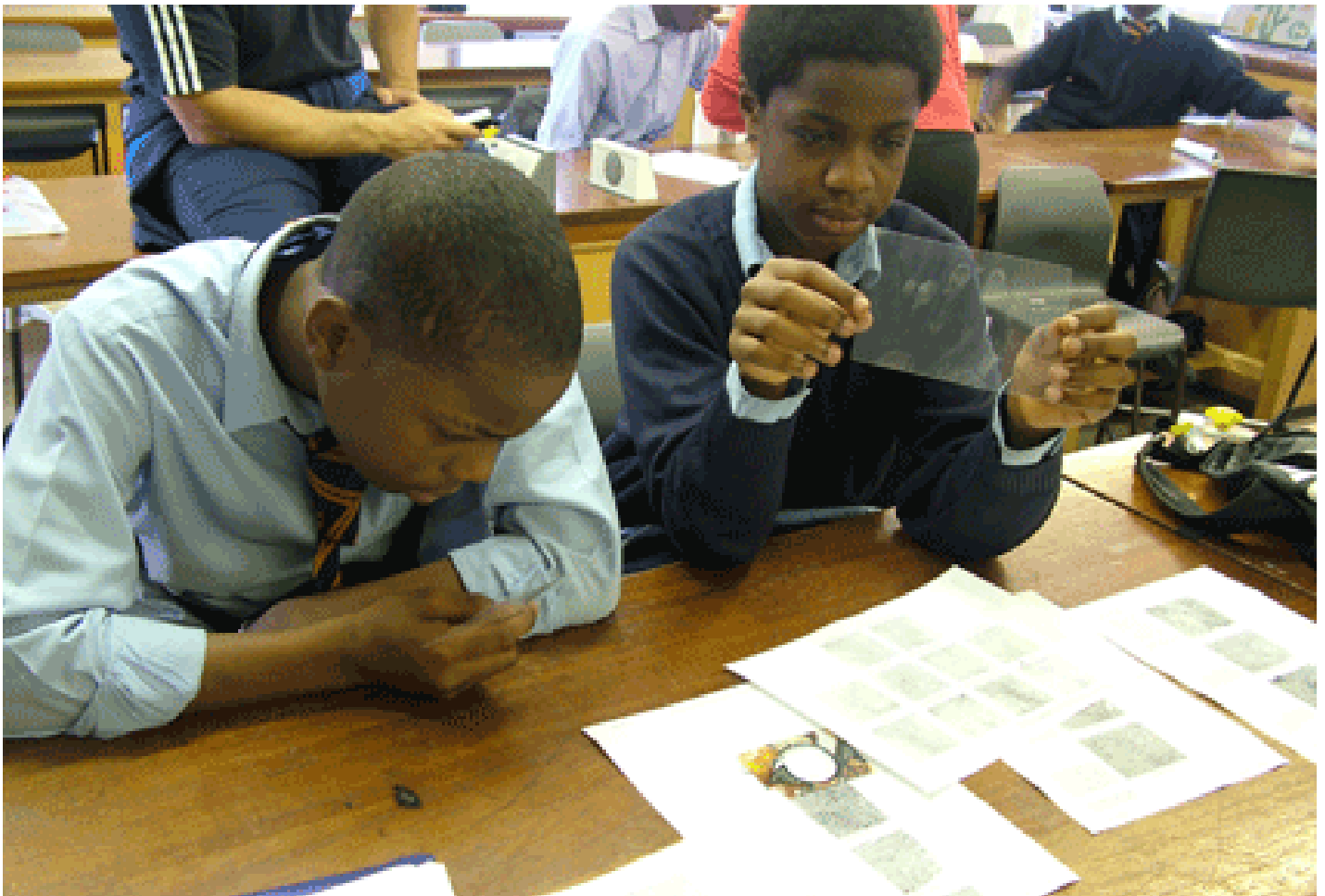


# Past on Your Doorstep, Future in Your Hands

"I've never seen so much crime in my life,  
Seeing people running around,  
Stabbing people with a knife,  
Then leave them for dead,  
While they're bleeding red  
And other people  
Filling others with lead.  
They have to do time  
For doing the crime.  
So go home - get an education,  
You know you can make it a better nation.  
You can be an inspiration,  
Forget reputation.

What would you do?  
It's up to you.  
You can stay the same,  
Or make your life new.  
Just think it through.  
You know I'm just trying to help you,  
Take a second or two,  
Do whatever you want to do.  
So put down the knife  
and pick up a life"

Connor Lincoln aged 13





**Research has shown that many people, particularly young people, feel no sense of local belonging, and indeed feel excluded from a full appreciation of cultural richness and diversity. As one teacher commented: "Pupils know very little about their local area other than the town centre on Saturday." Past on Your Doorstep, Future in Your Hands set out to engage young people at risk of exclusion in the history of law, and crime and punishment in their area.**

- Funding - £110,670
- Heritage Lottery Fund - £93,400
- Junior League - £4,870
- Boeing - £9,877
- Barclays Premier League - £2,000
- Aviva - £500

### Project description

Around 100 young people from 6 different schools were involved in the Past on Your Doorstep, Future in Your Hands project. All of the young people chosen to be part of the project were considered to be at risk of offending or exclusion.

Projects were tailored for each group and included a range of visits, talks and practical activities, which allowed the young people involved to explore the heritage of their area.

A group of Year 9 students from Alexandra Park School were treated to a visit by the forensic team from St Ann's police station. The students were shown fingerprinting and trainer printing techniques by experts in the field. The forensic team were followed by a CSI workshop where the students learnt about other types of forensic evidence which can be found at a crime scene.

13 students from Alexandra Park School were given a wake-up call with a range of activities that showed them the harsh realities of a life of crime. They took part in ten days of activities, all of which they filmed, enabling them to create a DVD of the project at its conclusion. This was shown at a celebration event, attended by their families and friends.

The group completed twenty-one different activities, all of which focused on crime and punishment past and present. The visit to Wellingborough prison, where they had the chance to talk frankly with a group of inmates about anything they wanted, had the most visible impact on the group. Patrick, aged 13,

said: "It was fascinating. I really enjoyed that. We learnt about their lives and their views on their crimes."

### Objectives

- To involve 100 young people in a range of positive activities
- To support an investigation of the heritage of the local area
- To provide the young people involved with a sense of achievement and an insight into the history of crime and punishment in their area

### Impact

- All the young people involved found it a positive experience
- There was a range of outputs, including a DVD, which are a lasting testament to the work of the young people and a useful resource for future students

Ben Golberg, Social Inclusion Manager at I.A.M's, said: **"This is one of the best opportunities offered to the Inclusion Centre, the pupils are inspired."**

**"I enjoyed the programme because everything was interesting and fun. I learnt that crime is not the way."** Joy, Pupil



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