

Approved By: Susannah Hancock, Executive Director for the PCC	Classification of Paper: Not Protectively Marked
Report to PCC	Report reference number PCC/0041/13
Date of Decision Date of Report 24 September 2013	Area of County/Stakeholders affected Countywide / the Public
Title of report: 2013/14 Essex Fire and Rescue Service - Firebreak Initiative	
Report by: Pamela Standley, Operating Manager	
Enquiries to: Pamela Standley, Operating Manager	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate £10,000 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from New Initiative Fund (NIF) to the Essex Fire and Rescue Service for a Firebreak initiative. A pilot intervention scheme to bring together different organisations to work in partnership that has potential to offer substantial gains in terms of youth intervention and to reduce re-offending.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve the grant of monies from the NIF grant to support a pilot intervention scheme.

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1 The overall aim of the scheme is to reduce re-offending by targeting individuals who have offended already, with a view to determine if this pilot intervention can reduce their offending. The selection criteria for young people who will be targeted are those aged between 13 - 17 years old.

- 3.2 The programme will promote a culture of safety and citizenship by providing a range of vital skills to young people at key stage 4 at secondary school who are at risk.
- 3.3 Firebreak is a highly successful youth inclusion programme. Research indicates that those young people excluded or at risk of exclusion from school present the highest potential for displaying anti-social behaviour, the Firebreak initiative is designed primarily to address this behaviour.

The Firebreak programme incorporates a wide variety of activities, normally commencing with a parade in uniform [corporate identity] provided by the Fire Service. Other activities incorporated into the day include hose drills, life skills, such as water safety, first aid and fire extinguisher training, and confidence building exercises in the form of problem solving and community work relating to fire safety.

Throughout the programme the emphasis is on punctuality, bearing and cleanliness of kit, teamwork, helping colleagues, discipline and personal responsibility.

At the end of the programme, each student will receive a certificate of achievement and potentially a portfolio which dependant on individual achievement, may contain personal testimonials, certificates for attendance and punctuality, fire safety awareness, first aid, water safety and teamwork.

On successfully completing the Firebreak course, students gain an award from the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance. To allow for this all necessary core modules of the AQA award have been incorporated into the course. The award is the equivalent of a GCSE grade D.

- 3.3 Through the achievement of the above aims, Firebreak endeavours to instil a sense of self discipline, self-worth, independence and responsibility leading to reduction in re-offending. The objective of the pilot is to test the intervention material and determine future development of the planned intervention. This will link into the Police and Crime Plan areas of focus reducing youth offending and re-offending.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1 This scheme will target individuals who have offended already, with a view to use the pilot intervention to reduce offending. The overall aim is to achieve a reduction in the impact of, a risky lifestyle by young people preventing them from becoming involved in crime and or realising the consequences of criminal activity.
- 4.2 The Firebreak course also encourages students to respect the differences between people and to demonstrate empathy and patience.
- 4.3 The Firebreak course comprises of five days and attendees are referred by the Police, YOT, Education, Safer Places and Youth teams.

4.4 The scheme urges young people to play an active and worthwhile role as a member of their community. The 24 students for this course will come from one of the five local schools. These can be referred by the school teacher, police, YOT, Safer Places or local council.

5. Police and Crime Plan

5.1 This proposal meets the key area of focus entitled 'Reducing youth offending and all types of re-offending'. One of the key points is preventing young people entering the criminal justice system. The second is that the PCC will support existing and new early intervention initiatives.

6. Police Operational Implications

6.1 There are no operational implications

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The long term financial implications of failing to reduce re-offending would be a rise in crime and disorder and increased demand upon policing.

7.2 The PCC would fund £10,000 contribution to the Firebreak scheme from the approved grant monies from the NIF grant.

7.3 The funding agreement would set out clear outcomes and performance monitoring arrangements to ensure that the service delivers on the PCC priorities to secure or lead to securing a reduction in crime and disorder.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The award of grant is subject to the PCC's standard funding agreement.

9. Staffing and other resource implications

9.1 There are no staffing issues.

9.2 There are potential resource implications for the PCCs Office as the service and performance outcomes and to a lesser extent financial performance, will have to be regularly monitored to ensure effective and efficient delivery against the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

10. Equality and Diversity implications

10.1 The continuation of this service would ensure that an underserved and hard to engage section of society would continue to have a specific element of support.

Publication

Reasons for non-publication (*state 'None' if applicable*)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Signed/Print name

Report for publication	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the report is not for publication, the Executive Director will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

