

**Phoenix Project, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service****£12,000**

The Phoenix programme was developed following 1998 Crime and Disorder Act to provide a more structured approach to tackling Youth Issues. It was founded in 2000 – an established partnership approach for 18 years. The Phoenix was the first partnership of this type in the UK and is a collaboration between Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and Youth Offending Service / Sunderland Council. It has been awarded the British Community Safety Award (for reducing crime and creating safer communities). It is an educational programme primarily for young people who have offended or may be at risk of offending and funding is requested to develop the programme to further meet the needs of local areas and to address any localised issues which elected members raise. This might be anti-social behaviour, but it might equally well be social isolation or health improvements. Further development will be to involve the parents of the young people supported, to ensure that any changes can be sustained and supported at home. Currently there are 3 elements:

- Phoenix Aspire – 4 day initial (7 courses)
- Phoenix Respect – 2 days (5 courses)
- Phoenix Pride – 3 days (4 courses)

To progress through these stages of the programme individuals must have not re-offended or must show improved behaviour during interim period. The programme had a 70% success rate in 2017.

Fire Services are quite unique as there is neutrality in our reputation – this helps to build rapport which helps us to work more effectively with young people. Developing these good relationships is KEY to success. Previous participants reported that they managed to develop good rapport with instructors. Young people will be referred onto the programme from partners, local councillors and local community groups. Please note this is not an exhaustive list and the programme will be as flexible as possible based on local need to deliver the required outcomes.

The programme is a learning opportunity for young people to gain skills which will be beneficial within the wider community. It aims to provide:

- Team building skills
- Confidence and leadership knowledge
- Encourage empathy and understanding
- Self-respect and discipline
- Increased awareness of anti-social behaviour and effects within the community

Its primary outcomes are to:

- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour
- Prevent Fire Setting
- Provide support to younger people within the community
- Promote the importance of respect within the community and for themselves
- Develop awareness of CSE/Grooming and Gangs
- Increase Road Safety Awareness
- Increase Water Safety Awareness

Themes will be flexible to meet the needs of local communities / local area priorities which will be developed after engagement with elected members and local community groups and will include

- Phoenix Parent Courses – promoting family inclusion
- Bespoke courses will be developed according to the needs of our partner organisations
- Potential for targeted approaches within localities
- Closer partnership working

The project will commence in April 2019 and last 12 months.

90 Young People from the Coalfield area will be engaged

9 Sessions will be delivered in Coalfield Area (10 people per session)

120 (Citywide) Individuals will receive Phoenix Project Input at Railway Row

180 (Citywide) will attend a Princes Trust Training Day at Phoenix Project

**Recommendation: Approve (on condition that all 5 Area Committees approve the project)**