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Latest News

Youth motor workshop is launched in Barking

Twelve teenagers from Barking will have a unique opportunity to get their hands dirty at a mobile motor workshop scheme launched today.

Pioneered by the residents of Thames ward, the initiative sees local officers join forces with the local council and local workshop owner Mark Riches, in an effort to divert youngsters from choosing a criminal path as Mark once did.

This innovative, joint approach will see the twelve utilise equipment provided by Orbit Training Ltd, a mobile workshop set up by Mark, which is based on the principles that helped him reform.

The programme, which runs on Thursday evenings for the next five weeks, works from a vast purpose built truck equipped with tools, ramps and computers to provide valuable skills in motor and bike mechanics.

Sergeant Simon Whalley, who launched the idea at the Thames Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team panel meeting, said:

"This is an unprecedented opportunity to turn around the life's of local teenagers, by moulding the genuine interest they have in bikes into a constructive activity.

"It's fantastic to see our community solving local issues through the Safer Neighbourhoods Team - this is what we're here for."

The scheme is a community effort with local Revd David Pearson, Vicar of Christ Church, Barking providing refreshments for the teenagers throughout the evening; assistance from the Salvation Army ([./met/www1.salvationarmy.org.uk](http://www1.salvationarmy.org.uk)) with catering; the local Curzon Community Club, who have provided land and electricity to set-up the scheme, and a number of bikes supplied by HBC Salvage (<http://www.hbc.co.uk/>) in Canvey Island.

Following the initial five week project, the scheme will be seeking additional funding to continue going the forthcoming year.

To contribute funds to the project please contact Sergeant Simon Whalley at Thames Ward, on **0208 6493529**.

