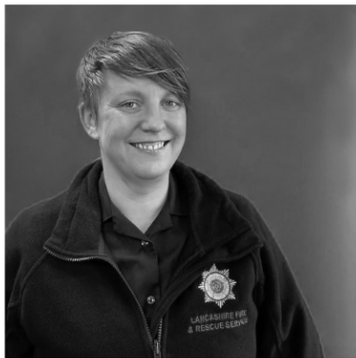




celebrating
'20 years'



Just some of your LFRS Prince's Trust team

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

LOUISE RAINFORD
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
CO-ORDINATOR



With a background working for Blackpool Council as part of their Youth Service team and working with young offenders on referral order panels, I found the community side of the roles inspiring so when a job became available working for LFRS as part of the Prince's Trust it seemed a natural progression to work full time by supporting young people to raise their aspirations and contribute to equality of opportunity for the young people of Lancashire. I joined the Service as a Team Leader in Fleetwood and spent six years running the team programme in Wyre working directly with the young people. One community project we got involved in was making beach access for local disabled people which created wonderful community spirit. Another memorable moment was when one of our young people received a Chief Fire Officer's commendation for assisting in a house fire after learning about fire safety on the team programme. In 2012 I became a Programme Co-ordinator based at Service Headquarters before finally becoming a Partner Manager nearly three years ago working closely alongside my colleague and friend, Caroline.

Caroline and I are passionate about the department and complement each other's strengths. We not only split the county between us but we have also undertaken courses that mean together we have all the skills we require to be able to advise the teams as best we can. We have undertaken many courses over the years and are intrinsically motivated to develop through CPD and that learning is a continual process and never stops.

We've been able to develop the programme over the years, taking it from strength to strength. We have secured funding, developed partnership working and secured secondments to LFRS, met targets and excelled in OFSTED inspections as well as gained the gold standard of awards, a Matrix accreditation. All of this has made me feel really proud and to have been heavily involved for fifteen of the twenty years of Prince's Trust in Lancashire is really special.

I have met and worked with many people from across the organisation which I thoroughly enjoy but my biggest passion is going on to stations and having the interaction with the young people and being able to see the difference we are making as a Service to individuals and contributing to making Lancashire safer through our work.

I have recently trained as a vaccinator and am proudly giving my spare time to volunteer at the mass vaccinations sites whilst representing LFRS and Prince's Trust which is an incredible opportunity.

I am looking forward to continuing to develop the department going forward and utilising the learning we have built upon over the years. I'm incredibly proud of the staff within the department and our continuation throughout an extremely challenging year with such enthusiasm and positivity.



CHARLIE BROWN

TEAM LEADER

After working in the music industry, as a Youth Community Worker, I saw a role working at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Prince's Trust team and made the move to apply. I had been working in a role that saw me work with unemployed musicians, getting them into employment so the job at GMFRS seemed to follow on from this really well. I worked in Manchester for six years before moving to join Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service as a Team Leader in the Morecambe/Lancaster area. During my time working on the Prince's Trust Team Programme I have undertaken a number of courses such as ECDL, Mental Health First Aid and Level 3 and 4 in Education.

Even after eleven years in this role I still enjoy it and every day is different. I act as their teacher and mentor during the twelve weeks of the programme and fully commit myself to the young people, offering support and guidance whenever they need it. When the young people take ownership of the programme they positively improve themselves for the future. That said, after each programme I grow and learn something about myself from what they have taught me – they keep things fresh!

The programme is tried and tested and is still current, especially now. One in five young people leave education without the required minimum qualifications and with the coronavirus further impacting the prospects for young people I think the programme is more relevant now than ever before.

Running the programmes during the pandemic was difficult as group and communication skills are an important element of the programme and we had to overcome various hurdles to deliver virtually. However, there can be learning from every situation and the pandemic forced us to use digital methods more than we would ever have previously done and in fact made us move with the times and the needs of the learners. We were lucky enough to receive some funding and a lot of support from the ICT department which meant that we were able to purchase and loan some iPads to the young people that didn't have the resources they needed to complete the programme. I'm looking forward to meeting the young people on the current course face to face now learning is allowed back as the programme certainly lends itself to face to face communication.



GEORGE MARTIN

NATIONAL LIAISON
OFFICER

After a totally forgettable school experience that left me with few qualifications, I went to work at a textile mill in Nelson. A career as a firefighter was an exciting and interesting prospect and I was keen to work as part of a team helping the community. I was initially posted to Burnley and over the years I worked mainly at East Lancashire stations. I was promoted to Station Officer in Fire Safety at Blackburn and was given the Safety at Sports Grounds role at the soon to be built stadium at Blackburn Rovers. Quite a challenge for an ardent Burnley FC supporter.

I have always been interested in working with and helping young people. When the service became the Prince's Trust Team delivery partner in 2001 I was delighted to be given the opportunity to manage the project for the service. I carried out this role for eight years before becoming the National Liaison Officer 2008 where I have been for the past eleven years. I'm still employed by LFRS but the funding for the post comes from the National Fire Chiefs Council and The Prince's Trust. The role involves working with Fire and Rescue Services across the country advising them, helping, and encouraging them to deliver Prince's Trust programmes. I get to meet so many different people and travel all over the UK.

Due to the pandemic I'm like a lot of other people, I'm working from home. Even in 'normal' times I am a lone worker so the opportunity to volunteer and meet other LFRS staff at the mass vaccinations centres has been fantastic. It's something that has given me a lot of satisfaction to be able to support the service's effort. The bonus is that I can remind people I'm still alive and it's got me out of my office.

In 2013 I received an OBE for my services to local government and The Prince's Trust which I am incredibly proud to have received. I feel particularly honoured that someone in my team recognised the work I was doing and put me forward for a nomination. I am in no doubt however that many people did a huge amount of work that contributed to me being awarded this honour.

I have seen countless presentations from the young people in the final week on the Team and other Trust programmes and it is clear how much they have grown in skills and confidence. I'm particularly delighted about the skills they have gained from being a part of the course run by the service. I have often thought that the Fire & Rescue Service saved me from myself and gave me a fantastic career that I am truly grateful for. It's wonderful to see the skills and confidence that service staff give to young people who I really identify with. Fire service staff are brilliant role models to young people.

I have heard literally thousands of speeches by young people, but one particularly memorable moment was during the time the service worked in partnership with HMP Kirkham. Serving prisoners were recruited onto the programme alongside young people from the community. At the end of the twelve weeks one young person spoke so passionately about the programme and what they had gained from it. It was clear to the whole audience that Team had made a huge positive impact on his future. It was also clear that this young man had realised the harm his offending has caused and was particularly remorseful for the events leading to his prison sentence.

Despite my national role, the Lancashire FRS Prince's Trust team, of course, is special to me. With LFRS being the biggest FRS provider of the Team programme in the UK means I liaise with my colleagues in Lancashire often. The whole staff team are always willing to support my role and share the best practice found in Lancashire with other Fire and Rescue Services.

I truly believe that Fire and Rescue Services are absolutely the best people to be delivering Prince's Trust programmes such as Team, as public and community safety, education and prevention are a huge part of our roles and ethos. We work in the heart of our communities, with a fire station covering every part in the country. The service is a fantastic advocate of sharing community spirit and acting as positive role models.

It seems an age ago now since I was in the back of a fire appliance. I attended house fires and road traffic collisions during my time as a firefighter where young people lost their lives but every day working on the Prince's Trust programmes the Team Leaders are saving young people from suicide, safeguarding issues, homelessness, prison, being led astray down the wrong path and then direct them to a brighter, positive future.

I feel that I can safely say that in my years working in this role I have helped save and influence more lives of young people than from when I was a serving firefighter.

I am incredibly proud to have been given the opportunity to work for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and its partnership with The Prince's Trust to make a positive improvement to the lives of young people. I am excited for what comes next and how else we can shape the partnership to continue delivering a truly great, life changing product.



CAROLINE HOOSON

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT CO-ORDINATOR

After completing a degree in English Language I found myself a bit unsure of what to do next. I had been working part-time in the hospitality industry whilst studying but ended up taking on those jobs full-time whilst I considered what I would like to do as a career. I saw two roles being advertised at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and was successful in getting the Prince's Trust Programme Support Worker role based in Blackpool in 2005. I didn't really know what the role entailed and having never really worked with young people much before, I had a steep learning curve, but soon discovered that I loved it.

In 2007 I was promoted to a Team Leader position in Preston and during that time completed a PGCE part-time. In 2009 I moved to a Programme Co-ordinator role before finally becoming a Partner Manager nearly three years ago. Louise Rainford and I perform that role together, overseeing our 9 delivery areas, and contracts with Further Education Colleges. Based at SHQ with our colleague Carmella Gildert together we coordinate our delivery areas and manage relationships with our partner agencies.

I have worked at a few different Prince's Trust sites including Blackpool, Preston, Fleetwood and Kirkham and it was my time at Kirkham that was one of the highlights in terms of delivery roles. At that time we worked in association with HMP Kirkham, accepting serving prisoners onto the programme alongside young people from the community. This brought a whole different dimension to the role; working alongside these young men that were looking to gain the skills and confidence they needed in order to reintegrate into the community and gain employment after being released.

I have been so fortunate in my time with LFRS and there has always been opportunities for personal development and growth within our department. I have done a Master's degree and ILM qualification amongst others. I have enjoyed my time working for LFRS for the last 15 years and feel so proud to be a part of this milestone.

Working during the pandemic was a challenge, but it was so important to all of us that our programmes continued. The pandemic has widened the gap between young people and the rest of society in terms of mental health support, employment and other opportunities. Services such as ours are more important than ever in terms of addressing this. As a department we have been able to take a lot of learning from the pandemic with our shift to virtual learning and this is the perfect opportunity to adapt, reevaluate and use technology to make the programme better for our learners. Not all change is bad and I think this is a really exciting time for the programme. We're in a really strong position right now, especially in terms of the relationships we have in place with our partner colleges and our colleagues across the Fire Service so we are looking forward to what the future holds.

I feel proud to represent Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and The Prince's Trust and am thankful that I work with an amazing team of like-minded people who share the goal of helping young people to change their lives for the better.



SHONA PATON

TEAM LEADER

I have worked for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service as part of their Prince's Trust team for three years now and love seeing how my role contributes to the lives of Blackburn's young people.

I joined three years ago as a Prince's Trust Programme Support Worker after working as part of the catering and hospitality team at Preston Grasshopper's Rugby Club and National Citizen Service (NCS). My role at NCS was working on the four week summer programmes for sixteen-year-olds so it put me in good stead for when I joined LFRS. After eighteen months I was then promoted to Prince's Trust Team Leader and now manage Blackburn's team programme, one member of staff and two social work students who are on placement with the programme whilst undertaking their masters degrees.

Working on the Prince's Trust programme is such a rewarding role and I am proud of the part I have played in creating opportunities for Blackburn's young people. The programme gives young people the chance to prove to themselves and to others that they can go on to achieve things when perhaps society has previously told them they can't. I have had some fantastic success stories of young people going on to build confidence and get jobs, becoming respectable members of society even when there have been many barriers in their way.

My role can be challenging at times as I am juggling lots of different hats being a teacher and giving pastoral support in order for the young people to get more from the programme than just a completion certificate. However, that is what makes the job so much more rewarding and even now when the programme is running virtually I can still see the difference each week in the young people's confidence and wellbeing. That said, I am very much looking forward to face-to-face learning again the fire station environment is such a positive atmosphere for the young people to immerse themselves in. I couldn't do my job without Blackburn's firefighters who are so supportive, friendly and approachable toward the young people. They are also incredible supportive towards me, understanding when I need an extra helping hand if the young people are being particularly challenging and I am so grateful for their support.

It's fantastic to be part of the teams 100th celebrations and twenty years of programmes being run in Lancashire. It also coincides with working on my tenth programme so a nice milestone for me too. I can see for myself what has been achieved in the three short years I have worked here in terms of contributing towards improving the lives of young people in Blackburn so I can only imagine how much the Service has contributed over the last twenty years. I hope Prince's Trust team programmes continue for many more years as the programmes are vital in keeping Lancashire's young people safe.



BEN NORMAN ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

I had been a firefighter for seven years when, in 2005, a role came up to be seconded for 12 months, to the Prince's Trust team at Blackpool. Having already seen the work the Prince's Trust teams did, I thought this would be a really interesting role to get involved in. After being successful applying for the role I became the Prince's Trust Team Leader and Caroline Hooson was my Programme Support Worker.

It was a varied, yet challenging role and completely different to the work I had been doing as a firefighter. I thought I was already quite empathetic and compassionate from my firefighting background and good at working with people from different backgrounds but this was a different kettle of fish!

Being a Prince's Trust Team Leader involved working with colleagues and partners to deliver activities, community projects and personal development of the young people in order for them to fulfil their potential by either getting back into education or finding employment. I was seconded for the delivery of three x 12 week team programmes and found the role really fulfilling.

Having worked on the programme I could see how the work being done directly fit with the Service's aims of 'making Lancashire safer' and as I gained promotional opportunities in the following years I could directly see the impact the programmes were making to Lancashire communities.

It makes me really proud that I have played a part in Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service reaching this anniversary and that we have staff working really hard behind the scenes to protect and prosper our county's young people.

I am now a 'friend for life' volunteer which includes supporting a young person in care within the Blackpool area and I think I was so keen to get involved in this initiative because of the work I had done as part of Prince's Trust. I have been partnered with a young person who is facing some of life's greatest challenges and act as a mentor being there for them whenever they need someone to talk to. To do this alongside my role as Assistant Chief Fire Officer is very fulfilling and hopefully I can show young people that I too, was 'just a lad from Blackpool' who has achieved a career I am proud of. I have seen first hand how the pandemic has affected young people disproportionately and the fact that the Service has ensured that the team programmes have continued to run throughout is fantastic.

The Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Prince's Trust team has a brilliant team of people involved in the programme and will no doubt work hard to help shape the future of Lancashire's young people for hopefully another twenty years and more.



AMY NUTTALL

CARE WORKER

It was when my daughter was due to start primary school that was the catalyst for me to start looking at my own life. I had been a stay at home mum for the past four years and was looking for something for me when I came across the advert for the Prince's Trust programme on Facebook. The application process was really easy and after an initial call with the Team Leader, Sophie, I had an interview and was successful. And I've never looked back! I joined the course in Accrington in 2018 which was based at Hyndburn Fire Station.

My favourite parts of the course were the day where we got to train with the firefighters and the work placement weeks. I had been a carer for my Mum and felt that this was something that came naturally to me so expressed an interest in a role in health care. Sophie found me a week-long placement at a Care Home in Accrington and I was actually offered a job at the end of the week, completing the rest of the programme around my new job. I have been working there ever since and feel so grateful to have been given the opportunity. This has never felt more apparent than in 2020 as I was classed as a key worker and was able to retain my job, going to work every day. It also meant I got out of home schooling as my child was able to go to school so win-win for me!

I can say that the course completely changed my life. I have a job I love, it gave me some identity rather than just being a Mum and I am still in contact with some of the people from the course today. I gave the course my all and took every opportunity I was given. You definitely get out what you put in.