

What's happening?

Best Practice on TLP KO2

Working with Local Schools

London Bridge Area Partnership

Overview:

Working with the educational charity Engineering Development Trust (EDT), using their established Go4SET scheme, 9 groups of students from 4 local schools (2 each in Southwark & Lewisham) participated in a 10 week program "Energy in Your School". Go4SET aims to encourage an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM) subjects amongst 12-14 year olds. The scheme was delivered as a collaborative effort between each LBAP business: Network Rail, Siemens, Balfour Beatty Rail and Costain, with each business providing between 2 and 3 staff to act as mentors to their nominated group of students. Visits were also arranged by Siemens and Balfour Beatty Rail to the Siemens building The Crystal, whilst Costain arranged a visit for their school to the London Bridge Redevelopment Project.

Benefits:

- Collaborative LBAP effort
- Engagement with local schools
- Promote interest in STEM subjects amongst potential future workforce
- Provides CPD for mentors (eg: for CEng certification)
- Value for money (£1K per group of students)

Challenges:

- Co-ordination effort required to deliver as LBAP
- Competing interests on mentors time
- Maintaining engagement levels amongst students
- Differing expectations of teachers, students & mentors

Meeting our objectives & targets:

This initiative directly contributes to Network Rail's TLP Sustainability Strategy Objective 7 to "pro-actively engage with communities around TLP..." and specifically the targets:

- Deliver an annual community improvement project in partnership with local business or community groups.
- Hold 1 community open day / year for each of our projects

It also indirectly supports Objective 5: "to deliver a social legacy...to individuals within communities around TLP works" and specifically the following target:

- Achieve s106 targets for local employment, training and apprenticeships across LBAP.

