



Small Sparks is a unique program designed to encourage community members, who may not be involved in neighbourhood activity, to use their personal interest and creativity to do something fun and beneficial in the neighbourhood.

Small Sparks organizers involve new people in their neighbourhood project. Small Sparks projects are intended to "ignite imagination, create community, and make a difference" in neighbourhoods.

The original idea for Small Sparks projects came from Seattle in the US. In the UK Small Sparks projects have now been used successfully in many areas to support people with learning disabilities to become more involved in their communities.

We would like to see lots of Small Sparks projects start to happen in Walsall that involve people with learning disabilities.

The funding for Small Sparks in Walsall has been secured from Learning Disability Development monies.

The ideas for Small Sparks projects can come from people with learning disabilities themselves or others in the community who want to involve them in their projects.

Here are some examples of the kind of Small Sparks projects that people have been involved in:

A lady who had learning disabilities loved magazines; she applied for some Small Sparks money to set up a magazine sharing scheme for her local community. People now come to her house to swap magazines and she will take them to other people, she has got lots of new friends.

Another example is an allotment society who applied for Small Sparks monies for some paving slabs so that people in wheelchairs could access the allotments. There are now a number of people with disabilities who spend time helping at the allotments.

The funding for Small Sparks projects is relatively small and can only be to a maximum of £500 per project; but this in itself often makes people think more imaginatively about what they want to do.

The amount awarded then has to be match funded by the person or organisation applying for the money, the match funding can be in monetary terms, other equipment or commitment to for example spend 50 hours working on the project.

If you would like to know more please contact:

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