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Space 2015

Proof of Concept Report

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Content	Page No
1 Executive Summary	3
2 Space Programme 2015	4
a Recorded Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour	4
b Baseline Statistical Analysis and Hotspots	4
c Public Confidence	4
d Volunteering	5
e Key Stakeholders	5
f Budget	6
g The Model	6
h Branding	6
i Marketing and Communication	6
j Evaluation	7
k Policy and Risk Management	7
3 Activities by Local Authority Area	8
a Cannock Chase District Council	8
b East Staffordshire Borough Council	8
c Lichfield District Council	9
d Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	9
e Newcastle Borough Council	10
f South Staffordshire Council	10
g Stafford Borough Council	11
h Stoke on Trent City Council	12
i Tamworth Borough Council	12
4 Summary and Future Planning	13

1. Executive Summary

The Space programme in 2015 was launched by Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Matthew Ellis and provided positive activities for young people across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Its aim was to increase skills and to improve health and wellbeing, creating opportunities for young people aged 11 to 17 to take part in activities to help make communities safer. This included increasing the number of young people engaged in diversionary activities to help reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime and increase volunteering. Space events were led by local councils and other organisations across Staffordshire.

This proof of concept report summarises feedback from the organisations that took part in the programme, which was funded by the PCC and local authorities.

Communicated to partners in late Spring 2015, Space supplemented existing arrangements led by partners with the brand being recognised by many in Staffordshire from a police-led programme from the 1980s and 1990s.

Budget allocation was based on localised partner agency need and dialogue; local experience and knowledge proved extremely helpful in shaping local provision. The Space 2015 programme was funded by the PCC in the amount of £127,053.76 with a small underspend shortly to be returned.

There were over 13,000 attendances on Space activities by youngsters across Staffordshire between July 20 and September 4, 2015; a noteworthy achievement. Significant positive feedback has also been received from local partners, businesses, the community and young people themselves.

Whilst opportunities for volunteering were evident, timeframes did not allow for the recognised need for appropriate vetting processes to be embedded. However, 23 expressions of interest were received via the Space programme for volunteering for future such activities.

The Space 2015 programme, referred to in this report as the "proof of concept approach", is considered to have been successful, with opportunities for learning and development acknowledged. This report makes recommendations for consideration of future Space activities.

1 Space Programme 2015

In February 2015, the PCC for Staffordshire commissioned the proof of concept approach to the provision of a positive activities programme for young people of Staffordshire aged 11-17 years. It operated during the school summer holiday period from Monday 20 July to Friday 4 September inclusive.

a Recorded Incidents of ASB

Police recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Staffordshire have been on a downward trajectory over the past five years. However, as a responsibility of local authorities too under the Crime and Disorder Act, data in relation to incidents reported to local councils is maintained separately.

Police-led analysis clearly shows, however, that yearly totals since 2012 have fluctuated and it should be noted that the unpredictable nature of ASB (affected by, amongst other things, weather, opportunities to engage or support events such as Olympics, football, cricket) together with changes to approaches and recording practices have also influenced recorded statistics.

Securing accurate and comparative statistical data around ASB is therefore extremely challenging.

However, the constant in Staffordshire which aligns to national data regarding ASB is a yearly spike in this type of behaviour during the period July to September, reaching a peak around the month of August.

b Baseline Statistical Analysis and Hotspots

As a baseline, initial plans aimed to obtain a three-year analysis of historic/current ASB in terms of type, volume, frequency, offender age and offence location which corresponded to the school summer holiday period.

Due to constraints in obtaining necessary data, it was agreed that the most effective way to identify hotspot areas was through the police, local authority officers and other stakeholders who have day-to-day involvement in responding to community safety priorities. This information was supplemented with local Strategic Assessments and Community Safety Plans.

c Public Confidence

Staffordshire is a safe place to live with many quality of life measures supporting opinion that it is better than the national average.

Public perception and personal levels of tolerance can influence this viewpoint and data is collected to evidence opinion from national and local data sets. This enables the police and partners to better understand and positively respond to the issues and the views held by its communities and businesses, one of which is recognised as ASB.

Many of the most common issues highlighted have perceived association with both young people and ASB.

This suggests that the development and introduction of targeted problem solving activity involving young people could impact significantly on the levels of ASB in Staffordshire, and subsequently confidence in the police and public sector agencies.

d Volunteering

Volunteering is a key mechanism to bring together public sector service provision and communities/businesses and the OPCC is keen to support the development of a strategic plan in this regard.

A desired outcome was to enhance the delivery of Space with the support of community volunteers. Due to limited timescales, restricted capacity, absence of established processes and legislative requirements in terms of enhanced DBS checks, this opportunity was curtailed for the proof of concept approach. However, the support of appropriately vetted volunteers already in place and aiding delivery of previously established localised arrangements was welcomed, and their support for the Space 2015 programme maximised.

A total of 23 expressions of interest for future volunteering in support of young people's activities were received over the 2015 summer holiday period with individual skill sets extending from cookery, yoga, teaching to mentoring. Individuals expressing keenness received a note of thanks and their details have been retained on file.

e Key Stakeholders

Many local authority partners already had plans in place for local young people's activities and the PCC's proof of concept Space approach quickly established its place in supplementing local arrangements and thanks are extended to all supporting this collaborative approach.

Support for maximising resources and funding and providing value for money services in terms of supporting the Space programme was readily accepted by most local authority partners across Staffordshire (Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and seven of the District and Borough Authorities) with the exception of East Staffordshire Borough Council.

Whilst unable to facilitate this arrangement in 2015, it should be noted that East Staffordshire Borough Council have expressed a strong desire to contribute to any similar future arrangements in this area of the County. Space provision during the proof of concept approach for the East Staffordshire area was therefore negotiated with Burton Albion Community Trust (BACT), an arm of Burton Albion Football Club.

Under Service Level Agreements (SLAs), local authorities and BACT led on plans and commissioned arrangements to provide young people's targeted and universal services throughout the summer holiday period in line with baseline ASB data collated, with a focus on hotspot locations. Such plans were agreed by the OPCC prior to commencement.

Focus was clearly placed on delivery of the PCC's four priorities within the Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy and local community safety priorities.

With the tight deadlines for Space 2015 delivery it was recognised early on that evaluation opportunities would be challenging, particularly in view of the commissioning arrangements being conducted through local authorities. An evaluation schedule was prepared and issued and has provided limited information but it is recognised this is an opportunity which could be maximised further.

f Budget

Originally, a total sum of £140,000 was identified by the PCC to support the proof of concept approach, secured from an underspend on Year 1 of the Commissioner's People Power Fund in 2014.

Dialogue and engagement with local authorities, police and other agencies clearly identified plans already in progress, gaps in provision of young people's positive activities, hotspot locations and local need.

This information was utilised by partners to prepare their spend requirement for each local area, resulting in an overall funding allocation of £127,053.76 which takes into consideration underspends totalling £3,522 for the areas of Lichfield, Newcastle and Stafford which are being returned to the People Power Fund.

It should be noted that local authority monies also provided funding for activities already being planned and progressed.

g The Model

The Space 2015 model was predefined and followed engagement with partners. An offer of a range of positive activities each local area was made to young people. Whilst many of these were sport focused (Leisure Centre entry, football, cricket etc.), there were other non-sport activities including art, crafts etc. that were made available.

The PCC Space 2015 programme funded approximately 13,388 reported attendances by young people across Staffordshire, which incorporated both an offer to targeted and universal youngsters.

Attendances were achieved at a cost of £9.49 per young person.

h Branding

With the Space branding already being synonymous with positive activities for young people in Staffordshire, it was recognised as a powerful draw for both youngsters and parents and therefore utilised in the proof of concept approach, with modern graphical imagery and the strapline 'Live, Laugh, Learn'.

i Marketing and Communication

It was recognised at the outset that there was an immediate requirement for public facing and back office website functionality to co-ordinate and present to the communities and businesses of Staffordshire the range of positive activities available to them during the holiday period.

Within the timeframes available, a simple database for the purpose of positively marketing the availability of activities was created and made available during the programme, facilitated through the PCC website, www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/space.

Information was made available by:

- Local Authority Area;
- Provider;
- Activity Type;
- Date of Activity;
- And included key point of contact and additional guidance to attendees.

In order to make a holistic offer to youngsters across Staffordshire and in an effort to combine all young people's positive activities in one place, the Space website also featured activities which were local authority or indeed local business funded and available to wider audiences.

Additional key fields within the Space website also referenced;

- Age suitability for available activities and
- An indication of whether activities were PCC funded.

At the start of the Space programme, around 586 individual activities, times, dates and single points of contact had been manually uploaded.

The PCC funding arrangement supported the provision of 246 of these individual activities, local authorities funded the provision of 340 and the website was then supplemented by offers from local businesses to young people of Staffordshire.

Where local arrangements were already in place to support delivery of activities, the Space brand was utilised as a supplementary brand.

This is exemplified by the Cannock area's 'Chase It' printed programme which also carried the Space brand.

j Evaluation

With challenging timeframes for delivery of the Space 2015 proof of concept programme, delivery by third party arrangements through local commissioning and lack of IT based reporting systems, it was always recognised that evaluation opportunities would be limited and subject to future development.

Local authorities have provided attendance statistics and an overall view of the programme and providers were asked to supplement this information with completion of individual reports. This information has been collated but in some areas is not consistent in terms of data capture.

k Policy and Risk Management

Legal advice supported the development of Service Level Agreements between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and commissioning organisations, which encompassed liability insurance, DBS checks, First Aid Training, Risk Assessments etc. to ensure that safeguarding liabilities and risks were appropriately managed. The web pages also included a legal declaration for parents and a copy of the service level agreement utilised.

Choosing not to develop a volunteering approach to support Space 2015 was a conscious decision, given the comprehensive safeguarding measures necessary to ensure the safety of young people.

2 Activities by Local Authority Area

Individual information has been received from local authority areas and is collated below. Whilst seeking some uniformity to the qualitative and quantitative data provided, this has not always been readily available.

a Cannock Chase District Council - PCC Funding Allocation £16,734

The Cannock area planned both a universal offer of a broad selection of activities as well as an effective targeted approach which sought to engage hard to reach groups such as the Building Resilient Families Cohort (BRFC).

There were 1,247 attendances by youngsters in Cannock and 14 volunteers already engaged with projects were able to support local activities.

The local Community Recreation Officer established links with Social Care, Family Support Workers, Local Support Teams, the Family Intervention Programme, Pastoral Co-ordinators for local schools, Youth Workers and PCSOs to target the districts most hard to reach children and young people and support families most in need.

Links to the leisure facilities and local sports clubs enabled providers the opportunity to introduce young people to existing positive activities they can now engage in, post project – ensuring sustainability.

Local leisure facilities and local sports clubs enabled providers the opportunity to introduce young people to existing positive activities in which they can continue to engage, ensuring longer term and sustained interest.

Indeed Cannock Chase Council already have plans to establish a working group made up of providers of school holiday activities from across the district, to develop future plans, avoid duplication and consider joined up working arrangements to support local youngsters.



Activities led by Burton Albion Community Trust in East Staffordshire

b Burton Albion Community Trust (East Staffordshire) - PCC Funding Allocation £11,440

Burton Albion Community Trust (BACT) engaged young people in sport related activities throughout the summer period, which resulted in 615 attendances.

Based on experience, BACT introduced a multi-agency partnership approach to sports sessions with representation from the Borough Council and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (FARS), and Police Community Support Officers were also in attendance, the latter as part of ASB patrols and when not involved in planned operational activity.



Activities led by Burton Albion Community Trust in East Staffordshire

Locally, East Staffordshire Borough Council is keen to engage and link with future plans, agreeing there is real potential for the Space programme for the future.

c Lichfield District Council - PCC Funding Allocation £13,522

Lichfield was originally granted £14,825 of OPCC funding which was used for targeted activity, youth work sessions and the provision of local leisure facilities entry passes which were supported by a reported 656 attendances by young people. An underspend of £1,303 is shortly to be returned to the OPCC.

Targeted activity was focussed on supporting young people referred to the project that were either involved in or on the cusp of involvement in ASB in the Lichfield and Burntwood areas. Local Support Teams (LSTs), Youth Workers and Lichfield Positive Futures supported this approach. FARS, local PCSOs and Tier 3 Drug and Alcohol support workers also attended the sessions provided, to give input to youngsters.

The latter element of Lichfield funding was utilised to provide targeted young people, who it was perceived would benefit the most from a summer holiday activity pass free access to leisure facilities, targeted sports sessions and physical activity across the district. This cohort was those;

- Most at risk of committing ASB;
- Could not afford to pay for activities;
- Identified as being inactive.

A range of partners supported this methodology including Lichfield District Council, Youth for Christ youth services, local Leisure Centres, Entrust, Police and FARS.

Lichfield District Council has identified a need for increased young people's activities, both targeted and universal and have already begun discussion to assess the viability of this through a 'Services for Young People Workshop' where stakeholders will work together to identify opportunities to develop youth provision. An OPCC representative has been sought to attend, in order that any SPACE developments can be included.

d Staffordshire Moorlands District Council - PCC Funding Allocation £11,634.76

The total cost of activities delivered in Staffordshire Moorlands was £14,685.76 with funding supplemented by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC). Activities included leisure centre access at Leek, Moorlands and Biddulph, football, boating, rugby and youth club facilities together with opportunities to gain first aid qualifications for young people too.

SMDC created a diverse range of activities which resulted in 1,776 attendances by young people.

In the majority of cases, feedback was excellent from both youngsters and parents. However with targeted groups such as the Building Resilient Families and Communities cohort, staffing issues within Local Support Teams affected referrals.

There has been locally noted positive impact on behaviour change and regular attendance increased at boating and rugby club facilities and parental feedback has been positive.



Space Activities in the Moorlands area – Rudyard Lake Boating

e Newcastle Borough Council - PCC Funding Allocation £12,813.00

Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council utilised their funding allocation to create a subsidised programme of activities for youngsters, including swimming, climbing and gym, together with access to museums and art galleries. An underspend of £2,187 is being returned to the OPCC.

This amount was used for contributions towards:

- Membership fees;
- Marketing and promotion;
- Staffing resources inclusive of programme administration.

Activities took place at the Jubilee 2 Leisure Centre in Newcastle, Kidsgrove Sports Centre in Kidsgrove and Newcastle-under-Lyme Museum and Art Gallery. Affordable activities were made accessible to suit young people in a high quality and safe leisure and sport environment between the hours of 9am and 10pm, Monday to Friday and until 8pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Participants took part from all areas of the borough, following a targeted marketing campaign highlighting the availability of the subsidised programme across all wards.

338 young people attended the activities, which resulted in 1,800 attendances overall.

50 young people were engaged from Building Resilient Families and Communities (BRFC) and Family Interventions Projects (FIP) which formed the targeted Newcastle Borough cohort. Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire County Council supported the identification these youngsters.

Newcastle Borough Council has undertaken to continue engagement with young people after the cessation of the 2015 Space programme to identify any potential improvements for the future. Based on these responses, the local authority intends to work with partners to develop and enhance the activities for young people in the area.

Newcastle is keen to explore with OPCC further delivery of similar activities and programmes and future years.

f South Staffordshire Council - PCC Funding Allocation £15,230

South Staffordshire Council utilised PCC Space funding to commission projects including video and arts activities, boxing and pool, sports activities, arts drama and beauty sessions.

South Staffordshire's BRFC match funded an initial £10,000 allocation of the PCC to ensure a wide engagement of young people yet targeted where appropriate.

South Staffordshire identified areas at risk of ASB and those isolated isolated due to access to transport and chose to deliver a range of activities and events across the district. Activities were provided on the basis of universal and targeted provision and to allow for maximum participation.

630 attendances took place across the local authority area and activities were promoted via the Council and OPCC website. Additionally targeted events were also promoted by the LST and FIP to individuals they felt would benefit from being offered the activities, alongside leisure centres.

The Space programme was well received overall.



Space Sporting Activities in the South Staffordshire area.

g Stafford Borough Council - PCC Funding Allocation £13,760

Activities through the Stafford Borough area included sports, outdoor pursuits, fun days and use of the Youth Bus with approximately 2,286 attendances by young people over the summer holiday period. A £32 underspend is being returned.

55 young people attended a boxing initiative with some youngsters able to train boxing tutors and young leaders. Helping to build confidence and self-esteem, club staff, young people and parents have given excellent feedback on the activities available.

102 young people attended the universal outdoor activities at Shugborough Hall designed to provide a structured programme through the school holidays. Fire service volunteers supported the activities along with Police Community Support Officers who attended some sessions when not on operational patrol.

38 young people attended the targeted outdoor activities by referral from LSTs, FARS and other agencies. Key workers had the opportunity to see young people in a different setting and get a different perspective on their lives.

Youth Bus Sessions attracted 150 young people and approximately 500 youngsters over three events attended the Fun Friday Events.

Stafford organisers have expressed huge amounts of enthusiasm and a desire to facilitate activities again and have made suggestions for improvements should Space be considered in future years.



Boxing Activities at Stafford

h Stoke-on-Trent City Council - PCC Funding Allocation £24,270

City Space funding was split into three geographical areas;

- North £6,994;
- Central £5,920
- South £11,356

The local authority has reported 2,188 attendances at a wide range of activities including sports, media and creative arts, and youth work held at locations defined by key partners and stakeholders.



**Basketball Space 2015
activities in Stoke Central
area**

i Tamworth Borough Council - PCC Funding Allocation £7,650

Through a range of opportunities which included sports and art, Tamworth Borough Council secured 2,190 attendances through the range of young people's activities funded by the PCC.

Boxing and bowling were found to be particularly appealing to youngsters with events held as part of the Tamworth Police Station Open day and the 'We Love Tamworth' events also being very well received.

4 Summary and Future Planning

Officers from the OPCC have spent considerable time with partner agencies to assess evaluations and feedback received. Learning from the proof of concept model indicates that any future plans require:

- Strategic leadership supported by local authorities and other partners including the voluntary sector and the business community;
- Development of a flexible programme which can lead, compliment and supplement existing or already planned young people's provision based on hotspot analysis and defined need;
- Targeted and universal provision with suitably considered age range, offering wide range of sport and non-sport related activities, available to as wide an audience as possible;
- Simple but comprehensive administrative support to aid programme delivery and evaluation;
- Defined baseline statistical data, combining where possible, information held by all partner agencies;
- Careful consideration to the approach to growth in volunteering;
- Support of pan-Staffordshire key stakeholders;
- Defined budget, giving consideration to funding streams available to partners and used locally for similar purposes;

- Comprehensive marketing and communication to appeal to the target audiences and dovetail with established arrangements;
- Outcome focussed evaluation;
- Robust safeguarding, risk management policies and procedures.

Future Planning

The Police and Crime Commissioner is keen to progress dialogue with partners with the aim of developing the Space 2015 proof of concept young people's programme for future years.

Feedback and evidence received, together with the level of support for the programme defines its success in positively engaging young people of Staffordshire during the summer holiday period.

Recognising the opportunities such development will provide in terms of benefits for young people and indeed communities and businesses of Staffordshire, Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis intends to commence plans for the growth of Space in Staffordshire, early in 2016.

Mr Ellis extends his thanks to all those who contributed to making Space 2015 such an achievement, including participants, parents, providers, local authorities and other partners and the police whose information supported this report.

Ends.



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