Awards 2010

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www.fearandfashion.org.uk

Lemos&Crane
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Introduction

The Fear and Fashion Awards are presented by Lemos&Crane for outstanding examples of projects that have proved successful in helping young people to stop carrying and using knives - for fear of attack or as a badge of belonging to a group or gang.

This work can include:

- Awareness-raising in schools and communities
- Building confidence and positive identity among young people
- Empowerment and positive role models
- Working with young offenders convicted of knife-related offences to change attitudes and behaviour
- The use of restorative justice and restorative approaches
- Reducing conflict in a structured way through mediation
- Helping young people affected by gangs and negative groups
- Engaging with parents of young people who are carrying or using knives.

Entries were invited from:

- Police
- Local authorities
- Social landlords
- Community or voluntary groups
- Schools.

This document contains details of the winner, 4 runners-up and 10 shortlisted entries, which were announced on 29 September 2010.
Winner

Ten Ten Theatre: The Safer Street Drama Project

The Safer Street Drama Project runs artistic activities in schools and Young Offender Institutions that focus on: education in verbal literacy and non-verbal communication; nurturing confidence-building and peer support using drama workshop techniques; developing participants’ skills in relationship-building and conflict resolution; and contributing to cultural awareness of issues surrounding youth offending and knife crime. The project has included a 5-day pilot project in Feltham YOI which incorporated a series of drama workshops with 15 young offenders, culminating in the performance of a short play for offenders’ friends and family. A similar 5-day pilot was also run in a secondary school in Camberwell, south London, where activities included daily sessions with 180 young people, the performance of ‘Sam’s Story’, a specially commissioned knife crime play, discussion and evaluation sessions, and daily presentations in whole-school assemblies. A teacher resource pack has been developed to accompany the project with cross-curricular links to PSHE and Citizenship. The resource pack has been delivered in and distributed to 8 secondary schools in 8 different London boroughs. The success of the project has been exemplified by its increasing use in schools and YOI’s. Ten Ten has received 100 per cent funding to deliver the project into a further 8 YOI’s for 5-day residencies over the next 9 months and is actively discussing further expansion in schools and community venues.

Contact: martin@tententheatre.co.uk
Lancashire Youth Offending Team: It’s Your Life

It’s Your Life is an interactive multimedia toolkit designed to help professionals engage with young people about the consequences of carrying a knife. The toolkit has a particular focus on engaging with young people involved in or at risk of knife crime to demonstrate the impact this kind of crime has on victims and the community. Building on the Tackling Knives Action Programme pilot, It’s Your Life includes resources that help engage young people with varying learning styles. Each session usually involves a 10 minute film, a case study and interviews with practitioners from various agencies (e.g. police, medics) and victims. The programme is designed for both one-to-one delivery and group work and can also be supported with a guest speaker for each session. It’s your life is being used by Youth Offending Teams, schools, police forces and short-stay schools around the country. Around 80 It’s Your Life packs have been sold to teams outside of Lancashire and research is being undertaken for the Home Office to analyse the impact of the project. The problematic logistics of representing different services, agencies, victims and perpetrators was overcome by including a comprehensive menu of interviews on the DVD that is included in the pack. Utilising arts projects also helped to make the anti-knife crime message interesting while avoiding shock tactics.

Contact: andrew.winters@lancashire.gov.uk
Liverpool Youth Offending Service: Knife Prevention Programme

The Knife Prevention Programme uses cognitive behavioural therapy with young people convicted of knife-related offences to challenge their attitudes, and provides aspirational targets of change through sports and community engagement. The programme consists of 8 group work sessions and a 10 week community-based peer programme. The work is formulated around 8 core areas which form the foundation of each session: attitudes to knives; peer education; social implications; medical implications; first aid/keeping safe; law; social impact/revenge; and reprisals and victims. 2 AQA awards are also built into the programme; Anger Management and Knife Crime Awareness. A number of key partners deliver sessions with Liverpool Youth Offending Service staff, including an ex-offender who has perpetrated knife crime, a nurse clinician, and Support After Murder and Manslaughter – Merseyside (SAMM Merseyside), a group of mothers who have lost children through knife crime. SAMM Merseyside also deliver a session to the parents of young people who complete the programme. Subsequent to the 8 sessions, Mersey Tigers Basketball Team deliver a community-based programme that combines mentoring and sports engagement. Respected adults from the team act as positive aspirational role models for young people and help develop their team building, confidence, communication and citizenship skills. 75 per cent of young people who have completed the programme have not reoffended and 98 per cent have not reoffended by committing a further knife-related crime.

Contact: rachel.england@liverpool.gov.uk
**National Youth Theatre: Talking to Byron**

Talking to Byron is a participatory drama project led by young people for young people in schools and Pupil Referral Units that explores the issues surrounding carrying weapons. The work is aimed at young people aged 12-16. Prior to the project starting, a one day INSET training session is delivered to prepare teachers and learning support workers, and a preparatory drama workshop is run to familiarise young people and teachers with the National Youth Theatre team. A short play is then performed that presents a challenging scenario about carrying knives to stimulate discussion. A forum theatre workshop is then delivered by experienced facilitators and the young actors. Forum theatre is an interactive theatre form which allows the audience to challenge the characters and shape the drama to reflect their experiences or test the effect of different actions. A follow-up visit is then arranged to gain feedback and signpost resources for teachers and young people about where to go for further advice. The project also incorporates an online website for the project including a resource pack for teachers and access to the soundtrack and script to give schools the opportunity to cascade the project to other classes. Two-thirds of young people who took part in the workshops in 2009 learned at least one new fact about knife crime and the project has been endorsed by Dr Richard Ings, an independent evaluator.

*Contact: helen.temple@nyt.org.uk*
Northumbria University: The West Side Story Project
By using music, voice and dance, the West Side Story Project looks at the issues surrounding gang culture and knife crime and aims to deter young people from participating in gang and knife related activity. Low aspirations and lack of educational achievement among young people are contributory factors to gang and knife culture. The West Side Story Project has engaged with 260 Year 9 pupils from 13 schools in the Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and Durham areas, all with potential to progress to Higher Education but all at risk of becoming disaffected with education. Inviting these young people into the University to rehearse and perform the drama has improved their awareness of the causes and dangers of knife-crime and gang-related violence, boosted their self-esteem and shown them the benefits of Higher Education. In addition, it has helped them overcome some of the common barriers to education, such as lack of awareness, mistrust, low confidence and no family history of participation in Higher Education. Feedback indicates that by the end of the project: 100 per cent of pupils involved found it interesting, useful and well organised; 100 per cent felt more confident and positive about their future; 93 per cent said they would definitely apply to university; and the remaining 7 per cent said they would consider it.
Providing the young people with a DVD of the relevant songs together with a musical score so that they could rehearse in their own time helped motivate some reluctant pupils.
Contact: lee-ann.white@northumbria.ac.uk
Shortlisted entries

**Conflict and Change: Truce 20/20**

Truce 20/20 gives young people the skills to handle and mediate tensions and prevent violence in their own community. The project works with diverse and disadvantaged groups of young people who show leadership potential in the London Borough of Newham; equipping them with conflict resolution, mediation and workshop leadership skills that support them in developing and delivering peace-building projects for other young people in their community. The project comprises 10 weeks of training, a visit by an ‘international peace-builder’ supported by Peace Direct, and a ‘community development phase’ where graduates go on to develop and deliver conflict resolution activities in the wider community. Graduates of the project also sit on recruitment panels for related projects, management committees and the Truce 20/20 Steering Group (the members of which change each year as new cohorts graduate). Since 2007 the project has reached over 3,000 young people and adults through conflict resolution workshops and presentations about local peace-building. Young people involved with the project have also represented the UK at international conferences on leadership and peace-building in Cyprus, Slovakia, Scotland and Switzerland. A significant challenge for the project was to ensure that the beneficiaries were from a cross-section of the community. Identifying projects and youth organisations that represent disadvantaged groups of young people, including care leavers, young offenders, young parents and those not in employment, education or training, helped to open up Truce 20/20 to a wide range of young people.

Contact: klaudia@conflictandchange.co.uk

**Crimestoppers: fearless.org**

fearless.org is a brand and website that introduces young people to the charity Crimestoppers. The aim of fearless.org is to increase awareness among young people about how to give information to the charity anonymously, either online or by calling or texting. fearless.org provides help and advice to young people, and those who interact with them, via resources, workshops and events held in schools and youth clubs about the crimes that affect them. In London, a specialised plan was drawn up to ensure the project targeted priority London boroughs effectively with appropriate workshops and resources. Since the launch of the project in April 2010, fearless.org has had over 10,000 website hits. The project’s social networking sites have also been very popular and, to date, have achieved the following: Facebook – 1,500 fans, Twitter – 2,000 followers, YouTube – 215 users. In London, the Fearless team have held workshops with over 7,000 young people. fearless.org
also works with a number of organisations to ensure the project’s messages are delivered effectively, including: The Kids Taskforce, National Crimebeat and Catch22.

The project is due to be evaluated in April 2011 and its success will be measured in terms of a 10 per cent increase in: web traffic to fearless.org; the number of young people giving information through fearless.org; the number of Fearless resources distributed; and the number of young people attending workshops. The Fearless team have found social networking sites useful not only for promotion but also as a way of getting feedback about their workshops.

Contact: jhnique.gardner@crimestoppers-uk.org

From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation: Calling the Shots

Calling the Shots aims to promote good citizenship, aide public safety, and prevent crime (including knife, gun or any other weapon-enabled crime) by deterring young people from violence and encouraging them to lead a positive life. The ‘Calling the Shots curriculum’ contains a wide range of inter-related Life Skills activities designed to engage young people and empower them to take a proactive stance in reducing aggressive behaviour both in school and in the wider community. The lesson plans promote the following skills: active learning; critical thinking and reasoning; creative problem-solving; media literacy and communication; ability to self-reflect; responsibility and accountability ownership; and teamwork. A new version of the curriculum has been created especially for working with young people in Pupil Referral Units, Youth Custody, Learning Support Units, and with Youth Offending Teams. From November 2008, the project has trained 28 facilitators who have delivered over 2,000 sessions to 21,168 children and young people in 8 different London boroughs and 58 establishments, including Pupil Referral Units, schools, prisons, universities, colleges and community group settings. To ensure transport costs were kept low, some institutions had to be persuaded to accept a change of facilitator. Discussion with facilitators and institutions helped compromises to be made or extra travel funds to be secured.

Contact: info@fbmf.org.uk
It Doesn't Have to Happen: Knife Crime Pledge Wall
The aim of this project is to get pupils in a school to sign a wall pledging not to carry a knife. The focus of the project is on highlighting how carrying a knife increases the chances of the carrier being wounded or killed by a knife. The project was started by an individual within a school who became inspired by the It Doesn’t Have to Happen campaign website. Approximately 50 people have signed the wall so far and the school is looking into the possibility of making it a permanent fixture by getting the pledge and the signatures engraved.
Contact: ppotkin@aol.com

London Borough of Islington: The Bronze Group Multi Agency Gang Prevention Panel
The Bronze Group aims to prevent gang and violent crime-related harm to children and young people aged up to 24 through a combination of support, enforcement and a co-ordinated partnership approach. The Bronze Group identifies and prioritises young people at highest risk of involvement in violence through intelligence sharing, this is achieved by: fully engaging key services at a strategic and operational level; creating action plans for each young person with lead officers identified and held to account; assessing needs in a holistic way to include those of family, health, education and housing; the ability of any professional to refer a young person via a short, uncomplicated referral process; using partnership intelligence to maintain a picture of gang activity; using a menu of options from support to enforcement (including diversionary activities, support for parents and carers, and emergency moves). Since the implementation of the Bronze Group, the London Borough of Islington has seen a significant reduction in youth violence and knife crime: it has reduced by 11.6 per cent in the year 2009-10 when compared to 2008-09. 97 young people have been managed by the group and 63 removed due to reduced risk following the group’s actions. Nearly 300 local practitioners have attended training co-ordinated through the Bronze Group and the model is being adopted by several other London boroughs. It has also been recommended as good practice by the Metropolitan Police Intelligence Bureau and the Home Office.
Contact: lisa.neville@islington.gov.uk

No Gun Organisation: NGO Youth Interactive Bus
The NGO Youth Interactive Bus presents a number of workshop opportunities and learning programmes for young people across various gang hotspot postcodes in Nottingham. The aim of the project is to encourage teenagers from various postcodes to visit the bus within the security of their own neighbourhood and become members. The idea behind the project is to change the mindset of those involved with or at risk of knife and gun culture by encouraging them to interact with ‘streetwise’ PSHE style programs and career options
workshops. The bus has run interactive learning programmes encompassing the following: a Guns and Knives Destroy Lives DVD film presentation, group discussion with an ex-gang member, role-play scenarios and campaign homework. The bus also offers music projects that help young people create songs, raps and dances with an anti-gang/gun/knife crime message. This has resulted in a CD being produced involving musicians and rappers from various hotspot postcodes around the city making a stand against the use of colour bandanas worn by gangs across Nottingham. The bus signed up over 90 young people in the first 2 weeks of its launch and related events have also been held in schools. To prevent the bus being seen as a mobile school, the NGO team decided to make the exterior visually impactful and appointed a team of young people to help design its look and feel. The introduction of a PlayStation 3 and a karaoke machine helped create a fun environment.

Contact: info@donewithit.co.uk

South Lanarkshire Policing Division, Strathclyde Police: Move the Goalposts
Move the Goalposts uses football as a ‘tool’ to divert young people from gang participation, violence and anti-social behaviour. The main aims of the project are to: reduce the number of gang related incidents and crimes; encourage regular attendance by ‘hard to reach’ individuals; break down territorial issues; reduce risk-taking behaviour; and encourage community support. Move the Goalposts runs 4 nights per week from Thursday to Sunday, 6-10pm (identified as the peak times for gang-related anti-social behaviour). On average 45-60 young people attend nightly. A Move the Goalposts Community League has been formed where up to 6 teams of 10 gang members attend weekly to participate in 7-a-side round robin matches. Through the use of a portable pitch, specialist coaches and partnership support, the project has been successful in attracting ‘hard to reach’ individuals with chaotic lifestyles. Partners have also helped provide information used to identify hotspot areas throughout South Lanarkshire, ensuring that Move the Goalposts attends areas at times when anti-social behaviour is at its most prevalent. Coaches have the desired street credibility to establish new trust levels and act as a catalyst for partners to provide signposting to other services. 3 hotspot areas were targeted as a pilot for Move the Goalposts and have, on average, seen a 57.7 per cent reduction in gang related crimes and incidents. The project looked at previous initiatives and interviewed gang members to establish why the initiatives didn’t work and what they would actively participate in.

Contact: gary.neil@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Suffolk Police: Sudbury Says No to Knives
Sudbury Says No to Knives delivers educational packages to young people that highlight the consequences of carrying knives and uses special weapon disposal outlets to encourage people to dispose of their weapons. At the same time the campaign has engaged with local
residents and the business community to restore their confidence following a sudden increase in knife related crimes and incidents. Several components make up the Sudbury Says Not to Knives campaign. 450 residents were surveyed by the campaign team to raise public confidence and provide an opportunity to discuss ways that agencies and the community could work together to tackle knife crime. Presentations and interactive performances were given in local school assemblies to help raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a knife and to explain the legal consequences of being found with one. 12 young people at risk of knife crime offending were identified to work with the police and local authority to produce a film about a fatal stabbing highlighting the pressures young people are faced with. Police secured funding for all businesses to attend a conflict resolution and personal safety training day. Nightclubs, pubs and police vehicles were issued with metal detectors and trained how to use them to search suspects carrying knives. Confidence in the police and partners has improved following the campaign. A 2-week knife amnesty resulted in 200 knives being collected and 2500 young people have been involved with the campaign through school assemblies.

Contact: ianw.watson@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

**Westminster Young People's Services:** Westminster Fear and Fashion Intensive Programme

The Westminster Fear and Fashion Intensive Programme works with ex-gang members, young offenders/ex-offenders and young people who are in conflict to train them to deliver peer education workshops within the community. The programme is delivered in schools, youth clubs/projects, Pupil Referral Units, sports clubs and to groups in conflict. The young people are intensively trained to deliver workshops to other young people who are victims or perpetrators of conflict or violence. They also act as role models for peer groups and raise awareness of the project, informing of opportunities to become a peer facilitator. Key workers support the trained young people, providing encouragement around motivation, conflict awareness, careers, and professional development to support their transition into adulthood. Prior to their induction, applicants are supported in the run up to their interview, during their training and beyond. Barriers to engagement, such as childcare and travel, are identified as early as possible. So far 89 young people have trained to become peer educators, 731 young people in London, Essex and Nottingham have participated in peer educator delivered workshops, and 121 Westminster students and teachers have attended a training programme, delivered by Leap Confronting Conflict, exploring the costs and consequences of knife use. Young people from across the borough of Westminster have come together, breaking down postcode rivalries, and have found that they share many similar ideas and problems.

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Working with Men: Uncut

The aim of the Uncut project is to alter young men’s behaviour and attitude towards carrying/using knives by developing their conflict resolution skills. As part of this, the project consulted with 228 young people in North Westminster, leading to 5 programmes being developed: Community Safety, Self Defense, Mock Trial, Fatal Stabbing, Aftermath of Knife Crime and Conflict Management. Sessions were then delivered to 218 young people and a steering group of local agencies was established. Following this, 8 6-week Conflict Management programmes, 4 6-week Young People and the Law programmes, 2 4-week Community Safety and Knife Crime programmes, 8 fatal stabbing assemblies, and one-to-one sessions with 9 young people (including 6 known gang members), were delivered.

Individual support, both face-to-face and through email, phone contact and workshops, was provided to parents. The project organised a memorial event for a local knife crime victim which engaged 180 local young people. In its second year the project delivered activities to 1,500 young people. An external evaluation (March 2010, Clear Plan) noted Uncut’s successful delivery of strong youth work interventions, the high quality training materials produced, and its success at helping others engage young people and parents. Working with Men’s feedback from programme participants found that: 70 per cent documented increased knowledge of methods to avoid conflict or potentially dangerous situations; 85 per cent showed improved knowledge regarding laws related to carrying knives; 65 per cent were deterred from carrying knives; and 100 per cent now reflected on their behaviour.

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