



Case Study: Gosport Community Youth Service

Source: Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

Date: 9 February 2010

Summary

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service has recently been included in a Community Partnership Award, picking up the award for Community Youth Initiative. The awards were made at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Background

Gosport Community Safety Partnership (GCSP), of which Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service plays a significant role, has recently been awarded a Community Partnership Award.

HFRS became involved in the summer 'Passport Scheme' in its first year. The aim of the scheme is to help young people to have fun and to remain safe at the same time. The opportunity is taken to promote fire safety messages and to help break down barriers between young people and the fire and rescue service.



HFRS played a pivotal role on the steering group, and influenced the arrangements for the forthcoming year's events. Our staff were on hand to supervise the daily activities, staff a fire engine for demonstrations and engaged with young people who we would not ordinarily be able to reach. We were also able to promote the fire & rescue service to the wider community. Our firefighters were able to take the opportunity to gently promote key safety messages in line with one of our local priorities which is helping to reduce deliberate and nuisance fires in the Gosport area.

What you did

The scheme was co-ordinated by Gosport Councils Community Safety Team, in partnership with around 30 agencies including Gosport Police, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Motiv8, SEHCO and Solent Youth Action. The overall aim was to deter instances of anti social behaviour. It utilised existing leisure resources and communal spaces to provide opportunities for recreational activities that targeted young people aged between 11 and 17 years old.

The Passport Scheme was held at ten locations giving young people from every part of the Borough the opportunity to access a variety of activities. These included scuba diving, rock climbing, fishing, 'bungee' trampoline and quad biking. Summer 2009 was the second year of scheme.

Having the activities in ten different locations meant that young people had the chance to attend an event close to where they lived. The Passport Scheme also encouraged young people to travel to other locations to experience different activities, and mix with other young people who they might

not ordinarily have met. Those that did attend different locations had their Passport 'stamped' which entitled them to attend a celebration barbeque to mark the end of the scheme.

Key outcomes

Over three weeks of the scheme, over seven hundred young people took part. This speaks for itself and its success was partly due to all the partners working closely together to achieve a common goal. One of the most important parts of the achievement was listening to young people's views. In evaluating the achievements one of critical factors contributing to its success was due to early engagement with the young people to help the organisers really understand the type of activities they wanted and would be prepared to take part in. This level of engagement was a key component in enlisting the support of the young people for the project and ultimately their participation in all the activities.

Comedian Rufus Hound, who presented the Community Youth Initiative Award, said "the winning project is driven by the palpable enthusiasm of the core team. The project created something out of nothing, taking a town with almost no provision for young people and also promoted integration of young people from different neighbourhoods. The judges felt that the motivation of the team was inspirational and that the project could be replicated in other locations".

Key contact

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