



Case Study No: 09/2008

Case Study: Scheme to help young people wins High Sheriff award
Source: Surrey FRA

Details

The Youth Engagement Scheme (YES) run by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) at Walton fire station has been awarded a £1,000 grant from the High Sheriff for its achievements in helping young people to make Surrey safer.



The High Sheriff attended the presentation ceremony for the current scheme, which concluded on Friday 23 May, to present the cheque and Certificate of Achievement in person to Area Manager Dave Steggles.

YES involves a group of up to 12 young people spending a week at Walton fire station, where they experience hands-on training (in a controlled environment) about the essentials of being a firefighter.

Sponsored by the three north Surrey Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships, the YES course is aimed at young people, identified by Surrey County Council's Youth Justice Service and Educational Welfare Service, who are considered at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and crime. The course gives them the opportunity to develop practical, as well as social skills through a number of different tasks including, the use of hoses and water jets, first aid, breathing equipment and road traffic collision procedures. The young people also learn about the importance of teamwork, respect and understanding the consequences of breaking rules and anti-social behaviour.

To mark the end of the five-day course, a 'graduation ceremony' is held at the end of the week. The

young people carry out demonstrations to show case the skills they have learnt in front of guests, including their parents or guardians. As part of the scheme they will also receive an Open College Network accreditation for the new skills they have acquired, providing a platform from which to progress onto further qualifications.

The High Sheriff, Sally Varah, said: "My visit on the final day of this current YES course confirmed to me the relevance of our funding.

"The High Sheriff Youth Awards are all about 'helping young people make Surrey safer'. By giving financial support, we encourage the youth of the county – from a wide diversity of backgrounds and needs – to get involved in projects that, in a whole range of ways, ultimately reduce or prevent crime. This Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Youth Engagement Scheme meets our Awards criteria in so many ways – and scored top marks in lots of the categories.

"I spent two hours watching the young people who had engaged in the programme over the previous four days – many of them disengaged from formal education – and they showed me inspiring levels of teamwork, confidence and skills, all demonstrated in a calm, clear headed and mature way. They all really deserved the certificates they received – and deserve our respect for what they put themselves through.

"I suspect they found themselves doing things during the course that they never imagined they could achieve when they started – and that is immensely important in helping them move their lives forward. All this is matched by the dedication and commitment of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service firefighters – who interact and clearly build a rapport with all of the young people on the programme.

"I am delighted that the £1,000 funding from the High Sheriff Youth Awards will be spent on buying special fire kit so that even more young people can benefit from these courses and the programme can be expanded to other fire stations in Surrey. That has to be good news. "

Education Manager, Mark Taylor, responsible for YES said: "The High Sheriff's support for YES means a great deal to the Service and other partners involved in delivering the scheme. We're very proud of the scheme into which we all invest a lot of time and energy to make the courses both fun and practical in a disciplined environment. The feedback from those that have attended a YES course has been hugely positive and the funding from the High Sheriff will help to ensure the scheme continues to develop".

3. For further information please contact:

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