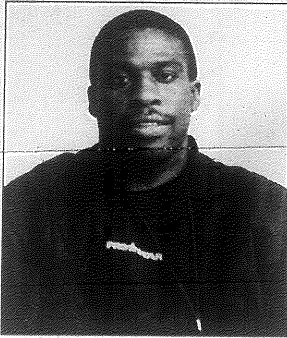


ESTATE'S EARS



PLAY IT AGAIN: Sam is the driving force behind two important youth projects on the Queen's Park Estate.

...n't want to become a paid youth worker. His time is taken up with the clubs so much that he doesn't have a full-time job.

He said: "Getting into the system as a youth worker doesn't interest me. I just want to get on with what I do without being tied to rules, regulations and bureaucracy."

"This would be more frustrating than having to battle with my problems of having limited funds for the projects."

With the cards so heavily stacked against him, you'd be forgiven for wondering how Sam keeps motivated. Touching briefly on his own teenage

years, he explains when he was younger there were no opportunities like there are now.

Born and bred in South Kilburn, on the border with Westminster, Sam spent much of his youth at the Avenues centre on the Mozart Estate.

"This was during the 80s when youth clubs revolved around pool tables, a small stereo in the corner and fizzy drinks.

Sam said: "Things were different then. The council ran everything so the youth clubs were all pretty much the same with few people interested in changing the structure.

"We enjoyed ourselves but it was the same activities every night. Now kids are demanding more. Perhaps it's a result of constantly changing technology but they want to be entertained, they want more stimulation.

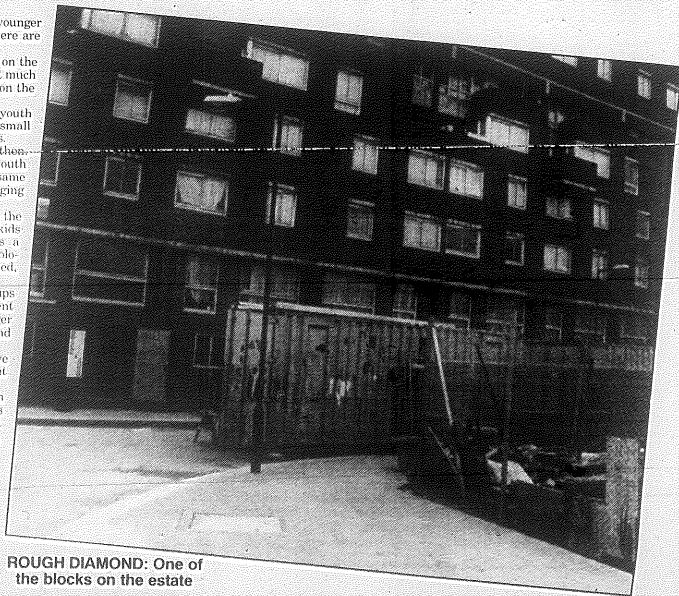
"That's why it's good different groups have been set up to cater for different interests. These groups are no longer under the control of the council and have room to develop."

Sam's experiences over the past five years have taught him much about community, youth — and himself.

He said: "It's always the way with kids, they think the system is against them and that they can just ride along and be alright. They think they are invincible.

"I used to think I was invincible but now I know different. It's about what you put in. I want to motivate kids to understand this but it's hard without the financial support."

● *Anybody interested in supporting South Kilburn Football Club or the Scenario Music Group call Sam on 0958 318 594.*



ROUGH DIAMOND: One of the blocks on the estate

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