



# Youngsters put on right road to reach goals

**A GROUP working with youngsters in north Bristol has been given a helping hand thanks to a grant from the Let's Make It Happen community fund.**

The Patchway and Bradley Stoke Community Development Project will receive £445 from a £10,000 fund set aside by Combined Insurance and the *Evening Post* as part of the campaign.

The money will help the Bradley Stoke Football Initiative, which aims to get youngsters off the street and onto the right track.

Mo Bell, one of the Project's coordinators, said that 20 young people, who have been coming to football training sessions once a week for the past 18 months, would now have the chance to train at Bristol Rovers' ground with one of the club's coaches and attend a match.

Mrs Bell said: "It's a

by **OLIVIER VERGNAULT**

reward and an incentive for these youngsters to go to the Rovers ground.

"We want to encourage them to come to the training sessions. The aim is to stop children hanging around street corners and go down the wrong track."

The scheme offers young people, aged eight to 19, free coaching sessions on a Wednesday.

The project was set up as young people were requesting football training and the police were receiving complaints from residents about young people playing in the streets.

Many of the youngsters who attend the football come from difficult family backgrounds.

Mrs Bell said: "We feel that it's important to offer them positive diversionary

activities. It's a good alternative to anti-social behaviour."

More than 20 youngsters will go to the Rovers' training session for a cost of £14 per head. The Combined Insurance grant will also cover the £165 cost to hire a minibus.

Under the Let's Make It Happen Great £10,000 Community Giveaway, a share of the of the fund will be given to individuals, groups and charities to benefit the community.

Clive Robinson, managing director of Combined Insurance, said: "We're delighted that the Community Awards have had such an immediate impact on the local community in Bristol."

"We're looking forward to seeing the dreams of other winners being realised."