

Maurice puts his best foot forward on 1,250 mile trek

Maurice Bates' boots were made for walking and that's what they are doing to raise funds for Stop it Now! UK and Ireland.

A keen hiker, Maurice is doing a 1,250 mile sponsored walk from John O'Groats to Land's End to boost our funds.

He mapped out his trek after Soroptimist International Richmond and Dales picked Stop it Now! as their charity for 2008.

Maurice's wife Angela is president of the group which aims to actively influence positive change through awareness, advocacy and action.

Stop it Now! is actively looking to expand its services to cover the North Yorkshire and Humberside region.

Please visit www.mycharitypage.com/MauriceBates to support Michael — he's already raised more than £300.

For more information on Soroptimist International please visit www.soroptimist-gbi.org.



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

THE first four months of 2008 have proved to be a fruitful period. Both the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have granted funding for three years to help support the development of the campaign.

The funding from the WAG will cover the costs of employing a Wales National Manager and that from the DCSF will cover the central running costs of the campaign and the post of England National Manager.

Negotiations continue with the Northern Ireland Office with a view to obtaining funding to assist the project

to increase its capacity to a national initiative. In the interim, the NIO has generously agreed funding for year 2008-09 to enable the project to continue with its current activities and to plan for its growth. The trustees of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation have agreed to co-fund the Director's post with the Henry Smith Charity.

These grants will have a large impact on the way we can take the campaign strategy forward.

We aim to target domestic, community and institutional settings where research shows children may be most at risk and/or where those wishing to

sexually harm children are more likely to be able to do so.

Our prevention messages need to reach those intent on sexually harming children before they act, thus preventing child abuse in the first place. But, Stop it Now! knows the hidden nature of child sexual abuse and the need for our involvement in secondary and tertiary preventions.

The two new national posts, together with the Scotland National Manager, will take the lead responsibility for developing the Stop it Now! strategy in their countries.

It is hoped that by the end of this financial year, the demands on our Helpline and on our information resources will increase due to the greater awareness that these new posts will engender.

We continue to receive expressions of interest from professionals around the UK and Ireland and are currently involved in negotiating the development of Stop it Now! in three new regions of England. The next three years will see an exponential growth in the reach and the impact of our campaign messages — the end result will mean more children are protected from sexual abuse.

Planning for the future in London

The London Stop it Now! strategy is beginning to take shape and Helen Veitch, the project manager, is planning two specific aims:

● to develop community-led partnerships with ethnic minority groups. To this aim discussions are taking place with the French-speaking African communities — including those from Cameroon, the Congolese, Angolans and the Ivory Coast — and a number of Bangladeshi women's groups.

● to work together with the London SCB, in partnership with schools and parents, to raise awareness about the management of young people who display sexually harmful behaviours and to make them aware that help is available from the Stop it Now! Helpline.

Helen is also looking at how parents/carers can ensure their children are protected in nursery and school environments.

Barn dancers raise funds for Stop it Now!



A fun-loving fund-raising group put its best foot forward to support the Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham project.

Dave and Tracey Thomas, who run the non-profit making Lifesavers Lottery – which raises cash for good causes and charities – staged a barn dance in a bid to support Stop it Now!

Held at the Halesowen Athletics Club, more than 100 tickets were sold for the event which raised £730.

Staff at Stop it Now! say the money will go towards materials which are being developed to highlight the need to protect children from sexual abuse.

Another event saw a group of runners – including vice chairman of the Black Country and Birmingham steering group and business manager of the Birmingham Safeguarding Board, Simon Cross – take to the streets to run the Sport Relief Mile wearing Stop it Now! T-shirts to win support for the campaign.



● The project has secured three years funding from Birmingham Safeguarding Board for a part-time development worker from 2008-2011.

● Project staff continue to run training events and have developed a package especially for early years' workers. This new training is being rolled out in Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton.

● West Midlands Police invited the project co-ordinator to open a new Public Protection Unit in Wolverhampton strengthening links between the charity and the police.

New Scotland manager takes up post

THE first National Manager for Scotland, Martin Henry, took up post in January.

Efforts are well underway to identify possible funding sources in addition to the core funding already agreed for the next three years from the Health Department of the Scottish Government.

A small Core Group has been working to put governance structures in place and to support the initial work of the National Manager. This has meant that a National Steering Group membership has now been agreed (with Terms of Reference and a Constitution) and the first meeting of the full group will happen late in July.

No premises for a national office have been finalised yet but potential premises have been identi-

fied in the west end of Edinburgh. We are eagerly awaiting being awarded charitable status in Scotland so that the capacity building work can take place in earnest.

The three-year strategic plan for Stop It Now! Scotland has also been agreed and provides a sound platform for taking the programme forward in close collaboration with national and local partners. The National Manager has already begun working to develop a joint public information platform with MAPPA in Scotland as a key part of our strategic planning and delivery.

We are working towards a national launch in the Autumn. A media strategy for publicising the launch and how we plan to develop Stop It Now! across Scotland is being drawn up.

0808 1000 900 helpline tops 10,000 calls

In March 2008, the Stop it Now! UK and Ireland confidential helpline topped 10,000 callers.

The success of the Helpline can be seen from the 680 plus calls staff took in the first three months of this year, that's more than 220 calls per month.

Staff continue to take a wide variety of calls from people in the four main target groups: those worried about

their own sexual thoughts and behaviours; those worried about

someone else's sexual behav-

our; parents of young people displaying inappropriate sexual behaviours; and professionals needing help with difficult cases.

And now, thanks to a newly developed programme, people with worries or questions can send an e-mail in anonymously for support, help and advice.

For more information on the helpline and the e-

mail service visit www.stopitnow.org.uk.

"If it hadn't been for the Stop it Now! helpline staff I would have committed suicide" - John, who rang for advice after being arrested for downloading abusive images of child sexual abuse.

Northern Ireland takes to the airwaves

Stop it Now! Northern Ireland is taking to the airwaves to increase public awareness across County Antrim.

Funding for a radio advertisement campaign came from the Community Safety Partnership who felt the content of the message was a powerful way to reach listeners. It is hoped the advert, due to be

broadcast on a local station which is part of a Northern Ireland-wide group, will act as a pilot campaign which can then be rolled out across the Province.

Inspiration for the advert came from discussions at the Operations Group about awareness materials Stop it Now! Black Country and Birmingham project are developing.