless young people.”

Launched in November 2000, the Youth Opportunities Fund provides young people with a voice and is open to 13-19 years old with each entry being judged by a panel of young people. Groups who submit a successful application may also be eligible for the Capital Fund to finance equipment and premises.

Malin said: “Securing the Youth Opportunities Fund was a fantastic achievement by the children and young people. The £5,000 has had a positive outcome as it allows them to organise more free activities during the half-term holidays, which have been highly successful.”

The group will also be using the funding to finance an activities project during the Easter half-term (March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 11<sup>th</sup> 2008) and the summer holidays.

**-Ends-**

**Funding Provides Free Fun**

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To find out more about the Youth Opportunities Fund please visit [www.essexcc.gov.uk/youthopportunityfund/](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/youthopportunityfund/)