

# **COLABO**

## **Arson Awareness Project - Fire Does Not Discriminate**

COLABO is a partnership project led by Butetown Youth Pavilion in conjunction with Wales Millennium Centre, Breaking in the Bay, Cardiff Radio, The Fire Services Arson reduction team and Funded by the Welsh Assembly Government.

### Aim

**The project aimed to** provide a significant range of opportunities to young people in Butetown by offering new opportunities and challenges, promoting a safe and fear-free environment with a particular emphasis on Arson Crime and improving the quality of life in the community.

The scheme is designed to improve a young persons CV through **experiential learning** and **accredited opportunities** helping them make positive changes and influence their patterns of behaviour.

### THE PROGRAMME

The programme was launched by a by a week long Arson Awareness Week focusing public attention on Vehicle Arson in particular. It wills was opened with a 500 Balloon Race and a high profile Hip Hop dance event held at the (symbolic) Wales Millennium Centre. (See attached publicity flier)

The project by its very nature promoted the Fire Service to members of the BME community and in collaboration (new partners) with the Black and Minority Ethnic youth link up programme, we took part in a one day conference called My Cardiff – My City held at Cardiff's Councils County Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008. (See attached publicity flier)

This event was for (and run by) young people from ethnic minority backgrounds who wanted to share their experiences of living in Cardiff and to have a say on the following topics: Employment? Race? Integration? Faith? Identity?

Our young people staff and the Fire Service took part and the Fire Service offered an Employment Awareness stand and a group of serving Fire men took part and also brought a Fire Engine, the whole conference was addressed by a senior Fire officer who talked about the Fire Service and equality issues.

The whole programme delivery methods were underpinned by creating clear tangible incentives and rewards to participants such as accredited opportunities through the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme and the Young Driver scheme, which would teach young people road safety and provide them with a full Driving Licence, young people with a driving licence are less likely to steal or commit vehicle arson.

We were very keen to create real opportunities for young people to be able to make exits from situations they are involved in. The vehicle for the schemes innovation is Youth Culture, using Music, Hip Hop Urban Dance and a Pre Driver project to attract and engage young people.

Young people involved used music as a vehicle (no pun intended) to speak out and highlight the issue of Arson Crime and its effects on people in our community.

The following data formed the basis of the programme which covered the following areas:

## **1. Driving Education project**

### **What is the Young Driver Education Programme?**

The Young Driver Education Programme is a series of classroom workshops designed to appeal to the next generation of drivers. The workshops are actively based using a mixture of videos, worksheets, problem solving exercises, practical demonstrations and discussions and focuses on knowledge, attitudes and risk perception. Followed by young people actually driving a vehicle on the last day.

The programme aims to inform, influence and educate the next generation of Young Drivers allowing them to make informed decisions about driving safely. It is hoped that through these workshops young people will become more aware of the dangers driving poses as well as knowing what to do if they are involved in an accident.

The scheme has links to a ten week voluntary programme followed by a series of free driving lessons.

The project has a direct link with Coleg Glan Hafren's Motor Industry Skills Consortium (MISC)

## **2. Youth Arson Quiz Program**

**The Youth Arson Quiz program** was designed and created by local young people using Microsoft PowerPoint. The quiz tackles Arson Issues.

Programmed to incorporate 'Custom Animation' and 'Action' settings, the quiz will be composed of a number of slides in which Arson questions are asked and multiple choice answers are provided. When played, the quiz will link from 'question' slides to a 'correct' or 'incorrect' slide. Following this, whether answered correctly or incorrectly the young person is then shown the answer and an explanation. The next question will then appear and so on.

The quiz will be fun, colourful, animated, equipped with sound and highly interactive. The quiz program would be copied on to CD and available free for young people to take away and play it wherever and whenever they like. The quiz program could also be played in scenario similar to 'Who Wants to be Millionaire' with the use of a PowerPoint slide projector. This could be played in pairs or in teams with another young person asking the questions.

The quiz program can be used to test the young people's current knowledge on the given topics, as well as raising awareness and learning new things about youth health issues. (See attached WWTBM Arson Awareness CD)

### 3. Arson Rap

**Arson Lyrical Awareness Rap, Hip hop music** which consisting of a rhythmic style of speaking called rap over backing beats also referred to as MCing or emceeing, is a vocal style in which the performer speaks rhythmically and in rhyme, generally to a backing beat. Rappers may perform poetry which they have written ahead of time, or improvise rhymes on the spot, this is known as spitting.

Rapping has caused much controversy over the years, as the lyrics were usually impregnated with social criticism and seen by some as promoting violence, promiscuity, and drug use. Nevertheless, Rapping is now performed in widely all around the world and in the context of positive youth work youth workers encourage young people to channel popular this aspect of youth culture with positive messages such as the Arson Rap. (See attached Arson Lyrical Awareness Rap CD)

### 4. Unleashed - Urban Dance

The provision of Urban Dance through peer tuition provided by local young people who have danced for many years offered a simple but effective approach to the provision of youth initiative.

Inspired by the weekly dance sessions the group embarked on providing training course, performances at high profile occasions and venues and their first ever live show at the Point providing a thrilling piece of Urban Dance theatre unlocking the Chains (see posters attached) by a truly extraordinary talented young cast of Hip Hop dancers

### Summary

In building the programme of learning we have taken into consideration ongoing dialogue with young people and those we collaborated with and the programme was sensitively designed to provide individual and groups of young people with challenging and fun activities with a clear message. The programme included incentives and rewards for participating in formal issue based activities, as this has provide highly success in our on going

programme, also because 80% of Butetown's population is from the BME community it was important for us to provide information to highlight the fact that **Fire Doesn't Discriminate**.

We realise that influencing lifestyle changes, which will lead to improved behaviour and health in future generations, will take a long-term commitment, and the impact will be seen slowly, over time. We also realise that we are one voice in the mix of impressions made on young people daily. Nevertheless we are committed to providing an alternative to young people particularly those who face all the traps which ensnare people of similar backgrounds.

Outcomes the weight

Throughout the year popularity of the Dance troop saw them perform at a series of high profile venues including:

- Race Equality First conference City Hall
- North Of England Education Conference (The Symbolic) Wales Millennium Centre.
- Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales - Minority Ethnic youth link up programme, This event was for (and run by) young people from ethnic minority backgrounds who wanted to share their experiences of living in Cardiff and to have a say on the following topics: Employment? Race? Integration? Faith? Identity? County Hall
- Arson Rap CD - Lyrical Awareness
- (Who Wants To Be A Millionaire Arson Awareness CD)
- 10 young people past their Driving Test

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- OCN Level 1 Leaders in Dance Course 3 young people
- OCN Level 1 Dance Styles Course 6 young people
- BA Honours in Dance 1 young person (first year)

All in all the programme was highly successful and once again highlights what can be done if resources are available. We are keen to build on this work and in future incorporate some or all of the following issues:

**The second stage** of the project will not only pick up on the successful elements of the first stage but will enhance the programme by using and sharing images of our lives and ideas through the medium of film. We want to do this by creating storyboards and developing film scripts to be acted by our

club members. Combining sound and image to reflect the contemporary art of our time – The Media.

#### **Residential**

We will utilise a residential opportunity to spend time working with young people away from their communities and the normal comfort zones to explore Arson Crime in more detail.

#### **Trips to Various places of Interest**

We will use a variety of trips and visit to places of interest to stimulate young people and offer these experiences as an incentive.

**Involve new partners** to ensure that key personnel in each agency/organisation, who could help to tackle any of these factors, were brought on board, with a view to combating the problem by identifying and addressing the causation factors.