

## **18u Update October 2010**

It has been an extremely busy month for us with record achievements. This month we reached 2,831 young people and 127 teachers in 9 different schools across Scotland with the Violence Is Preventable programmes. 5 of the schools were High Schools, 3 were primary schools and one was a specialist residential school. All are taking full advantage of the 6 weekly sessions and some have now signed up for more intensive focus groups with children identified as in need of further intervention beyond the V.I.P. programmes. These focus groups are designed to help young people further explore their feelings and any issues they have about violence. As usual, huge numbers of disclosures of abuse and violence were received from the children and young people during delivery of the programmes and all are being dealt with appropriately.

We have had 3 serious child protection cases this month and although one was a bit tricky, all are now in the process of being resolved. Across the UK child protection agencies vary enormously when approached by Eighteen And Under with a possible child protection case. Some are incredibly efficient and professional and others, unfortunately, are not. We are keeping note of all cases and responses, which we might publish at a future date.

The Taywise project has developed new resource cards aimed at young people engaged in sexual exploitation. These cards will be distributed during evenings, nights and weekends to young people on the streets and will direct them to safe places to get non-judgemental information and support. This project and the other support projects based in our Centre continues to engage well with the many young people who chose, for whatever reason, not to engage with statutory agencies. The drop-in confidential support services are very popular with the young people as is the message board and the e-mail support service. Children and young people who have experienced any kind of abuse are able to access support from us on their own terms.

Due to the high demand for places on our accredited V.I.P. training courses, we agreed to stretch ourselves further and put on another training course during the month. This allowed for a further 6 workers from a variety of agencies to receive the programme. The next accredited training courses will now be next year and we will publish dates soon.

We had several visitors over the month including an MSP, some social workers, victim support, teachers and workers from a variety of statutory and voluntary agencies across the UK. We also had a visitor from Switzerland for a couple of days who we were able to take into a school with us so she could see first hand what we are doing. The unique nature of our organisation continues to attract interest from far and wide. We were also asked to take part in some worldwide research by a US university. This research is about the role of men in violence prevention work and is sounding extremely interesting.

Our promotional workers attended meeting and events across the UK and provided 5 promotional presentations to a variety of audiences. We are

increasingly travelling further afield for networking events and presentations, which is good as it means the message is getting out there. The e-mail campaign continues also with over 10,000 individuals and agencies now contacted.

Our volunteer artist has finished painting the new pictures for our children's abuse prevention storybook, Jenny's Story. Jenny's Story is part of the very successful wee VIP resource pack for use with pre-school children (age 4 to 7) and their parents. She has also painted a beautiful dress-up Jenny game for the children to use to reinforce the important messages of telling!

In addition, Jenny's Story has now been widely translated, thanks to a team of volunteer translators, into Polish, Spanish, French, Italian and Hungarian. These are all being made into e books which will be shortly be made available as free downloads from our website. We would welcome further translators to join us in the translation projects and do intend to get the whole of the Violence Is Preventable resources translated into as many languages as possible. Please get in touch if you would like to join our translation project.

The parents and toddlers V.I.P. pack is now finished. This is a new resource for use with parents and very young children (under 4 years) to teach about talking to children, simple feelings, child safety, positive parenting and alternatives to violence. The parents book will be made available for free download as an e book from our web site. This toddlers' pack consists of a toddler's rhymes book, a storybook about feelings, a flashcards safety game and a parent's guide.

The Violence Is Preventable web site is currently undergoing new construction to reflect the planned future developments of the organisation. It will include many free downloads, information about all the V.I.P. resources, accreditation, information about quality research, a list of all schools which have received the V.I.P. delivery and details of all training opportunities. This new site will be launched in the near future.

Fundraising has been, as ever, a never-ending task. Volunteers and staff have all been involved in this work on many different levels. In addition to putting collection cans round businesses, letters to the rich and famous and writing fundraising strategies, we have mobilised friends and supporters to think of ways of keeping us going and developing services further. Locally some young music bands recently came together and performed at a nightclub to raise funds for us. Local support from young people continues at a high level.

We have also been heavily involved in raising funds for other agencies to help them get involved in violence prevention and other similar activities. Unlike other organisations, which see themselves in rivalry with others, we prefer to work together towards a common purpose, share and help others. We have shared information and expertise on how and where to get funding, helped complete funding applications, acted as referees and even applied for some joint projects.

Another newly created charity is now registered with the charity commission and sharing our premises. Prisoner's of Hope is an organisation which aspires to do many things including raising awareness of the effects of violence, the effects of war and disaster, trauma and recovery, research and of course bring hope to those who are struggling. This charity will work at both a local and an International level.

This brings the number of charities sharing our premises to 6 now. Sharing the premises and the resources makes it cheaper for all of us and we are able to make better use of available funding. We have started to build a reserve fund to make it possible to move to new premises should we decide to do this over the coming year.

## Eighteen And Under Update November 2010

It was yet another busy month for all of us in Eighteen And Under. We provided direct support and information to 63 young abuse survivors through our drop in service, e-mail, message-board, text and telephone support services. E mail is proving a very popular way of young people contacting the services as it is a way that young people can have greater control and stay anonymous.

The Taywise service was busier than usual perhaps due to the colder and darker nights drawing in with 37 women accessing the service. The new Taywise cards are very popular and are being widely distributed. Taywise provides services for young women at risk of, or involved in sexual exploitation. The workshops have been popular and the provision of a healthy bowl of soup or a cooked meal continues to encourage women to attend the workshops.

The DASI project, which is aimed at young people affected by domestic violence is also busy just now. Another self-help support group has been formed by some of the young people and some healthy discussions are helping challenge and change attitudes that allow domestic violence to continue are taking place.

Violence Is Preventable focused sessions have been provided in 4 high schools to a total of 76 young people and 6 teachers. These sessions have focused on domestic and sexual violence and the root causes of such violence and abuse. 2 off site schools have had V.I.P. sessions with a specific focus on reaching hard to reach young people and our new Resolve it Project has been carrying out work with smaller groups of young people who are at risk of exclusion from school.

A range of Violence is Preventable sessions have also been provided in 4 primary schools for 786 children and 26 teachers. Other community settings where V.I.P. delivery has taken place have included a church, College and community centre.

Accredited training in V.I.P. delivery has been provided to 5 workers at the Centre and another 13 workers in England have been provided with basic training. We have input directly into 3 conferences and our staff attended the 'Getting it Right for Every Child' Conference locally.

Our worker input to a round table event about the needs of male survivors. This was to encourage early prevention work with children as a longer-term solution to all violence rather than continuing with endless increases in service provision for adults after abuse has occurred.

Another worker attended an event at parliament for the same purpose and we have spoken at 3 conferences. Our message of using a strong academic evidence base to support continued preventative work with younger children is not yet being heard. We are hopeful that, in time, the limited resources will go where they really can achieve best result, to preventative work with young children.

One of our workers attended an inspirational symposium in Switzerland for 3 days and was able to network with projects and people from all over the world who are working in the field of prevention. Useful contacts were made and a great deal learned about other projects and agencies.

We have been, as ever, actively pursuing partnerships with NGO's in other countries with considerable success. We are seeking to take the V.I.P. model into as many countries as we can, get it translated and adapted, and see if it works as effectively as it does here.

Translations of Jenny's Storybook are continuing in a number of key languages and in time they will be available as free downloads from the web site. The web site itself is being redeveloped to reflect new areas of work and promote the Violence is Preventable work further afield.

Kirkton Beat continues to practice every week and has been in demand for performances at a number of venues and occasions. We were asked to help out in a huge fundraiser for the Huntington's Association but unfortunately the bad weather led to cancellation of this event.

The Shadow Management group of young people has not met in reality this month but they have all participated in virtual meetings and discussions. They are all keen to see the return of their Tea in the Centre club which will be happening after the Christmas break.

We have 2 new workers on placement with us for the next while. They are keen to be involved in the V.I.P. project and keen to learn about the different projects we are running. Hopefully they will soon be part of the team.

Finally, the Violence Is Preventable project was judged to be a Good Practice in the Dubai International Award for best practices and will feature on the Habitat Best Practice database.