

Budget and Performance Committee review of youth expenditure in the GLA group: additional information provided by GLA group

Further to points of clarification on the original information provided, and questions arising during drafting of the report, bodies of the GLA group provided the following additional information to inform the report of the Budget and Performance Committee.

Metropolitan Police Authority

(information provided 27 April 2009)

In 2007/08 there was £2.1m one off expenditure, although there was a decision made to fund the £410,000 for Voyage in future years.

Recruitment for the Safer Schools PCSOs was taking place throughout 2007/08, and the majority were in post by the end of 2007/08. The budget at current costs for this is £10.9m, but as recruitment took place throughout the year it is not possible to say how much was spent during 2007/08.

The one off spends in 2008/09 were not part of the original budget. This was funded from a benefit arising from a reduction in National Insurance Contributions, which amounted to £4.25m. Of this, £1.23m was spent in 2008/09 and £3.02m carried forward into 2009/10

In 2008/09, ongoing expenditure amounted to £15.4m. This included all of the ongoing expenditure identified in the original table with the exception of the public protection desks, which is new funding for 2009/10, and Kikz which is being funded from reserves. It also included Voyage (£400,000) which was then ongoing.

For 2009/10 the spend is £17.65m as the £1.65m for Kikz is coming from reserves. In addition there is the £3.02m carried forward from the £4.25m for one off spends.

London Development Agency

On 5 June 2009 the LDA supplied this table showing expenditure up to 2008/09.

Youth Programme: Previous Expenditure, £000

Project Name	Prior to 2007-08	2007-08	2008-09
Mayor's Youth Offer: 33 Boroughs	0		6,359
Mayor's Youth Offer: Young Londoners' Fund *			210
Mayor's Youth Offer: Film Journalism Project (Summer University)	0	49	208
Mayor's Youth Offer: Winter of Sport	0	258	0
Mayor's Youth Offer sub-total	0	307	6777
My Voice	0	108	129
Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence, Education Outreach Centre	546	305	490
Stephen Lawrence Centre (Implementation)	1,821	775	655
Bernie Grant Centre	3,401	755	143

* We are still in contract negotiation so these numbers may change

London Fire Brigade

(information provided 25 June 2009)

Of all our community schemes, LIFE and CFC are heavily dependent on external funding. Their business cases were recently submitted to the LDA as another possible funding source. Extension of these schemes, & continuation of existing schemes, is dependent on external funding and internal capacity being available. For example, on average 88 LIFE courses are programmed each year across London, with over 1,000 young people attending in total. This is currently the maximum number of courses that can be currently delivered given the need to release operational staff to act as trainers and to maintain fire cover.

As set out in our Community Safety Strategy, our youth engagement and education work supports the Brigade's strategic objectives and we have regular liaison with Jason Lever at the GLA (Children and Young People's Unit, Communities and Intelligence Directorate) to ensure that we also align with the Mayor's priorities. Our borough commanders work closely with their local partners as part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Local Strategic Partnership arrangements. Efforts to raise funds to help support our community safety work are undertaken both at a local level (by our borough commanders) and also at a strategic level (e.g. we unsuccessfully bid for funds from the Mayor's Youth Offer).

The London Fire Brigade also provided stand-alone documents: business cases for the LIFE and Community Fire Cadets schemes (attached as appendices 1 and 2) and the London Fire Brigade youth engagement strategy and community safety strategy (public documents available from the London Fire Brigade)

Greater London Authority

(information provided during summer 2009, with compiled and updated table confirmed 27 August 2009)

Source Information	Initiative / Programme	Nature of Work (if provided)	Actual Expenditure 2007/08 if given (£)	Actual Expenditure to date 2008/09 (£)	Projected 2009/10 Expenditure if given (£)
Housing & Homelessness Unit	Alone in London Homelessness Prevention DVD	Homelessness prevention DVD		0 N/A - In Kind Support	0
Sports Unit	Street Athletics in 2008/09 for children under 19	-	0	10,000	0
Cultural Strategy Team	Fourth Plinth School Awards	Encourages pupils to consider art in the public realm, design an artwork inspired by 4th plinth plus INSET days	0	4,000	3,000
Cultural Strategy Team	Children's Art Day	National campaign to maximise children/young people's involvement in visual arts.	0	10,000	10,000
Cultural Strategy Team	Music Education	To raise the profile of the issues in music education - work towards improving the co-ordination and quality of provision with local authorities	0	50,000	50,000

Source Information	Initiative / Programme	Nature of Work (if provided)	Actual Expenditure 2007/08 if given (£)	Actual Expenditure to date 2008/09 (£)	Projected 2009/10 Expenditure if given (£)
Cultural Strategy Team	Rhythm of London	Celebration / showcase of young people's music talent & opportunities for progression	0	36,000	36,000
Cultural Strategy Team	London Youth Games	The London Youth Games is a pan-London sporting activity programme involving all 33 London boroughs utilising Crystal Palace sports complex and various other facilities in outer and inner London	25,113	25,000	0
Cultural Strategy Team	London Youth Dance Network	A dance development initiative for outer London Borough based Schools Sports Partnership designed to kick start dance in areas with limited access to both dance provision and expertise.	0	6,400	0
Cultural Strategy Team	Heritage Diversity Workforce Programme	GLA programme that will encourage heritage organisations to increase diversity of work, and will include efforts to encourage young people to work in the heritage sector.	0	N/A	10,000
Social Inclusion Team	London Child Poverty Commission	The LCPC is an independent commission established jointly between the Mayor and London Councils. Its remit is to investigate the reasons for London's persistently high rates of child poverty and make proposals identifying solutions.	0	20,000	20,000
Opinion Research & Consultation Team	Survey of Young People Living in London	The purpose of this research is to provide insight into how young people aged 18 and under view living in London and to gauge attitudes to Mayoral policies and priorities.	0	28,800	9,600
Equalities Team	Consultation exercise on - Equal Life Chances for all	-	0	500	0
Equalities Team	Children & Young People work shops on London Plan and Climate Change	-	2,000		
Marketing & Publicity Team	Young Money	-	5,000	0	0
Marketing & Publicity Team	Fireworks Campaign	Educating children about the dangers of throwing and picking up fireworks	30,000	0	0
The Stakeholders Team	London Schools & Black Child Conference	The London Schools and the Black Child (LSBC) initiative builds on a project initiated in the London Borough of Hackney by Diane Abbott MP, and is organised in association with her. It has become established as the key mayoral educational event in London	105,948	105,740	0
The Stakeholders Team	Young Peoples Question time	-	0	0	7,500
The Stakeholders Team	Student related work	Students go green week, Students Rise, Student Londoner newsletter	10,047	0	0

Source Information	Initiative / Programme	Nature of Work (if provided)	Actual Expenditure 2007/08 if given (£)	Actual Expenditure to date 2008/09 (£)	Projected 2009/10 Expenditure if given (£)
The Children & Young Peoples Unit	Children & Young People Programme	Children and Young People's Unit programme and staff budgets (as below) constitute a wide-ranging programme of ongoing policy and research, projects and participation (including specific delivery around State of London's Children Report, Youth Offer, Peer	404,000	580,000	589,000
The Environment Team	London Zoo - Schools free visits scheme	The Free Visits scheme is directed at maintained schools in greater London and its primary purpose is to provide educational visits for socially excluded and deprived children	407,500	436,510	436,510
The Environment Team	London Wetlands Centre	The Mayor's scheme for free visits to the London Wetlands centre enables all London state school children to have the opportunity to visit the educational centre	40,159	67,373	66,289
	Time for Action Payback London			62,165	226,904
Total Expenditure			1,029,767	1,442,488	1,814,803

Summary table

£m	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
CYPU	0.404	0.580	0.589
TfA team		0.062	0.227
Projects	0.626	0.800	0.649
Payback London			0.350
Total	1.030	1.442	1.815



LOCAL INTERVENTION FIRE EDUCATION SCHEME (LIFE)



**Submission to London Development Agency
May 2009**

Introduction

The LIFE scheme was developed by the London Fire Brigade (LFB). It forms a key part of our Youth Engagement Strategy.

The main aims of the scheme are:

- To promote risk reduction,
- To improve community engagement, and to
- Support the development of young people

LIFE is an intensive week long course delivered by operational staff in fire stations. It is intended to foster close links with young people in the local community and to assist those at risk of social exclusion or involvement in anti-social behaviour, particularly fire-related activity. LIFE is targeted particularly at young people aged between 13 and 17.

LIFE started in June 2002 in Tower Hamlets and now covers 30 of the 33 London boroughs. Since 2002, over 3,000 young people have attended the scheme. A number of other UK Brigades have already either adopted the scheme or have expressed an interest in it.

LIFE is currently structured with a central team, based at Brigade HQ, and the following local teams in areas where funding can be raised from local partners

- Brent
- Camden
- Islington
- Tower Hamlets
- Newham
- Barking and Dagenham
- Bexley
- Southwark
- Sutton

Additionally the boroughs of Westminster, Lambeth, Merton, Kingston, Hounslow, Ealing, Harrow, Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Hackney, Redbridge, Havering, Greenwich, Bromley, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Kensington and Chelsea buy places on existing schemes. Please see map of LIFE schemes (Appendix A).

LIFE has received a number of awards, including the London Day Fire Service Award in 2003, from the Mayor of London, and award for Focusing on Social Inclusion at the National Careers Awards 2006. In 2008 it was awarded a first in the category of Keeping Bexley Safe by the Bexley Community Safety Partnership awarded. It also was awarded second place by the CLG in the category of equality and diversity for the Brigade's work with young people from the autistics spectrum.

Indeed one of Boris Johnson's first acts as Mayor of London was to visit the LIFE project run at Dagenham Fire Station. This is at a time in London when knife crime and other anti-social behaviour among young people is increasing in both rate and severity. The Mayor's letter (Appendix B) underlines the importance of the scheme to London.

Benefits of the Scheme

LIFE does not try to supplant the role of other agencies working with young people (e.g. the police and social services). However, there is clear evidence of the need for a systematic approach to anti-social behaviour and young people in relations to fire risks.

Deliberate fire setting accounts for almost half of all fires attended by LFB. As many as one in four such fires are believed to have been set by children. On average two London schools experience a deliberate fire each week.

The number of deliberate fires and hoax calls has however fallen in recent years, particularly in Boroughs with active LFB schemes aimed at young people. The evidence strongly suggests that this is not coincidental.

Young people on LIFE programme are treated as adults. They are given adult responsibilities and, often for the first time, placed in a real adult to adult relationship outside their family unit. They are given personal responsibility for the management and maintenance of fire engines, firefighting equipment, the fire station and their own personal protective equipment.

LIFE is an intensive programme packed full of challenges, from climbing ladders to first floor level to learning to use full sized water hoses and breathing apparatus. As well as these practical aspects, the young people come away with skills they can draw on throughout their lives. LIFE teaches the teenagers how to work in teams and communicate as well as how to set goals and achieve them.

The LIFE programme works on many levels. At its simplest it is about a group of teenagers getting to know each other over a week, having some fun and finding out how to work together. It is also about learning a new set of values and about the consequences of anti-social behaviour. Fundamentally, it is about how, given the right conditions, a group of young people can discover an inner confidence they never knew they had.

Each young person has their progress evaluated by a Brigade trainer. Usually one Brigade staff member works with two trainees. The programme culminates in a prestigious passing out ceremony, at which as the youngsters demonstrate what they have learnt over the week each trainee receives a certificate of achievement in front of family and friends, as well as representatives of local authorities, police and other partners.

Building self esteem is at the heart of this innovative programme. This is a week that can transform the lives of individuals, and improve the lives of everyone in their local communities.

The LIFE team in partnership with Fire Service Youth Training Association have also been writing and developing a Business Technology Education Council qualification. This will enable candidates on the LIFE programme to gain a level two award which will be equivalent to a GCSE at A-C level.

A Proven Success

Evidence of the success of LIFE courses is considerable. It includes an independent evaluation for LFB by Morgan Harris Burrows, commissioned in 2005. They interviewed sample of 65 young people who attended a LIFE course.

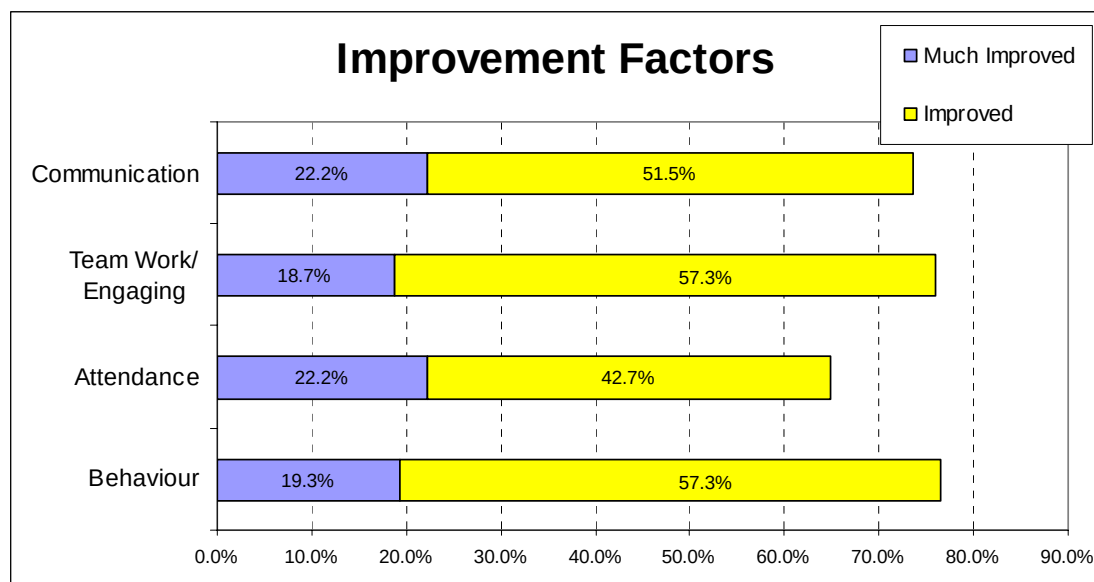
- 97% felt it showed them that “it can be good to work as part of a team”,
- 88% said the course “gave them skills they could use elsewhere”,
- 75% said it “improved the way they see themselves”.

Morgan Harris Burrows also reported that Police National Computer data showed a significant fall in offending behaviour by ex-LIFE trainees and that other evidence showed reductions in the number of deliberate fires set, the number of hoax calls, incidents of abuse to firefighters, and in truancy and vandalism.¹

Many of the trainees who have taken part in LIFE are now in jobs or full time education. Some have become firefighters themselves.

An Evaluation Report (2005-8) of the LIFE scheme from ESF Funded Boroughs showed, inter alia, how education or training providers were asked to complete a pro forma 12 weeks after the young people finished the LIFE course.

The table below shows the breakdown of 181 responses



Feedback from education and training providers shows that

- 77% of Young People ‘improved’ or ‘much improved’ in one or more improvement factors
- The highest improvement rate is ‘Behaviour’ at 77%, followed by ‘Team working/engagement’ 76%, ‘Attendance’ 65% and ‘Communication’ 64%
- Only 6% of Young People showed some deterioration on at least one of the factors

Funding

The LIFE programme is partly funded by the London Fire Brigade which covers the cost of a small central team, the venues and the voluntary LIFE trainers. LIFE also depends heavily however on external funding. This pays for the nine local LIFE teams, who

¹ Further details from the MHB study, and other success indicators, are given in Appendix C

organise the courses, and also for associated costs including overtime payments, clothing, catering, and hire of additional appliances. The proportion of cost for the key elements of a typical Borough LIFE scheme is as follows:

- Staff – team leader wages, deputy team leader wages, trainer’s allowances and Criminal Record Bureau checks. This element accounts for about 75% of total costs.
- Equipment – appliance hire, IT equipment, and fire kit purchase and maintenance - 13% of costs.
- Training – training for staff to become LIFE trainers, including information packs, catering etc - 5% of costs
- Course – stationery, transport of young people, food (breakfast and lunch) - 3% of costs
- Promotional – digital camera and printing costs, portfolios and pass out buffet - 4% costs.

As funding for LIFE courses is externally provided, courses only run where LFB borough commanders have been able to raise money from local partners, e.g. local authorities or youth engagement projects and charities.. Some boroughs have the funds to establish their own LIFE course, others have less funding and so buy places on other boroughs’ courses for young people to attend. This has also been done over time to make the programme more cost effective. It should be noted that, due to the requirement for operational trainers, the Brigade is currently limited to a maximum of 88 courses available per year in order to maintain levels of fire cover.

Details of LIFE funding for 2007/8 and 2008/9 are given below:

2007/8 Funding source:	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	TOTAL
LIFE COSTS	926,431	487,131	1,413,562
GRANT/ INCOME RECEIVED	897,836	0	897,836
NET COST	28,595	487,131	515,726

2008/9 Funding source:	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	TOTAL
LIFE COSTS	1,046,156	705,080	1,751,236
GRANT/ INCOME RECEIVED	865,788	0	865,788
NET COST	180,368	705,080	885,448

The cost per course to external funders is £11,590 and per referral is £827, assuming that 14 young people finish the course which is the desired number.

Conclusion

The LIFE scheme supports the Brigade's principal aim of making London a safer city. It also addresses a number of our key objectives, as set out in our London Safety Plan. These include:

- Preventing loss of life, injury, economic loss, property or heritage loss, environmental damage from fire and other emergencies;
- Reducing deliberate fires by 10 per cent by 2010;
- Reducing hoax calls (malicious false alarms) by five per cent over the next five years.

The scheme also attempts to impart our key values, as set out in our Corporate Plan. These are:

- Fairness
- Integrity
- Respect
- Service
- Trust

LIFE is a highly successful example of investment in the education and development of young people, which is a key focus of community fire safety activity in the London Fire Brigade and other fire and rescue services. Our experience shows that messages delivered at an impressionable age often endure for life and have a good chance of modifying behaviour. It also shows that messages delivered by young people can improve fire safety in the homes of friends and relatives.

LIFE is fully supported by LFEPA and its elected Members. It has also been endorsed by Government ministers. It has been widely covered as a success story in local, regional and national media. It is recognised by the Government Office for London as an example of best practice.

LIFE funders can be confident that they are supporting an established, effective scheme regarded as a model of good practice in supporting young people and in tackling the causes of anti-social behaviour.

Appendix A: LIFE Project Map

Appendix B: Letter from Boris Johnson

Appendix C

LIFE: Evidence of Success

In 2005 we commissioned Morgan Harris and Burrows (MHB) to carry out an evaluation of the project across London. The results below show the positive impact LIFE has had on the local communities of the 3 boroughs involved in the evaluation: Tower Hamlets, Brent and Islington.

Reduction in ASB Incidents

Table 1 below shows the number of interviewees who admitted to engaging in criminal acts before and after attending the course. This has a positive impact on the Home Office's PSA1 Target to reduce volume crime with noticeable reductions relating to criminal damage.

Table 1

Behaviour	Yes – took part in this behaviour before course		Yes – took part in this behaviour after course		% change
	count	% (of total)	count	% (of total)	
Hoax calls to Fire service	8	12	0	0	-100
Fire inside	6	9	0	0	-100
Abuse to firefighters	2	3	0	0	-100
Prevent firefighters doing job	1	2	0	0	-100
Hoax calls to police/ambulance	17	26	1	2	-94
Starting fire outside	15	23	1	2	-93
Truancy	31	48	5	8	-84
Burglary	4	6	1	2	-75
Broke into cars	11	17	3	5	-73
Vandalism	18	28	5	8	-72
Being in a stolen car	15	23	5	8	-67
Graffiti	20	31	12	18	-40

Table 2 below estimates the number of actual incidents per attendee. Though this data is based on self-reporting of incidents and some estimates are used, some clear patterns emerged. In terms of the number of interviewees taking part in the behaviours listed in Table 2 that falls for each category. In relation to the average number of incidents committed per attendee per year, it is estimated that 8.02 incidents of graffiti, 3.34 acts of vandalism and 2.05 hoax calls to the police or ambulance service are prevented per attendee per year.

Table 2

Type of incident	Number prevented per attendee per year (ranked)	Number taking part in behaviour before course	Number taking part in behaviour after course
Graffiti	8.02	20	12
Acts of vandalism	3.34	18	5
Hoax calls to police or ambulance	2.05	17	1
Hoax calls to FB	1.98	8	0
Fires in public places	1.08	15	1
Cars broken into	1.06	11	3
Burglaries	0.20	4	1
Fires inside buildings	0.03	6	0

Cost Benefit Analysis

The cost benefit of this reduction per referral can be estimated at £7.59 for every £1.00 spent on running a LIFE course.

Table 3

Type of incident	Average cost per incident	Number of incidents prevented per attendee per year	Cost saving per attendee
Fires in public places	£1,650	1.08	£1,782
Hoax calls to FB	£400	1.98	£792
Hoax calls to police or ambulance	£400	2.05	£820
Acts of vandalism	£866	3.34	£2,892
Graffiti	£100	8.02	£802
Fires inside buildings	£27,960	0.03	£838
Cars broken into	£858	1.06	£909
Burglaries	£3,268	0.20	£653
Total			£9,490

Effect on Conviction History

MHB checked the conviction history of scheme participants through the version of the police national computer that is held by the Home Office for research purposes (HOPNC).

- Offences against property saw a reduction of 44%
- Offences against a person saw a reduction of 50%
- Public disorder offences saw a reduction of 64%.

Other Impact Measures

Data below taken from External Evaluation by Yvonne Drake, Arson Reduction Officer, and London Borough of Southwark June 2007:

- 56% of responders report that the young person is engaging more with education or employment since completing the LIFE Course
- 63% of responders report that the young person is more emotionally settled since completing the LIFE Course
- 71% of responders report that the young person's self image has improved since completing the LIFE Course
- 65% of responders report that the young person's attitude has improved since completing the LIFE Course
- 74% of responders report that the young person has not been involved with the Police, YOT or SASBU since completing the LIFE Course
- 63% of responders report that the young person's behaviour has improved since completing the LIFE Course
- 72% of responders report that the LIFE course has had a positive impact on the young person
- 100% of responders report that they would recommend the LIFE course to other young people.

Supportive Quotes/Case Studies

Case Study 1

Tower Hamlets evaluation.

Direct comments from Head Teacher Tower Hamlets Ed Coffey, deputy head at Bishop Challenger Collegiate in Stepney

"LIFE targets the students who have disengaged with school and are in danger of being excluded entirely. They are the kids are being to be in trouble with the police, belong to gangs, take drugs and are on ASBOs and the like. Almost all of them have a history of challenging authority in one form or another. They come back and self-esteem is there with them, they all feel they've achieved something, they've actually learned a lot about themselves and about LIFE. They don't become angels overnight but they are all changed for the better, their school work improves noticeably and they all behave with a responsibility we've never seen before... It is amazing to see the difference one of these LIFE courses makes. We've had something like 75 students on the courses and they all come back changed people. They are focussed, before they were disengaged and not focussing on school work, taking part in the curriculum or LIFE in general."

Case Study 2

Barking and Dagenham evaluation.

“Junior” nick name (he never calls himself anything different) aged 14, lives on one of the highest crime risk estates in Dagenham.

He was referred to LIFE team from the Barking and Dagenham YOT for throwing stones at a train along with four other boys and also playing truant from school. Junior has alopecia and always wears a hat. On the first day of the course we received a call from Junior’s mother saying that he wasn’t going to attend as he was worried that the other kids would ridicule him. Junior was assured that we would not allow anything like that to happen and he agreed to attend. Junior was a credit to himself all week; he worked hard and was probably the most popular young person on the course amongst the trainers and the young people. On passout day Junior cried when the trainer spoke positively about him and one of the other boys on the course cuddled him in front of about 60 people. On the Monday following the course, Junior was on a bus and saw an elderly gentleman collapse at the bus stop. The bus stopped, Junior got off and tried to offer his help but the adults at the bus stop told him to stay away. Junior then explained that he had just completed the Fire Brigade LIFE course and could help. He put the elderly man in the recovery position. Junior was then allowed to help and he waited with the gentleman until the ambulance arrived. This has been verified by the ambulance service. We since received a letter from Juniors mother, she has thanked us for helping Junior to re-gain his confidence and expressed how proud she was when she saw him receive his portfolio at passout. Her last words were “Thank you all again for putting a smile on my sons face, it’s been a long time but I am sure that things can only get better” Junior, since attending the programme has not played truant from school and has not been in trouble with the police or the Authorities.

Case Study 3

External Evaluation London Borough of Southwark

Referral agent direct quote,

“By completing the course and being treated as an adult and as a human being he appears to have changed his behaviour and attitude to being a sensible member of the community. I will definitely use the LIFE course as a diversion tactic and enforcement tool again. Seeing young people who has achieved and seeing how they officers engage and praise them, you can see that the young people are given a sense of worth when completing. Also, noting how parents react to their children being praised is an amazing sight, as occasionally, parents / guardians cannot see an end to their child’s behaviour both in and out of the home”.

Case Study 4

Client M

M attended a mainstream school in Bethnal Green. Towards the Year 9 there were significant concerns about his behaviour. He was placed on the School Action + register and was supported by the schools Learning Mentor.

In year 10 I was asked to see M and generate a careers action plan. I was informed that M had behaviour difficulties and was now at risk of permanent exclusion. M and I worked closely together to generate a short-term career plan, which he felt would address his needs. We explored short alternative curriculum activities and M was entered into the Inspired Network Community Action programme which the LIFE course is a member. Initially M started on another programme whilst waiting to be offered a place on LIFE. When the time arrived M successfully completed the programme and thoroughly enjoyed the weeklong course.

M’s behaviour changed virtually overnight, he appeared focussed and started to reintegrate back into classes. Learning Mentor support was reduced and M moved from the SA+ register to School Action.

We were concerned that M would react in a negative way when his elder brother was sentenced

for stabbing another youth in the area, but he remained calm and focussed even commenting that he didn't want to follow in his brother's footsteps. The remainder of his school time M managed to achieve level accredited courses through the programme, his predicted grades improved significantly, with behaviour patterns no different to other male peers, attendance and truancy was no longer an issue. M started to explore his long-term career plans and he is hoping to engage in a college course this Sept 08.

Email thanks (surname removed)

From: ELLEN (xxxx) [mailto:ellen.@btinternet.com]
Sent: 27 May 2006 23:21 To: Incoming Web Messages
Subject: Thank You

Hello, I'm just writing to you tonight because I want to thank the London Fire Service for the fantastic opportunity that they have provided my brother, Darren (xxxx), this week. He attended the LIFE Course with the fire service this week, and we had his presentation yesterday which was amazing. I was actually in tears because I was so proud of what he had become.

This time last year he was drinking, staying out all hours, getting into trouble with the police, and taking drugs. We really thought he was on a downward spiral and no matter how much we tried to help him and stop him, nothing worked. He went on a few other courses before being given the opportunity to do the LIFE Course with the Fire Brigade.

Well, we saw a different Darren from the first day. He was so happy and excited and he said from the start that this was the career for him. Well on Friday, when I saw how much effort he put into the demonstrations, and heard what his mentor, Nathan from Lambeth Fire Station had to say about him, me and my Mum just cried with joy. We watched in amazement and saw how far he had come. We are all so proud of him, and I just wanted to say thank you so much for this opportunity. Without this course I don't know if Darren would have wanted to apply to the fire service, but I know now that with Nathan's help, Darren is going to apply and hopefully get into the Fire Service and become a fantastic firefighter.

Thank you again,

Ellen (Darren's older sister)
Take Care, Ellen

From: Bedi, Rosie [mailto:Rosie.Bedi@bexley.gov.uk]
Sent: 22 November 2006 18:16
To: PARKER, NICOLA
Subject: LIFE

Hi Nicola,

Just thought I update you that I have recently had panel with four young people and they all said that course has been the best thing for them. They felt that they came away with confidence and new skills which will help them in there future.

Liam said that before he did the course he had no idea what it meant when you do something that helps others he said that he would love to do something in his life that helped others and he wants to thanks you and your team for showing him that.

Jason is doing full time course to become a fire-fighter he said that this course was the right thing at the right time of life to make the most important decision which is going to help me and I am pleased for this opportunity given to me.

Charlie and Dwayne both said that they are going too talked about this course for the rest of their life as this has been the most positive thing for them.

Could you please thank the team on their behalf?

Rosie Bedi
Social Worker
Bexley Youth Offending Team
020 8284 5555



Community Fire Cadets



**Submission to London Development Agency
May 2009**

Introduction

Community Fire Cadets (CFC) is a long-term comprehensive scheme in which local young people attend a Fire Station one evening per week to take part in Fire Brigade-led activities with a developmental/educational outcome. The activities have the following broad aims:

- To bring about a reduction in fires (both accidental and deliberate), fire injuries, hoax calls and attacks on Firefighters;
- To develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of the young people and support them to attain a Fire Brigade based recognition of achievement;
- To help prevent young people from developing attitudes leading to criminal and anti-social behaviour and provide an additional developmental opportunity which build trust, respect, self-esteem, integrity and consistency serving to attract young people from a multitude of risks enhancing the quality of life for all young people in the community
- To develop positive relationships between the young people leading to positive values and a common identity between them and within their communities;
- To develop a sense of responsibility and citizenship within the young people and ensure a developmental opportunity is available that secures for all, irrespective of social background, culture, race, gender, differences in ability, an entitlement to a number of areas of learning and to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for their development as active and responsible citizens.
- To provide positive opportunities for all young people representative of their local communities;
- To promote health and well being amongst young people and provide them with an opportunity to build relationships with positive role models, and for mixing with, and bridging gaps between, young people from different ethnic and faith groups as well as different generations – thereby building community cohesion.;
- To increase the potential applications for employment from people from diverse backgrounds;
- To develop an understanding within young people, of the changing role of the modern Fire and Rescue Service;
- To enhance the talent and expertise of staff employed in the Fire and Rescue Service;
- To maximise the opportunities to develop staff employed in the Fire and Rescue Service;
- To continue and expand valued partnerships with local people and agencies and to contribute to the development of “models of best practice” in policy and schemes surrounding youth engagement.

Young people aged from 14 years old and up to their 18th birthdays participate in the scheme for a maximum of 65 weeks over an 18 month period. Participants are drawn from a mix of gender, ethnicity, backgrounds, and abilities. There may be young people who are having difficulty at school or who may have been excluded from school, some offenders/ex-offenders and some with little or no direction in life. Balance will be achieved with the inclusion of young people who are able to provide positive peer influences amongst the group, enabling a mutually beneficial mix of needs and support.

Upon completion of the scheme, participants will be shown further progression opportunities available to them, including; the voluntary sector, charitable organisations, further education and other employment. Additionally young people may have the opportunity to remain involved on a voluntary basis. Participants will develop a good understanding of the many varied career opportunities available to them within the Brigade and may make informed decisions regarding potential careers in various roles.

CFC was developed in Tower Hamlets and is now adopted as a corporate initiative with the view to make it available in a number of boroughs. The CFC syllabus is modular, divided into topics and subject areas and has the additional benefit of being aligned to a nationally recognised qualification, the Edexcel Level

2 BTEC in the Fire and Rescue Services in the Community (see Appendix A). This will provide those young people with the potential to achieve a tangible educational outcome as a result of participating in a fire brigade led activity.

Benefits

The provision of a longer-term developmental scheme such as Community Fire Cadets allows the Brigade to contribute to the improvement of community safety by imparting knowledge and experiences to young people to assist in the reduction of: preventable fires, fire injuries, hoax calls and attacks on firefighters. In addition it allows the inclusion of community based activities, personal development and citizenship skills. Some examples of these are healthy living, drugs, awareness, sexual health, relationships, independent living and community projects. , CFC provides a longer-term developmental scheme with a structure able to accommodate a wider syllabus of learning and fully inclusive and accessible opportunities to a wider range of young people.

Research suggests that long-term initiatives/mentoring programmes when implemented effectively promote positive developmental outcomes in youth within the domains of work and school, mental and physical health, and behaviour. The key citizenship skills we aim to transfer during CFC will build on the education that equips young people with flexible skills for the job market with the ability to understand their rights and responsibilities in an increasingly diverse society. Whatever a citizen's age, their understanding and expectations of society are affected largely by their experiences therefore if we educate our young people, we will be educating them now and for the future. Through the provision of a longer-term developmental opportunity we aim to transfer enduring values, develop our young people's integrity and autonomy and help them to be responsible and caring citizens capable of contributing to the development of their community.

Appendix B shows the links to National Indicators.

Costs

The costs to establish and run a CFC programme are as follows:

Initial Set-up Costs	Delivery Costs	Total to Set-up and Deliver one course	Each further course at the same location
£13100	£32375	£45475	£32375

Funding opportunities exist through Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on completion of the BTEC, the new Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) via local authorities, and local or national sponsorship arrangements with the private sector.

Delivery Plan

A staged rollout into boroughs has begun with the first two boroughs, Tower Hamlets and Hackney in March 2009. Bexley is due to start in September 2009. Additional boroughs will be identified and programmed for establishment of CFC over the course of the next few months, subject to funding.

Appendix A: BTEC

The Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Award, Certificate and Diploma in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community (the BTEC) is a nationally recognised qualification developed by a working group formed from members

of the Fire Services Youth Training Association (FSYTA) of which LFB is a member, and in partnership with Edexcel and the Fire & Rescue Sector Vocational Standards Group (FRSVSG).

The BTEC embraces the Fire and Rescue Services modernisation agenda by demonstrating a clear commitment to meet recent legislative imperatives which have signposted a shift in emphasis towards engaging more with children and young people in our communities. Supported by the industry sector skills council, the qualification is vocationally relevant and provides a valuable developmental outcome for young people engaged in a variety of youth initiatives provided by Fire and Rescue Services across the country. The potential for a tangible educational outcome is an element which the LFB's youth engagement schemes have previously lacked and, as well as benefiting the young people in terms of their personal development and employment/training opportunities, it also assists the Brigade in attracting external funding for its youth engagement work.

This BTEC is a modular qualification consisting of a Core Unit ("The role of the fire and rescue service in the community") which must be covered, and 23 Optional Units which are selected depending on the aim of the course/client type/region or indeed the interests of the young people involved. All units have links to National Occupational Standards and key Skills.

The BTEC sits on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and is three qualifications in one with learners from the age of 14 upwards being able to progress through the Award, Certificate and Diploma or access each directly, depending on the course they are attending. The structure and guided learning hours are outlined below:

- ◆ BTEC Level 2 - Award = 30 guided learning hours (minimum)
- ◆ BTEC Level 2 - Certificate = 120 guided learning hours (minimum)
- ◆ BTEC Level 2 - Diploma = 240 guided learning hours (minimum)

Units range from 10 to 30 guided learning hours. The number of guided learning hours delivered on a course will determine the potential award that can be achieved by the participants. The optional units are pre-selected and can be used in any combination/order as long as the minimum learning hours are achieved. Once registered, the young person will gain a qualification based on the number guided learning hours s/he has participated in and their assessed achievement. It should be noted that assessment will be mainly practically based.

There are many different units which combine to represent all that a youth engagement programme for the modernised Fire and Rescue Service could include. With the qualification structured in this way, individual Fire and Rescue Services are able to mould initiatives towards the qualification to meet their individual aims and objectives

The two main youth engagement schemes in LFB which provide BTEC qualification opportunities are Community Fire Cadets (CFC) and LIFE. The potential to deliver the qualification in the CFC scheme is as follows:

- ◆ CFC (65-evening course) BTEC L2 – Award
BTEC L2 – Certificate

The CFC syllabus is modular, divided into topics and subject areas and is aligned to the BTEC qualification and the national curriculum. CFC offers both the Award and Certificate, with the addition of the Diploma under consideration.

In addition to the formal qualification, CFC participants are offered the opportunity of attaining a range of internal and external certificates such as Manual Handling, Good Conduct, Special Achievement, First Aid etc. This provides recognition for the less academically able young people who will participate in these courses. In addition, young people can gain learning credits for any module of 10 hours or above that they complete. All learning credits gained can be used within the new schools accreditation system.

Registration for the BTEC is through the FSYTA centre and the costs, which may be recoverable upon completion are Award £52.50, Certificate £65.50. These costs are factored in to the overall cost of running each course.

Appendix B: Links to National Indicators

Outcome	National Indicator	CFC
Stronger Communities		
NI 1	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area PSA 21	✓
NI 2	% of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood PSA 21	✓
NI 3	Civic participation in the local area PSA 15	✓
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering CO DSO	✓
NI 9	Use of public libraries DCMS DSO	✓
NI 10	Visits to museums or galleries DCMS DSO	✓
Safer Communities		
NI 15	Serious violent crime rate PSA 23	✓
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate PSA 23	✓
NI 17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour PSA 23	✓
NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders PSA 23	✓
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate PSA 25	✓
NI 21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local Council and Police PSA 23	✓
NI 23	Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity HO DSO	✓
NI 24	Satisfaction with the way the Police and Local Council dealt with anti-social behaviour HO DSO	✓
NI 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police HDO DSO	✓
NI 28	Serious knife crime rate HO DSO	✓
NI 29	Gun crime rate PSA 23	✓
NI 30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders HO DSO	✓
NI 33	Arson incidents HO DSO	✓
NI 38	Drug-related (Class A) offending rate PSA 25	✓
NI 39	Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates PSA 25	✓
NI 45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training MoJ DSO	✓
NI 47	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents DfT DSO	✓
NI 48	Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents DfT DSO	✓
NI 49	Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding precautionary checks CLG DSO	✓

Outcome	National Indicator	CFC
Children & Young People		
<i>Be Healthy</i>		
NI 50	Emotional health of children PSA 12	✓
NI 58	Emotional and behavioural health of children in care DCSF DSO	✓
<i>Stay Safe</i>		
NI 69	Children who have experienced bullying DCSF DSO	✓
NI 70	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people	✓
<i>Enjoy & Achieve</i>		
NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 PSA 10	✓
NI 82	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 DCSF DSO	✓
NI 87	Secondary school persistent absence rate DCSF DSO	✓
NI 90	Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas DCSF DSO	✓
NI 91	Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training DCSF DSO	✓
NI 106	Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education PSA 11	✓
NI 108	Key Stage 4 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups DCSF DSO	✓
<i>Make a positive contribution</i>		
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities PSA 14	✓
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17 PSA 14	✓
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate PSA 14	✓
NI 113	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 20 year olds DCSF DSO	✓
NI 114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school DCSF DSO	✓
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people PSA 14	✓
<i>Economic Wellbeing</i>		
NI 116	Proportion of children in poverty PSA 9	✓
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) PSA 14	✓
Adult Health & Wellbeing		
NI 119	Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing DH DSO	✓
NI 123	16+ current smoking rate prevalence PSA 18	✓
Tackling exclusion & promoting equality		
NI 146	Adults with learning disabilities in employment PSA 16	✓

Outcome	National Indicator	CFC
Local Economy		
NI 151	Overall employment rate PSA 8	✓
NI 161	Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy PSA 2	✓
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher PSA 2	✓
NI 166	Average earnings of employees in the area BERR DSO	✓
NI 174	Skills gaps in the current workforce reported by employers DIUS DSO	✓
Environmental Sustainability		
NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting) Defra	✓