

## NEWS RELEASE – January 2022

### STARTS

#### **Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service's Fire Cadet programme continues in Wiltshire**

The Hills Group has sponsored the intake of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service's Fire Cadet programme for a third year in both Swindon and Trowbridge.

The Cadet courses are well underway for the 2021/22 cohort, the new intake of young people aged between 13 and 18 started in September. They've been taking part in practical activities, mirroring those undertaken by firefighters, help to develop confidence and self-esteem, as well as teamwork, communication and problem-solving.

Ian Hopkins, Prevention Delivery Manager, said: "We are extremely grateful for the support The Hills Group have previously provided for the benefit of young people in Swindon and Wiltshire, and we are delighted they have pledged further funding for the 2021/2022 Fire Cadet program.

"Now we have returned to delivering our Cadet courses after a one-year absence due to the pandemic, this sponsorship will help us provide positive activity to young people at a time when they are likely to need it most. The support from Hills is invaluable, as it covers the costs of the uniform, equipment and resources required to run the weekly sessions."



*Hands on learning- the Swindon Fire Cadets taking part in one of their weekly sessions.*

The aim of the Fire Cadet programme is to support the development of young people by providing a positive role model and giving them opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities. Upon completing the course they will obtain Level 2 BTEC qualification, the National Fire Cadet Level 1 Award and an AQA Award.



*The Swindon Fire Cadets at the Swindon fire station.*

**Notes to editors:**

Young people between the ages of 12 and 18 can apply to take part in this rewarding training scheme, which not only gives them the chance to learn new personal and social skills, but also obtain qualifications.

The programme is linked to the National Fire Cadet model, and is delivered by firefighters and Fire and Rescue Service staff. Each course lasts for 38 weeks within the academic year, starting in September.

Fire Cadets is designed to challenge and develop the participants by getting them to:

- Work co-operatively within a team environment
- Gain self-esteem and self-confidence and improve communication skills
- Adopt a new set of personal values
- Understand the importance of safety issues and the consequences of anti-social behaviour
- See the advantages of improving their learning and performance

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