

# THE TUG STORY



The development of  
The Umbrella Group (TUG)

## Who we are

The Umbrella Group (TUG) is a **resident forum** with its own constitution. Members of TUG are community group representatives from Gateway recognised community groups. A list of all currently recognised community groups and previously but no longer recognised Community Groups is given at the end of this document in Appendix 1.

## When do we meet

**Meetings** are held monthly at 6.30pm on a Monday evening, in the Board Room, at the Community Gateway Association Office at Deltic House.

## Aims & Objectives

TUG intends to achieve its **goals** as follows:-

- To act as the umbrella organisation for tenants' and residents' organisations in Preston.
- To consider those issues which affect its members and to take appropriate action in support of its members.
- To strengthen community spirit by representing and promoting the interests of all residents.
- To foster and improve communication and working relationships between tenants, residents and other service providers and agencies within Preston.
- To work with Community Gateway Association to deliver the commitments of the Resident Involvement Statement.
- To keep up to date with regional and national tenant participation activities and funding opportunities. TUG is a member of TPAS.

- To make recommendations to the Gateway Tenant Committee.

## The Officers who make up the Committee

The **Committee** made up of a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer are known as the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee make up the three signatories of TUG. The Committee is fully supported by Community Gateway Association's 'Community Empowerment Team.'

## Finance

TUG has its own **bank account** and manages the Grants for Groups funding on behalf of the Gateway Tenant Committee of Community Gateway Association.

The accounts are verified by the Community Gateway Association.

## Annual General Meeting

The meeting is held in **April every year** to look back on what has been achieved over the previous year, and for the Treasurer to report on the past year's financial accounts. This is when the executive committee step down and a new committee is elected.

## How TUG influences CGA

**Issues** raised on the ground from the communities in Preston are brought to the attention of TUG members via community group open meetings and feedback from Task Force Groups.

TUG makes the Gateway Tenant Committee (GTC) aware of issues which need addressing at a strategic level, when required. This can influence changes in policy and improvements to service delivery. An example of this was the issues raised with the grounds maintenance contract. TUG members raised issues with the current contract and the result was a Grounds Maintenance Workshop looking at ways we can improve the service ready for the new contract due in April 09. The Chair of GTC is invited to every TUG meeting to assist with information sharing.

## Background

Community Gateway Association adopted TUG from Preston City Council at the time of stock transfer on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

In February 2006 the Community Empowerment Team were formed and became responsible for the development of TUG.

Attendance was poor for the first few months with only a handful of members attending meetings and no real focus on why they were there. TUG's objectives were not clear and information sharing was none existent. Very few community groups were being represented (only a third of the groups) and it was unknown how many people to expect on the night.

TUG, at the time, was out of touch with the Community Empowerment ethos and the goals of Community Gateway Association. This hindered its progress. There was also confusion as to TUG's role following the creation of the Gateway Tenant Committee.

## The first 12 months

At the beginning of 2006 an average of 12 members regularly attended each TUG meeting, presenting approximately 11 out of 20 groups.

Guest speakers were invited to TUG meetings from different sections within Gateway in order to update members on different roles and responsibilities following stock transfer.

A skills audit was carried out to determine existing skills and training requirements of members. This assisted with the creation of a training timetable which is updated yearly.

Consultation was carried out to evaluate why attendance was so poor. This resulted in a change of start time for meetings from 7pm to 6 pm and then to 6.30pm.

TUG invited guest speakers from external organisations to give information and advice on interesting topics to assist community

groups with developing empowerment opportunities in their local areas.

From **October 2006** attendance at TUG meetings started to increase due to more community activity in local areas as a result of option studies carried out by the Community Empowerment Team and as a result of the traffic light assessments of groups meeting the Support to Groups criteria for funding.

During **2006** the main topics were:-

- Funding initiatives
- Introduction to newsletters
- Option study and Task Force updates
- Joint TUG/GTC teambuilding event
- Training
- Introduction of Support To Groups Policy
- Foodbank information

During **2007** the main topics were:-

- Option study presentations
- Task force updates
- AGM held in April which resulted in the interim chair being re-elected as chair and a new secretary and treasurer being elected
- Re-decoration after improvements
- Grants for groups criteria
- Grounds maintenance contract
- Joint TUG/GTC teambuilding event
- Training
- Funding opportunities update
- Fire Safety Presentation
- 'Stop Smoking' presentation by NHS

## **Where we are to date**

So far in 2008 TUG have received:-

- A talk from staff at Jackson Lloyd introducing themselves as our new repairs contractors from April 08.

- A talk from a member of staff working for Jackson Lloyd regarding Code of Conduct for staff and residents.
- Option study presentations
- Task Force updates
- AGM held in April resulted in a new Chair being elected and the re-election of the former Treasurer. Unfortunately, TUG does not have a Secretary at present.

Attendance at TUG has increased dramatically. At the beginning of 2008 an average of 18 members regularly attended TUG meetings, representing 13 out of 15 groups. Most of the recognised community groups are represented. However, there is still a little work to do on the groups who are not making the effort which will be addressed via the Support to Groups policy.

Last updated 16.5.08

For further information contact [Lisa Macdonald](#) on tel. 01772 268037.

### OUR VISION

To be the leader in opening doors to a lasting, richer life

### OUR VALUES

We do what we say

We are open & honest

We put our diverse communities at the heart of all we do

We promote empowerment

We passionately promote Gateway

We value & support all our people



**APPENDIX 1**  
**RECOGNISED COMMUNITY GROUPS**  
**PAST & PRESENT**

<b>NAME OF GROUP</b>	<b>DATE RECOGNISED</b>	<b>DATE FOLDED</b>	<b>REASON FOLDED</b>
ACORN	28.11.05		
Ashdale CA	28.11.05		
Astley CA	28.11.05	July 2007	Lack of interest from residents and ill health
Brookfield United	28.11.05		
Dovedale Pride	28.11.05	July 2007	Non-compliance with support to groups policy
Hopwood CA	28.11.05	September 2007	Residents decided to concentrate on major problems in area first will then consider community work.
Larches & Savick CA	28.11.05		
LRTRA	28.11.05		
MEECA	28.11.05		
Moor Nook EMB	28.11.05		
Neara (Formerly Howarth)	28.11.05		

PETRA	28.11.05	31.08.07	Lack of interest from community & personal commitments of the chair
RADA	28.11.05	November 2007	Ill Health and lack of interest from residents
RAFT	28.11.05		
The Filberts CA	28.11.05		
The Windmill CA	28.11.05	June 2007	Lack of interest from residents
The Windmill CA	22.11.07		
Time Out	28.11.05		
TOSCA	28.11.05	18.2.08	Family commitments & ill health of members
Windsor Court CA	28.11.05		
WYRA	Nov 2007		