

The Phoenix Project

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Phoenix Project works with young people aged between 11 and 17 who have offended or are at risk of offending. It operates across the City.
- 1.2 The course is delivered by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with Sunderland's Youth Offending Service (YOS) and is a four day course consisting of mainly practical activities. Students wear fire kit and learn practical fire fighter skills, as well as some class room work where students are given general fire safety information and discuss anti social behaviour and hoax calls.
- 1.3 The aim is to instil self-discipline, team work, self-esteem and confidence and increase awareness of the consequences of the young people's behaviour, both good and bad.
- 1.4 48% of attendees do not re-offend at all within 12 months of completing the course whilst 86% showed a decrease in their offending seriousness score, with the average rating dropping from 7.09 to 2.16. (Source: Sunderland University Evaluation, 2006) and if a person does not re-offend within 12 months, this is seen as a significant behaviour change.

2. Current Provision

- 2.1 The Project has a Service Level Agreement with the YOS to deliver places for 120 young people and was able to achieve 126 young people completing the course, representing a 93% completion rate. The number of participants from the East Area over a three year period was 56, representing 17% of the total.
- 2.2 The referral system from the Police, schools, youth providers and other agencies through the Youth Offending Service 'captures' all potential beneficiaries.

3. Areas for Development

- 3.1 Phoenix is successful in changing behaviour, but there is a need to encourage more young people to change their behaviour and not to re-offend. This led to the introduction of the 'Respect' course in 2007 as a stage two course, three months after the Phoenix Course, for those who have stayed out of trouble during that time. 86% of students given the incentive of the Respect course did not re-offend. This compared to a figure of 54% (up from the 52% from the 2006 evaluation) for those not given the incentive to attend.
- 3.2 However, it has been established that if a person does not re-offend for a period of 12 months, the likelihood is they will not return to offending behaviour. To further the provision, to achieve this 12 month continuum, a further course has been developed – 'Advanced Phoenix', a three day course, which includes a two day residential. This course takes place six months after the respect course for people who have not re-offended. Whilst this course has yet to receive the detailed evaluation of the Phoenix course, it is clear from cumulative evidence the continuum of provision maximises non re-offending.
- 3.3 Whilst the Phoenix Project is core funded through the Fire and Rescue Service (F&RS) and the Service Level Agreement, the Respect and Phoenix Advanced courses were developed with 'one-off' funding from the YOS and the F&RS.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 The additional funding gives total Phoenix provision as:
 - 15 Phoenix course;

- 9 Respect courses;
- 6 Phoenix Advanced courses.

4.2 From March 2010, funding for the later two courses is not secured. As all the Area Committees have identified Phoenix within their 'Safe' priority, a multi area SIB bid is proposed, as follows:

- Respect and courses x 9 x % of Area's attendees
- Advanced courses x 6 x % of Area's attendees

The total city wide costs are:

- Respect £21,735
- Advanced £19,260
- Total £40,995 per year

Costs are shown per area, per year:

Area	Young People	% of costs	SIB requested
East	56	17	£6,969
West	72	21	£8,609
North	58	18	£7,379
Washington	92	28	£11,479
Coalfield	52	16	£6,559
Total	330	100	£40,995

5. Arson attacks in Sunderland East

5.1 The table below indicates the annual figures regarding secondary fire/refuse fires for 2008-09 to 2007-08. The economical cost of these refuse fires, based on the Economic cost of fire Government report 2004, calculates the cost of secondary fires as £1,970 each.

Wards	Secondary Fires		Refuse Fire		% of refuse fire in relation to secondary fire	
	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08
Millfield	143	168	133	139	93	83
St Michaels	39	75	34	63	87	84
Ryhope	73	125	48	81	66	65
Hendon	222	218	195	190	88	87
Doxford	49	113	23	48	47	43
Total	526	699	433	521	381	362

5.2 959 secondary and refuse fires were logged 2008-09, the city average is 546. Using the government figure of £1,970 per fire this equates to £1,889,230 per year for the East economy.

5.3 By working collectively with ASB within Health, Housing and Adult Services and Enforcement Teams in Community and Cultural Services and establishing a dedicated worker to target arson attacks in the East area it is envisaged this will reduce ASB crime and assist in building confident communities around the Sunderland East area, as well as having a positive impact on the economy.

Two year full time contract at a cost of £25,000 per year, totally £50,000