



OAKMERE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHERRY LANE, WALTON,
LIVERPOOL
L4 6UG

Working in partnership with the Home Office,
through the Tackling Knives Action Programme

Home Office

JULY 2010

PLAIN SAILING

The Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) is a government programme to reduce serious youth violence and improve public confidence through concerted action by government, police, partners and communities.

Oakmere successfully secured funding from the Home Office for Plain Sailing, a project which provides 2 one week diversionary sailing trips around the coastal waters of Britain for 20 NEET young people involved in gun, knife and gang related crime or are at risk of becoming involved in such crimes. Referrals came from Liverpool Youth Offending Service (YOS), Merseyside Police and Oakmere's outreach team targeting at risk young people in local high crime areas.

Young people sailed the 60ft gaff ridedged ketch alongside the professional crew, Police Officers and YOS staff. Oakmere's support services teams provided mentoring, self esteem and educational activities for the young people on board.



All young people had a personal development plan produced by qualified IAG Oakmere staff, identifying progression aims, short term goals and support/intervention needs. They were encouraged to access services provided by the College at the end of the voyage and additional support/signposting eg learning mentors, access to specialist Young Persons Advisory Service staff based at the College (including, qualified Counsellor) and access to trained youth workers employed by the College



The experience enabled the young people to work in teams, build confidence, self esteem, communication and mutual respect. Through working with the Police and YOS, they gained awareness of how their behaviour impacts on others. Through sailing they developed their skills and knowledge in Powerboating, SCUBA Diving, Tall Ships Sailing, Health & Safety, Food Hygiene, Nutrition, Sea Survival Techniques, First Aid and VHF Radio Use & Monitoring. They all achieved the Competent Crew Award from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA).

The project has changed the outlook of those young people on the programme. Less than 5% have reoffended or been involved in negative activity since this project.

Comments from the young people and Police included:

"Crew were fab, hard to sum up in words. I'm hooked on sailing and want to do some courses towards day skipper and beyond".

"Challenging and rewarding, I experienced things that I never thought I would be able to".

"Exceeded all expectations. Perfect environment for mentoring, will recommend this experience to all Youth Engagement groups".