

Tilley Award 2006

Application form

Please ensure that you have read the guidance before completing this form. By making an application to the awards, entrants are agreeing to abide by the conditions laid out in the Guidance. Please complete the following form in full and within the word limit. Failure to do so could result in disqualification from the competition.

Completed application forms should be e-mailed to Tricia Perkins; patricia.perkins@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

All entries must be received by noon on Friday 28th April 2006. No entries will be accepted after this time/date. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Tricia Perkins on 0207 035 0262. Any queries regarding other aspects of the awards should be directed to Michael Wilkinson on 0207 035 0247 or Lindsey Poole on 0207 035 0234.

Please tick box to indicate whether the entry should be considered for the main award, the criminal damage award or both;

Main award Criminal Damage Award Both Awards

1. Details of application

Title of the project **OUR SHINING STARS**

Name of force/agency/CDRP: **Lancashire Police, Pennine Division**

Name of one contact person with position/rank (this should be one of the authors): **Lisa Duffy (Manager) Eavesbrook Neighbourhood Re-generation**

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Name of endorsing senior representatives(s) **Acting Deputy Chief Constable Mr Adrian Mc Allister**

Position and rank of endorsing senior representatives(s) **Acting Deputy Chief Constable – HQ Corporate Services Directorate**

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s) **Lancashire Constabulary Police Headquarters, PO Box 77, Hutton, Preston Lancs PR4 5SB**

2. Summary of application

In no more than 400 words please use this space to describe your project. Include details of the problem that was addressed a description of the initiative, the main intervention principles and what they were designed to achieve, the main outcomes of project particularly in relation to the problem, evidence was used in designing the programme and how the project is evaluated.

During my time as a PCSO in the Bacup area, I have been tasked with identifying Prime Problem Areas.

It became apparent to me early on in my work that there was a problem with youths congregating in the town centre area, committing signal crime and Anti-Social behaviour, these offences were committed mainly under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs. Due to the nature of the area, and the high unemployment history, there are very little amenities for which the youths can participate, and very little funds to put towards creating youth clubs, and sports facilities.

Taking this into account, and using previous skills I obtained in the Armed Forces, Royal Marine Reserves and Mountain Rescue service, I decided to speak to local partnership groups namely Elevate Lancashire, Lancashire Youth and Community Services (Rossendale), Connexions (Rossendale), Eavesbrook Neighbourhood Re-Generation Team, Todmorden Angling Society and East Lancashire Sailing Club. Once I spoke to these groups I applied for funding through Lanpac, Rank, Lancashire Youth and Community Services, Eavesbrook Neighbourhood Re-Generation team and Groundwork (Rossendale) who provided us and the youths with transportation.

A number of young people were identified by means of different services. Through Connexions we were supplied with the names of Juveniles who were known to them as previous offenders, Lancashire Youth and Community Services supplied us with the names of School offenders, and I targeted Juveniles who were on our systems in relation to previous Anti-Social behavior reports. These Youths were chosen to participate in Water sports, Hill walking and Fishing, Boxing and Community Arts. The aim of this was to broaden their horizons, thus opening up opportunities that would not generally come their way, and giving them skills they may never have acquired without being given this opportunity.

Ultimately the number of signal crimes and Anti-Social behavior problems has dramatically reduced in this area alone.

As a reward for the efforts made by the youths involved an awards night was held, and each youth was presented with a Certificate and medal. Chief Inspector Oldham of Lancashire Constabulary, Rossendale MP Janet Anderson, Steve Roman co-ordinator of Lancashire youth and community services and a number of local Councilors attended the Evening to show their support for the scheme.

As a result of the success of the project my POP was entered in the Pennine Division POPS award scheme, and I achieved first place award.

3. Description of project

During my Patrols within the Bacup area I had seen a need for control to be put in place regarding Anti-Social behavior nuisance in the area, primarily problems were being caused by youths who during School holidays had nothing they could do to keep them busy and out of trouble, these youths lived primarily on local council estates, and in the surrounding areas.

Some of the local youths have a negative opinion of the area, and also of the police, and it was this lack of respect that was causing most of the problems in the area. My aim was to build a bridge between the police and the community, breaking down barriers and creating a better understanding of the work the police do in the area.

As the Community Officer for the area I could see that there was not a great amount of things for the youths to do, this problem stemming from lack of money within the community due to un-employment and a low standard of living. I found that because of this problem the youths were bored and tended to gather in large gangs, hanging around on street corners drinking and causing nuisance, which in turn was making local residents feel intimidated and under the opinion that the Police were not doing anything to eliminate the problem, as the number of gangs in the area was rising. During the last 3 years Local residents, Councilors and newspapers have come to me, my community police surgeries and Pact meeting to voice their complaints and attempt to come up with a solution to the problems in the area before they get any worse. After taking into account all suggestions made to me I then proceeded to look at the grants made available from partners to target this problem, and this is where my work began.

I first began by setting up a project called 'Rossendale Sail away Project' through which youths have the chance to learn basic Waterman ship skills and power boating skills. With the outcome of the 'Rossendale sail away project' which was a great success we looked at using other partners to set up our 'Shining Stars Project', using these partners and their grants to further improve our last project, thus setting up power boating, hill walking, fishing, boxing and community arts. This was for the summers of 2004 and 2005.

As an advanced offshore powerboat instructor, sailing instructor, canoeing instructor and mountain leader (of which I was a member of the local mountain rescue team in Rossendale) I used my skills to improve the project and the experiences and training of the youths bringing the project forward to the next stage.

The youths have the opportunity to use the 'East Lancashire Sailing Club' at Rishton Blackburn, a RYA (Royal Yachting Association) training school, of which I am an instructor. This to gain skills in power craft and certification in level one and also level two inshore waters power boating. This is a recognised national certification in competence for watercraft users. The courses they took part in included the level 1 RYA basic boat course, level 2 RYA intermediate course in power boating, which included managing the boats and having control and also showing basic skills of seamanship. All courses conducted by myself.

The hill walking was done on Pendle hill, In Sabden Clitheroe. A total of 8 miles was covered, this within only a few hours. During this they were taught map reading, compass work and basic survival skills. A total of three groups took part over 3 days, ten youths and three adults in each group, myself as team leader.

Boxing was conducted in the community gym by Gavin Smith, a boxing coach and previous Military boxing coach; this was well attended by all the youths. Basic boxing skills were learnt and a basic fitness program was introduced for them to continue with outside of training hours.

'Todmorden Angling Society' taught basic fishing skills, this course was conducted over a few days during the week, and on weekends this was run by Dennis Dolan the regional fishing coach. All fishing equipment was supplied by the angling society and level one certificates issued for lake fishing.

Community arts was taken by John Spedding and Ruth Evans, in which they set up groups in painting and artwork. During this time the youths were taken into Bacup centre and surrounding areas, and given the opportunity to look at derelict houses that had been boarded up, giving them the chance to see what difference they could make to their home area, using their artistic minds. During this time they spoke with local residents to see what they would like done to their community, and the youths were given the opportunity to paint Murals on the boards boarding up these houses, making the community a brighter and more cheerful place to live. This was a great success as we had local press coverage of the work done.

With the activities covered in the summer months of 2004 and 2005 we halved all calls made to the police regarding juvenile nuisance and damage, this also contributed to a rise in community support towards work done by the police.

To show our appreciation for the effort made by the youths a presentation evening was held, funded by Eavesbrook housing and Connexions, with awards presented by Chief Inspector Oldham and MP Janet Anderson, the evening was held at Bacup Leisure Centre, Burnley road Bacup. The Presentation evening was well attended by local dignitaries, families and youths and was a huge success.