

Summary of SIB Funding Applications

Project 1 - Phoenix Project, Lead Agent Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£40,000	£20,000	£20,000 (£4,000 per area)
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
12 months	May 2012	March 2013

The Project

The project is to provide a year's funding for the 'Advanced' and 'Respect' courses of the Phoenix Project, whilst new service and funding arrangements are established, from 2014.

The Phoenix Project is a successful, nationally acclaimed partnership project between the City Council and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS), which has proved a success in reducing re-offending amongst young people and in changing offending behaviour. The overall Phoenix Project consists of three course levels: Phoenix, Advanced and Respect. The core costs of the project are funded by TWFRS and the City Council, including the costs of running the 1st tier Phoenix course. The council's contribution is £32,000 from the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and TWFRS's contribution is core staffing and operating costs. The council's five Area Committee's have over the last two years, funded the 'Respect' and 'Advance' courses, which have made the most positive impact on offending behaviour. From 2014, the Phoenix Project, and its three course levels, will be incorporated into a new service 'umbrella' of a Whole Family Programme within Children's Services, which will evolve from the existing Family Intervention Programme. Existing funding will be consolidated and additional funding will be sourced from the government's 'Troubled Families' initiative. In addition, Phoenix will be incorporated into the work of the Additional Educational Needs Service, which will provide additional income to the Project.

Need for Project

The original Phoenix course is a four day course which encourages discipline, self discipline, confidence, self esteem, leadership, communication, team work, practical skills and knowledge by engaging in training and activities based on Fire fighting skills and practical procedures. ASB, hoax calls, fire safety in the home, driving standards and knife crime are also included in the course. Students are motivated, confident and enthusiastic following the completion of the Phoenix project. Evaluation has demonstrated that 48% of students do not re-offend up to 12 months following the course.

The Respect course is a two day follow up course solely for students who have completed the original Phoenix and have not offended, have maintained behaviour levels, both at school and at home for a minimum period of 3 months. The course delivers more advanced activities and practical tasks based on fire fighting skills, such as working with ladders and fire extinguisher training. The purpose of offering this course is to encourage and motivate the students to achieve the above criteria to attend. Evaluation of 4 pilot courses in 2007 demonstrated that, given the incentive of the second course, 85% of students attending the original Phoenix desisted from offending for a minimum of 3 months and up to 12 months to meet the criteria.

The Advanced course is 3 days and is the third course in the "package" for students who have completed the first two courses and have not offended and maintained behaviour levels for a further 6 months following the Respect course. The first day of the course recaps on activities from the first two courses with day 2 and 3 being spent at an outdoor activity centre with an overnight stay.

Teambuilding, leadership, communications skills, confidence building and motivation are the main purpose of the challenges and activities, which include mid ropes course, high walk, assault course, zip wire, night line tunnels and many others. Current evaluation figures have shown that 92% of students completing the whole programme desist from offending for at least 12 months following their completion.

Research demonstrates if a person refrains from re-offending for 12 months, this is a change of behaviour that affects their life opportunities.

Recommendation: Approve

The project meets committee priorities in supporting young people to develop positive behaviour and gain opportunities to enhance their life opportunities.