

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 24 AUGUST 2016
REPORT OF : HEAD OF PREVENTION
AUTHOR: NICK EVANS

SUBJECT: Annual Report – ‘On the Streets’ Youth Work

Purpose of Report

1. This report presents the work that the ‘On the Streets’ (OTS) team has been involved in over the last twelve months.

Recommended: That

- [1] Members note the content of the report and seek clarification on any matters presented.

Background

2. Members funded this initiative and requested an annual report on performance to the Performance and Overview Committee.
3. The aim of the OTS programme is to meet and engage with Young People on the streets in areas of ‘embedded youth nuisance’ and to develop activities and facilitate positive links between the Young People and others in their community.
4. OTS projects are delivered in areas with high levels of arson, small deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour (ASB) using information from the Service’s Business Intelligence Team, Station Managers and local stakeholders.
5. When an area is identified an OTS team, comprising Service youth workers, is deployed and works in the locality one evening a week for a period of six months. One objective of the project is to construct a legacy that the Young People and community can build upon once the OTS team has moved to another area.

Summary of local engagement

Halton

6. The OTS team members attend the Partnership, Tasking & Coordination meeting. They have also made connections with other local agencies who will inform the team of hot-spot areas in Runcorn and Widnes.

7. Station Managers provide the OTS team with details of incident hot-spots and check the Daily Incident Summary for relevant updates.
8. Areas the OTS team has covered within Runcorn are:
 - Halton Lodge;
 - Runcorn Hill;
 - Castlefields;
 - Palacefields; and
 - Grangeway.
9. Areas the team have covered within Widnes are:
 - Hough Green (Bechers); and
 - Upton Rocks.

Warrington

10. *Westie Estate* - the OTS team attended the boxing club opening event at Westie Youth Club. Following the event the team has visited the area around the youth club on a weekly basis.
11. *Chapelford* - this area was specifically targeted as a result of feedback from the Station Manager at Warrington.
12. The OTS team targeted the area of the Sainsbury's car park where there had been previous ASB issues and deliberate fires and have formed a partnership with local Police Community Safety Officers (PCSO's).
13. *Orford Park* - the OTS team has targeted Orford Park in Warrington to engage with Young People who congregate around the skateboard park. This area is a natural magnet for Young People even if they don't actually use a skateboard or BMX bike. The team has identified that the skateboard facility is used by Young People and young adults from around the town (several from outside the borough, visiting friends and relatives) and not just the local population.
14. The majority of these Young People told the team they don't want any form of structured activities, just somewhere they can assemble on their own. During their discussions with the team the Young People raised a number of issues that they would like to see addressed:
 - the skateboard park extended, to include a "bowl";
 - the lighting to be effective across the facility and to be operational until 22.00 as the current lighting is very poor;
 - some form of shelter to be provided, so that they can still congregate during bad weather; and
 - the provision of refuse bins to help them keep the area tidy.

15. The Young People would like to bring these issues to the attention of local councillors.

Winsford

16. Under the guidance of the Winsford Watch Manager, the OTS team have been focusing their effort on two main areas, the Walkton Estate and Saint John's Wood. These locations are where Young People who do not traditionally access community services will spend their leisure time.
17. The OTS team has engaged with a number of Young People each week at the Multi-Use Games Unit. The Young People have expressed a wish to have this area lit for their safety. The team has addressed this issue and the result is that the Young People now have the lights turned on until 19.30 each evening.
18. The OTS team has also engaged with the local community, building links with Winsford Amateur Boxing Club and the New Images youth club. In addition, the team has met with a local head teacher to build relationships in line with a multi-agency approach to supporting Young People in the area.

Cheshire East Provision

19. The OTS team is currently working with local Station Managers from Crewe and Macclesfield to identify areas of concern the OTS team can target in the future.

Financial implications

20. The budget for the OTS project was approved by Members and the OTS is currently working well within budget.

Legal implications

21. There are no known legal implications associated with the submission of this paper.

Equality and Diversity implications

22. The OTS programme is totally inclusive. Young People from all backgrounds and abilities can access the programme. All children and Young People can engage in this intervention regardless of gender, marital status, gender realignment, disability, race, colour, ethnic group, national origins, nationality, religious belief or sexual orientation.

Environmental implications

23. As a Fire and Rescue Service we have a pivotal role to play with regards to the environment. The OTS programme supports the Service's Environmental Policy and targets.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE