

Youth training now – an evaluation

20th June 2005



Purpose of the Presentation

- **Purpose of the research**
- **Our methodology**
- **Very early findings**



Purpose of the research

- **Research the effectiveness of youth training and diversion schemes offered and supported by Fire and Rescue Services**
- **Establish extent of activity**
- **Identify effective practice**



Purpose of the research

- **Number, range and purpose of youth training and diversion schemes**
- **Main target groups and methods of recruitment**
- **Range and type of activities provided**
- **Management, funding and partnership arrangements**
- **Monitoring and evaluation arrangements**



Scope of the research

- **All Fire Authorities in England**
- **Young people 11 - 25**
- **Not work in schools nor curative**
- **Main schemes:**
 - Young Fire-fighters*
 - Princes Trust*
 - Duke of Edinburgh*
- **Plus local schemes**



Methodology

- **Stage One:**
 - *Literature review*
 - *Interviews with key stakeholders*
 - *Survey of Fire Authorities*
- **Stage Two:**
 - *Case studies*
- **Stage Three:**
 - *Analysis and report production*



Early findings

- **Concentrating on results from the survey**
- **Based on response from 55% of Fire Authorities in England**
- **Detail on 3 main schemes**
- **Good mix of urban and rural but are one or two gaps as yet**
- **Issues around definition of a scheme**
- **So – health warning applies**



Involvement in youth training

- **All Authorities replying so far have at least some involvement**
- **Rural Authorities tend to have fewer schemes**
- **‘Champion’ Authorities**
- **Lots of change across any given year**



Range of schemes

- **Most prevalent Young Fire-fighter Association**
- **Duke of Edinburgh**
- **Youth organisation 'badge' schemes**
- **Princes Trust**
- **Local schemes**



The main schemes: principles

- **Embed ‘youth’ element in community fire safety agenda**
- **Personal development:**
 - *team building and leadership*
 - *confidence, motivation and self-esteem*
 - *life skills*
 - *learning responsibility*
- **Recruitment to the service**



The main schemes: target groups

Young Fire-fighter Associations	Up to 17 A third 'disaffected'
Princes Trust Team	16 – 25 National guidelines consistently applied
Duke of Edinburgh	13 to 25, or 14 to 25 Open to all
Other schemes	Vary by scheme



The main schemes: partnership and management

- **Two thirds operating bi-laterally**
- **Of remainder, most frequent partners:**
 - *schools and youth services for Duke of Edinburgh*
 - *colleges for the Princes Trust scheme*
 - *schools, LEAs and the FSYTA for young fire-fighter schemes*
- **Connexions and Youth Services**
- **Crime and youth offending organisations**
- **Some voluntary and community sector**



The main schemes: staffing

- **Across the 26 Authorities, 1266 fire service personnel, 73 external**
- **Ratio of 15:1 uniformed and non-uniformed staff**
- **About half, small teams of vetted staff**
- **Small core of full time staff**
- **About half volunteers**
- **Training provided and widespread, but varied by scheme**



The main schemes: quality

<i>Quality assurance arrangement</i>	<i>In place</i>
Risk assessment	100%
Child protection policy	92%
Staff training policy and procedures	92%
CRB checks	85%
Quality systems	74%



The main schemes: measuring impact

- **83% consult with young people**
- **Educational achievement**
- **Participation and attendance**
- **Behaviour and attitudes**
- **Few formal evaluation arrangements**



Early observations

- **Widespread provision across range of Authorities**
- **Large number of staff involved, paid and volunteers**
- **Strong partnership working, especially for referrals**
- **Well-established quality systems and procedures**
- **Limited systematic review of impact and effectiveness**





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