

18u Update September 2010

We have provided regular weekly V.I.P. (Violence Is Preventable) programmes for 9 new primary schools and 3 new high schools this month. We have been stretched to capacity and have worked with 926 primary and nursery aged children and 285 secondary aged children. This means we have reached a total of **1,211** children and young people and 228 teachers this month. This has meant that every worker has been out of the office every day and unable to deal with phone calls and drop-ins but it has been worth it.

The promotional team have been equally busy with a staggering 14 presentations this month. These were mostly provided to teachers and primary schools but there were also 2 presentations to parents and one to a local authority education team. All feedback was positive with further uptake of the programme. The e mail campaign continues across the UK.

Accredited training in V.I.P. delivery has been a huge success so much so that we have bowed to pressure and put on an extra course in October. This is aimed at workers who already have some experience of working with children and young people. We are offering a 2-day Accredited V.I.P. course on 20th and 21st of October, 9.30 till 4.30pm Places are very limited so please book quickly if you are interested. The cost is £350 per day but some concession rates are available upon request.

We now have Jenni's story translated into Polish, Spanish and French with several other volunteer translators working hard to get it translated into other languages. The volunteer artist is repainting the pictures for the story so as to make it more modern and cosmopolitan. The new web site design is underway and as soon as we have all the translations and the picture, we will make it possible for Jenni's story to be downloaded from the website in as many languages as we can manage.

The lobbying of MP's and MSP's is beginning to pay off with many letters of support for Violence Is Preventable programmes being received and several meetings arranged with MP's to provide further information and presentations.

The Toddler V.I.P. Pack is nearing completion. This pack will consist of a parent's guide, a story-book, rhymes for toddlers, a DVD and a flashcard game. It is aimed at supporting parents and carers to teach very young children about feelings, alternatives to violence and also how to communicate effectively with children and keep them safe from harm. The Teen V.I.P. Resource Pack is also in the process of being rewritten. It is now 10 years old and, though still highly effective, urgently in need of modernisation.

Our one and only copy of the V.I.P. Resources in Braille is now winging it's way over to Israel to be given to a Palestinian school for blind children. We decided to donate this to this inspirational school because we know it will be appreciated and valued. Our hope is that the V.I.P. programme will soon be being provided to the children in the school and will make the children feel safer and encourage them to talk about their experiences. More to follow on this exciting news soon!

Visitors to our Centre this month have included nurses, women's aid workers, abuse survivor organisation, victim support workers, social workers and police officers. All have been interested in our work and some have bought resources to use themselves with their clients.

We ourselves attended local and national meetings and events mostly in regard to child protection. We have also been involved in global and national research projects. Two of our workers are now involved in studying post-graduate child protection courses at the local University.

Our 6-month placement student from France, Nina, has finished her placement and returned to France. She has set a new benchmark against which all future students will be measured. Nina has taken V.I.P. resources with her and fully intends to get into school in France to deliver the research programme. Another French student is expected to join our team next month for a 3 month placement.

We also have a new student on placement with us for 2 days every week. It is a long-term placement, which is good because the student will be able to receive all the accredited training and do some meaningful work in the schools in addition to on-going project work.