



## The quarterly Stop it Now! UK and Ireland activity update

### Taking prevention into Europe

**Stop it Now! UK and Ireland is well known for its belief that all adults are responsible for protecting children from sexual abuse – a belief which is increasingly being embraced across Europe.**

Over the last few months representatives from a number of European countries have visited Stop it Now! – including Holland, Finland, Poland and Switzerland – all of whom are keen to take the prevention agenda forward in their own countries.

The Stop it Now! campaign acts on the principle that children can be protected from abuse if adults are aware of how abusers operate and are confident about what to do if they are worried that abuse may be occurring.

There is a growing understanding that children are more likely to be abused by people they know, and that abusers are not the 'monsters' portrayed by the media, but familiar and trusted adults, which can make disclosure more difficult. For some children while they want the abuse to stop, they also want the abuser to get help. Some abusers and potential abusers feel guilty about their thoughts and actions, but struggle to manage their behaviour. For these reasons it is critical that there is a place for people to talk about it – and the Stop it Now! Helpline provides this place.

Donald Findlater,

Director of Stop it Now! UK and Ireland said: "The aim of the campaign and the Helpline is to equip adults to protect children from sexual abuse and we are delighted that other countries are looking to adopt a similar ethos and incorporate some of our work in their own nations.

"In Holland, *De Waag* is looking at starting a Helpline and in Poland the *Nobody's Children Foundation* is aiming to incorporate prevention messages in its campaigning and marketing work. This prevention agenda is essential if we are to effectively tackle child sexual abuse."

Marina Yannakoudakis, MEP for London, is hosting a briefing in September, in Brussels, called '*Information Helplines as part of Child Protection Services*' in which the Stop it Now! UK and Ireland campaign and Helpline will be showcased to members of the European Parliament and other European organisations.

#### What we believe.....

##### Our Vision

Our vision is of a society where all adults engage in respectful, caring and protective relationships with children and young people; where children and young people grow up free from sexual abuse or exploitation.

##### Our Mission

To prevent child sexual abuse by engaging with and supporting adults, families and communities and through research and speaking out.

This includes engaging with adults with concerning sexual thoughts or behaviour, as well as with their families and friends, to prompt positive, protective actions and to promote lives of responsibility and integrity.

### Editor's Note

**Welcome to the July edition of Stop! Press. As you'll read we're still working hard across the UK and Europe! I was delighted to recently visit *De Waag* in Amsterdam to help them plan a Stop it Now! Helpline and campaign for Holland and I am equally excited about the forthcoming European Parliament briefing on how Helplines form part the child protection agenda (opposite).**

#### The Stop it Now! Helpline

Our Helpline has been assisting people prevent child sexual abuse since June 2002 and call volume continues to rise despite limited publicity due to funding constraints. To date, we have helped 10,600 people each protect at least one child.

Callers include adults worried about their own thoughts and behaviour, adults concerned about the behaviour of another adult, and adults concerned about a child or young person. Each caller is given information and support by trained operators who explore the options available, including referral to our own follow-up service or another agency. One or more protective actions that the caller will take are also agreed. In many cases callers are not in contact with child protection or criminal justice agencies, mostly for fear of repercussions. Our Helpline demonstrates that people can and do take action to prevent child sexual abuse when they have a safe place to talk and when given sound information. We would be thrilled to see this model adopted across Europe. Look out for in-depth features on our caller groups in the next edition of Stop! Press.

#### Funding

On pages 4 and 5 you will read about two groups of people who have recently raised money for us. We cannot thank them enough! In this tough economic climate, and with government spending on the decrease, we will undoubtedly find ourselves relying more and more on this kind of generosity. If you would like to support our work, by donating directly or holding a fundraising event, we would love to hear from you (see page 5).

I hope you find the content of this newsletter interesting reading - even exciting. We do!

**Best wishes,**

**Donald Findlater, Director**

MORE ON THE HELPLINE AND CAMPAIGN

➔ [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)





# Commit to Prevent! wraps up – but the work continues in Wales

**1500 Public Signatures  
43 Assembly Candidate Signatures**

**Stop it Now! Wales is sending huge thanks to everyone who supported its Assembly Election 2011 campaign, **Commit to Prevent!**. Launched in July 2010, the campaign aimed to put preventing child sexual abuse on the political agenda and ensure a continued commitment from the Fourth Assembly beyond May 2011.**

**Great support**

The campaign encouraged members of the public to get involved

and over 1500 public signatures were collected. In addition, 43 Assembly Candidates signed up online, including Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services.

National Manager, Rebecca Morgan said: “I was overwhelmed by the support of the Welsh public and delighted that 43 Assembly Candidates signed our online petition; 18 of whom are now elected Assembly Members.

“Through our presence at the National Eisteddfod in August 2010, and through our direct engagement with the public, we saw clear evidence of how passionate and powerful the public’s commitment to this issue is. A large volume of people are affected by child sexual abuse, and there is such relief when people feel able to talk openly about this.”

**Moving forward - Act to Prevent!**

Stop it Now! Wales has

vowed that this work will continue and is preparing to embark on a new campaign – **Act to Prevent!**. This drive will aim to build on the work done so far to ensure that the prevention of child sexual abuse is, and remains, a strategic priority for the Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales.

Check out [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk) over the coming weeks to find out more.

# Reaching out to prisoners in Scotland

**A new programme designed to give prisoners in Scotland information about child sexual abuse, it’s prevention and where help can be found is being piloted in Addiewell Prison by Stop it Now! Scotland.**

**Talk abOUT it!**

The ‘Talk abOUT it!’ project involves making information about sexual abuse available to prisoners preparing for release through a targeted booklet; hosting information on the internal prison information kiosk

and within the Visitor Centre; and placing posters throughout the prison.

Information includes details on the possible effects of sexual abuse, obstacles that can deter people from talking about it, the importance of support for families and

children, how abuse can be prevented and an extensive list of sources of help available.

**Getting help**

National Manager, Martin Henry said: “There are agencies which provide support and advice to those affected by child sexual abuse, including men who have been in the criminal justice system who may have suffered child sexual abuse or have current issues of concern.

“It is vital to ensure that those who need these resources know about them and are helped to access them.”

It is hoped the programme will increase the pro-social behaviour and quality of life for prisoners and ex-prisoners who have experienced child sexual abuse, resulting in communities



and families becoming more stable.

“We’ve been working on this project for some time and are really pleased to see it coming together,” added Martin.

“We are also looking at strengthening this relationship with Addiewell Prison and are considering providing short presentations to prisoners during their induction.”

The pilot will be evaluated by the end of the year and reported on in future editions of Stop! Press.

**The delivery of accurate, proportionate and targeted information on child sexual abuse to Scottish prisoners has the following advantages:-**

- Providing general awareness and educational information leads to better general prevention and reporting from the community (since most prisoners will, eventually, rejoin the general public).
- Providing targeted information better enables (some) prisoners to disclose their childhood experiences and receive requisite services.
- Providing targeted information better enables (some) prisoners to identify potentially harmful behaviour and therefore to seek early help for themselves or for others who may already be (or become) likely to abuse.
- Providing public health information reinforces the prison environment as an opportunity for learning, rehabilitation and responsible citizenship.



# Parents Protect! prevention messages spanning England, Wales and soon to be Scotland!

## Rolling out across England

After receiving Department for Education funding, Parents Protect! sessions are being rolled out across the country by Stop it Now! England. In the last three months 96 parents have received the session. Stop! staff are working with Children's Centres and other organisations to train their staff as well as the parents they work with. Feedback has been extremely positive and Stop! England is keen to hear from others who would like to see this programme offered in their area.

## Adult Learners week in Wales

Preventing child sexual abuse was high on the agenda during Adult Learners Week in Wales (16th-20th May). National Manager, Rebecca Morgan joined forces with the organiser, Cardiff County Council, to deliver 5 Parents Protect! sessions to parents, carers and professionals. Those in the audience included a number of primary school staff who will take the learning back into their workplace.

## And.....expanding into Scotland!

Parents Protect! is set to expand into Scotland in the coming months as Stop it Now! Scotland takes the programme forward. Parents Protect! resources will be combined with existing Keeping Children Safe material (National Community Disclosure Scheme) and police officers will be trained to deliver the programme in communities across the country. It is hoped that following this initial delivery continued funding will be secured so that the programme can be rolled out to others including: social housing providers, nursery staff, child and family centre staff, faith communities, youth workers and others. We welcome Willie Manson to the Stop it Now! Scotland team, where he has taken up the post of Project Officer. He'll be leading on the roll-out of Parents Protect! and can be reached on williammanson@stopitnow.org.uk or 0131 556 3535.

The Parents Protect! programme is a 90-minute public education session for parents, carers and other adults to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and provide positive messages about what they can do to protect children.

The session focuses on dispelling common myths about child sex offenders while at the same time arming parents and carers with sound information that will help them keep their youngsters safe. It also offers a better understanding of how convicted sex offenders are managed by the police, probation and other statutory and voluntary bodies on release into the community.

The presentations are supported by a website; [www.parentsprotect.co.uk](http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk) and a 30 minute e-learning programme (hosted on the site) which parents and carers can work through in their own time.

To find out more, or arrange a session near you, contact our Central Administrator on [office@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:office@stopitnow.org.uk) or 01527 598184.

[www.parentsprotect.co.uk](http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk)

## Frontline practitioner training

Stop it Now! England is organising 30 local, low-cost, multi-agency training days during 2011-2013, as part of the Department for Education's drive to improve frontline practice with regard to safeguarding. These events can accommodate up to 110 multi-agency representatives and typically cost around £60 per head, depending on location and venue costs.

Four specialist topics are covered during the day, which increase the delegate's understanding of child sexual abuse and its prevention. Training content can be tailored to suit the needs of the particular audience and is delivered by experienced Lucy Faithfull Foundation practitioners. Topics covered recently include females who sexually abuse; internet offending and recognising harmful sexual behaviour in young people.

In the past we have partnered with a range of organisations to deliver these events, including Police, LSCBs and Early Years Services.

If you would like to see an event in your area, whether or not you would like to help organise or host it, we would like to hear from you.

### Timetable of events

September 19 - West Midlands	December 8 - East of England
September 23 - North West	December 14 - South East
October 13 - East of England	January 11 - South West
October 20 - Hampshire	January 13 - London
November 10 - East Midlands	February 2 - Yorkshire & Humber
November 18 - Yorkshire & Humber	February 9 - North West
	March 1 - North East

## Previous attendees said:

- Informative and relevant to my role
- Will use new knowledge in future work
- Should be compulsory for all who work with children
- Valuable and educational, well presented
- An eye opener to the facts and myths of sexual abuse

## FIND OUT MORE:

- ➔ [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)
- ➔ [Imaslen@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:Imaslen@stopitnow.org.uk)
- ➔ 01527 598184



## Linking with domestic abuse agencies

**Stop it Now! Wales has teamed up with organisations working with domestic abuse to spread child sexual abuse prevention messages.**

National Manager, Rebecca Morgan is working with the charity Hafan Cymru, in Brecon, and Amman Valley Women's Aid to deliver the sexual abuse prevention course, Parents Protect Plus!. The course looks at various aspects of prevention including abuser behaviour, the barriers to identifying abuse and the positive preventative actions we can all take to help keep children safe. Spanning 5-weeks, it is a longer course than the 90-minute Parents Protect! session.

### Positive outcomes

Rachel Munday, Project Co-ordinator for Brecon, at Hafan Cymru said: "I believe that the Service

Users with Hafan Cymru in Brecon benefited greatly from having the programme. For some it was the trigger to decide to deal with their own historic issues. The whole group found it a powerful experience and felt that they had gained from it."

Amman Valley Women's Aid spotted details of the Parents Protect! resources on Stop it Now! Wales' twitter feed. Following a 90-minute session they asked for the longer 5-week course. Rebecca says it helps to have more time when working with particular groups: "This group of mothers were extremely engaged with issues that the original

Our research tells us that a large proportion of the public don't have the confidence to act on concerns or know where to go for advice and information when it comes to child sexual abuse. Using expertise and knowledge from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and NOMS Cymru, Stop it Now! Wales developed Parents Protect Plus! to address that gap and help develop the awareness and understanding of parents and carers.

The course is made up of one two-hour session per week, for five weeks and is suitable for parents, carers, grandparents and guardians of children and young people under the age of 18.

Parents Protect! session raised and wanted the opportunity to discuss in greater depth some of the key questions and information around how to keep their children safe. This longer course allows those taking part to go away and think about what we have discussed before coming back a week later, giving them the opportunity to ask questions or clarify things."

As a result of this work with Amman Valley,

Rebecca is delighted to have already received interest for Parents Protect! and Parents Protect Plus! from Womens Aid groups in Cardiff, Llanelli, Abergavenny, Aberystwyth and Port Talbot.

**Rebecca is still looking to deliver Parents Protect! sessions and can train others to deliver the sessions also. For more information, please contact [rmorgan@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:rmorgan@stopitnow.org.uk) or 07989 378220.**

## Running for Circles (as opposed to in them!)

**Three dedicated Circles of Support and Accountability volunteers recently took part in a 5K race to raise money for the Lucy Faithfull Foundation which manages 'Circles' across the UK.**

'Circles' involve groups of volunteers working with an ex-offender (known as the Core Member), to help him or her to re-settle into the community, and in doing so, reduce the risk of reoffending.

Clare Parsons, Simon Quinn and Rachel Cowe have been Circles volunteers in London for some time and collectively decided they wanted to raise money for the

Foundation.

Clare said: "We wanted this run to promote and support the work of the Foundation, especially its work running Circles of Support and Accountability. We think it's a fantastic charity doing some very innovative work to protect children and we are proud to have been involved with Circles over the past year."

She added that the idea for the run itself came about over coffee: "While chatting we realised that a couple of the members of our Circle were keen runners while the rest of us had never ever run before. Somehow we agreed to challenge

ourselves to a 5k run! So, we started training with our Core Member in preparation."

Ten weeks later they all took part in the Battersea Park 5K run – and all four made it across the finish line.

"We weren't the fastest of teams on the day but we all managed to make it to the end! It was July the 4th so we celebrated with a well deserved American themed meal afterwards," said Clare. "Now, we're trying to figure out what our next Circle challenge will be...!"



L-R: Clare Parsons, Simon Quinn, Rachel Cowe

So far the team has raised over £800 – and donations can still be made by visiting <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserPage.action?userId=circle5k&faId=114919&isTeam=true>.

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation and Stop it Now! UK and Ireland sends great thanks to the runners for their efforts and their donation!!



## 'THE INDOOR BUSK' - A Charity Gig for LFF and Stop it Now!

Sharing great music and raising money for a good cause. That was the driving force behind the recent charity gig, 'The Indoor Busk'. Organised by three London based students who have an undying passion for music, the event saw a variety of musical acts perform for a captive audience at the Brady Arts Centre, Whitechapel – with all proceeds being donated to the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and Stop it Now! UK and Ireland.

Jannat Rob, one of three organisers, said there were many reasons why they decided that their event should contribute towards a charitable cause:

"Although we all live in stable environments, we are not hidden from the many dangers that surround us today. The concept of combining our passion for music with an attempt to help others, felt incredibly appealing and satisfying for us. We searched through numerous charities and finally, collectively knuckled down to 'The Lucy Faithfull Foundation' as the charity we wanted to donate to, simply because we believe that their work is utterly remarkable."

Despite Jannat and her team (Soomaiya Syeda and Shenade Reid) saying there were 'a few hiccups' on the night, the audience would never have known; the team's obvious good communication coupled with their ability to think on their feet

allowed them to resolve difficulties quickly, resulting in their first gig being hailed a success!

"Organising this event has allowed us to build our skills for the future, and has sharpened our knowledge of what is required of us to make an event a success," said Soomaiya. "The organising, performances and general experience has been unforgettable."

Shenade added that they couldn't have done it alone: "We never would have been successful in our endeavours if it wasn't for Community Music and The Brady Centre. We are incredibly grateful that they gave us this opportunity and cannot thank them enough for all the help they provided throughout this journey. We would most definitely love to hold another charity concert in the future, as this was such a pleasurable and satisfying experience."



Acts who performed on the night were: 'Jan', 'Ben Bezzina', 'Rebecca Need-Menear', 'Mammoth Sound', 'Sleepless Beauty' and 'Weisen'. Check out [www.facebook.com/stopitnowukandireland](http://www.facebook.com/stopitnowukandireland) for additional pictures from the event.

### Get Connected

Check us out on Facebook and Twitter by using the links below or searching for us!

#### Twitter:

Donald Findlater: <http://twitter.com/#!/StopItNowUK>

Stop Scotland!: <http://twitter.com/#!/StopItNowScot>

Stop Wales!: <http://twitter.com/#!/StopItNowWales>

#### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stopitnowukandireland>

### Fundraising

As you will see from the couple of stories featured in this edition of Stop! Press, we have recently received some inspiring and welcome support from those wishing to raise funds for us.

With the current economic climate as challenging as it is, and an expected reduction in government funding - we are more in need of public donations now than ever before. If you have an idea on how you could help, whether it be to organise a fundraising event or donate a one-off payment, please do get in touch with Deborah Denis!

- ➔ [ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:ddenis@stopitnow.org.uk)
- ➔ 01372 847169



To find out why a hedgehog has made a starring appearance in this edition.....check out our October issue!!!