



Teenagers have been helping improve Victoria Park. Inset, gates get a lick of paint

# Making a difference

TRAFFORD teenagers have been making a positive difference in the borough.

Around 30 young people gave up their free time to help revitalise Victoria Park.

Together with Friends of Victoria Park, the youngsters, from LifeYouth, based at LifeChurch Manchester on Washway Road, Sale, cleared shrubs, picked up litter, painted and removed graffiti.

The clean-up is the latest in a series of events that are part of the iHeartManchester social action programme, started by Sale pastor Tom Butler.

Tom formed the group two years ago to help young people engage with their community, and since then they have helped people all over the borough.

He said: "We believe in young people.

"We know that the media

images this year don't reflect the reality.

"The truth is that our young people want to be active in the community, doing good for their families, neighbourhoods and their city.

"This is the way they feel they can do something and make some noise for the right reasons in their community."

Examples of previous projects undertaken by the Sale-based youth group include spending time with pensioners and housebound residents, clearing allotments and helping with gardening projects within the community.

Stretford Grammar pupil Erin Williams, 16, a LifeYouth member, said: "We're not all trouble-makers, some of us care about our city, and are desperate to change the negative view of young people."



LifeYouth members give toilets at the park a new paint job