



Innovation – Winner

Essex Fire – Firebreak (Sub-Contractor- Shaw Trust)



Firebreak is a 5 day intervention programme delivered by ECFRS operational firefighters. CFO3 participants will be taught practical firefighting skills such as hose running, ladder pitching and dam building. The firefighters act as positive role models and mentors to the participants, showing them the benefits of discipline and respect and highlighting their abilities. This in turn increasing their self-esteem and confidence.

The course is not about discussing specifics of participant's offences, but about show casing their capabilities in rehabilitating into a community, giving them the skills to work with new people in a team and building their communication skills so they can be confident in new and employment situations.



There will also be input regarding first aid and manual handling. Specific sessions will be delivering around the consequences of actions with regards to emergency situations and offending and the process and benefits of restorative practices.

The programme includes a Passing Out Parade at the end of the last day. The CFO3 participants have the opportunity to showcase what they have learnt to an audience of supporting staff, organisations and if possible, friends and family. They are presented with a portfolio of everything they have achieved throughout the week for potential employers to see their positive engagement with Essex Fire. On completing the weeks course, all participants will receive an AQA accredited award in Fire Safety in the Community.

Gone above and beyond their role: Since first meeting both David and Matthew Hill Bond (Community Development Funding Officers) the commitment and passion to make Firebreak a success for both CFO3, the participant's and stakeholders is reason alone for their nomination. David and Matthew went above and beyond their roles in taking time to gain a brilliant understanding of the CFO3 contract. This understanding laid foundations to make Firebreak the success it has become with continuous impressive feedback from HMPPS prisons, i.e. Hollesley Bay, CFO3 Case Managers and management and most importantly our participants.

Created new processes to develop the organisation: Essex Fire from day one took great care in listening to CFO3 Shaw Trusts need in initial meetings with myself. I explained the contract and gateways in which the contract operated. Through continuous communications and Matthews and David's passion Firebreak was set up to meet the demand of the contract and to deliver the best results for our participant's. Without their passion and drive and willingness to learn the contract and meeting Shaw Trust expectation we have been able to develop new ways of working with suppliers to maximise the impact on both the contract and therefore the organisation and for our CFO3 participants.

Identified and/or engaged with new or existing stakeholders which has ultimately resulted in important outcomes: David Bond has been instrumental in developing relationships within our custodial settings through his sheer passion and excitement to make Firebreak work. David continuously attends meeting within custodial settings to explain Firebreak and to answer any governor's queries or concerns, allowing Firebreak to be a success. The feedback we receive to date from not only the participant and our Case Manager but also HMPPS staff including Governors has been phenomenal.

Summary: Without the passion and commitment from both David and Matthew I have no doubt that Firebreak would not have reached the successes it has to date. Firebreak has made a positive impact on both our internal and external stakeholders and are a pleasure to work with as a Tier 3 provider/ Supply Chain provider.