LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Tackling anti-social behaviour through sport, leisure and developmental activities

London Fire Brigade – LIFE Project

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LiFE Local Intervention Fire Education

LIFE started in London in 2002, as a direct response to attacks on local fire-fighters.

Post conception other agencies identified LIFE as a positive intervention for young people at risk of becoming socially excluded.

Engaging with young people and their families in the local community is helping the London Fire Brigade to create a welcoming, warm, friendly culture that respects the differing and diverse needs of London's communities.

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5 Day Intensive Interaction delivered by local fire-fighters

External agencies

LIFE Project works with young people aged 13 – 17

Work with over 1000 young people every year

Build Bridges within the local community

Central Team Project Managers LIFE Trainers

LIFE skills in a non academic environment

9 London boroughs / 7 National / 1 International

Address the consequences of Anti Social Behaviour

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National Audit Commission – Tired of Hanging Around

In 2009 the audit commission carried out a study focusing on the role of sport and leisure activities in preventing anti-social behaviour.

In summary the report highlighted that:

- For young people having nothing to do can be a trigger for anti-social behaviour.
- Sport and leisure can engage young people. Attracting those at the highest risk of anti-social behaviour into more intensive developmental projects.
- Anti-social behaviour can not be isolated from other social problems. Recourses must target deprived areas where perceptions of anti-social behaviour are highest.
- Young people value approachable project staff who take an interest in them and offer advice and support.

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For young people having nothing to do can be a trigger for anti-social behaviour

Post LIFE course evaluations and consultations with young people focus groups have shown us that:

- **Young people enjoyed their experience with LFB**
- **Many were disappointed with the course duration, wanting a longer intervention**
- **Both young people and partner agencies would welcome a similar forward strategy out of school hours**

As a result LFB have since:

- **Explored the youth engagement strategies of other UK Fire and Rescue Services**
- **Developed a Fire and Rescue Services in the Community BTEC with the Fire Services Youth Training Association**
- **Started the Community Fire Cadets Programme, currently running in 3 London Boroughs, 2 of which are amongst England's 5 most deprived areas**
- **Joined Project YOU, Youth Organisations Uniformed, offering a more joined up approach to further development**

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Sport and leisure can engage young people. Attracting those at the highest risk of anti-social behaviour into more intensive developmental projects

We specifically target high risk young people through:

- Mosaic, identifying priority households
- Partnership with MET, YOT, PRU etc
- Case conferences
- Juvenile Fire Intervention Scheme
- Evaluation of service provision, with service users

We provide physical activity through:

- Structured and disciplined interaction
- Development of key skills through reviewing with appropriate role models
- Peer Mentoring
- Uniformed service
- Clear and relevant boundaries
- Education in a non academic environment
- An insight into alternative careers, where active, hands on skills are recognised, celebrated, valued and respected
- The initial activity focussed LIFE course enables our organisation to engage high risk young people into further developmental opportunities in the medium and long term

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Anti-social behaviour can not be isolated from other social problems. Resources must target deprived areas where perceptions of anti-social behaviour are highest.

According to GLA Indices of Deprivation 2007:

The indices of deprivation covers seven domains; Income deprivation, Employment deprivation, Health deprivation and disability, Education, skills and training deprivation, Barriers to housing and services, Living environment deprivation and Crime domain:

•Nearly half a million of London's children live in income deprived households

•Just over one in three children in London lives in a household in income deprivation, by far the highest proportion of any region in England.

•London's is by far the most deprived region on the living environment deprivation domain

•The most deprived areas within London are concentrated in Inner London to the north and east of the City, from Newham to Islington and from Tower Hamlets north to Haringey.

•Over 28 per cent of London falls within the most deprived 20 per cent of England.

•Of the 33 London local authorities (the 32 boroughs and the City of London), 20 rank within the top 50 of the 354 local authorities in England on at least one of the summary measures of deprivation.

We have used London data to strategically map our resources according to London's needs.

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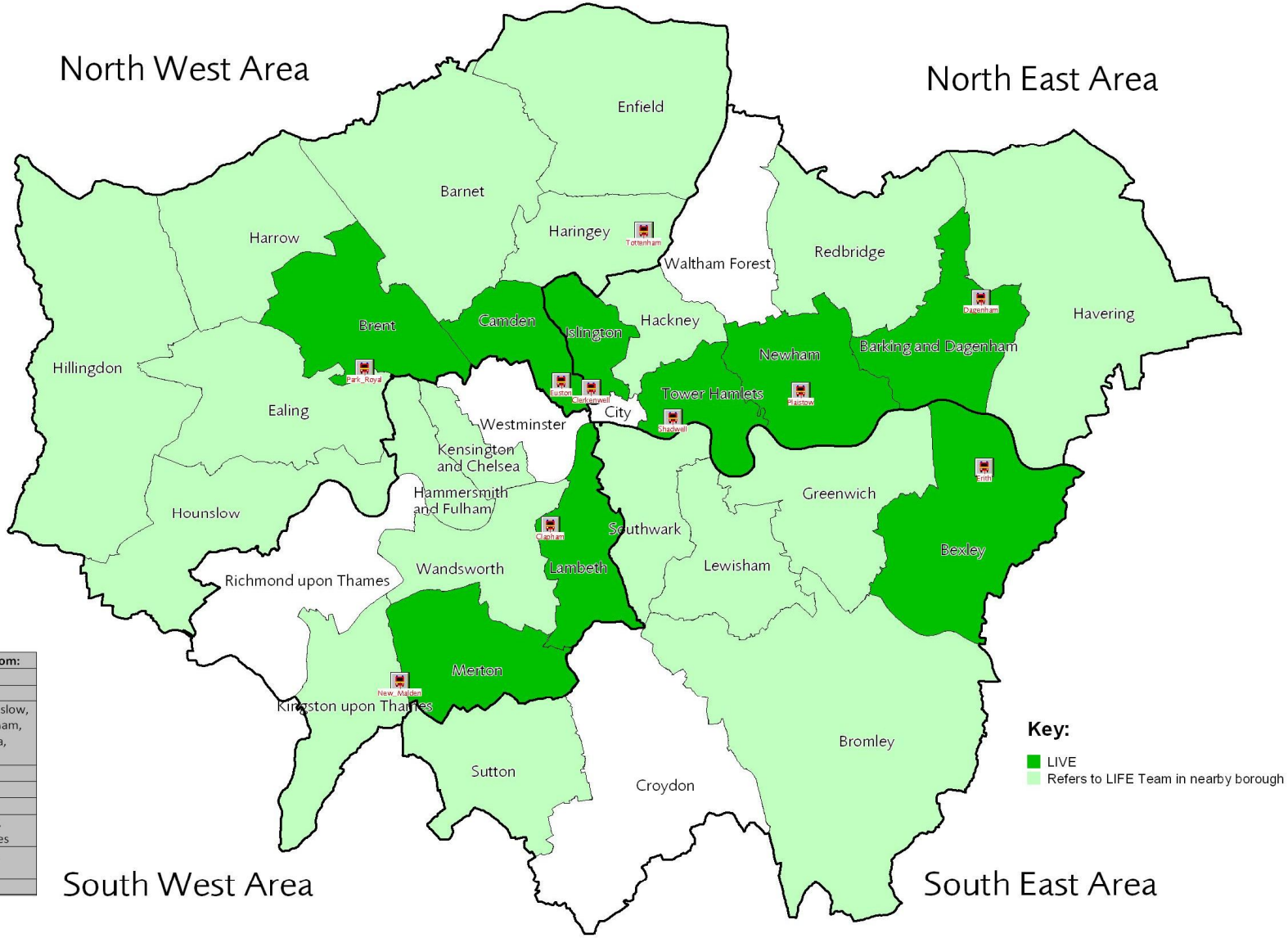

Borough	Receives Referrals from:
Tower Hamlets	Hackney
Islington	Enfield
Brent	Harrow, Ealing, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Hillingdon
Newham	
Barking & Dagenham	Redbridge, Havering
Camden	Barnet, Haringey
Merton	Wandsworth, Sutton, Kingston upon Thames
Bexley	Greenwich, Bromley, Lewisham
Lambeth	Southwark

LiFE Project Map

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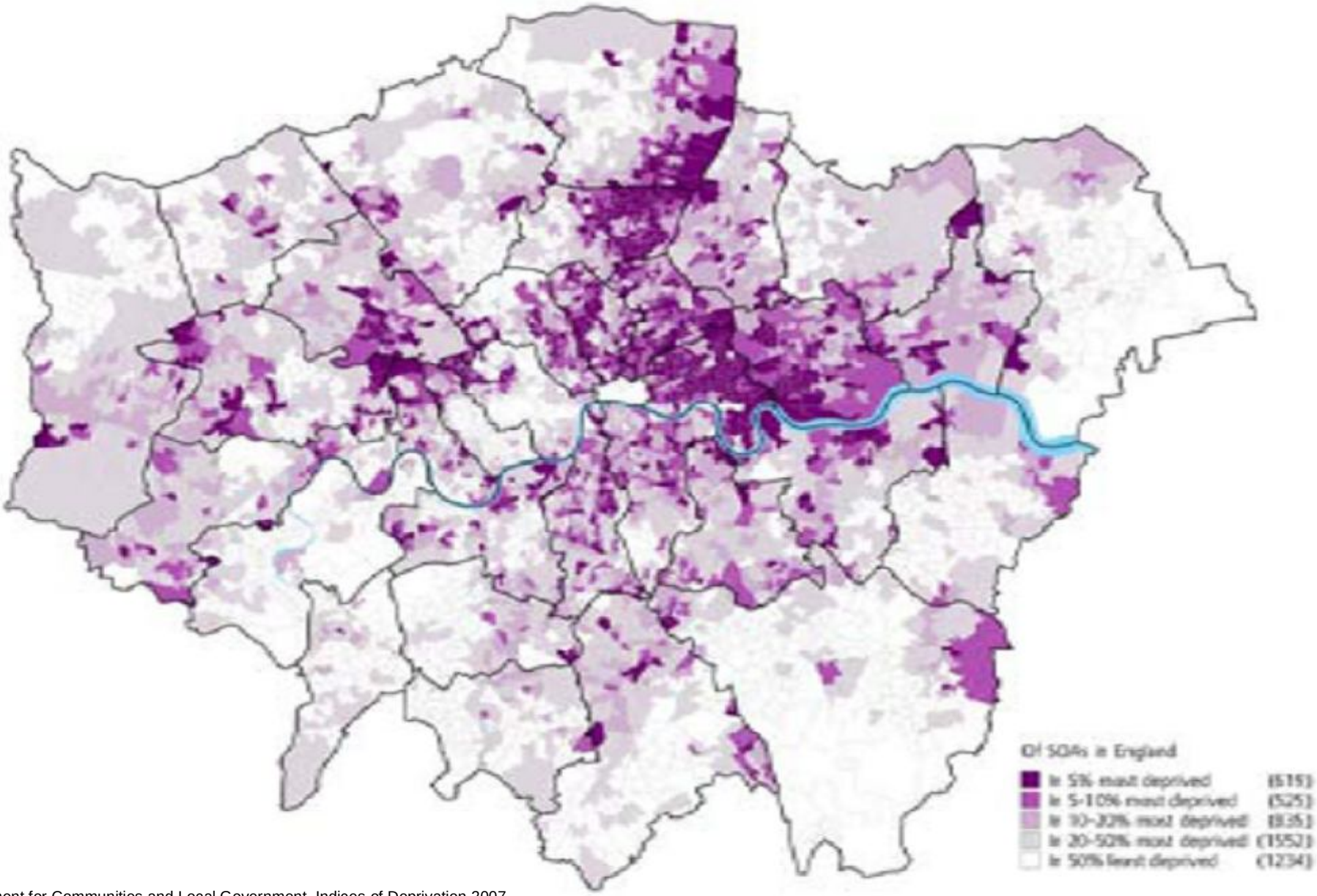
Map 4 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007



Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2007
ONS Super Output Area Boundaries, *The map is © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. (Greater London Authority) (LA100032379) (2008)*

Young people value approachable project staff who take an interest in them and offer advice and support

All of our interventions are run from local fire stations, offering our staff the opportunity to discover the benefits of engaging local communities

We identify and develop uniformed staff who have a keen interest in youth engagement by:

- **Providing extensive and ongoing training**
- **Fire-fighters not youth workers**
- **Departmental support**
- **Inter-agency training and working**

For many young people working within a disciplined uniformed service creates a safe environment from which they are able to develop with the help of fire-fighters as boundary setters and positive role models.

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Our Successes

LIFE has received a number of awards, including the London Day Fire Service Award in2003, from the Mayor of London, and award for Focusing on Social Inclusion at the National Careers Awards 2006.

2008 started with a visit from Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to Millwall Fire Station to watch a demonstration of the skills and confidence that young people gain after completing the LIFE course.

A Proven Success

Evidence of the success of LIFE courses is considerable. It includes an independent evaluation for LFB by Morgan Harris Burrows, commissioned in 2006. They interviewed sample of 65 young people who attended a LIFE course.

• 97% felt it showed them that “it can be good to work as part of a team”,

• 88% said the course “gave them skills they could use elsewhere”,

• 75% said it”improved the way they see themselves”.

Morgan Harris Burrows also reported that Police National Computer data showed a significant fall in offending behaviour by ex-LIFE trainees and that other evidence showed reductions in the number of deliberate fires set, the number of hoax calls, incidents of abuse to fire-fighters, and in truancy and vandalism.

Many of the trainees who have taken part in LIFE are now in jobs or full time education. Some have become fire-fighters themselves.

Effect on Conviction History

MHB checked the conviction history of scheme participants through the version of the police national computer that is held by the Home Office for research purposes (HOPNC).

• Offences against property saw a reduction of 44% • Offences against a person saw a reduction of 50% • Public disorder offences saw a reduction of 64%.

Other Impact Measures

Data below taken from External Evaluation by Yvonne Drake, Arson Reduction Officer, and London Borough of Southwark June 2007:

• 56% of responders report that the young person is engaging more with education or employment since completing the LIFE Course

• 63% of responders report that the young person is more emotionally settled since completing the LIFE Course

• 71% of responders report that the young person’s self image has improved since completing the LIFE Course

• 65% of responders report that the young person’s attitude has improved since completing the LIFE Course

• 74% of responders report that the young person has not been involved with the Police, YOT or SASBU since completing the LIFE Course

• 63% of responders report that the young person’s behaviour has improved since completing the LIFE Course

• 72% of responders report that the LIFE course has had a positive impact on the young person

• 100% of responders report that they would recommend the LIFE course to other young people.

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Thank you

Questions?

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