

| Cleaning

North Ascot Community Clean Up:

The challenge

Thames Valley Police & Bracknell Forest Borough Council identified regular graffiti offenders in the ascot area. Five boys aged 14 and 15 were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage in relation to a total of around 35 offences. They attended a restorative justice (RJ) conference and were ordered to attend a community clean up day to remove their own graffiti tags! They wanted a company to supply a team to deal with the difficult tags and give advice/supervision to the offenders.

What did we do

We supplied a team for the day and donated overalls, paints, brushes, rollers for the offenders. Our team gave the offenders a brief talk on the distress that their graffiti attacks have caused to local residents and then went on to give them Health & safety guidance so that they could help with the graffiti clean up. We removed all graffiti from brickwork during the day while the offenders dealt with the painted areas. At the end of the day two of the offenders had asked if they could come and work for us when they get older!

The outcome

All in all it was a very successful day, PC Winmill said: "The people of North Ascot take great pride in their homes and surroundings, and this spate of graffiti had a huge impact on the community. What young people often don't realise is that graffiti blights an area and can increase the fear of crime, particularly amongst elderly residents.

“The people of North Ascot take great pride in their homes and surroundings, and this spate of graffiti had a huge impact on the community. What young people often don't realise is that graffiti blights an area and can increase the fear of crime, particularly amongst elderly residents.

The sanctions we have taken against the boys send out a clear message that I will not tolerate graffiti and other acts of vandalism in the North Ascot area. After all the hard work involved in cleaning up the damage, I hope the youngsters understand the consequences of their actions and that this sort of thing will not happen again.”

Sue Mahoney,

Communications Officer - Berkshire East, Thames Valley Police

