

Message from Tink Palmer Director of Stop it Now! UK & Ireland

THIS is my last message to you as Director of the Stop it Now! UK & Ireland campaign as I am moving on to a new area of work.

The past four and a half years have been a very exciting period of my career and my decision to leave has been a difficult one, but one which I believe is timely for both Stop it Now! and myself.

During my tenure as Director I have been able to build up the infra-structure of Stop it Now! to enable the campaign to be rolled out in a strategic manner across the whole of the UK & Ireland.

The campaign is now ready to move

into its third phase and thus, if I were to leave, I judged this to be the right time – enabling a new incumbent to take on the vision and lead the campaign forward.

I am particularly proud of the fact that I have been able to meet the time-scales laid out in the campaign strategic plan, written at the end of 2004, for the establishment of national manager posts for Scotland, England and Wales (and dialogue ongoing for the Northern Ireland national manager post), the appointment of a media/communications manager and the beginning of regional development within England.

We have had a regional campaign manager for London since September, 2007 and the Black Country project, hosted by one of our partner agencies Barnardo's, has expanded and is currently the Black Country and Birmingham project.

It intends to expand further with the aim of becoming the West Midlands Stop it Now! regional initiative.

There has been much interest in the campaign from agencies throughout the UK which can be developed and built on in the years to come.

Whilst in post I have met and worked with many professionals dedicated to preventing the sexual abuse of children.

The ethos of partnership working that we have developed between us has been hugely gratifying and forms the very nub of the campaign.

As we know, it is only through all adults taking responsibility and working together that we are going to better safeguard children from sexual abuse.

I am indebted to members of the Stop it Now! Advisory Council and to the Board of Trustees of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, for mandating my vision for campaign development and for supporting me through this phase. In particular, I would like to thank Baroness Valerie Howarth who, as the chair of the Advisory Council, has been unstinting in her commitment.

I plan to leave near the end of November and to work, predominantly, on issues relating to children abused via the new technologies.

I have already begun handing over to Donald Findlater, Director of Research and Development for the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, who will take the lead role for Stop it Now! on my departure.

Donald has been heavily involved with Stop it Now! since its inception here and he is known to the staff and partner agencies as well as to the media. He will take the campaign forward and increase its public visibility further.

I would like to thank all those who have worked with me over the past four and a half years, many of you have been inspirational, and I am looking forward to our paths crossing again in the future.

● **Look out for a message from Donald Findlater in the next issue.**

America appoints a new president!

STOP It Now! USA, has appointed Deborah Donovan Rice as its new Executive Director.

Ms Donovan Rice has served as Acting President for the past four months, after joining the organization in 2005 as the Public Policy Director.

"Deborah has kept Stop It Now! on a steady course during the last four months.

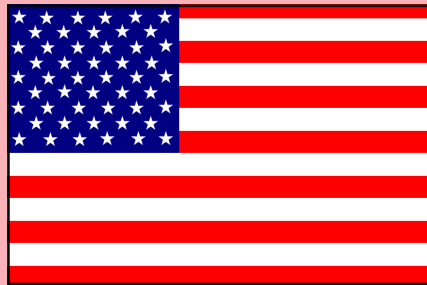
"This has been a critical time for the organization as we work towards the launch of a state-of-the-art website and new online prevention tool to complement our Helpline," said Larry Kressley, chairman of the board of directors.

As Public Policy Director, Ms Donovan Rice was responsible for building and maintaining strategic national alliances, including legislative affairs.

Her achievements included securing the first and only Federal support for the Stop It Now! Helpline.

"Over its 16 year history, Stop It Now! has successfully shifted thinking in the field so the issue of child sexual abuse is now accepted as one primarily of adult and community responsibility.

"Deborah's extensive professional background in the field and deep knowledge of the organization, along with her personal ex-



perience as a survivor, will continue to provide Stop It Now! the visionary leadership we need to build on our achievements," added Mr. Kressley.

Before joining Stop It Now!, Ms. Donovan Rice served as a Program Manager at Prevent Child Abuse Vermont and the Director of Outreach and Education at Darkness to Light in Charleston, South Carolina.

Ms. Donovan Rice is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and has a Master's from the Antioch/New England Graduate School.

Since 1992, Stop It Now! has been helping adults protect children from sexual abuse.

Through its website, national Helpline, materials and community programs, Stop It Now! provides balanced information and practical guidance to adults and families so they can keep children safe in homes and communities.

Chosen campaign aims to highlight sexual abuse in schools

IN London, Stop it Now! teamed up with award winning film maker, Brian Woods and the British Documentary Film Foundation (BRITDOC) to develop a campaign for parents on the sexual abuse of children in schools.

The joint venture grew after the film makers produced *Chosen*, a documentary which highlighted the sexual abuse suffered by three boys at a private school. The film was broadcast on 30th September on More4 and received rave reviews:

Tom, Alistair and Mark - the three men who tell their stories - highlight the silence surrounding abuse and the slow, deliberate grooming of children, school staff and parents by their abusers.

"The successful paedophiles are the ones that aren't discovered of course, and there are plenty of them around.

"They're charming, they have good conversation, they're caring, they're intelligent, they're interested, they're committed to what they're doing, they earn respect, they appear like any other member of



Tom

society. You just can't tell. Sorry but you can't tell," Alistair tells the viewer.

Stop it Now! aims to help parents talk about this sensitive issue with confidence and developed a campaign that gives parents choosing new schools a tool they can use to discuss policies for safeguarding pupils from child sexual abuse with prospective schools.

Staff devised a set of four questions that parents can ask schools on the issue of child protection.



Alistair



Mark

The questions have been produced on a postcard with 5,000 being distributed to parents and schools across London in the last month.

In addition, a website has been developed where parents can find the answers they should expect from schools, www.chosen.org.uk/forparents; and a resource is currently being developed which uses excerpts from the documentary to train school staff on the issue of child sexual abuse.

Educate 2 Protect moves forward

TRAINING - The Birmingham and Black Country project continues to work with statutory and voluntary organisations delivering training packages around the theme of keeping children safe in the real and virtual world.

Over the last few months, the team has provided training to: Sandwell PCT, Sandwell Early Years, Sandwell SCB, Birmingham SCB, Dudley SCB, Birmingham Voluntary Service Walsall CHAMS.

Future training includes continuing working with the local children safeguarding boards, Birmingham Children's Hospital and the YMCA.

INFLUENCING - The project set up a number of information stands, including a stall at the World Mental Health Day and the Sandwell PCT learning event, which gave staff chance to make contacts with health professionals around the Sandwell area.

The project coordinator has also presented the Stop It Now! project to the Heart of Birmingham, North East Birmingham and the South Birmingham area forum, and continues to build links in the area.

Educate 2 Protect Pilot - The public education officers continue to carry out the ground work in order to build a strong foundation for the pilot.

Each ward in Birmingham was evaluated and five areas were chosen according to population size, ethnicity and social deprivation. The areas are: Sutton Four Oaks, Kings Norton, Aston, Sparkbrook and Handsworth Wood.

Success in hard to reach communities leads to Ireland bid for growth funding

STOP it Now! (NI) has submitted a funding proposal to maintain and increase the capacity of the project for a further three years within Northern Ireland.

The proposal seeks to build upon the success that Stop it Now! has experienced in Northern Ireland to date and to address areas of prevention work identified within the Regional Sexual Violence Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The funding proposal has been submitted to the DHSSPS and the NIO and is currently under consideration.

One clear area of success has been our engagement with hard to reach communities.

Stop it Now! (NI) believes it is essential that we give the community accurate information and that this is particularly important given the sensationalized reporting of the issue within some areas of the NI media.

Through our partners in NIACRO we have been successful in reaching communities who are transforming out of conflict and paramilitarism.

Community leaders are keen to play their role in galvanising the interest of local communities in discussing child sexual abuse prevention.

In the Western Board the medical profession have been very receptive to the concept of Stop it Now! (NI).

We have been briefing front line

professionals such as; doctors, dentists, optometrists with regards to the informational material available free of charge for display at their practices.

Some of the areas of work that we would be able to branch out into if further funding were provided would be the provision of support groups for friends and families of adults who have abused children and working in partnership with the local public protection arrangements to provide accurate information to the public.

Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI) refers to the arrangements established for the risk management of sexual and violent offenders and certain potentially dangerous persons whose assessed risks require multi agency input to the delivery of individual risk management plans.

PPANI is not a statutory body in itself but a set of arrangements through which agencies can work together and share information, in discharging their statutory responsibilities, to better protect the public in a coordinated manner.

Stop it Now! (NI) has made arrangements to visit the PSNI Public Protection Units.

It is hoped police officers will become familiar with Stop it Now! (NI) and will hand out the wallet sized card when they interface with the public.

England and Wales national managers join the team

THE capacity of Stop it Now! goes from strength to strength with two new national managers being appointed.

In September, 2008 Stop it Now! appointed national managers – one for Wales and one for England. Rebecca Morgan took up her position for Wales on the 9th October and Paul Harrison will be joining us as the England national campaign manager in the beginning of November.

Wales: Rebecca told Stop it Now! news: "Since taking up my position of Stop it Now! Wales National Campaign Manager I have been undertaking a period of induction and training.

"My first three weeks have been spent at the Wolvercote centre where I have had the opportunity to learn more about issues relating to the sexual abuse

of children and gained insight into the operation of the Helpline and the partnership working of Lucy Faithfull Foundation practitioners in relation to Stop it Now!

"I am looking forward to meeting with Stop it Now! colleagues from our partner agencies, to learning about achievements to date and to planning the roll out of the campaign in Wales."

Prior to taking up post, I was responsible for the implementation of the campaign analysis and research function across the fundraising and campaigns departments of Action for Children.

I have also worked on behalf of the Ministry of Defence as a Strategic Analyst/ Social Psychologist leading research teams and employing psychological theory to understand the underlying causes of extreme terrorist behaviours.

Yr wyf yn chredu'n gryf yng nghymgyrch Stop It Now! ac yn edrych ymlaen at ddatblygu'r hymgyrch yng Nghymru! (I am committed to the Stop It Now! UK and Ireland campaign in preventing child sexual abuse and look forward to developing the campaign in Wales!)

Just to let you know, as I am getting married on November 26th, 2008, I will be known from then as Rebecca Wasinski.

England: Paul Harrison, who took up his position in the first week of November, brings a wealth of experience working within the criminal justice system and in the area of community safety.

He has recently worked as a senior management consultant for those working in the criminal justice system, local authorities and associated agencies and charities.

Martin moves in to a new base in the Scottish capital

STOP It Now! Scotland moved into new office premises in mid-October.

The new offices are in central Edinburgh on the first floor of a converted Georgian townhouse.

Work is underway installing IT equipment and furniture. A telephone landline is being installed in November and the office telephone number will be 0131 556 3535.

Charitable status in Scotland has recently been granted to the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. This will enable Stop It Now! Scotland to have broader access to charitable funding sources.

Capacity building work is well underway with a number of vital links being made with partner organisations across the statutory and voluntary child protection and criminal justice sectors.

These operational links form the basis for important alliances enabling Stop It Now! Scotland to make progress with our strategic priority areas of targeted public information and service development.

Indeed, considerable interest has already been expressed by a range of agencies in joining with us to provide information to the public on sexual abuse and sex offending and to identify service gaps and promote the development of local services for target groups.

Discussions are underway with a range of relevant helplines in Scotland to ensure there is cross-information between them and the Stop It Now! Helpline.

Stop It Now! Scotland material was distributed to the Child Protection Working Group and the Sexual Crime Working Group of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS).

These were well received and ACPOS further agreed that Stop It Now! Scotland material and helpline information would be routinely used by investigating police officers during enquiries and pro-



View of Holyrood Palace

vided to suspects, their families/friends or to people making general enquiries to the police on relevant issues.

Discussions are also taking place to advertise the Stop It Now! Helpline on reception TV screens in police stations.

The new National In-care and Institutional Abuse Survivors Service and Helpline has been set up and is about to become fully operational.

This developed from the work of Survivor Scotland, the national Sexual Abuse Survivors Strategy.

The Scottish Government has also begun a wide consultation on the development of an "Acknowledgement and Accountability Forum" as a 'restorative

justice process' to hear and deal with issues affecting people who have experienced institutional abuse.

The National Manager for Stop It Now! Scotland has initiated discussions with a number of voluntary agencies to discuss the need for a National Sexual Violence Strategy to build on the achievements of the National Strategy on Gender-based Violence.

These discussions are about to be extended to involve parliamentarians and Government.

The National Steering Group for Scotland held its quarterly meeting in October and received a full briefing on all the activity that has taken place to date.

Training is top of the autumn agenda

THAMES Valley Stop It Now! currently has a focus on training opportunities.

This autumn we will be running our successful multi-agency accredited CSA awareness and prevention course, which has proved very popular in the past.

In addition we will be piloting the second in our series of Risk and Re-

sponsibilities training which seeks to explore in further depth the linking of risk factors for child sexual abuse in families living with domestic abuse.

If you are interested in any of our training, please contact us via the Stop it Now! www.stopitnow.org.uk website or via Thames Valley website www.thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk