

Lumbertubs Primary school

Junior Community Wardens – Project .

Aim

The aim of this project is to raise the awareness of issues such as personal safety, environmental issues, anti – social behaviour and health and well being in a group of primary school children aged 9 –10 years.

Background

As Northampton’s Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Coordinator I was set the priority of encouraging active community members to take up the offer of the Community Crime Fighters training that was being offered to raise their awareness of how to tackle these issues working together with the agencies and partners that deliver services to the public.

As part of the Safer Lings and Lumbertubs project, that was being rolled out in the area consisting of the Safer Community Team, Care and Repair and Community Safety partnership providing extra security for residents and a package of smart water to help with target hardening and crime reduction, it emerged that whilst there is information available for teens, adults and the elderly there is nothing for members of the community under the age of 13 years.

Working with the Safer Community Team Inspector, we researched other areas around the Country to see if schemes were being developed to address this, a number of areas had set up “Junior Street Wardens” schemes where the children carried out litter picking and clean ups in their local community. One area, London Borough of Merton has a Junior Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme, delivered by Neighbourhood Wardens. Their scheme has been developed around a wide range of activities that are interactive, fun and practical and are linked in with the National Curriculum.

We contacted Merton and were invited to meet with them and hear about the package they deliver and if there were any benefits. They reported that after the first scheme was delivered it was noted that there was slight decrease in Anti Social Behaviour around the area in which the school was. The feedback from the teachers and pupils was very positive and as a result the project has continued into a further 3 schools.

The Project

Working together under the Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership, we contacted Lumbertubs Primary School to offer them the opportunity to trial a similar scheme here in Northampton. The school were very positive and eager to participate.

A project plan was developed that covered, the initial consultation with the school, time table for the project, risk assessment and the content of the sessions. It was agreed that the sessions would cover – Personal Safety, Environmental Issues, Anti Social Behaviour, CCTV, a visit to a place of interest (Franklins Gardens – home of the Saints Rugby), Our Neighbourhood, Fire Safety and finally a review with the children of the project.

The Introductory session was a competition for the Children to devise their own name and logo; prizes were given for the overall winner and best designs. We asked that the logo was meaningful to them and the school.

The winning logo and name was transformed into a unique badge on the caps, bags and tabards the children use as part of the project. Something the Community can see when the children are out on visits. The logo is unique to Lumbertubs Primary school.

The sessions were all interactive with a number of partners delivering workshops, the Safer Community Team delivered Personal safety and Anti Social Behaviour, the Environmental Wardens the session on environmental Issues including a litter pick around the school, a visit to a Fire Station and the CCTV control room. A session from a very active Residents Council, so the children were able to find out about what the Residents Council can do for the local community.

After each session the children were asked to complete worksheets to see what they learnt, for example they were given an Anti Social Behaviour scenario and asked to write how they thought the person who was suffering from anti social behaviour was feeling.

The feedback so far from the School is that the children have thoroughly enjoyed the project and every week when we arrived at the school the children were enthusiastic and excited about the planned session.

The Finale

As a reward the class were invited to the Guildhall, for a presentation ceremony in the Great Hall where they were presented with individual certificates for completion of the project.

Evaluation

Inspector Johnson and I have met with the year tutor and Deputy Head at the school for a final feedback an evaluation of the project. From the point of view from the school they felt it was a very positive project, which the children enjoyed and were enthusiastic about coming to school on a Monday. It was also felt that it was very well delivered and brought all the agencies together in a more consistent approach. The children are also more aware of

the issues such as Anti Social Behaviour, Personal Safety, Fire Safety and Environmental Issues and the possible consequences. It is hoped that this knowledge is something that will help steer them away from negative behaviour as they grow.