

Early Intervention News

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GROUP INTERVENTION PANEL

A very warm welcome to the fourth edition of the Early Intervention News – we would like this edition to illustrate what GRIP is about.

One of the most frequently asked questions about GRIP is; what do we actually do with the children and families referred? What is it that we offer that makes us different?

Unless it is clear that a child will not meet the criteria (usually because he or she is too old or has had a Final Warning) GRIP staff complete a full assessment in the home, including risk factors relating to potential offending or anti social behaviour. Before the multi agency panel meets to discuss what can be done to meet those needs, each panel member will have checked for any current or previous involvement. If the panel decides a referral meets the criteria or being at risk of developing patterns of offending and/or anti social behaviour, a support plan is devised. This may involve any of the statutory agencies, but in most instances, it is a member of the GRIP staff who acts as the keyworker, coordinating the different parts of the plan.(Continued on page 3)



REFERRALS RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED (April 2004 – March 2005)

Please note; GRIP is a rolling programme – some referrals received in March 05 will not go to panel until April 05.

In addition to 373 accepted for support plans, many other referrals will have been assessed and then signposted to more appropriate services

GRIP AREA	POLICE	SSD	HEALTH	EDUCATION	OTHER	TOTAL REFERRALS	
						Received	Accepted
BURNLEY & PENDLE	21	15	11	29	18	94	88
FYLDE & WYRE	26	3	3	24	3	59	45
SOUTH LANCs	18	15	3	26	18	80	65
MORECAMBE & LANCASTER	6	12	9	18	4	49	44
ROSSENDALE, RIBBLE VALLEY & HYNDBURN	21	8	6	31	7	73	51
PRESTON	35	11	5	45	7	103	80
TOTALS	127	64	37	173	57	458	373



VOLUNTEERS

Up to now, each GRIP panel has had limited access to volunteers recruited for the Youth Offending Team; however, from 1 April GRIP has its' own dedicated volunteers, managed by Lancashire Youth Association and funded by Lancashire Children's Fund. This will mean that each of the six GRIP teams will have a part time volunteer coordinator or assistant coordinator, based in the GRIP offices most of the time.

The staff appointed are; Tina Lynch and Julie Bennett job sharing the volunteer coordinator post for the east of the County, covering the Burnley and Pendle team and the Hyndburn, Rossendale and Ribble Valley team. However, at present, Julie is on maternity leave, so Tina will be covering both areas, based at Easden Clough and Silver Birches. Kerry Lambson is the volunteer coordinator and Henrietta Davies is the assistant coordinator for the remainder of the County. They will work together, dividing their time between the four offices. They will be based initially at LYA offices in Preston, but will shortly sort out desks at Yewlands Drive, Leyland and the new Lancaster GRIP office at Skerton Family Centre.

Tina, Kerry and Henrietta will be recruiting volunteers who will receive specific training relating to working with children referred to GRIP. Volunteer coordinators have already started to attend the GRIP panel meetings, to identify those children and young people who could benefit from support and guidance from a volunteer mentor and match those accepted with a suitable volunteer. GRIP staff will continue to complete the crime focused 1 – 1 sessions with the children, but the volunteers will be able to act as a mentor, especially in relation to identifying positive leisure activities and engaging the child in those activities. The aim is to have at least ten children in each team working with a volunteer at any one time.

The development of our own dedicated volunteer service can only be of benefit to GRIP and all the staff are looking forward to working with and nurturing the volunteers recruited. If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer with GRIP, please contact any of our offices!!

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE LIONS ASSOCIATION



Special thanks and recognition should be given to the Pendle Lions Association, for their hard work and generosity towards a local family. GRIP worker Neil Baxter and a member of the Lions are seen handing over a bike donated by Pendle Lions.

WORKING TOGETHER TO DETER YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Report from a local Police Community Beat Manager

Since January 2004 I have been working as the CBM for Warton. It was clear that juvenile nuisance in the village was an area of concern for the residents. Unfortunately, there is no quick solution to the problem and it is clear that it is not just an issue that the Police can deal with on their own, but a multi-agency approach has to be adopted. Three juveniles under 13 years of age who lived in Warton were regularly coming to my attention for an assortment of offences which included throwing stones, running through private property, urinating in a public place and minor criminal damage. They did not have a criminal record and in an attempt to address their unruly behaviour and 'nip it in the bud' they were referred to GRIP in February 2005.

Jackie Threlfall, the GRIP Co-ordinator, arranged a programme over six weeks where she would interact with the juveniles. They embarked on a number of group sessions as well as those on a one to one basis. The topics covered included victim awareness, crime and consequences and substance misuse. Throughout that time, Jackie kept their parents informed, she liaised with the school and as the local CBM I played an active part where able.

Over the six weeks the Police had no negative reports on the juveniles, they did not misbehave at school and the parents appreciated the support. The programme in my opinion was a success as the juveniles avoided any further anti-social behaviour and now have a better understanding of where their actions were leading. My intention now as the local CBM is to build on the good rapport that Jackie and the GRIP team have established with these youths and hopefully they will reach adulthood without a criminal record.

PC 2095 Emma Bolton
Kirkham Police Station.





GRIP had its first Prison Me No Way presentations to the Burnley and Pendle GRIP team and the Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire GRIP team. The core aim for the Prison Me No Way trust is to raise awareness among young people about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime and the effects of anti social behaviour. This is achieved by highlighting what prison life is like, giving young people a chance to learn about the facts of prison life and the reality of a day in the life of a young prisoner.

The session was presented by a prison officer from Lancaster Farms Young Offenders Institute. This presentation is usually given to older more persistent offenders and so it was the first time it had been delivered to the younger age range and to children identified as being at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti social behaviour. The feedback gained from young people and parents who attended was very positive.



At Christmas Rock FM ran an appeal asking its listeners to buy one extra present this year and donate it, to be distributed to under privileged children. The GRIP teams contacted Rock FM and were given a huge amount of presents that were given out to those children that were unlikely to receive many presents at Christmas due to their family circumstances. The GRIP teams and the families would like to say a massive thank you to Rock FM and its listeners for all the presents that were donated this Christmas.

RIGHT: The Hyndburn GRIP team sort through some of the presents that were donated.



Judith's report (cont. from page 1).....

GRIP staff also undertake the majority of the direct work with the children and families; when we first began in 2003. this was not foreseen as being a major part of GRIP work – the theory was that the agencies represented on the panels would actually 'do' most of the work with the child – however, the reality is that mainstream agencies are working hard with children and families who have more serious or advanced issues in their lives and there are not yet enough resources for true early intervention work.

Some of the main risk factors in children referred to GRIP which are regularly highlighted are those relating to loss or bereavement, substance misuse, low self esteem, anger, bullying or being bullied. GRIP staff have developed and gathered a wide range of resources used during one to one sessions with the child or young person.

We also do specific sessions about crime and consequences, sometimes together with the Police Youth Involvement Officer. Although we only work with children for a maximum of twelve weeks, we use that time to focus on the child and family and on what we can achieve together.

If you would like any more information, please contact any of the offices, or see www.saferlancashire.co.uk.

Judith Gluyas County GRIP Manager

