



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority  
Community Safety Committee

# PRINCE'S TRUST

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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**Agenda Item No:**

**Date:** 08 October 2010

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on the progress of the Prince's Trust Team Programme

## CONTACT OFFICER

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has worked in partnership with the Prince's Trust as a delivery partner for the Team programme since 2001, delivering over 57 teams. The Team programme is a twelve week personal development programme for 16 to 25 year olds taken from the NEET (not in education, employment or training). Most have struggled at school, are long term unemployed, have been in trouble with the law or in or leaving care.
- 1.2 The Team programme helps disadvantaged young people overcome barriers through practical support and re-engages young people helping them to think about their futures. Participants are involved in a range of activities which are carried out under the guidance of our trained team leaders and include:
- Spending a week at a residential activity centre;
  - Undertaking a project that will benefit the local community, using funds raised by the team;
  - Completing a work placement and reviewing their options for after the course ends;
  - Completing a Team challenge that involves helping others in a local community;
  - A final presentation where Team members recount their experiences to an invited audience.
- 1.3 The Team programme makes a positive difference to the lives of young people by improving self confidence self esteem, problem solving skills, and key skills through the attainment of vocational and national qualifications.

## 2. REPORT

- 2.1 There are 14 Fire and Rescue Services across the country who are delivery partners for the Prince's Trust, with other Services involved through local colleges.
- 2.2 In 2001 NFRS started its first Team programme in Nottingham at Stockhill Fire Station, the delivery of the programme continued to be delivered in the city. In 2005 the programme extended into the county and by 2006 with the appointment of another team leader there were three team programmes across the county and city. The programme has grown from strength to strength with the appointment of a fourth team leader in 2008, with over 50 teams and more than 700 young people benefiting from the programme.
- 2.3 NFRS is currently delivering 10 Teams per year with an average of 14 young people per team, with a mixture of 16-18 year olds and 19-25 year olds. These are delivered through 4 team leaders with some support from volunteers. Other delivery partners and FRS's deliver the team programme with a team leader and assistant team leader on each team.

- 2.4 The popularity of the programme and its contribution to outcomes towards the National Indicators (NI 1, 19, 110, 117, 50, 151) has seen an increase in the growth of young people accessing the programme. As seen in the table below we have had an additional 44 young people on our teams.

	2008/09	2009/10	Growth Increase
Number of young people completing Team programme	89	133	44

- 2.5 Prince's Trust are also asking NFRS as delivery partner to deliver to an additional 35 young people on the team programme increasing our total to 168 young people for 2010/11.

- 2.6 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people is a key consideration when delivering the programme. Section 11 of the Childrens Act 2004 places a duty on the service to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging our functions, we have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people. Current staffing levels have been reviewed in association with an increased number of young people accessing the programme, risk assessments, available support and financial funds. A recent paper to CMB highlighted the issues and made recommendations for the appointment of two peripatetic team support officers on fixed term, renewable contracts.

### **Performance**

- 2.7 NFRS have an average of 14 young people on a team with a retention rate of over 80%. We have 100% success with the City and Guilds qualification and 100% success with 3 wider key skill units. The East Midlands region is placed second across the UK of all delivery partners.

- 2.8 The programme has been enhanced over the years with support from a number of local and national organisations including the Army, Royal Air Force, Nottinghamshire Police, Marks and Spencer, Nottingham Forest Football Club, Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, The National Trust, Nottingham Trent University, Browne Jacobson Solicitors and Starbucks. These organisations support through providing work experience, sponsorship, sending employed personnel or student social workers as a development opportunity to support the team, supporting community projects, and assistance with CV and interview techniques for the young people.

### **Successes**

- 2.9 Getting through life is not easy and never more could this be true of young individuals than today. However committing to the programme these young people have given themselves every opportunity to move on to a better life.

2.10 Here are some examples of what our young people have gone on to achieve:

- One male joined the Army following the course has fought in Iraq and Afghanistan and is now a Lance Corporal.
- One female has joined the Army.
- One male joined the Fire Service following the course.
- One female has been to Peru doing youth work.
- Several ex-team members have become Ambassadors for the next Trust and we have one female up for an award this year as "Ambassador of the Year".
- Three young people have started their own businesses.
- One female is now working for Sainsbury's in Worksop.

2.11 More than three quarters of the young people from the Nottinghamshire Team programme have moved into education, training or employment after attending the programme.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The position of the Prince's Trust financial budget remains positive with an earmark reserve of £97,685 and the revenue monitoring report of 31 August 2009 recommended that surplus in the Prince's Trust activity is effectively 'ringfenced' to cover future deficits and/or be used for specific activities commensurate with the aims and objectives of the Prince's Trust. The finance for these posts will be covered by the surplus from the Prince's Trust budget and transfer from the earmarked reserve to revenue expenditure to cover the cost of the salaries. This will also include team leader training, minibus driver and CRB enhanced checks. Funding for the programme is complex and at present remains as previous years, although this may be subject to change in the future. It is expected that a similar amount of £94,685 will be transferred to earmarked reserves.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Recruitment of the two peripatetic team support officers for the Prince's Trust Team programme will be in line with the Service's recruitment procedures. The successful candidates would be expected to undertake an enhanced CRB checks as part of the Service's safeguarding process.

### **5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

There are no specific aspects in relation to a disproportionate effect in respect of the key equality strands.

## **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

The delivery of the programme assists the Service in its statutory duty towards Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. It also contributes towards the National Indicator 19; by providing diversionary activities for those at risk of offending; supporting young offenders back into education, training and employment.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places specific duties upon the Service around Community Fire Safety. The Prince's Trust relationship and programme delivery assists in meeting those requirements.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Service has a statutory obligation around community engagement and risk reduction. The Prince's Trust relationship seeks, in part, to maximise youth engagement and thus meet those obligations.
- 8.2 The Authority last year considered a budget monitoring report and indicated those revenues brought about from the Prince's Trust activities should be reinvested. This proposal; addresses the decision and thus mitigate potential adverse scrutiny.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the content of the report and continue to support Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service as a delivery partner of the Prince's Trust and continue to receive periodic update reports.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**