

FEAR AND FASHION **- TACKLING KNIFE CULTURE AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE**

Background

'Fear and Fashion' is a three to five-year programme of work aimed at tackling the carrying and use of knives and weapons amongst young people. This is a collaborative programme funded by five independent grant-making trusts - CPF, City Bridge Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Wates Foundation and John Lyon's Charity. City Bridge Trust is the lead funder and CPF is taking the lead on co-ordinating the evaluation.

Aim

To develop projects working with young people and other agencies to tackle knife culture in order to reduce the use and carrying of knives and other weapons, and to provide positive alternatives and long-term change.

Objectives

These projects will focus on two areas of London – south Brent/north Westminster and Southwark/Lambeth:

- To bring together a package of interventions to raise awareness of the problem and of the consequences of carrying weapons.
- To provide alternatives to carrying weapons.
- To change the attitudes and behaviour of young people in order to reduce the frequency of carrying knives.
- To create positive peer group influences.
- To work in partnership with a variety of partners, parents and community leaders working predominantly in secondary schools.
- To contribute to the development of a local strategy discouraging the carrying of weapons.
- To contribute to and inform the wider policy debate on knife culture liaising with key Government departments including the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Department Children, Schools and Families, and the Association of Chief Police Officers.
- To develop models of good practice and materials, which could be used elsewhere.

Timescale: Grants agreed October 2006. Funded work started April 2007.

Amount allocated: £1,059,000 (for the first 3 years).

Organisations Funded

Grants have been approved to the following organisations over three years initially, with a possibility of further a two-years' funding:

Special Initiative: Fear and Fashion

Name of Organisation	Area of work	Focus of work	Amount awarded per annum
Kickstart/Crime Concern	Lambeth/Southwark	Schools, community, young offenders	£100,000
Paddington Development Trust	Brent/Westminster	Work with young people within a community setting/youth projects	£50,000
Rainer	Brent/Westminster	Work with young people in the criminal justice system	£50,000
Leap Confronting Conflict	Westminster	Work in schools	£50,000

Evaluation

An external evaluation is being undertaken by Clear Plan. The evaluation was commissioned in December 2007 and will be completed in November 2009. A baseline report will be available in June 2008 and an interim report in December 2008.

Advisory Group members

Roy Amlot Q.C. (Chair)
 Gerard Lemos, Lemos and Crane
 Angela Sarkis CBE, YMCA
 Rob Allen, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, King's College
 Albert Tucker, City Parochial Foundation
 Paul Cavadino, NACRO
 Dinah Cox, Race on the Agenda
 Professor Tim Newburn, London School of Economics
 Shami Chakrabarti, Liberty
 Mike Taylor, Head of Serious & Organised Crime Prevention, Metropolitan Police
 Toby Streeter, Head of Strategic Prevention, Metropolitan Police
 Simon Strick, Head of Research & Development, Metropolitan Police
 Representatives of the five funders
 Representatives of funded organisations.

CPF Lead Officer: Sioned Churchill.

Learning to date:

Lemos and Crane has been commissioned to set up a website to share the learning from this initiative, and others addressing weapon use by young people. The website is www.fearandfashion.org.uk