Project LEAD Kensington and Chelsea
Working with dogs

Mai Moon
Safer Neighbourhoods officer
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Purpose

- Project LEAD Kensington and Chelsea aims to work with young offenders on reparation orders as a preventative strategy to tackle attitudes towards so called ‘status dogs’ and behaviour towards dogs through the promotion of responsible dog ownership.
- Also responding to resident concerns about youth ASB and dogs.
- Council working in partnership with Dogs Trust as part of their ‘City Dogs programme’ through dog socialising, education and training through workshops and park events.

Dogs and YOT

- Since the summer, Council youth offending team working in partnership with Dogs Trust as part of their City Dogs programme which works with young dog owners and their dogs in deprived urban locations by offering advice and practical help, in order to educate them in responsible dog ownership and discourage from breeding.
- Dog socialising work - young offenders on reparation hours work with a dog trainer to learn about responsible dog ownership and training.
- Youngsters learn about: canine communication and body language (how dogs communicate with us), the laws that apply to dog owners such as fouling, dangerous dogs and banned breeds, dog handling, responsible dog ownership through feeding, training, health and welfare.
- Providing guidance on responsible dog ownership and doggy by-laws
- Supervisors ensure youngster carries out required reparation hours and staff engage with more hard to reach youngsters and dog owners.

Partnership work

- Council youth offending team and Safer Neighbourhoods working in partnership with police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Dogs Trust
- Council's Parks Police assisting with supervision of youngsters and hold regular events each month with Dogs Trust providing free advice and micro chipping as well as promoting responsible dog ownership in borough parks
- Demonstrates good partnership working by drawing on the resources, expertise and energy of many agencies, the Council, police and the third sector/voluntary groups. We also hope to develop the project so that residents can volunteer to work alongside us in future.

DogsTrust

METROPOLITAN POLICE Working together for a safer London

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Key considerations

- **Risk assessments** - each part of the project has a risk assessment written up in partnership with the animal welfare organisations. Young people will go through a health and safety presentation before taking part. Each organisation will fully assess the dogs involved.
- **Insurance** – each organisation has consulted with their insurance provider and agreed cover.
- **Supervision** - Supervisors experienced in working with young offenders and dogs. The supervisors are members of staff who are willing to volunteer for extra duties as part of this scheme including Council staff, Parks Police ,PCSOs and Dogs Trust staff.

Key considerations

- **Cost** - ongoing project with minimal cost. The animal welfare organisations will not be charging for their intervention and the supervisors are volunteers.
- **Timescale** - this is an ongoing project since it is cost effective and simple to run. If there is the capacity to employ more volunteers in future then this could be developed through the YOT recruiting volunteer supervisors.
- **Attendance** - young people will be assessed for suitability by the YOT. Young people who would benefit most from the project due to issues around contact with dogs/dog ownership/related offences will be prioritised. Young people not attending/engaging once referred will be dealt with through YOT procedure.

Benefits

- Challenge current trends around young people and dog ownership by offering young people the opportunity to work with a social animal in a controlled setting.
- Promotes pro-social modelling through supervisors demonstrating successful approaches to changing behaviour demonstrated through positive reinforcement in dog training, for example.
- Feedback from youngsters has been positive, with some offenders showing interest in working with dogs
- Young person interacting and building relationships with staff, police and Parks Police.
- Minimal cost to set up
- Young offenders given opportunity to learn new skills, understand responsible dog ownership and encourages them to think beyond themselves.

Pilot projects

- Pets as therapy visits to care homes piloted during the summer at local care home.
- Trained Pets as Therapy dog along with police supervisor accompanies young offender to visit care home and spend a few hours with elderly and interact, to help bridge gap between older and younger generations.
- Provides positive therapeutic effects for elderly
- Considers the positive therapeutic effects of working with a social animal which have been proved to reduce anxiety through reducing heart rate and increasing serotonin for example.
- Future plans to develop the project further so that residents can volunteer to work alongside Council and train their dogs up.



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Parks Police and safer parks

- Council's Parks Police in partnership with Dogs Trust hold regular events every month for dog owners and their pooches to target status dog ownership and encourage responsible behaviour in boroughs open spaces.
- Responding to residents concern re: irresponsible dog ownership and antisocial behaviour
- Parks Police trained to provide free micro chipping service and now have a scanner to identify any lost dogs.
- Dogs Trust give advice on responsible dog ownership and some agility fun for the dogs including jumps and a tunnel
- Dogs at Risk neutering vouchers are available for dogs that stray, dogs with behavioural problems, and dogs that are being bred from. (Nominated vets will perform these operations at no cost to the owner).
- Parks Police also host annual dog show which is very popular with owners/visitors and their dogs.



