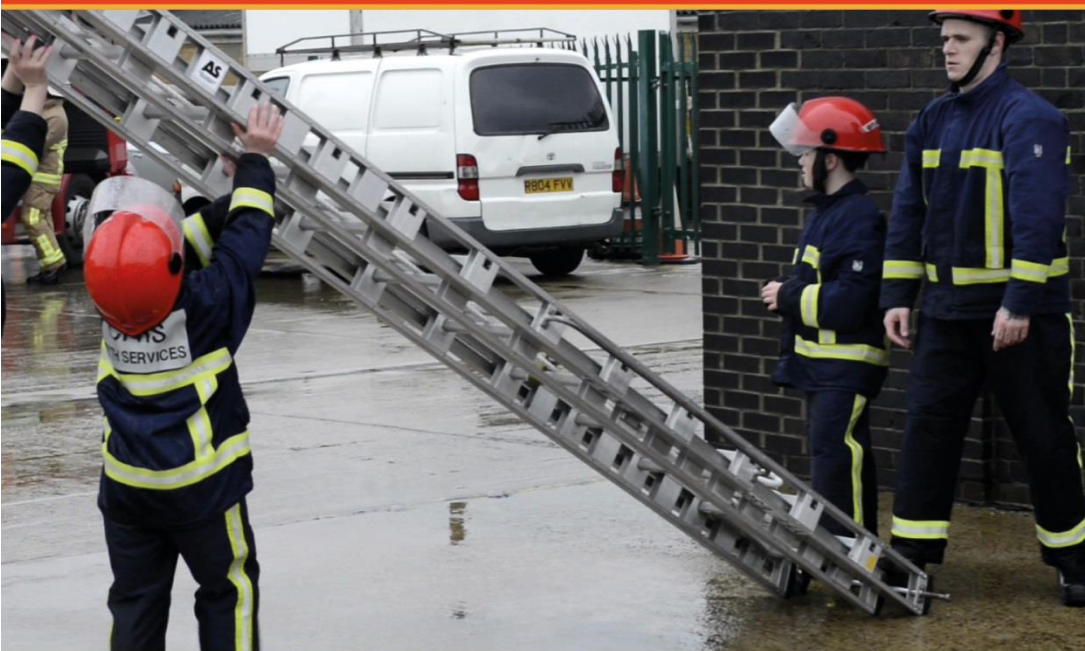




COMMUNITY

Development & Safeguarding

Evaluation Report
2013/2014 – 2014/2015



Essex Safeguarding
Children Board

THURROCK LOCAL
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN BOARD



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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to summarise the results of the last two years' education and intervention schemes, safeguarding, and education initiatives, delivered by the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS). In particular, the report assesses the schemes' effectiveness in addressing those who are members of vulnerable groups and traditionally hard to reach parts of the community.

Headline Information for Engagement Schemes

- 91 Firebreak Courses were delivered between 01/04/13 and 31/03/15. There was a 137% increase in courses held in 2014/15 from 2013/14.
- 845 students took part in the 91 courses; 742 (88%) completed the course successfully, earning an AQA Unit Award Scheme certificate. This accreditation scheme allows us to recognise their achievement.
- The 64 Firebreak courses held in 2014/15 compares favourably with the number of equivalent schemes run by other Fire & Rescue Services. Devon and Somerset ran 23 Phoenix programmes and Suffolk was unable to provide any Firebreak courses.
- A special charity Firebreak was held for Little Havens Hospice in 2014. Two courses were also held with charity Down Syndrome Extra21.
- Winner of 2014 World Down Syndrome Award for work with Extra21.
- After the first Fire Cadets course was created in 2013/14, an additional 4 Cadet Squads were established in 2014/15 across the county, a 400% increase.
- The Fire Cadet scheme enables students to complete the full Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. 85 cadets are set to earn the Bronze award with 20 on track to earn the Silver and 20 to earn Gold.
- ECFRS is currently the only Service that can offer the Gold DofE award
- 127 cadets will also earn the new BTEC Level 2 "Fire and Rescue Service in the Community."
- Fire Cadets completed a total of 750 Home Fire Safety Assessments.
- 1600 members of the public received RTC Education from the Cadets.
- ECFRS was named the National Centre of Excellence for the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for FRSs throughout the country.
- Bespoke Firebreak courses were launched in 2013 seeing the first Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, Mother & Child, Father & Child, Long Term Unemployed and Probation Service Firebreaks.

Firebreak is a direct intervention inclusion programme. During the intensive week long fire-station based course the students gain confidence and develop vital life skills while experiencing the techniques used by firefighters in their working lives. The partner agency can now select the Firebreak syllabus that is most suitable for their students. For example, alcohol and substance misuse awareness.

The **Fire Cadet** scheme is a 1 to 3 year long programme for young people aged 13 to 18. With a focus on volunteering, the programme is designed to take young people and impart motivational and team building skills using the Fire Service ethos. The Fire Cadet scheme allows participants to pass-out with the full Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver, or Gold award and with a BTEC qualification.

The Firebreak Programme

Firebreak is a direct intervention inclusion programme for people aged 10-12, 13-17, 18-24, or 24+. The programme aims to promote a culture of safety and citizenship by providing a range of vital life skills whilst undertaking the various disciplines of the Fire Service.

Through the achievement of the above aims, Firebreak endeavours to:

- Instil a sense of self-discipline, self worth, independence and responsibility.
- Promote teamwork amongst the attendees.
- Encourage trainees to respect the differences between people.
- Confirm the benefits of worthwhile and fulfilling relationships.
- Urge students to play an active and worthwhile role as a member of their community.
- Ensure that the trainees make the most of their own and others potential.

The aims of the course are achieved through a combination of practical and classroom based training as well as diversionary activities on the drill ground and mentoring. Activities include: parade in uniform, hose drills, life skills, such as water safety and first aid, and confidence building exercises in the form of problem solving and community work relating to fire and RTC safety. Firebreak aims to reduce the potential for, and impact of, a risky lifestyle for students, their families and local communities. Firebreak can also work to enhance the confidence or ability to work as part of a team for participants who are considered gifted and talented.

Bespoke Firebreak Courses

In order to make the Firebreak course as relevant as possible to the strategic aims and objectives of our partner agencies and to secure future funding, 2012/13 saw the introduction of the new Bespoke Firebreak.

The Bespoke Firebreak uses the tried and tested standard Firebreak course as its template, but also incorporates other features to produce a scheme tailored to address specific areas of concern a partner agency may have.

ECFRS believes this flexible approach will allow their partner agencies to select the appropriate course based on individual needs. This is one reason why the number for Firebreaks commissioned by partner agencies has grown from just 28 and 27 for 2012/13 and 2013/14 to 64 courses for 2014/15, a substantial increase of 137%.

Firebreak: Inspire.

This course focuses on the importance of personal responsibility and the consequences of one's actions. This Firebreak is particularly useful for those people who are at risk of, or already have experience of, offending. Firebreak Inspire is based on the established course that has now been running for over 10 years.

A modified version of the course can be provided for people with special needs. Several very successful Firebreak courses have already been held for participants with Down Syndrome and special needs, after the standard Inspire Firebreak was adjusted to meet their specific needs (see page 15). This course focuses on home fire safety and helps prepare the student for independent living in later life.

In the last two years several Firebreak: Inspire courses have been held for young people who have had involvement with the Young Offending Service (YOS). This included individuals with long standing problems with anti-social behaviour, poor attendance at school and youth offending.

Funded by the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), these Firebreak courses have so far proven extremely effective. In the 12 months following the courses, no instances of re-offending and a 100% compliance with referral orders¹ has been reported.

This level of success far exceeds national expectations for youth reoffending. The Ministry of Justice reported in 2014 that for 2011/12, 35.8% of young offenders in England and Wales reoffended within a year, with the number jumping to 69.3% for those who were released from custody.

Southend YOS has also reported that several of the course participants have formed positive relationships and engaged in activities and events organised with the assistance of the YOS. Some of these students now wish to take part in the ECFRS Cadet Scheme.

Comments from progress reports completed by Southend YOS for the 2014/15 course:

"[Student] left the YOS service shortly after completing the Firebreak course. [Student] thoroughly enjoyed Firebreak and spoke positively of it afterwards to both YOS and his family. [Student] has not re-offended since completing Firebreak."

"We recently reviewed [Student's] ABC (acceptable behaviour contract) in conjunction with Streets Ahead and feel that [Student] has done very well and has not had any further involvement with the police since Firebreak and hopefully this will continue... We have also had no further complaints about anti-social behaviour regarding [Student]."

¹ A young person charged with a criminal offense may be given a Referral order. This referral order acts as a contract that stipulates the course of action the offender must now take, such as restorative justice or undertaking a programme of interventions and activities to address their offending behaviour

"[Student] has completed his Referral Order and has not re-offended. [Student] is in full time education, is still attending the Youth Offending Service on a voluntary basis to work with Connexions to seek employment... and strengthen his goals and aspirations in life. Upon completing his order [Student's] mother credited the Firebreak programme and the Youth Offending Service on the transformation of [Student's] behaviour and motivation to do well in life."

Firebreak: Respect.

In addition to some of the standard Firebreak activities this course can be used to raise awareness of the following safer-wellbeing issues:

- Safe Sex and Teenage Pregnancy
- Anti-Social Behaviour and the cycle of Offending
- Domestic Violence & the Importance of Worthwhile and Fulfilling Relationships
- Community Engagement
- Bullying and Cyber Safety

In 2014 Southend fire station held a special Firebreak: Respect course sponsored by Streets Ahead, part of the Integrated Youth Support Service in the Southend area. Streets Ahead work with families at risk of poor outcomes to help them improve their lives.

The course had been especially designed to promote assertiveness for both parent and child, mutual respect, trust, and communication. It included tailor made team building exercises and discussions around resolving conflict and communicating concerns with one another in an effective manner.

This intense course produced some very dramatic changes to the relationships of those taking part. This is reflected in the participants' comments made after the completion of the Firebreak:

"We are now closer and understand each other. I am very proud of what you have achieved. Your willingness to participate is brilliant. You now listen and respond to me..."

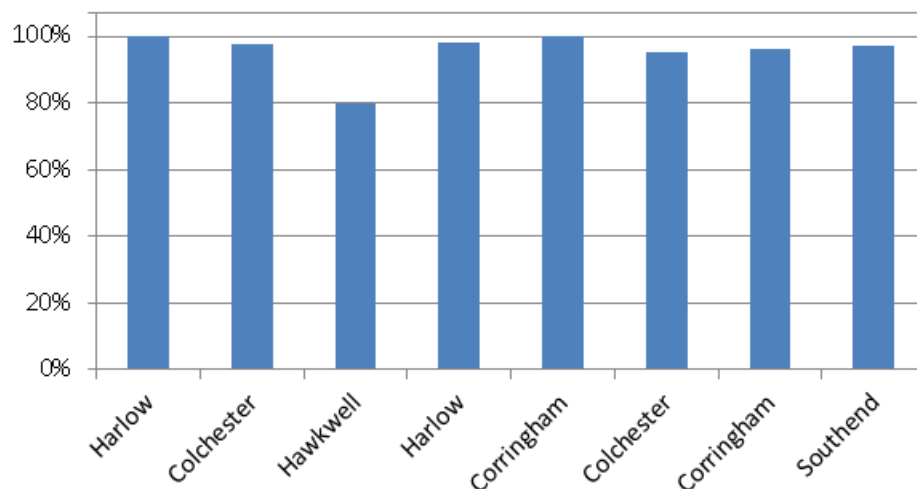
"Since being on the Firebreak course it has had such a profound impact on my and [my son's] life. We have learnt that working as a team really has empowering feelings and a priceless bond between us and our family... A little message from Dad to say how very proud I am to have you as my son... to see the fantastic person and qualities that you have achieved."

"Dad this course has made us have a really good bond that we never had before. Seeing you do the leg lock made me so proud of you..."

Another course was successfully held in December 2013 for Mothers and their sons/daughters, also funded by Streets Ahead. And a course was held in October 2013, part funded by charity Safer Places, for a group of six young people whose mothers had left abusive relationships and were now living in refuge.

The Firebreak Respect courses proved so successful that Essex County Council's Family Solutions team funded a further 16 such Firebreaks in the 2014/15 year.

Family Solutions Firebreak follow-up sessions 2014/15: percentage who agree/strongly agree that aims and objectives were met



Firebreak: Empower.

Empower based courses can be tailored to fit various subject matters which can include, but is not limited to:

- Alcohol and substance misuse awareness
- Preparing young people for employment

Community engagement and the possibilities of volunteering within their community are explored and encouraged. Sessions include preparing for interview, C.V. preparation and the importance of gaining employment.

A first of its kind Firebreak: Empower course took place at Hawkwell Fire Station, February 2014. This course was funded by Southend Council as part of a large Department for Work and Pensions initiative to help unemployed people return to work.

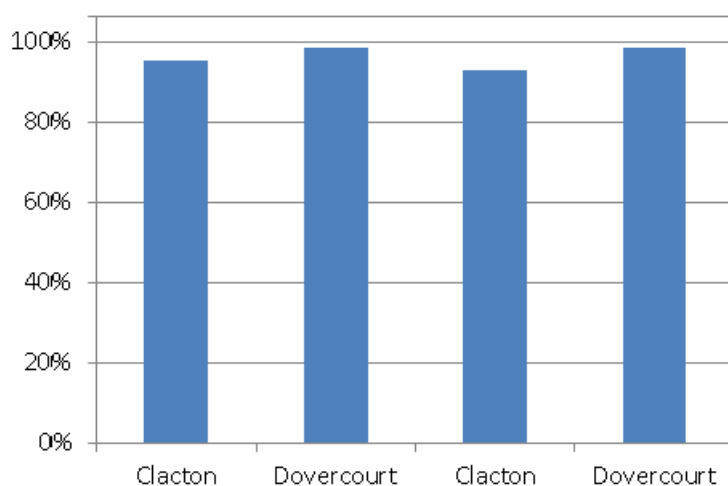
"This is an immensely positive project to help people who have long struggled to find work overcome some of their hurdles and face the future with confidence" (Southend Council deputy leader, John Lamb)

The course was considered such a success by Southend council that a further eight courses were funded by the DWP in 2014/15. As with the previous DWP Firebreak, five follow-up sessions were held in the weeks after the course to enable further support and instruction to be provided to the participants.

The regular progress reports sent by the DWP show the students using the confidence and skills earned on the course to secure places on training courses or pursue employment.

The participants from the first of the DWP 2014/15 courses have all reported positive outcomes. One student has secured a car mechanic apprenticeship and another has found a job working on the rail network. Others have found places on training courses and several are completing work placements. All 12 are said to be meeting the criteria by which the DWP evaluate the success of the course – they are taking positive steps to gain employment.

DWP Firebreak follow-up sessions 2014/15: percentage who agree/strongly agree that aims and objectives were met



The DWP reported positive results for the long term unemployed participants in their eight Firebreak courses. The DWP expect a level of disengagement of about 35 to 50% but, for their Firebreak students, only 19% failed to achieve at least one of the DWP's primary indicators of success.

No targets were set by the DWP for those attending Firebreak to gain employment, training or to stop claiming. However, very encouraging figures have been received for the first 30 individuals who have completed Firebreak:

Status	Individuals
Started Work	9
Closed Claims	3
Training	6
Still Claiming	12

There are considerable savings for the State for these 18 individuals who are no longer claiming benefits and this has been highlighted by the DWP. The 60% success rate demonstrated here is considered well above average compared to other partnership grants.

Firebreak: Firefit.

This course has been designed to give young people an insight into the fitness standards required for working within the Fire Service and to increase their general fitness level. The course focuses on consequences of an individual's lifestyle and diet choices and the importance of staying fit for life.

ECFRS have now received a booking for the first Firebreak: Firefit course, which will be held in the 2015/16 financial year.

Feedback from Family Solutions for 2014/15 Firebreak Courses:

Student A: "Confidence gained from the programme has enabled her to apply to be a retained fire fighter in Wickford and positive impact resulted in her demonstrating more resilience."

Student B: "Confidence gained from the course has resulted in [Student] finding employment."

Student C: "Low self-esteem, couldn't cope with problems and physically couldn't look at people because of his low confidence. Since the firebreak he reports that it has taken him out of his comfort zone, he feels more able to cope with issues and respond to them appropriately, has stopped drinking and taking cocaine to manage his confidence. He has also started to perform on board a cruise ships and has further bookings as a result of this."

Student D: "The programme took her out of her comfort zone and gave her the confidence to believe in her own ability to manage situations and has resulted in her applying to become a volunteer fire fighter. She has also built up resilience to cope with her ex-husband particularly when he tries to bring her down."

Student E: "Attending the programme has raised her confidence, made her realise that she is not only able to but wants to get back to work and has the confidence to attain the job she wants (to work in support role with families). She has been identified as a volunteer as part of the Volunteer Support programme for families. She has also been involved in the short listing and interviews of new staff for Family Solutions. Feedback from her family is overwhelmingly positive and they cannot believe how much [Student] has blossomed since the programme."

Student F: "Took her out of her comfort zone and allowed to consider that she could achieve things she had never done before. This level of confidence has enabled her to volunteer as part of the Volunteer Support programme commissioned by Family Solutions through CAVS."

Student G: "Through the programme she raised her self-esteem which has enabled her to make positive relationship decisions. She ended her relationship with her partner who was a negative influence on her and is looking for opportunities to work within the fire service"

Firebreak Case Study

The following case study has been created following the outcomes of the Department for Working Pensions (DWP) Firebreak courses.

The aim of these Firebreak courses was to work with DWP and their customers to try and help them regain employment. The reason for this undertaking was to not only try and reduce the cost of unemployment to the taxpayer, but to also reduce the cost of the fire service to the tax payer.

Evidence shows that a person who is unemployed is at greater risk of experiencing fire in the home; this is due to the lifestyle they may lead, the time ratio that they would spend at home being higher than average, and their personal circumstance and wellbeing. By delivering the message of home safety we can aim to reduce the cost of the service to the tax payer as well as potentially save lives.

STUDENT H

Student H, a male in his thirties has been unemployed for a number of years and at a point in his unemployment was living on the street before being housed by local authorities in Jaywick, Clacton.

Student H was one of the more difficult student's to engage with due to his attitude towards authorities and general lifestyle and experience. Student H was open to the challenge of improving himself but his personal barriers at some points of the course got the better of him.

Initially Student H took part in the Firebreak course to:

- *Regain employment*
- *Improve self esteem*
- *Improve confidence*
- *Overcome personal life barriers*
- *Improve communication skills*
- *Become more disciplined*

Since completing the Firebreak course Student H has turned his life around and achieved his ambition of becoming self-employed in the gardening and landscaping trade. Whilst attending the Firebreak course Student H expressed his ambitions to be self-employed, but didn't feel he had the credentials for this.

Student H felt the Firebreak course had given him "more knowledge on fire safety and a better understanding of disciplines needs to gain employment".

The follow up sessions offered as part of the course also allowed Student H to gain an understanding of money management, drugs and substance misuse, behaviour management, and employment preparation.

Firebreak Case Study

Saving to the Taxpayer

The table below demonstrates the total entitlements Student H would have been able to claim whilst being unemployed. This is based on Student H not having any special circumstances or dependants.

Entitlement	per year	per week	Notes
Jobseeker's Allowance	£3,822.09	£73.10	Your entitlement is made up of £73.10 in income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
Council Tax Support	£678.04	£12.97	Your full Council Tax bill of £16.21 per week will be reduced to £3.24 per week because of your entitlement to Council Tax Support.
Housing Benefit	£7,200.00	£138.46	
Total Entitlements	£11,700.13	£224.53	

Having entered self-employment following the Firebreak course and based on a year one wage of £12,000 for a 30 hour week, Student H would be claiming £5683.70 less housing benefit than when he was unemployed.

It is estimated that Student H will be £67.99 per week better off now that he is employed:

Income	per year	per week
Tax Credits	£2,536.48	£48.78
Council Tax Support	£0.00	£0.00
Housing Benefit	£1,516.30	£29.16
Client Earned Income (net)	£11,158.07	£214.58
Total:	£15,210.85	£292.52

*Estimation figures supplied by entitledto.co.uk

Evaluation of the Firebreak Programme

April 2013 - March 2014

In total 323 individuals attended 27 schemes held at Braintree, Brentwood, Canvey Island, Clacton, Colchester, Corringham, Hawkwell, Ingatestone, Maldon, Southend, Waltham Abbey, and Wickford fire stations. Some of the participants were selected because of a history of school exclusions, youth offending or associated disruptive behaviour or backgrounds. Selection of students for the schemes and subsequent partnership support was provided by²:

- **7 local council Community Safety Partnerships**
- **8 Essex based Schools**
- **Police and Crime Commissioner (two courses)**
- **Agencies that have not previously purchased a course: Greenfields Community Housing.**

A summary of results for the year 2013/2014 shows that of the 323 participants who started:

- 11 – Students were dismissed for unacceptable behaviour;
- 6 – Students were dismissed for non-attendance;
- 13 – Students left the course for other reasons.

April 2014 - March 2015

In total 522 individuals attended 64 schemes held at Braintree, Canvey, Clacton, Colchester, Corringham, Dovercourt, Harlow, Hawkwell, Ingatestone, Maldon, Southend, and Wivenhoe fire stations. Some of the participants were selected because of a history of school exclusions, youth offending or associated disruptive behaviour or backgrounds. Selection of students for the schemes and subsequent partnership support was provided by:

- **7 courses paid for by local Councils or CSPs**
- **8 courses sponsored by the Department for Work & Pensions**
- **1 course funded by Down Syndrome Extra21**
- **15 paid for in whole or part by Essex Based Schools**
- **1 course: Police and Crime Commissioner**
- **16 courses sponsored by Essex Council's Family Solutions**

A summary of results for the year 2014/2015 shows that of the 522 participants who started:

- 1 – Student was dismissed for unacceptable behaviour;
- 23 – Students were dismissed for non-attendance;
- 49 – Students left the course for other reasons.

² See Appendix A for a full list of all current Firebreak partnerships.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Early in 2007 a pilot Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) course was introduced, enabling students to pass out with the full Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. This was made possible since ECFRS had been awarded a full operating licence from the DofE for their Bronze and Silver awards. ECFRS was the only Service in the UK permitted to issue these awards.



This full award gives students all four sections of the Silver or Bronze awards: Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Expedition. Previously Essex County Fire & Rescue Service was only able to offer the Service and Skills sections of the Bronze award.

In 2014/15 the old Young Firefighter DofE course was replaced with the new Fire Cadet scheme. Through the Fire Cadets, students can now achieve their full Gold DofE award.

In order to achieve the full Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, students must complete the Expedition section, which involves planning, training for and completing an overnight expedition. Participating instructors have received “mountain leader” training so that they can deliver this part of the course.

DofE National Centre of Excellence

In March 2014, ECFRS was named the National Centre of Excellence for the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This recognition of ECFRS's leading role in youth engagement will involve overseeing all DofE cadet schemes run throughout the country's fire and rescue services.

As well as overseeing all DofE schemes, ECFRS will run a help desk to give advice and guidance to other services as many establish DofE schemes for the first time.

ECFRS will incur no direct costs for operating as the Centre of Excellence since funding will be provided by the income it generates.

Fire Cadets

In 2013/14, Clacton hosted the first Fire Cadets squad held in Essex. Part funded by Tendring Community Safety Partnership, this ongoing scheme has replaced the old Young Firefighter (YFF) and Duke of Edinburgh YFF courses. The program runs continuously over a 41 week period following the school academic year and each course can accept up to 20 new Cadets each year.

As with the YFF scheme, Fire Cadets is designed to take young people and impart motivational and team building skills using the Fire Service ethos. The course involves many of the skills and techniques used by operational firefighters, such as hose running, ladder pitching, using breathing apparatus, search and rescue, team building exercises, and first aid. Cadets are taught the importance of teamwork, communication and community engagement.

Fire Cadets have the opportunity to earn a Duke of Edinburgh award, as they could through YFFs, but are also able to acquire a BTEC qualification. These are nationally recognised qualifications and will be of benefit to the student in his or her future life.

Upon completing the year long course, successful students have the opportunity to apply for promotion and become volunteer instructors, helping the course instructors with next year's recruits.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for young people to learn these new skills and disciplines which will stand them in good stead whatever they do later in life. It will help them to become good citizens and contribute positively in their community." (Lynda McWilliams, Tendring District Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Community Safety)

"It's a fantastic opportunity, especially if you want to be a firefighter in future. You get to meet new people and have a great time." (Clacton Cadet, aged 16)

"I would recommend Fire Cadets because it's great work experience and you learn a lot while having fun." (Clacton Cadet, aged 15)



Community Service

The Fire Cadet scheme values highly community engagement and promotes the benefits for all of public service. This spirit is exemplified by the very first squad of Fire Cadets based at Clacton.

The Clacton Fire Cadets were recognised in 2014 by the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner, Nick Alston, for their “outstanding contribution to community safety.” The Cadets received the award for their community safety work, having completed more than 1,600 road and fire safety talks to the public. The Cadets collectively chose to put the prize money towards future community safety initiatives.

In 2014 ECFRS held its first Children & Young People awards, celebrating all the fantastic work done by students and instructors in our community. The Cadet squad were presented with a special award in recognition of their volunteering work which far exceeded any expectations.

“I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Fire cadets that assisted me with the Harwich and Clacton Remembrance Day event. The event was planned to allow residents normally confined to care homes to have a morning out and actually take part in the local Remembrance service. Sometimes getting up early on a cold wet Sunday to stand around in the cold and push a few old people around in Wheelchairs, might not seem like a fun thing. But you made some real heroes day complete. You reinstated long lost memories.” Organiser of Harwich and Clacton Remembrance Day

Results for 2013/14 and 2014/15

The Fire Cadet scheme has proven very popular since its creation in 2013/14. To meet this demand, a further four squads were established in 2014/15, to run alongside the original Clacton course. For 2014/15, the following fire stations hosted Fire Cadet squads: Great Baddow, Southend, Clacton, Orsett, and Harlow.

From the first Cadet squad, 16 young people completed the course, passing out with Bronze DofE Awards and gaining the BTEC Level 2 “Fire and Rescue Service in the Community” award. An impressive 10 members of the squad will also be returning next year with 8 having received promotion to “watch manager” and “crew manager”, helping to deliver the next course.

DofE and BTEC awards predicted for 2014/15 cadets

	Clacton	Harlow	Orsett	Southend	Baddow	Total
BTEC Award	16	18	18	17	48	117
BTEC Cert.	10	0	0	0	0	10
Bronze DofE	14	18	18	17	18	85
Silver DofE	10	0	0	0	10	20
Gold DofE	0	0	0	0	20	20

The success and popularity of the cadet course has led to demand for squads to be established in other parts of the county. It is hoped that 2015/16 will see additional cadet squads created.

Special Charity Firebreak Courses

Little Havens Hospice

In February 2015, a special charity Firebreak was held at Southend Fire Station with a Thundersley, Essex based hospice, Little Havens Hospice.

The 10 young people who took part in this course were either living with life limiting conditions, and are currently being cared for by Little Havens Hospice, or attend the hospice's support groups because they have a family member currently suffering from serious illness.

As with the Extra21 course, special efforts were made to accommodate all the young people and their specific abilities. As a result, the students were able to participate in activities such as using the Service's powerful hose reels, wearing specialist breathing apparatus, climbing ladders and simulating the rescue of people trapped in smoke filled buildings.



The Service hopes to be able to run more courses like this in the future that enable often overlooked young people the chance to get involved and develop confidence and new skills.

"It has been a fantastic week. It's so nice that these young people have had a chance to do something which is all about them and not about illness," Little Haven Sibling Support Worker.

Extra 21 Firebreak

In 2014/15 a seventh Firebreak for teenagers and young adults with Down Syndrome was held with charity Extra21.



A group of 12 youngsters from across Essex and East London took part in the four-day course at Great Baddow Fire Station.

Throughout the week, the participants worked with instructors who taught them some of the skills and disciplines needed to be a firefighter. Like traditional Firebreak courses, the aim was to assist in improving communication skills and to show them how to work in teams and problem solve along the way, giving the participants new confidence, motivation, and the education necessary for safe independent living.

This course covered many of the same subjects as the regular Firebreak course, including: First aid, casualty handling and resuscitation; pumps and ladders; and fire safety in the home.



Students on the course learn some of the skills and disciplines needed to become a firefighter.

In 2014, the course beat international competition to win a World Down Syndrome Award for “outstanding voluntary and professional activity” from Down Syndrome International.

As a result of this recognition, ECFRS have received enquiries from national and international fire and rescue services and will continue to provide advice and support to those interested in delivering their own schemes.

Comments from Parents of the Extra21 Firebreak students:

“[Our son] absolutely loved the Firebreak course and we were very impressed on Pass out day... I think all [Our son]’s carers were very impressed too - and may even have learned something from them about approach and guiding young people with Down Syndrome. Since then CMG have suggested that [Our son] may be able to go on their payroll to do a few hrs a week of paid work involving checking all the fire precautions on site each week as well as a bit of cleaning in the office plus litter picking around the site!”

“This course has been great for the children taking part; it has given them a chance to show themselves and everyone else exactly what they are capable of. The determination they have shown during a week which is completely out of the ordinary for them has been incredible.”

“Just over the course of the week I have seen him grow up and become more responsible. Every day he came home excited about going back the next day and learning even more.”

“This was the best thing that has happened to our son in the past few years. In our opinion, the course has built his self confidence and self worth which will be very important in his future life.”

“The skills which [our son] developed over the four days will be invaluable to him in his future... Having attended the pass-out parade we could see and enjoy evidence of the skills learned during the course.”

Accreditation

The following forms of accreditation are available to students on Firebreak or Cadet courses. These awards and certificates allow us to formally recognise the achievements and learning accomplished by our students.

For some participants who have not been very successful in their education careers, this accreditation can be useful in helping them find work or a place on a training or college course.



On successfully completing both the Firebreak course, students gain an award from the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (Unit Award Scheme). To allow for this all necessary core modules of the AQA award have been incorporated into all courses.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award aims to provide for young people an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme of personal development.

In 2007 ECFRS became the first UK Fire Service to achieve the status of Awarding Body for the full DofE Bronze Award. Since then, the full Bronze, Silver and Gold awards can be earned by ECFRS Fire Cadets. ECFRS is currently the only Service that can offer the Gold award.

The first Cadet Squad, held in 2013/14, concluded with 16 students earning the Bronze DofE award. Building on this success, the five Cadet Squads running in 2014/15 are predicted to pass-out in June with their Cadets earning an impressive 85 Bronze, 20 Silver, and 20 Gold awards.



From 2014/15, BTEC Level 2 "Fire and Rescue Service in the Community" awards and certificates can be earned by successful Fire Cadet students. A cadet completing their first year will earn the BTEC Award. The student can then work for the BTEC Certificate by completing a second year as a Fire Cadet.

BTEC is a successful, applied learning scheme. For 25 years it has allowed students to be recognised for their practical, interpersonal and thinking skills. It is a form of accreditation recognised by both employers and educators.

The first Cadet Squad held in 2013/14 (Clacton) saw 16 Students earn the BTEC Award. 10 of them have returned for 2014/15 to work towards the Certificate. Other Cadet Squads held in 2014/15 are set to see 117 young people earn the BTEC Award.

Instructor Development

Lead instructors, Community Development and Safeguarding Manager and the Community Development Co-ordinator have all received Level 4 “Train the Trainer” Tactical Separation and Child Behaviour Management training. Designed as an enhancement to current behaviour management techniques, this training enables the instructors to safely and efficiently diffuse situations in which there is a risk of violence or unwanted physical contact between students.

15 instructors are qualified as Basic Expedition Leaders for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and 4 instructors have completed the Expedition Assessors Accreditation Scheme (EAAS). 3 DofE instructors have also received Mountain Leader training, designed for people who want to lead groups in the mountains, hills and moorlands of the UK and Ireland.

In 2014, 3 instructors qualified to train leaders to take groups on outdoor activities. The Sport Leaders UK qualification will enable the instructors to train other Services in how to take their Duke of Edinburgh Awards groups on outdoor expeditions, a necessary part of the DofE award scheme. This will allow cadets in other Services to work towards their DofE awards and also create income to help support the delivery of ECFRS youth schemes.

During the 2013/14 year, the lead instructors received Tactical Separation refresher training. And 2014/15 saw all other instructors receive 2 days of Drug Awareness, Child Protection, and Youth Behaviour refresher training.

2014/15 also saw the successful recruitment of 17 new instructors and 1 new lead instructor. These new instructors all received training, completed CRB/DBS checks, and then undertook an assessed Firebreak course or “shadowing”, where their performance was monitored by a lead instructor.

This brings the current number of secondary contract youth instructors to 86.

Course Comparison

How the Firebreak course compares with similar products offered by other Fire and Rescue Services:

Fire Service	Programme Name	Cost per Course per Student	Courses Funded in 2014/15
Essex	Firebreak	£333	64
Devon & Somerset	Phoenix	£750	23*
Suffolk	Firebreak	£500	0

*The equivalent of 23 Firebreak courses (278 participating students)

Corporate Targets

Target or Objective	Scheme Support for Delivery
Corporate Plan 2011-2015 “Reduced fire risk for high risk groups and communities.”	<p>Courses: Firebreak, Extra21 Firebreak</p> <p>Firebreak students receive home fire safety instruction as part of the course. Students from deprived communities are heavily represented on Firebreak.</p> <p>The Extra21 Firebreak is designed for young people with Down Syndrome. This is a hard to reach and often overlooked group. Individuals with mental and physical impairments are considered at higher risk of experiencing a fire at home³. The Extra21 students are given specially tailored home safety training which is intended to help prepare them for future independent living.</p>
Safer Communities Strategy. Reduction in: LPI 28 - The number of hoax calls attended	<p>Courses: Firebreak, Fire Cadets</p> <p>The consequence sessions that form an integral part of the Firebreak course cover the danger and consequences of making hoax calls. This also forms part of the syllabus of the Cadet course.</p> <p>The Firebreak Inspire and Respect courses specifically focus on young people with a history of offending or who are considered to be at risk of offending.</p>
Safer Communities Strategy. Reduction in: NI 47 - Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	<p>Courses: Firebreak, Fire Cadets</p> <p>Students on the above courses receive instruction from the Community Wheels team. This education promotes road safety and seeks to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured due to road traffic collisions.</p> <p>Reducing Young Car Driver KSI figures is a part of the Road Safety and RTC Reduction Strategy 2013 – 2016</p>
Safer Communities Strategy. Reduction in: NI 33i/33ii - Number of deliberate primary and secondary fires per 10,000 population	<p>Courses: Firebreak</p> <p>The Firebreak Inspire and Respect courses raise awareness of the dangers of deliberate firesetting among young people with a history of youth offending or who are considered at risk of future offending.</p>

³ Department for Communities and Local Government, Arson Control Forum. Fire Investigation: Lessons Learned. Published July 2006

Student Evaluation

At the end of the course we ask students to gauge their satisfaction of the course contents. The key findings are listed in the table below:

Favourite part of the course	Breathing Apparatus (54%)
Least favourite part of the course	Hose Running (18%)
How well did the course cover important issues?	4.6 out of 5
To what extent did the course improve communication skills?	4.1 out of 5
How interesting was the course?	4.4 out of 5
Rating for instructors	4.7 out of 5
Overall Assessment	4.8 out of 5

In addition, 99% of the students who completed the course would recommend Firebreak to other young people.

The inclusion of this evaluation provides the Service with valuable information regarding the success of the course content and how it is experienced by the students. This helps guide and instruct future development of the course.

Comments from end of course Student Questionnaires:

“This course has taught me important information on not only fire safety but road safety. I now have an idea of the job fire fighters carry out and I have also had a good go at confronting my fear of heights. I recommend this course as it teaches you valuable life skills when you go on to work”

Hawkwell Firebreak student, 2013

“This course has given me more confidence, motivation, teambuilding skills and a passion to become a retained firefighter.”

Dovercourt Firebreak Student, 2014

“This course has provided me with more confidence in talking to others and working very well as a team, I believe in myself, that I can do things I couldn’t do before I started the firebreak course. I have more motivation to get out and about and to look more for a job.”

Basildon Firebreak Student 2015

“This course has provided me with more confidence in talking to others and working very well as a team, I believe in myself, that I can do things I couldn’t do before I started the firebreak course. I have more motivation to get out and about and to look more for a job.”

Dovercourt Firebreak Student, 2014

Evidence of Outcomes

Three and six months after the completion of each Firebreak course, a progression report is completed by the students' teacher or referrer. This report records any change the participant has undertaken in the following areas: Attendance; Punctuality; Attitude to Peers; Attitude to Staff; Motivation in Lessons; and Academic Ability. (See Fig. 2)

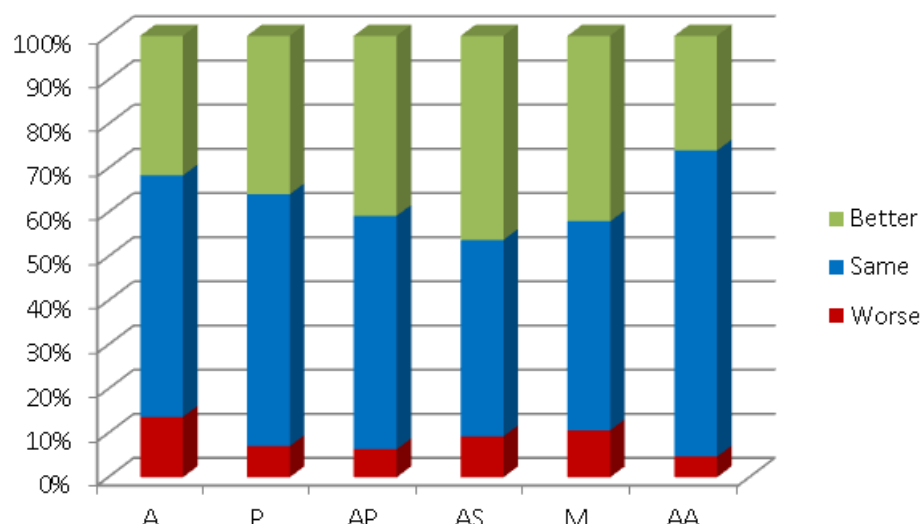


Fig. 2 Results of the Progress Reports for Firebreak Students 2013/14 & 2014/15

The student progress reports show some very positive improvements in key areas. Most impressive is the approximate 45% of students who are said to have improved their Attitude to Peers as well as their Attitude to Staff. Just 5% were reported to have deteriorated in this respect in the months following the course. Substantial improvements in Attendance, Punctuality, and Motivation in Lessons have also been noted in those young people who attended the Firebreak courses.

Note: Since progress reports are not issued until three months following the completion of the Firebreak, data is not yet available for all 2014/15 courses.

For those who take part on the adult Firebreak courses, such as those held with the Youth Offending Service, a written report may be provided instead. The following example is from a 2014 YOS Firebreak:

"[Student] attended the Firebreak programme in October 2014. After completing the programme I had been informed by [Student] that he had been recommended from the programme to attend a 40 week intensive training [Fire Cadets] programme in 2015 or 2016. His mother has also stated she is very pleased with [Student] as this programme has motivated him to become more focused with his studies and he is looking for part time work to have a little more independence. [Student] appears to be looking forward to starting his 40 week intensive training programme and has developed a passion for this line of work. [Student] has completed his Referral Order and has not re-offended. [Student] is in full time education, is still attending the Youth Offending Service on a voluntary basis to work with Connexions to seek employment and having one to one contact with myself to further develop and strengthen his goals and aspirations in life. Upon completing his order [Student's] mother credited the Firebreak programme and the Youth Offending Service on the transformation of his behaviour and motivation to do well in life."

Youth Crime in Essex

One part of the success of the Firebreak course lies in the selection of students who fall within the ages of 13-17. Targeting young people during these important years is a substantial factor in our ability to address behavioural issues. It is during this period that people are most likely to commit criminal activity and a rapid rise in such activity can be seen. (fig 1).⁴

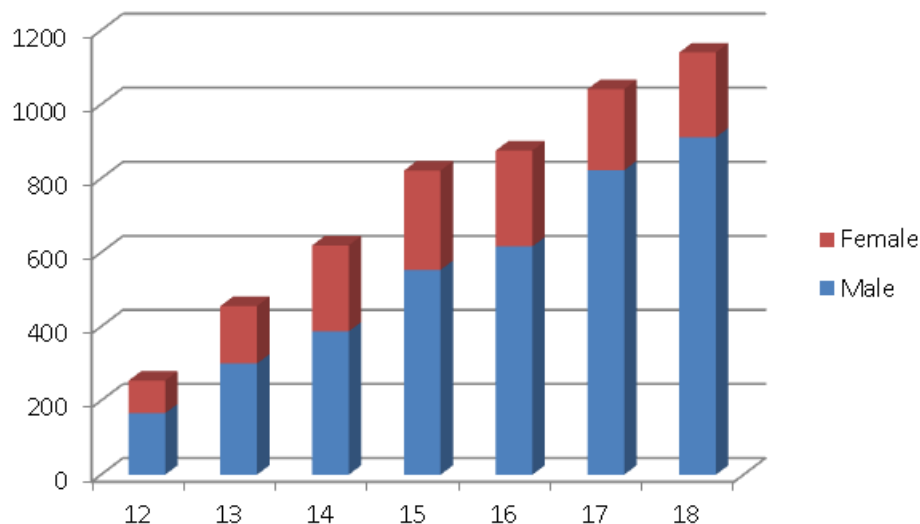


Fig.1 Incidents of crime in Essex recorded for ages 12 to 18 years (2014)

The number of cases of arson in Essex, committed by people aged 12 to 18, have dropped over the last seven years. For 2005 there were 105 recorded incidents, while that number is down to 12 for 2014. This represents a drop of 88.5%. The total number of crimes committed by people aged 12 to 18 in Essex for the same period also fell – down from 14,961 to 5,205 incidents (65% reduction).

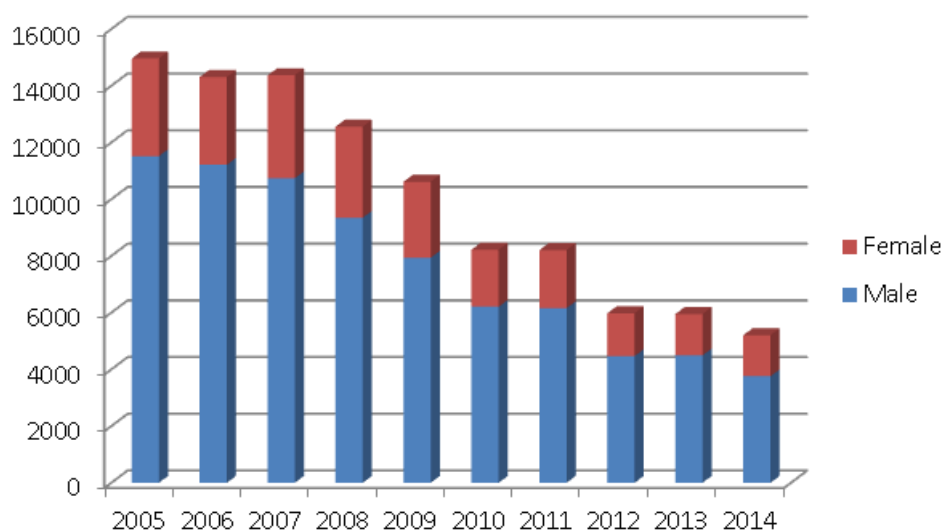


Fig.2 Incidents of crime in Essex recorded for ages 12 to 18 years, 2005 to 2014

⁴ Figures released by Essex Police in March, 2015

Cost to the Service

Educating in order to change the behaviour of those considered likely to offend can decrease demand on the Service by preventing incidents of arson and hoax calls. The home fire safety education delivered during Firebreak and Young Firefighter courses also highlights the risk of accidental or careless fires.

The cost to the Service of each hoax call that leads to the mobilisation of personnel is substantial – this cost has been estimated as being £1700. During the 2014/15 financial year, 168 hoax calls were responded to by ECFRS, an estimated cost to the Service of £285,600.

The impact of hoax calls has other negative consequences for the Service, including: the diversion of essential resources leading to the possibility of delayed attendance to genuine calls; and unnecessary risk to fire crews and the public as appliances respond under emergency conditions.

Arson is the largest, single cause of major fires in the U.K costing an estimated £2bn a year. It leads to loss of life, serious injury and results in substantial financial and personal hardship. In Essex during 2009/10, there were 2608 incidents of arson, representing 13% of emergency response calls. The cost of this to ECFRS, using the agreed Local Government Association mechanism for operational response calls, was £790,000. The overall cost to the Community in terms of property loss to buildings and vehicles, death and serious injury, loss of business output, intrinsic enjoyment of life, together with pain, grief and suffering is far higher⁵.

The Service has identified Prevention and Education as key parts of its arson reduction strategy, with a focus on “working in partnership with Educational Establishments to provide education that targets juvenile firesetting, arson and youth offending activities”. The Firebreak scheme includes consequence sessions that help young people with a history of offending, or at risk of offending, to fully understand the effect arson and hoax calls have on the community and ECFRS personnel.

The Firebreak course also has a proven track record of helping students to better succeed by responding more positively to authority figures and working better with their peers. This can be seen in the student progression reports completed by teachers (see Student Progress section on page 16). It is widely understood that a direct link exists between underachievement in school and a risk of criminal activity in later life:

“ Entering employment plays a significant part in the transition to adulthood. Young men who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) between the ages 16 and 18 are four times more likely to be unemployed later in life and five times more likely to have a criminal record.⁶ ”

⁵ Essex Fire Service Arson Reduction Strategy 2011

⁶ Measuring Together: Impact measurement in the NEETs sector. NPC, May 2012

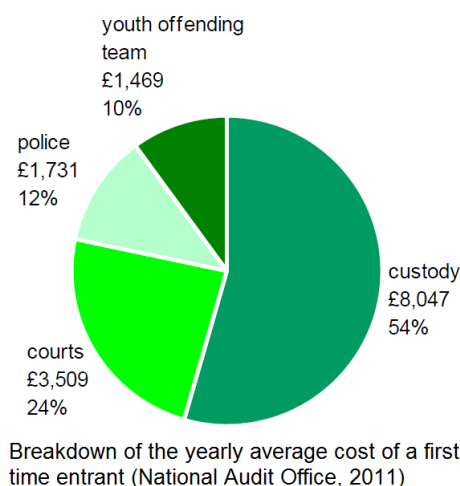
Savings for Partner Agencies

The Firebreak scheme can potentially provide large savings to partner agencies when the course is part of the measures taken to change a young person's behaviour.

A National Audit Office report has estimated the annual cost to a youth offending team of a first-time entrant to be £1469 (this figure does not include YOT overheads)⁷. The same report estimates the total cost to the system, including police, court and custody, to be £14,756 per year (see chart below).

It is clear then that any measure which can help prevent an individual from being referred or re-referred to the Youth Offending Service can potentially lead to considerable savings for that agency.

The Firebreak scheme has also been shown to have a positive impact on young people experiencing unemployment. For this reason Southend Council and the Department for Work and Pensions have funded eight such courses for 2014/15. Cutting the number of young people without work can lead to savings for both local councils and wider society:



“There are more than one million young people unemployed in the UK, representing a serious economic and social challenge. Unemployment while young can lead to longterm reductions in wages, increased chances of subsequent periods of unemployment, and poorer health outcomes. High levels of youth unemployment also have wider social and economic costs. The cost of youth unemployment over the next decade has been estimated at £28 billion⁸”

Similarly, there are large costs associated with young people who develop problems with alcohol and substance misuse. The Firebreak Empower course has been adapted to raise awareness of alcohol and substance misuse, utilising instructors with specific training in this subject.

“Drug and alcohol misuse imposes economic and social costs both on substance users, their families and on society as a whole. These costs include the costs of crime, poor health, premature deaths, poor educational and employment outcomes... We find that average incremental long-term counterfactual cost per young person in treatment is between £33,100 and £128,300, with the central estimate of £80,700⁹”

⁷ “The Cost of a Cohort of Young Offenders to the Criminal Justice System”, June 2011. National Audit Office technical paper, Ministry of Justice.

⁸ “Addressing the youth employment challenge” June 2012 paper by The Work Foundation (Lancaster University)

⁹ “Specialist drug and alcohol services for young people – a cost benefit analysis” May 2010, Department for Education.

Education Programmes

Education Officers deliver classroom-based education promoting fire safety awareness to children throughout Essex.

ECFRS are committed to making a safer Essex by:

- Reducing the number of fires and their consequences
- Reducing the respond demand on ECFRS by reducing callouts.
- Reducing the likely impacts of incidents by raising awareness of fire detection, escape plans, fire safety and fire protection.
- Reducing the number of RTC's and so the numbers of killed and seriously injured on the roads.

By educating our children and young people in safety issues we make them aware of the dangers and consequences, and enable informed choices about their safety. At the same time we can inform parents and carers about keeping their family safe.

This report details the education programmes delivered across the county, the number of children seen and the overall effectiveness of the team in delivering the fire safety message. Evidence will support outcomes and will include feedback from schools.

The Education team delivers a variety of fire safety awareness programmes to young people across the county. Essex currently contains 101 secondary schools, 481 primary and infant schools, 45 private schools, 14 Children's Support Centres (CSS), 5 Pupil Referral Units (PRU) and 27 special schools. The current pupil population aged 5 – 16 is approximately 250,000.

Education Strategy

The ECFRS Education Strategy is designed to deliver school based fire safety awareness programmes to young people aged 5-16 in Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET). It draws heavily upon:

- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004: that gives every fire and rescue service the statutory obligation to promote fire safety in its area
- ECFRS Corporate Plan 2011-15 - Service Strategy: 'More informed, more engaged, resourceful citizens.'
- ECFRS 'Safer Communities strategy – 2014/15 to 2018/19: 'To work in partnership with the community and other public and third sector organisations to reduce risk. We will do this by educating, informing and enforcing where necessary.'

Aims of the Education Team

Education Officers deliver fire safety awareness programmes to young people in Essex. The overall aim of the team is to help reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires and incidents of arson and hoax calls among young people, and to promote road safety awareness.

In 2009 the Essex Fire Authority estimated the cost of each hoax call to ECFRS at £1,700. The figures below show the total number of hoax calls, arson incidents and accidental dwelling fires in Essex between: April 2012 to March 2015:

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Accidental Dwelling Fires started by Children	41	24	27
Hoax calls (all age groups)	838	801	626
Deliberate Primary fires started by children	35	28	19

The Education team visit every school in the county who accept their programme and deliver consistent messages around home fire safety and arson and hoax call reduction.

Key Information

- The Education Team instructed 117,147 children across the county between April 2014 and March 2015, a 13% increase on the previous year's performance.
- The Education team now cover all year 3, year 7 and year 8 children in the County: approximately 2000 classes (60,000 children).
- The Education team now offer a pedestrian safety programme to all year 7 groups in the county. This was previously only delivered in Basildon, Braintree and Southend.
- Additional programmes have been developed and reviewed by Roehampton University, to cover requests for year groups outside of the Education Team's core remit.
- A new secondary school Firework Safety Programme was introduced in October 2014. This helped to increase audience figures on the previous year by 11%.

Education Programmes (Core)

The following education programmes are offered to every school in the County and are delivered by ECFRS Education Officers.

Fire Safety Programme for Year 3

The Fire Safety Programme for year 3 is aimed at 7-8 year old pupils. There are several different lessons run within this programme which address the following issues:

- Testing smoke alarms
- What to do in the event of a fire (Get out, Stay Out, call 999)
- Escape routes/ evacuating a building
- Identifying fire safety hazards in the home
- Ways to improve fire safety for themselves
- Recognising Fire Fighters as people who help them

Through the achievement of the above aims, the year 3 programme endeavours to:

- Give children an awareness of the dangers of fire.
- Provide them with knowledge of how to protect themselves in the event of a fire.

In total the year 3 education programmes were seen by 20,454 primary school children. The programme was offered to every primary school in the county within SET.

Heat Of The Moment

The Heat of the Moment programme is delivered to year 7 children (aged 11-12). The aim of the programme is to reduce arson and hoax calls. It does this by asking children to enter into a discussion over a hoax call scenario. There is follow up material for schools to continue debate around the consequences of arson and developing strategies to reduce it.

The Heat of the Moment programme is designed to:

- Reduce arson and fire setting
- Reduce hoax calls
- Make young people aware there are consequences of unlawful actions.
- Asks children to consider the influence of peer group pressure.
- Encourages children to make character assessments of people to help them to make the right decisions.

In total the Heat of the Moment Programme was seen by 12,362 secondary school children. The programme was offered to every secondary school in the county within SET.

Firework Safety

The Firework Safety Programme is delivered to Key Stage 1 to 4 (5-16 year old pupils). It is delivered in assemblies to large groups of students.

The Firework Safety Programme endeavours to:

- Reaffirm the firework safety rules
- Demonstrate the dangers of fireworks (speed of a rocket etc.)
- Demonstrate the safe use of sparklers
- Give a brief history of fireworks


In total the Firework Safety Programme was seen by 54,347 children.

RTC – Making a Safer Journey

The Making a Safer Journey programme is delivered to year 7 children (aged 11-12). The aim of the programme is to reduce road traffic accidents involving pedestrians. The programme highlights what days, times and months of the year, children are most at risk. The making a safer journey programme also involves some role play activities for the children and a risk assessment of their journey to school.

The Making a Safer Journey programme is designed to:

- Reduce accidents involving pedestrians
- Make young people aware of the consequences to everyone involved (victim, family, and driver)
- Make young people think about the risks they may face on their everyday journeys (to school, friend's house etc.)



In total the Making a Safer Journey Programme was seen by 4,660 secondary school children. The programme was offered to schools in the following target areas: Basildon, Braintree and Southend.

Year 8 Home Fire Safety

The Year 8 Home Fire Safety Programme is aimed at 12-13 year olds. The aim of the programme is to reduce fire injuries and fatalities in the home. By the end of the session, the young people should be able to:

- Recognise fire hazards in the home.
- Understand the basic science of fire.
- Prevent fires happening by carrying out safer routines.
- Understand the importance of escape plans.

The year 8 programme was introduced in September 2013. In total, the programme was seen by 10,963 secondary school children. The programme was offered to every secondary school in the county within SET.

Education Programmes (Non Core)

The following Education programmes have been created to meet requests from schools that fall outside of ECFRS core programmes.

Reception and Year 1– People Who Help Us

The KS1 Fire Safety programme is delivered to 4 / 5 year olds. The aim of the programme is to show children that fire-fighters are people who protect and serve the community. It also includes:

- Testing smoke alarms
- What to do in the event of a fire (Get out, Stay Out, call 999)
- Identifying fire safety hazards in the home
- Ways to improve fire safety for themselves

Year 2 – Great Fire of London (Fire Fighting Then and Now)

The year 2 Fire Safety programme is delivered to 6 / 7 year olds. The aim of the programme is to show how fire-fighting has developed over the years via the Great Fire of London story. It also includes:

- Testing smoke alarms
- What to do in the event of a fire (Get out, Stay Out, call 999)
- Identifying fire safety hazards in the home
- Ways to improve fire safety for themselves

Year 5 and 6 – The Role of a Fire Fighter

The year 5 and 6 Fire Safety programme is delivered to 9-11 year olds. The aim of the programme is make children aware of the varied role of a fire fighter (fire-fighting, attending RTC's, managing flooding, USAR crews, fire dog, Community Safety work). It also includes:

- Testing smoke alarms
- What to do in the event of a fire (Get out, Stay Out, call 999)
- Identifying fire safety hazards in the home
- Ways to improve fire safety for themselves

Year 9 and 10 – Elements

The year 9 and 10 Elements programme is delivered to 14-15 year olds. The aim of the programme is investigate peer pressure and consider strategies to address it. The children are shown a film of a group of young people who steal a car and then set fire to it. The programme also includes:

- Understanding the consequences of your actions
- The implications of Joint Enterprise
- Making better choices
- Choosing friends more wisely. Making character assessments of people.

Year 12 – Fire Safety in Rented Accommodation

The year 12 Fire Safety in Rented Accommodation programme is aimed at 17 – 18 year olds. The aim of the programme is to make potential university students aware of fire safety, their rights and the responsibilities of landlords when providing rented accommodation.

- Recognise fire hazards in the home.
- Understand the basic science of fire.
- Prevent fires happening by carrying out safer routines.
- Understand the importance of escape plans.

Education Department Performance

	Home fire safety (year 3)	Heat of the moment (year 7)	RTC (year 7)	Home Fire Safety (year 8)	Firework Safety	Other – non core (KS1 – KS4)	Total
2012/2013	14,912	9238	415	N/A	39,606	8300	72471
2013/2014	21,993	12,317	971	1175	54,347	11,073	101,876
2014/2015	20,454	12,362	4660	10,963	61,081	7,627	117,147

The Education Team met 117,147 children across the county between April 2014 and March 2015, this is a 13% increase on the previous year's performance.

The two programmes that achieved the greatest increase in audience numbers were:

- Making a Safer Journey (RTC) – year 7. A 480% increase.
- Home Fire Safety programme – year 8. A 933% increase.

Both of these programmes were trialled and rolled out across the county in 2013/2014. The feedback from schools has been very positive and this has led to a big uptake in requests for both programmes.

Cost to Service

£111,204 was spent on salaries for 2013-2014. This includes a proportion of the Children and Young People Coordinator's salary, a proportion of the Community Development and Safeguarding Manager's salary and the salaries for all four of the Education officers. This figure divided by the number of children seen (117,147) equates to approx. £0.95 per child or £28.50 per class.

Comparison with Other Brigades (April 2014 to March 2015)

	No of Education Staff	Total number of children seen
Essex	4	117,147
London	9	72,975
Cambridge	Covered by retained fire fighters	19,697
Kent	12 (staff cover community support work as well as schools)	53, 769

Lesson Evaluation

Schools have been very complimentary of the service we provide. Evidence on the lesson evaluation forms that they have completed for us demonstrates their support. Between April 2014 and March 2015 93 evaluation forms were completed by class teachers. 79% of schools surveyed said they would like further visits from our Education Team. 21% did not complete the 'further visit' section of the form. No schools said they would not like us to return.

	Good or Effective	Fair	Poor not Effective	N/A
Pace	98%	1%	0%	1%
Length	97%	1%	0%	2%
Content	99%	0%	0%	1%
Learning Resources	95%	4%	0%	1%
Level of Engagement With Pupils	98%	1%	0%	1%
Learning Objectives Delivered Effectively?	98%	1%	0%	1%
Level of Teaching Appropriate?	97%	2%	0%	1%

Where schools have not completed a box or given an answer that doesn't relate to the question, this has been recorded as N/A in our data capture form.

The inclusion of this evaluation form provides the Service with valuable information regarding the success of the lesson content and how it is experienced by the students. This helps guide and instruct future development of the education programmes.

Data Led Intervention

The Education Department have worked with the SHQ Performance and Data team to prioritise schools that are in higher risk areas. A risk based league table has been developed for all schools in Essex. This is based on occurrences of accidental dwelling fires, arson and hoax calls in school catchment areas.

The top 10% most at risk primary / secondary schools are highlighted in red on the main school bookings spread-sheet. Strong efforts are made each year to get in to these schools and give the appropriate fire safety messages. This includes phone calls to school offices, letters to head teachers and cold call visits. Between April 2014 and March 2015 the Education team visited 77% of schools in the higher risk category (46 out of 60 schools seen).

Online data capture (retention of message)

In early March 2014 the Education Team developed an online quiz / questionnaire (for schools). This has been uploaded to the ECFRS website. Six weeks after each school visit, the admin team contact the school and ask if the children can complete the quiz.

The questions are all multiple choice. The answers feed into a matrix that allows the education team to see how well the message has been understood and remembered. In cases where poor scores are returned this might provide the Education team with an opportunity to revisit schools and give an assembly to re-emphasise the fire safety message.

The results for April 2015 to March 2014 were as follows:

Year 3 – Home Fire Safety programme (801 responses)

	Question	Percentage of Correct answers.
Qu 1	Where do most fires start?	85%
Qu 2	How can we make our electrical items more safe when not in use?	92%
Qu 3	How many smoke alarms do we recommend you have in your home?	55%
Qu4	How often do we recommend that you check your smoke alarms?	64%
Qu 5	What things can we do to reduce the risk of fire when we go to bed?	78%
Qu 6	What do we need to think about when making an escape plan?	87%

Our lowest percentage of correct answers occurs in question 3. 34% of children thought that they should have a smoke alarm in every room. The Education team have put more emphasis on the smoke alarm section of the programme this year to try and address this. We aim to substantially increase the percentage on this question and bring all correct answers into 90% range over the next year.

Year 7 – Heat of the moment programme (248 responses)

	Question	Percentage of Correct answers.
Qu 1	What is Arson?	81%
Qu 2	What is a Hoax Call?	89%
Qu 3	What is the minimum age you can receive a criminal record?	85%
Qu4	If a person under 18 is convicted of Arson, where might they be sent?	83%
Qu 5	In what circumstances would you not be prosecuted for setting a fire?	66%

Our lowest percentage of correct answers occurs in question 5. Our teaching tries to establish that a person can be 'guilty by association' in many activities. The only way to ensure that there are no negative consequences for the individual is remove themselves from a situation (if there is any suggestion that someone is going to set a fire) and tell a responsible adult. During class time the children appear to engage with and understand this theme very well. It could be the case that this question is not very clear and needs to be rewritten. This will be addressed before further schools are asked to complete the online quiz. Over the next year the Education team will look to increase the number of children completing the quiz and also bring the percentage of correct answers into the 90% range.

Juvenile Firesetter Scheme (JFS)

Through the Juvenile Firesetter Scheme (JFS), ECFRS engages with young people aged between three and seventeen years old to modify their firesetting behaviour. Young people who make hoax calls to the Fire Service are also targeted in order to reduce the number of malicious calls being received

Referrals onto the scheme can be made directly by parents or by agencies such as social services, the police, the child's school, and youth offending teams. Smoke alarms are also installed as a matter of urgency when the referral is made, if operating alarms are not already present in the home.

The Service currently has 14 casual-contract JFS advisors. When a referral has been made and the parents/guardians of the child have given their consent, two advisors meet with the child and parents/guardians in the child's home.

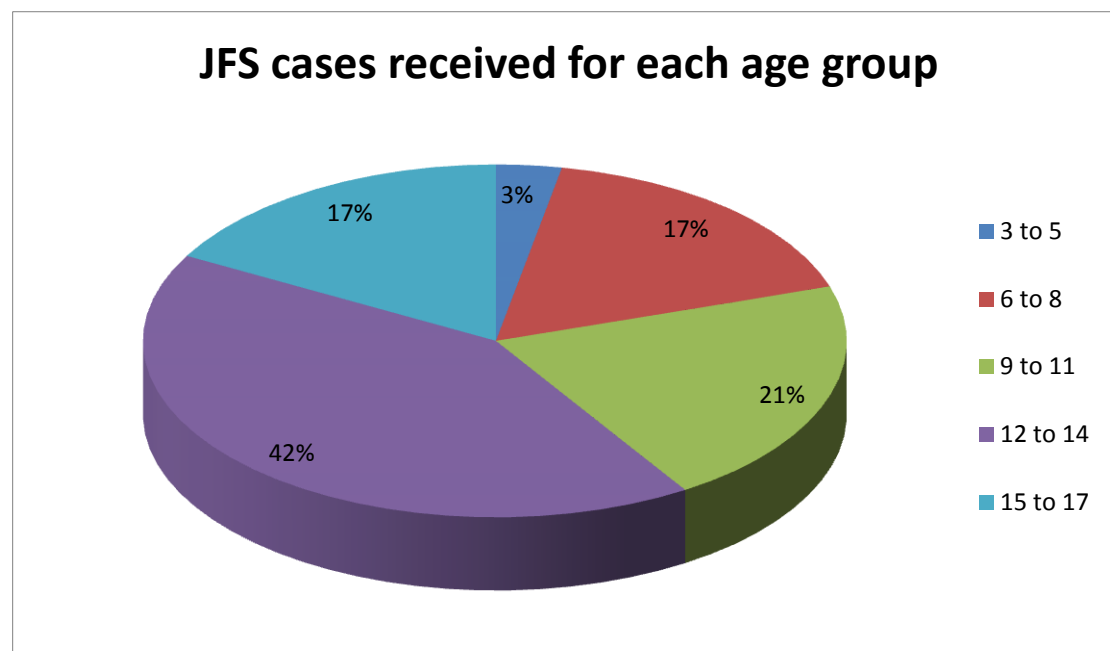
All Advisors are DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked and trained in;

- A 5-day basic counselling course delivered by Roehampton University
- Drug Awareness
- A 2-day Behavioural Management course.
- Home Fire Safety Visits
- Child Protection

Key Information:

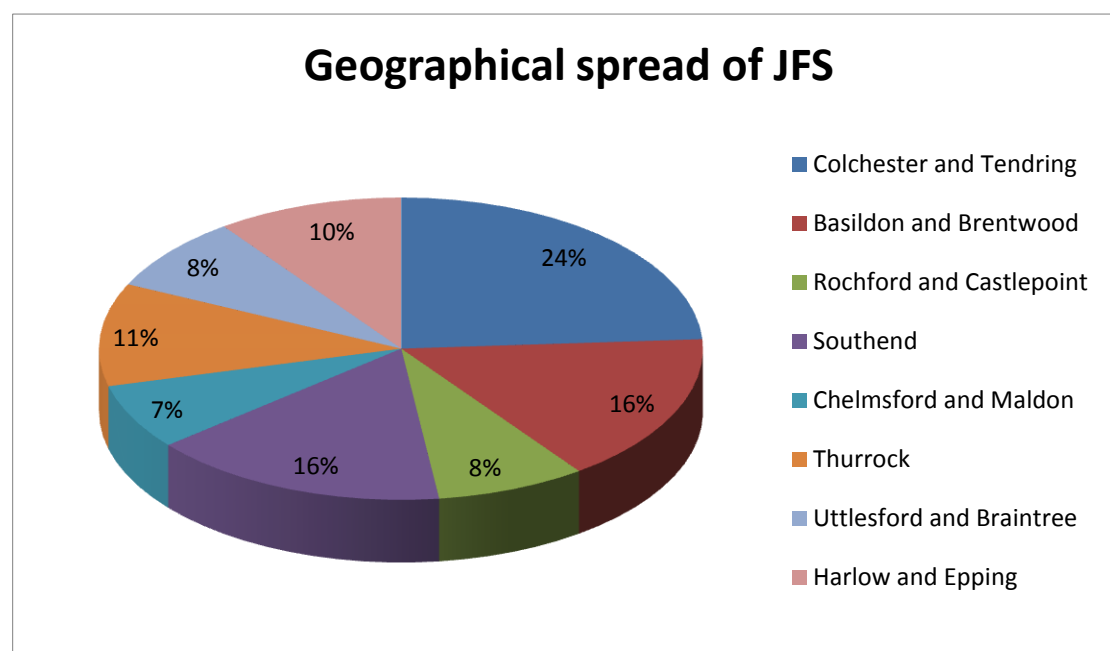
- 100 JFS referrals made between April 2014 and March 2015 (an 18% increase on the previous year).
- 20% cases did not complete because parents would not respond to phone calls / letters or give informed consent to the JFS service.
- 8 child safeguarding referrals were made (linked to JFS cases).
- 89% of JFS cases received between April 2014 – March 2015 were new cases, the remainder being re-referrals from previous interventions.
- JFS advisors are now able to fit smoke alarms during interventions. They have all been given a smoke alarm toolkit.
- JFS advisors are given training on smoke alarm fitting and the delivery of safety advice. This is in an effort to bring about HFSV standardisation. The training will mirror that given to HFSV techs and Community Safety volunteers.
- In 2015-2016 there are plans to give JFS training to a selection of existing youth instructors (12 staff to start with).

For 2014/15, the chart below depicts the percentage of referrals onto the JFS scheme for each age group. In comparison to the previous year, there were increases in the following age groups: 9-11 (8%), 12-14 (11%), 15-17(7%). The biggest decrease was in the 6-8 category (9%).



JFS cases received for each age group, 2014/15 (chart above)

The chart below indicates the geographical spread of JFS referrals for the 2014/15 year. There were only minor changes to the previous year's figures. The biggest increase of cases was in the Basildon and Brentwood district (5% increase). .



Location of child's home for JFS cases received, 2014/15 (chart above)

Breakdown of referrals

	Ongoing cases (still live)	Informed Consent not given (by parent)	Safeguarding referrals	Successful intervention
April 2013 To March 2014	0%	12%	10%	78%
April 2014 To March 2015	16%	20%	7%	57% (this figure will change when outstanding cases have completed).

The above figures show that instances of 'Informed Consent not Given' has reduced our 'successful interventions' in 2014-2015 quite substantially. If a parent does not return our phone calls or respond to letters once the initial referral has been made, we cannot set up a visit. The majority of initial referrals are not made by parents. They come from sources such as: Schools, Social Care, Family Solutions, Youth Offending Teams, Police and Fire stations.

If children refuse to engage with JFS scheme during a home visit they are likely to be considered at a high risk of further fire-setting. In this instance a non-emergency safeguarding referral will be made to social services. ECFRS will then advise social services that further support may be required for the child. This may be in the form of counselling or psychological support.

When a child is considered to be at a low risk of further fire-setting (after a JFS visit has been made) this is termed as a 'successful intervention'. If the ongoing JFS cases for 2014 to 2015 all complete successfully, the total percentage of 'successful interventions' will be 73%.

In previous years referrers (outside agencies, schools etc) seem to have been able to insist that parents / children engage with the JFS scheme. Going forward, referrers may need more encouragement from ECFRS to ensure that parents engage with the JFS scheme where possible. A large part of the success of the JFS scheme depends on parents giving their full support. The parent will always have the final say on whether a JFS visit takes place or not.

Child Safeguarding

ECFRS has a Child Safeguarding policy that provides the procedures and agreed protocols, together with the information and guidance, for personnel to carry out activities that involve working with children and young people.

Safeguarding children is defined as 'protecting children from maltreatment and preventing impairment of children's health and development' and includes child protection. A child is defined as any person aged less than 18 years.

All members of staff and in particular those working on the youth schemes, JFS, and those delivering the Education Programmes, are aware of and adhere to the Child Safeguarding policy.

The Service completes the Section 11 Safeguarding Audit on an annual basis, ensuring that its safeguarding procedures and policies are regularly evaluated for effectiveness.

Referrals made during the last two years:


	2013/2014	2014/2015
Essex	13	17
Southend	1	1
Thurrock	2	0
Total	16	18

The following anonymised case studies demonstrate how ECFRS implements its safeguarding procedures:

Case Study 1:

In January 2014, ECFRS made a Safeguarding Children referral to Social Care. The child in question had been visited as part of the Juvenile Firesetter programme (at the request of the local Family Solutions Team). The individual had been setting small fires in the home.

When the JFS advisers attended the property it was apparent that the parent did not have control of the household. She also had learning difficulties. The child's older sister (8 years old) had taken it upon herself to look after the family. She would answer the door to visitors late into the evening and would often lock up at night. The subject of the referral appeared quite excited by the burn marks he had caused around the house and was keen to show them to the JFS advisors. Due to his learning difficulties, he could not concentrate on the fire safety messages given to him and did not appear to have any concept of risk or danger.



ECFRS made a referral to Essex Social Care. The referral was passed to the local Assessment and Intervention Team. A social worker was then allocated to the child and his family. The local family solutions team had also carried out work with the family. They said that they had tried to refer the case to social services previously as had the child's school.

An Initial Child Protection Conference was then organised by the Family Operations – Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Team, Basildon. ECFRS were asked to attend this. The meeting revealed that the parent was struggling to cope with the child's behaviour and the running of the household. She was also receiving unwelcome attention from local youths who had befriended her. They were sometimes accessing the property against her wishes and would then use drugs in the property. This was often while in the company of the child and his older sister.

All of the agencies present at the Initial Child Protection Conference were in agreement that the children were not receiving an appropriate level of care and both they and the parent needed urgent support. A child protection review meeting was then arranged for July 2014. It was decided by Social Care that ECFRS were not required to attend this meeting. All ECFRS reports on the child were submitted to Social Care.

Case Study 2:

ECFRS made a child safeguarding referral to Essex Social Care in February 2014. Fire crews attended an incident at the property on the same date. When they arrived they discovered that the father had lit a bonfire in the kitchen. While the crew dealt with this fire, the Sub Officer in charge searched the rest of the property to make sure everything was safe.

While ventilating bedrooms, the Sub Officer noticed that the subject of the safeguarding referral (male, 13 years old) was hiding under a duvet. He then removed the child and put him in the care of the ambulance service who took him to hospital to be checked for smoke inhalation. The father was later arrested and charged with arson and endangering life.

The Sub Officer then contacted Essex Police and the father was taken into police custody. An adult and child safeguarding referral was then made to Essex Social Care.

A child protection review meeting was arranged for May 2014. ECFRS attended this meeting. The father had not returned to the property since the original incident. A full psychological assessment was carried out on him and the appropriate treatment was put in place. Full social care support was given to subject of the safeguarding referral and the rest of the children in the household.

Appendix A

The selection of students for the Firebreak Scheme is supported by the following partnerships:

- Anglian Community Trust
- Beauchamps School
- Behaviour and Attendance Partnership
- Brentwood Borough Council
- Bromford School
- Colchester Borough Homes
- Clacton Community Safety Partnership
- Colchester Academy
- Deanes School
- Down Syndrome Extra21
- Department for Work & Pensions
- Epping Forest Youth Futures
- Epping St John
- Essex Community Foundation
- Essex County Council
- Family Solutions
- Fitzwimarc School
- Greenfields Community Housing
- Greensward Academy
- Harwich and Dovercourt School
- Integrated Youth Support Services, Southend Council
- James Hornsby School
- King Edmund School
- Lifestyle Solutions
- Mark Hall Academy
- Market Field School
- Notley High School
- Passmores Academy
- Plume School
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Rochford Community Safety Partnership
- Rochford Extended Services
- See Job Group CIC
- St John's School, Epping Forest
- Stewards Academy
- Tendring District Council
- The King Edmund School
- The Sandon School
- The Thomas Lord Audley School
- Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
- Youth Strategy Group Partnership

Appendix B

Recent success stories of former Firebreak and Cadet students:

Youth scheme participants return to the Service as volunteers

Graduates of the Service's hugely successful youth schemes have returned to Essex County Fire and Service as volunteers.

Three former Firebreak and Young Firefighter students have signed up to become volunteers working with the Service to help protect their communities. Jonathan Turner, Tayler Oats and Daryl Leverett were inspired to volunteer after their experiences on ECFRS youth programmes.

Nearly 10 years ago Jonathan Turner, 25, of Colchester, was a student taking part in the very first Firebreak. He had just moved back to Essex from Sheffield and was having trouble finding work when he was put forward for the course by Chelmsford charity NACRO.

"I was 17 at the time and I'd never done anything like that before," said Jonathon. "Firebreak was brilliant. It's one of the best things I've ever done. I didn't know what to expect but I enjoyed everything about it and it has become a defining moment in my life. What I learned in that week has helped me in everything I have done since.

"I overcame a fear of confined spaces on the course through the BA training and the instructors even held a sponsored walk to raise money for me to go to Romania to carry out two weeks of volunteering at remote schools."

In the years since the course, Jonathan has been working as an air conditioning and refrigeration engineer and he is now returning to the Service taking on a role as a volunteer. He said: "My friend's dad is a volunteer and he knew it was something I would be interested in, so he suggested I go for it. I have been for the induction and will start my training soon.


"Essex County Fire and Rescue Service is an organisation which I really believe in. It has helped me and I know that it does so much good work. By volunteering, I can represent the organisation, repay it for the help I have received and help other people as well."

Tayler Oats, 18, from Southend, has dreamed of becoming a firefighter since she was nine years old and she got one step closer to her dream when she took part in a Young Fire Fighters Course at Southend Fire Station in 2010.

Tayler said: "It was the best 17 weeks of my life. I loved every single minute of it. We did, hose running, building dams knot tying, first aid – all of it. My favourite part by far was the ladders.

"I used to a bit scared of heights but I got over that as a young firefighter and ended up on the ladder team rescuing a dummy from the tower and was the team leader when we came back together to do a display as part of Southend Fire Station's next open day, so I certainly got over that."

Tayler attends college studying graphic design and journalism and has even taken what she has learned as a young firefighter into her studies, producing a home fire safety pack for families as her final project.



She learned about the volunteering scheme when she was surfing the Service's website earlier this year. Tayler said: "I decided it was something I would like to do, so I got in touch. The fire service is something I feel passionate about and it feels great being able to do something which helps the Service and promotes the fantastic work it does."

Tayler has completed her training and is awaiting her first volunteering opportunity.

Daryl Leverett, 19, from Basildon, is a graduate of both Firebreak and Young Fire Fighters. He completed a Firebreak course around five years ago and then came back a year later as a Young Fire Fighter.

Daryl said: "I had a fascination with fire and a local youth club had put me forward to take part in Firebreak. I absolutely loved it. It's still one of the best things I have ever done and it really made me think about the dangers of playing with fire and I have never done anything like that since.

"After that, I was invited back to take part in Young Fire Fighters which I enjoyed even more. It was more intensive and after my experience with Firebreak I already knew some of the skills.

"I made some great friends on this course and I still speak to everyone who was on that course with me - even the instructors who I see at the station from time to time.

"I stayed in touch with one instructor in particular and he told me about the volunteer scheme and I knew it was something I wanted to do straight away. The Service has given so much to me and this is a way of giving something back. It is something I am proud to do.

"I have carried out home fire safety visits and taken part in a fire safety day at a community centre. It is something I enjoy doing and my experiences on Firebreak and Young Fire Fighters are what led me to it."