

WYFRA	FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE	20 JULY 2007	ITEM No.
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REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF FIRE SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT: TO INFORM MEMBERS OF A PILOT YOUTH INCLUSION PROGRAMME WORKING WITH THE PRINCES TRUST

RECOMMENDATION: THAT MEMBERS NOTE THE INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRUST AT 'TEAM' LEVEL, AS A PILOT AND EVALUATION, TO THE IDENTIFY BENEFITS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE SCHEME.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT DETAILS

EXEMPTION CATEGORY: NONE

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS
OPEN TO INSPECTION:**

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Document Name:_F&R_22_7_07.DOC
Document #: 4952 Version:v1
Author_Id: CAM

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Founded in 1976 the Princes Trust is a UK Charity that helps young people aged 14 – 30 to overcome a range of social barriers. Work is focused around those who have under achieved at school, been in care, been involved in criminal activity and who are long term unemployed. It gives practical and financial support, developing skills such as confidence and motivation.
- 1.2 Much of the work is based on social inclusion and The Princes Trust believes there are one million young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training). Whilst benefiting the personal development of WYFRS staff there is a real opportunity through this involvement to contribute to the 'Respect' agenda, contribute to the delivery of the Children and Young People strategy and widening the age group of young people WYFRS specifically target.

2 INFORMATION

- 2.1 Following discussions with the Trust it is recognised that organisations can be involved in a variety of ways and levels of commitment. The methods of involvement identified as being most appropriate to WYFRS are "Team" and "Delivery Partner Status".

2.2 Team

- Team runs three times a year for twelve weeks. It involves a group of 16 NEET individuals, young people aged 16-25 who may have self referred or been referred from agencies such as Connexions, Social Services, Youth Offending Teams etc in a 12 week programme. Participants are involved in a week long residential, a 3 week long community project, a work placement for 2 weeks, a team challenge, and spend time considering next steps.
- Organisations can provide an Employed Participant (usually under 26) or a Development Coach (over 26). The Employed Participant has the opportunity to achieve a City and Guilds basic level qualification whereas the Development Coach receives a certificate of achievement. The Development Coach is expected to provide a positive role model to the young people involved and assists the Team Leader through accepting responsibility. Both levels of involvement aid the participants to develop skills in Coaching; Decision Making; Mentoring; Positive Influencing; Presentation Skills; Project management; Team development and Time management.
- The Employed Participant or Development Coach commits to a minimum of 20 days participation over the 12-week period. However, the Princes Trust have found that where previous participants have been able to give more time through the flexibility of their employer, particularly during the community project phase, the participant achieves a more advanced level of skills development. The Princes Trust also encourages the involvement of Line Managers at every stage.

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- Throughout the programme the participant keeps an individual learning record which can then be used in Performance and Development Plan process.
 - This type of involvement may prove useful in the personal development of WYFRS staff particularly those unsuccessful in promotion.
- 2.3 In 2005 68% of young people who completed the 'Team' programme went on to employment, training or education.
- 2.4 Costs associated with Team are £1250 for 12 weeks involvement, plus a commitment to a minimum of 20 days staff time.
- 2.5 'Delivery Partner Status'
- Requires a greater level of involvement, this involves running a full process for the Trust from staffing through a Team Leader, to organising the programme of activities, providing and identifying facilities, transport provision, recruiting employed participants, ensuring delivery of outcomes etc.
 - There may be the potential of delivering this in partnership with West Yorkshire Police to reduce costs and associated risks and work is currently being undertaken in this area.
- 2.6 Associated costs of running a Team (Team Leader, admin, facilities, transport etc) are estimated to be approx £25000 based on the "Adopt a Team" costs structure.
- 2.7 It is intended to take part in a 'Team' event as an initial trial to measure how effective FRS involvement can be. The initial placement will be a member of the Community Safety Team who will evaluate the process. The initial workplace projects will have a community safety based theme. Future commitment to 'Delivery Partner Status' will be based on the outcomes of the trial.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the initial trial will be from existing Community Safety budgets and staff costs.

4. EQUALITIES AND FAIRNESS ISSUES

- 4.1 It is anticipated that involvement with the trust will contribute to FRS increased understanding of the needs of the diverse communities it serves.
- 4.2 Partnership with the Trust will demonstrate our commitment to the Service Delivery and Customer Care indicator of the Equality Standard for Local Government. It should be noted that our legal duties under race, gender and disability would apply to any partnership in place.

5 ORGANISATIONAL RISK FACTORS

- 5.1 Participation will impact positively on our service delivery to this vulnerable group and our ability to impact on wider societal agendas.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Based upon its previous track record WYFRS is well positioned to be involved in 'Team' as demonstrated through previous successful youth work programmes.