

Message from Donald Findlater, Director of Stop it Now! UK & Ireland

I REMEMBER first meeting Fran Henry, founder of Stop it Now! US a couple of years into my time managing the Wolvercote Residential Centre.

With a background in offender management and intervention with the probation service, opportunities at the clinic were already demonstrating how much more we could do with and for victims and families of offenders, and with offenders themselves; but this was still after abuse had happened.

Fran was proposing a vision which offered the possibility of prevention at a

much earlier stage. In 2002 it was my privilege to have the opportunity to set-up and manage the Stop it Now! UK and Ireland Helpline, utilising the staff group from the Wolvercote Centre who were already working with offenders, families, victims and survivors as well as with the professional community. And alongside the Helpline, we launched Stop it Now! Surrey which, for reasons of funding, has recently transformed into the SMART Enough? public education pilot; part of the Home Office Child Sex Offender Review.

Whilst my responsibilities within the Lucy Faithfull Foundation have changed and developed since Wolvercote Centre's closure in 2002, I have sustained an active involvement in and responsibility for the Helpline throughout; and not a week goes by without at least one poignant example of adults protecting children from abuse. By far the biggest frustration has been the oft-repeated comment "if only I'd heard of you before." Which is why the challenge I bring to Stop it Now! national, regional and local managers and coordinators, as well as to myself, is to focus our energies on public visibility.

We have created some excellent resources over the past six years; have a splendid re-vamped website and offer accessible, practical expert advice and support on the Stop it Now! Helpline. But for people, particularly children, to benefit, we need to be known about. Next step – our communications strategy!

Directing Stop it Now! is only half of my working life. For the rest, I shall continue developing services within the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. Recently this has involved education programmes for internet offenders and their families; internet safety seminars for parents; computer monitoring software for the better management of registered sex offenders; and safer recruitment training for the children's workforce. I am also a board member of the Independent Safeguarding Authority – created following the Richard Inquiry into the Soham tragedy.

Luckily these responsibilities complement each other well, and whilst the Stop it Now! task is daunting, I have the benefit of support from the splendid team recruited by Tink Palmer over recent years. With national campaign managers in Scotland, Wales and England now on board, we are well placed to make Fran Henry's vision of adults protecting children from sexual abuse a reality across the UK and Ireland. We'll need all the help we can get and I would be delighted to hear from any reader with suggestions for the campaign or, indeed, with further offers of support. We have an exciting and challenging time ahead.

Positive partnerships the way forward



The England National Campaign Manager, Paul Harrison has wasted no time in developing positive partnerships across England.

Paul, pictured above (right) with Roger Kennington, senior probation officer and project coordinator for the Sexual Behaviour Unit in the North East of England, wants to partner with professionals and voluntary organisations working in the field of child abuse prevention.

"Stop it Now! is keen to work with professionals in this area and in particular with those seeking to prevent child sexual abuse," said Paul.

"We know the Sexual Behaviour Unit is doing some really good work and it would be relevant and right for us to work alongside them.

"The other thing we are keen to do is to let as many people as possible know about our 0808 1000 900 confidential helpline.

"Working with Roger and the North East team would help us get that number out to people."

Paul said Stop it Now! aims to hold a North East conference in the near future to explain the campaign to and build positive contacts with professionals in the region.

Dates for your diary

Tools to Take Home 2009

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation together with the University of Birmingham is hosting this two day non-residential conference focusing on work with sexually abusive behaviours. The event will provide tools to update and inform clinical practice.

The conference, which takes place on the 28th and 29th April 2009, will be held at The Macdonald Burlington Hotel in Birmingham.

Effective assessment and treatment of adult sexual offenders and of young people who engage in inappropriate or abusive sexual behaviours, increasingly contribute to decisions about detention or release and to child protection decision making. 'Tools to Take Home 2009' aims to provide practitioners with techniques to develop their clinical practice.

Conference fees are £375.00 per person inclusive of VAT.

For more information and booking details please call: 01527 591922 or e-mail: bordesley@lucyfaithfull.org.uk.

Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

The Thames Valley Partnership is offering two three-day accredited training opportunities in Thame (9 March, 20 April, 11 May) and in Aylesbury (21 September, 20 October, 27 November).

The course covers a number of issues including child sexual abuse awareness, the impact of abuse on children, support services for victims, the role of the internet and sex offenders in the community.

The courses cost £345 per place and it is anticipated the days will run from 9.15am to 4.30pm.

For more information or to book a place please contact Debbie Coles on 01844 202001 or e-mail her at debbie@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk.

Dudley PCT's £50,000 boost to funds

Funding: The Stop it Now! project in the Black Country and Birmingham has received funding of £50,000 from Dudley PCT.

This funding will finance the training of health professionals in the area. Project Coordinator Martine McFadden, said: "We welcome the opportunity to work with the Dudley PCT in delivering the Stop it Now! messages and raising the awareness of child sexual abuse in order to make communities safer."

The project continues to provide training sessions to a number of organisations across the area. Recent work included providing information sessions to staff at GP surgeries across the Birmingham area.

The Black Country and Birmingham baseline evaluation, which was conducted in 2005, revealed that members of the public would visit their GP if worried about their own sexual thoughts or behaviour towards children.

This suggested that people expect their GP to provide information regarding child sexual abuse and highlighted the importance of Stop It Now!'s role within this setting.

All staff members have completed the Open College Network *Train the Trainers* course, with plans to roll out the training programme to volunteers and other professionals.

Stop It Now!

Educate 2 Protect

Together we can prevent child sexual abuse

Educate 2 Protect: The Educate 2 Protect pilot – which was originally called Keeping the Public in Public Protection and grew from Action Point 1 of the Government's Child Sex Offender Review 2007 – is now in full swing.

The two newly appointed public

education officers have provided sessions to the Parents' Parliament in Handsworth Wood and Soho Children's Centre Welcome Group.

They have also done a presentation to a fathers' group. Feedback from the sessions was excellent.

The presentations to parents and carers are called 'Parent Events.' Each person who attends an event is given a resource pack which comprises a bright red carrier bag, with a selection of Stop It Now! booklets, and the Ministry of Justice leaflet: Keeping Communities Safe – Managing Risk through MAPPA.

The officers designed a postcard intended to assist the attendees with further support.

The card which is double-sided offers advice on reporting offences and concerns on one side while the other side is aimed at helping victims and survivors by providing a list of help lines specifically for male victims, females and black and minority groups. The postcard is included in the pack.

To publicise the pilot, details have been included on the Stop It Now! website and the Birmingham Local Safeguarding Children's Board site.

A statement about the pilot was released to the media, and as a result one of the officers took part in a radio interview on a local station.

In order to access as many people as possible, in the initial stages contact was made with Children's Centres, this led to many contacts and suggestions.

From this early start Educate 2 Protect moved to contacting schools where the pilot received positive feedback.

Educate 2 Protect held a professionals briefing in November 2008.

The aim of the briefing was to inform professionals in the five areas about the pilot and to seek feedback about the best way to deliver events to parents in those areas.

Partnership planning underway for diverse community project

An exciting new project is being set up in London that will work in partnership with Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities.

The three-year project aims to pilot a community prevention programme on child sexual abuse which engages BAMER communities in London, taking a participatory approach and working in partnership with community-led organisations.

At the end of the three years it is hoped a 'toolkit' will be

produced highlighting the lessons learned from the project and giving guidance to other BAMER community groups in the UK and across Europe on how to set up similar work. The project is being funded by an international trust The Oak Foundation.

The first step in the project has been to identify an organisation working with BAMER communities in London to work in partnership with Stop it Now! and pilot a prevention programme on child sexual abuse.

News from Wales... Newyddion o Gymru

Ahead of its official launch in late April, the Stop it Now! Wales campaign is running consultations in partnership with the University of Wales, Newport to find out what the public know about how to prevent the sexual abuse of children and where to go to for help if they have a problem.

The aim is to identify what the people of Wales need in order to best protect children from sexual abuse and prevent child sexual abuse from happening. They are also looking to identify the need for support services across Wales for adults concerned that child sexual abuse may be taking place.

As well as a national survey, Stop it

Now! Wales is also holding focus groups in Cardiff, Newport, Aberystwyth and Bangor in March 2009 and is appealing for people interested in taking part to register now.

If you, or anyone you know who lives in Wales would like to take part in a focus group please contact Rebecca Wasinski on 07989 378220 or email rwasinski@stopitnow.org.uk.

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Cyn ei lansiad swyddogol yng Nghymru yn niwedd mis Ebrill, y mae'r ymgyrch Dyna Ddigon! Cymru yn cynnal ymgyng-horiadau mewn partneriaeth â Phrifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd i ganfod yr hyn y

mae pobl Cymru yn ei wybod am sut i rwystro'r gamdriniaeth rywiol ar blant a ble i fynd am gymorth os oes ganddynt broblem.

Yn ogystal ag arolwg cenedlaethol, y mae Dyna Ddigon! Cymru hefyd yn cynnal grwpiau ffocws yng Nghaerdydd, Casnewydd, Aberystwyth a Bangor ym mis Mawrth 2009 ac y mae'n apelio ar bobl sydd â diddordeb mewn cymryd rhan i gofrestru yn awr.

Os hoffech chi, neu hoffa ffrind/perthynas sydd yn byw yng Nghymru gymryd rhan mewn grŵp ffocws, a fydddech cystal â chysylltu â Rebecca Wasinski ar 07989 378220 neu e-bostio rwasinski@stopitnow.org.uk.

Call to Helpline addresses parents' concerns

Anne lives with her husband and four year-old daughter. They live near Anne's divorced sister and her two sons, the youngest of whom was aged seven.

Concerns had arisen with regard to the seven-year-old and his contact with Anne's daughter. The little girl had disclosed that on two separate occasions, whilst playing, the little boy had touched her inappropriately. The families got together and called.

During the call, the following issues were discussed:

- where he could have learnt this behaviour
- had he seen or heard something at school/ a friend's house and was copying the behaviour
- had he used the opportunity of his older brother being away to do this.
- how they could best deal with this situation.
- should they protect him and not see his behaviour as abusive
- was this behaviour just normal, inquisitive behaviour

Both families were clear that he had not seen or heard anything at home to influence this type of behaviour.

Anne spoke with her daughter who seemed unaffected and unworried by the incident. She praised her daughter for telling her about what had happened.

Anne's sister spoke to her son who said he did not know why he had done it. During the call with Anne we:

Stop it Now! callers: the facts and figures

Since the beginning of the helpline, staff have dealt with 13,803 contacts. That is made up of 13,169 calls and 634 emails.

The make-up of those callers looks like this:

- 48% from abusers/potential abusers
- 28% from internet offenders/potential internet offenders
- 26% from adults concerned about abusers/potential abusers
- 14% from adults concerned about internet offenders/potential internet offenders
- 4% from parents/carers concerned about a

child showing signs of abuse

- 4% from parents/carers concerned about a child displaying concerning behaviour
- 9% from professionals
- 3% from survivors

The remaining 6% were general internet enquiries or requests for general information.

In the last quarter - October to December 2008 - staff have had 319 new individuals contact them either via the phone or by e-mail. This averages out at 106 per month, well above the agreed target of 85. Staff also dealt with 719 contacts to the helpline, averaging 240 per month, the agreed target being 150.

- discussed what impact the divorce of his parents may have had on the boy.
 - advised, that his behaviour, although problematic was not sex as adults would interpret it; more explorative and inquisitive behaviour.
 - reassured Anne that it is natural for most children to look, touch and feel but not to carry on this behaviour to a point where it became abusive/inappropriate.
 - advised her that children needed to learn about boundaries.
 - told her to be vigilant and to listen but not to keep going over the incident with the children
 - suggested she should make sure the child felt loved and was noticed for good behaviour too
 - advised her to download 'Child's Play' from the Stop it Now! website
- As a result of this call Mary, Anne's sister, contacted the helpline and was reassured with similar advice.
- Names and details changed to protect identities.

Help wanted

Ever thought about becoming a Stop it Now! volunteer? If you or someone you know is interested in helping with the campaign please contact office@stopitnow.org.uk for more details. We would love to have volunteers helping us to protect children and prevent child sexual abuse.