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Southend Association of Voluntary Services Media Release

Funding Success Provides Activities for Children & Young People!

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Effective date: Immediate

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Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) are delighted to announce that they have been awarded **£105,911 in funding from Children in Need** to provide activities for children and young people in Southend. Youngsters aged 8 and upwards living on the Woodgrange Drive Estate and Queensway Estate in Victoria Ward will soon have weekly clubs to keep them occupied in the evenings thanks to the award.

The clubs, called '**Triple T's**' which will be run by SAVS through their **Turning Tides Project** will give these youngsters the chance to try out new activities, such as first aid and football coaching, and learn more about where they live through visits to and from the local fire station, coastguards and police station. The aim is to give them the opportunity to broaden their outlook, and achieve their full potential. Alison Semmence, Chief Executive of SAVS said:

*"Earlier this year we asked people living and working in these areas what they wanted and they told us they wanted more activities for youngsters in the evenings. Building upon our existing **Junior Warden Scheme** we developed a new plan which provides the activities every week in the place where they live."*

Saphron Collison (aged 6) said: *"we love doing things and having fun with Turning Tides"*.

The clubs which will start early next year will be run by Turning Tides with the help of a team of local volunteers.

Background:

Southend Association of Voluntary Services, or **SAVS** as we are more frequently known, is a council for voluntary service, (CVS) part of a national network of similar organisations. Our job is to advise and support local, not-for-profit groups. These groups provide all manner of services and include social clubs, groups advising people who care for a relative at home, advice and activities for people with disabilities or health problems, tenants and residents' associations, and many more!

Turning Tides is a Southend Together funded initiative to improve the quality of life for residents of the Kursaal, Milton and Victoria wards, run by SAVS (Southend Association of Voluntary Services) on behalf of the residents. Our team of highly trained Team Leaders and staff are active in your area and will help by; developing and supporting social groups, offering information and advice on your concerns, delivering youth activities, helping with recycling and environmental problems, working to reduce crime, supporting vulnerable people in the community and more.

Website: <http://www.savs-southend.org/turningtides>