

MFRS Youth Engagement Funding 2011 – 2013

Beacon / Life Programmes

Since 28.01.2011 – 15.03.2013 MFRS have received in total funding £170,222.65 from various partners which include Wirral Borough Council, Hugh Baird, St Helens Council & Knowsley Metropolitan Borough.

Delivery of the Beacon programme relies entirely on being awarded monies to continue however; due to the government austerity measures it has become increasingly difficult to access funds.

To continue delivery from January 2014 we are utilising reserve funds from budget account 0136 in hand with a 33% contribution from each of the five districts.

Going forward is uncertain and to that end we will continue to explore other opportunities however; in the context of an early intervention strategy MFRS continue to strive to contribute to the levels of need for children & young people to ensure positive outcomes are grasped. Beacon is an award winning programme and failure to access funding would see the departure of a syllabus which creates life changes to those C&YP who are sitting on the cusp of ASB and permanent exclusion from school - furthermore MFRS would also lose the skills, knowledge, dedication and excellence of 3 members of staff who believe in the children of Merseyside and how we can change lives.

Prince's Trust

Since 22.03.2011 – 8.10.2013 MFRS have received in total funding £827,659.40 from St Helen's College who commission us to deliver 12 teams a year.

In 2012 we were also in business with Hugh Baird College and delivered 3 teams but regrettably this ended at the conclusion of the school summer term 2013.

We deliver Prince's Trust teams across Liverpool, Sefton & Knowsley and we will be piloting two teams on the Wirral in enterprise with Wirral College.

Recently the government have made changes to the funding pots shared by 16 – 18 year olds & adult 19 plus students and dependant on the college you are engaged with determines what funding amounts you draw down. For MFRS Prince Trust in partnership with St Helen's College teams the cohort we are working with is governed by a 90% recruitment of 16 – 18 year olds which brings its own challenges as often at this young age they are still very much immature and don't make great choices. Working with a younger cohort can and will make a huge impact on completion of students getting to the end of the programme due to the

ingenuousness of their young ages consequently we may not draw down the same amounts we have done in the previous years.

A big challenge for MFRS to continue delivering Prince's Trust is the raise of age participation in education and the lesser numbers of young people being out there to recruit as they are choosing to continue their education at their known school or are being snapped up by colleges – private enterprises also offer cash incentives to entice young people to their programmes.

Due to the issues mentioned above there is uncertainty as to whether funding from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), who are going through a transitional period, will continue under the present criteria.

However; MFRS Youth Department will be in January 2014 energetically approaching other further education providers in the real hope of sustaining and increasing MFRS delivery of the PT programme. however there is a real threat that St Helen's College will not commission MFRS to continue Prince's Trust. In late summer we were weeks away from this happening which would have resulted in the termination of staff contracts for 12 people who between them have huge amounts of skills and knowledge.

MFRS not delivering Prince's Trust would be a huge loss to the organisation and its community who we serve as we have made such an impact on lots of young people's lives with many of them gaining full time employment, returning to education or accessing other training opportunities.

Street Intervention Team (SIT)

Since 13.01.11 – 15.11.13 MFRS have received in total funding £198,011.48 with the team being commissioned largely from Liverpool City Council City Safe Funding alongside contributions from Liverpool Mutual Homes.

SIT was launched in August 2011 and was designed to address different aspects of youth crime. The team was put together to engage with the community through assertive engagement especially with young people to deter and support them away from becoming engaged in criminal or anti-social behaviours.

The team also report into Liverpool Direct Limited with regards to broken street lighting, graffiti (gang & inappropriate) which in itself breeds confidence to all residents to feel safer in their communities. In 2012 the project introduced a community project factor working with members of the community to identify and make better "grot spots" over one weekend.

The team is made up of a mix of internal and external 18/20 personnel who work predominately over Friday & Saturday nights and high priority times throughout the year such as the bonfire period.

The future of SIT has yet to be decided however; early indications are promising and MFRS have recently sent through to City Safe an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).