

18u Monthly Update: February 2011

Supporting young people who have been abused is still our primary aim and our statistics for 2010 are now available. Last year we provided telephone support to 147 young people and face-to-face ongoing support to 254 young people. 433 young people used the crisis drop in service for practical and emotional support; 1,784 support texts were sent to young people and 5,515 support e-mails were sent out. E-mail and texts support is the fastest growing method of support chosen by young people possibly due to the anonymity it affords. We also dealt with 48 child protection cases over the year.

The Taywise project, which offers outreach, street-work, out of hours drop in services, awareness and support to young women involved in sexual exploitation, currently reaches an additional 20 young women every week. We also provided 5 exploitation awareness workshops in schools and communities.

We have joined forces with another local voluntary agency to carry out work against human trafficking in the UK. This new partnership intends to tackle a hidden and serious problem and set up and provide support services for young people caught up in trafficking.

In February the promotional staff were exceptionally busy raising our profile. They had 6 radio interviews, put out 8 press releases and dealt with numerous media calls. They are currently preparing an advert for a national magazine as well as designing several leaflets, cards and posters for us and for our sister organisations.

One of our web sites has been completely redesigned to better reflect the new work we are now doing both in this country and abroad. It can be viewed at www.violenceispreventable.org.uk. The web site has a full list of all schools that have received V.I.P. sessions and current partners. A parents help book, jigsaws and games are amongst several of the free downloads that are available from the new website.

Jenny's Story (part of the wee VIP resources for pre-school children) has been completely rewritten and our volunteer artist has modernised and repainted all the illustrations. It is currently with the designer and will soon be available as an e-book. It has also been translated into German, Spanish, Italian and Polish and all will soon be available as free downloads from the web site. In addition, there is a new game for children to use to dress Jenny in her different outfits while talking about their feelings.

Throughout February, the V.I.P. (Violence Is Preventable) Programme

has been running in 4 primary schools, 1 high school and a church. A total of 842 children and 45 teachers have received all 6 sessions. Presentations about V.I.P. have been provided to 3 organisations.

We have contacted 3,633 schools in Lancashire, 2,173 schools in Essex, 2,390 schools in Kent and 1,277 schools in West Midlands to let them know about the V.I.P. programmes. We have used different methods and materials to make contact in each area and are monitoring outcomes to try and find out the most effective means of getting the message of early intervention across.

Last month, internal training was provided for all staff and volunteers on child protection, V.I.P. delivery, how to support young people in crisis and organised and ritualised abuse.

A V.I.P. accredited training course is planned in Berwick for outside agencies on 16th and 23rd March. Anyone in this area who is interested in attending, call Shaun on 01382 206222 for further information.

5 days of training on how to support young survivors of abuse have been planned for April. The dates are 5th, 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th April (10am - 3pm) and the training is open to all. It is free of charge but all 5 days must be attended. Booking is essential and early booking is recommended as places are very limited.

We now have a number of NGO's around the world who have now confirmed different levels of partnership agreements with us. We are actively seeking funding to take some of these partnerships forward in an evidence-based way. With others, we hope to be able to share resources, ideas and good practice. The partners are based in Brazil and African countries. All the new partners work and live in areas of high deprivation and poverty so we are collecting useful things to send to them. If any of you have spare pencils, pens and paper to donate all would be most welcome and we can pass it on.

Other partnerships continue in 3 areas of England, Palestine, Poland and Australia with a range of NGO's. We have been happy to share our V.I.P. resources with these agencies and those in England have been able to receive our training and accreditation. We are seeking funding to provide more to these partners and in return we hope for translations of some of the resources, which we can share further.

We have taken advantage of an out of work joiner who has transformed our premises by building shelving in every room including the toilets. The clutter is fast disappearing and rooms are tidy at last. The children's

playroom has also been redesigned and now has large beanbags for the children to sit on while playing.

We had a huge delivery of toys, games and clothing from our partners in the Disney store. This partnership continues to allow us to share these items with needy families, schools and hospitals.

A sponsored bike ride is planned from John O'Groats to Dundee between 4th - 11th July. Sandra and Barry, our biking volunteers intend to ride and raise lots of cash for us. They are hoping for other volunteers to join them along the way.

Kirkton Beat continues to practice every Monday evening. They recently performed in front of 800 people at the Caird Hall in Dundee with local dance groups and they were pretty fantastic. The success of this event led to many more children joining the group. The next performance of Kirkton Beat will be opening a big wrestling event in March.

Chilli the clever Chinchilla has worked out how to open his cage and take himself for a walk. As a result, there have been several escapes and Chinchilla hunts round the offices.