

POSITIVE TICKETS

October 2014 – October 2015

Positive Tickets for Young People in the Calne Community Area: Review of the pilot scheme and proposed model for future projects.

Purpose of this report:

The Calne Positive Ticket Initiative has completed the term of its pilot scheme.

This report has been prepared by the Calne Community Engagement Manager, Community Youth Officer and Neighbourhood Policing Team to enable the area board to consider the value of the initiative and to provide comment and recommendations that will be fed back to Wiltshire Police as it considers rolling the scheme out to other areas in the county.

Background:

In the autumn of 2014 partner agencies in the Calne Community Area were involved in discussions around:

- Disproportionate amounts of attention focussed upon the negative behaviour of small numbers of young people and the positive behaviour of the majority of young people in the community area.
- The need to engage with young people on the verge of ASB/poor behaviour.

The Calne NPT Sergeant devised a scheme that looked to acknowledge positive actions carried out by young people aged 10-17 in order to redress the balance. It was felt that this could include such actions as assisting elderly/vulnerable persons, handing in drugs/alcohol, reporting troublemakers etc.

The positive actions of a young person would be rewarded with a positive ticket if it was witnessed by or reported to a Police Officer or Police Community Support Officer. This has been extended to the Community Youth Officer, Calne Town Council and youth offending team.

Ideas around this suggested initiative also addressed the aspirations of the local 'Push it' campaign, which was already in action, designed to raise a positive profile of young people in the Calne Community Area. This campaign had been developed by a group of young people (the 'Calne Bowl Project') working to create new and improved skating/bmx facilities with Members and the Community Area Manager from Wiltshire Council's Calne Area Board.

In October 2014 the Calne Area Board allocated £200 towards pump priming a 'Positive Ticket Initiative' to be piloted in the Calne Community Area for an initial 12 months with a view to rolling

the scheme out to the other 26 Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county. The initiative was also supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Calne NPT, Area Board Community Area Manager and Community Youth Officer worked together to develop the scheme, It was hoped that approximately every 2 months up to 10 recipients of a positive ticket would be invited to an area board be presented with a certificate of thanks by the Chair of the Area Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner or his representative. The names of the recipients would also be placed into a draw to win a prize.

The initiative was launched on 3rd November 2014, and the first Positive Tickets were presented at the Area Board Community Safety Fair on 10th February 2015.

Experience/Statistics/Learning points from the Pilot Phase:

In total, 15 positive tickets and certificates have been issued over the previous 12 month period. Tickets have been issued for a wide range of positive community acts, including assisting elderly persons across the road, wearing and promoting active cycling safety equipment, and giving first aid. All of the acts were completed at the free will of the youth involved. The youngest person to be given a ticket was 9, and the oldest was 16 years of age.

All of the recipients received the same award – a certificate, along with a £5 Sainsbury's gift card, for use in the local store and free access to the local 'Bluez n Zuz' community disco. This has proved to be popular amongst all recipients.

The biggest insight has been the impact of the positive tickets on the young people and families involved. We have received powerful feedback from parents, who have expressed their pride, young people have also been encouraged to record the certificate onto college and school PDR's.

The scheme has had a profound effect in the community, with widespread praise drawn from a wide cross section of the community including local councillors, members of the public and local stakeholders.

In addition, the NPT has been praised by the local press for the scheme, most recently during an interview on BBC Wiltshire.

One parent informed the police that their child had *'never received anything like this before, it's massive for him'*. We did not anticipate this response, however it is a powerful testament of how the scheme has been received.

The biggest difficulty and challenge so far is actually observing and witnessing positive acts. The police are, unfortunately, more of a responding agency and their pro-active work does not, with all the will in the world, capture all the positive acts that go on in the community.

There is still £125 remaining in the positive ticket fund (owing to only using £5 gift cards) and therefore, plenty of opportunity to give the scheme a push and promote forward

Overall, whilst it would have been good to see positive tickets issued at every area board meeting, this process has been evolving and developing. Having seen the impact that the tickets have had, the impact on the community and on the individuals involved, It is with some confidence that Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police officers believe that, using the 12 month trial as a good base to work from, the scheme can be a long term successful project if the appropriate support and widening of the referral process is implemented.

Recommendations for the future development of the scheme:

In order to drive this scheme forward, it is felt there is a need for it to develop into a community positive ticket scheme. Whilst the police would retain the ownership of the scheme, arrange certificates and issue awards and referrals, more joined up working would be needed from partner agencies.

With this in mind, the Calne and Corsham NPT Sgt. Ronnie Lungu, will now be responsible for driving the scheme forward over the next 6 month period. Ronnie will work with the Calne Community Youth Officer to engage with partner agencies such as housing associations and ASB leads, youth workers and school leads, in order to ensure all evidence of positive acts are collated and contained.

A Positive Ticket Panel

The original proposal included gathering a panel of agencies to look at the nominations over a month. This has not been practical over the last year. It is suggested that this panel should be formed via email. That each agency that signs up to nominate positive tickets could do this at any point, they would then email round the group and each would reply with a yes or no. The Police would then administer the awards as they have done this year.

To hold this panel together, the local youth network would like to invite all partners to hold a forum twice a year at a LYN meeting to review how the scheme is going, promote the scheme and widen the prospective referral agencies.

Each agency would be able to ask details from young people in order to pass on to police, however, we would ask members of the public not to do this, but instead report the act to one of the relevant agencies. We would also encourage young people not to give their details out to people unless they have valid ID from an agency.

Criteria

Having considered the previous points it is felt that a list of criteria should be considered so that any nominating agency would be able to deliver positive tickets to the right people. The following sentence is meant as a guideline for all agencies nominating positive tickets:

‘Any positive act(s) that are considered above and beyond for that young person, that provides or encourages support, reassurance or has a positive impact in the community.’

Below are examples of what would constitute receiving a positive ticket and what wouldn't:

Positive Ticket	Not a positive ticket
Someone falls ill. Contacting assistance and remaining with the person to reassure them	Regular volunteering or an act that emerges from that. i.e an act for a uniform group award.
A group of people are victimising someone in the community and you encourage these people to stop what they are doing and support the person victimised.	Asked to play piano at an event and given a positive ticket as reward/ payment
Recognising that the skate bowl needs sweeping and regularly taking it upon yourself to do it.	Doing something which is a legal requirement; eg. using the appropriate lights on bikes.

In cases where an agency nominates a young person for a positive ticket but the panel decides it doesn't meet the criteria, the young person should receive a letter thanking them for contributing to the community.

It was recognised that many young people regularly contribute positively to the community. In order to receive a positive ticket it is felt that, where a positive act emerges from regular volunteering it is important that a different way is found to thank those young people. Positive tickets in the main should be for spontaneous acts or acts undertaken without being asked.

Overall, Wiltshire Council Officers and the Neighbourhood Police Team are pleased with the year's pilot and are confident that, with further consideration to funding and overall cost of the project in each community area and the implementation of the above criteria and suggestions the scheme has the potential to become a long term successful project that could be rolled out around the county.

Area Board Members are invited to provide comments about their experiences of being involved in the pilot scheme and to consider engaging with the project for another year.

Report Authors: Inspector Ben Huggins, Helen Bradley, Community Youth Officer, Jane Vaughan, Community Engagement Manager and Phil Greenaway, Police Youth Engagement Officer.