

# Early Intervention News

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## **HOW ARE WE DOING????**

Between April 2004 and March 2005, GRIP worked with a total of 373 children and families – most of these received a full twelve week package of support.

In September 2005, 338 were over the age of ten and were checked on the Lancashire Youth Offending Team database.

Only 33 children had received a Final Warning or above for offending behaviour and none had received an ASBO for anti social behavior.

## GROUP INTERVENTION PANEL

This edition of Early Intervention News is very much focused on the outcomes and successes of GRIP; we hope you find it interesting!

Please forgive us if we blow our own trumpet, but we are very proud of the work GRIP does and of the outcomes it achieves. We often remind people that GRIP stands for Group Intervention PANEL – it's not just about the GRIP team, but all the panel members and anyone who contributes to the work.

As many of you will know, Lancashire GRIP was (and still is) one of thirteen pilot projects monitored by the Youth Justice Board – all the others except Blackpool were named YISPs (Youth Inclusion Support Panels). Following evaluation studies, similar projects are now being 'rolled out' across the country. The main aim is to reduce offending and anti social behaviour, by using the multi agency panels to coordinate mainstream services and by providing specific direct work with children and families.

Following an external evaluation undertaken for Lancashire Children's Fund, we have been informed that we will receive funding from them until March 2008, which is great news as not all LCF projects were successful.

However, this funding is at the same level as in 2004/5 and 2005/6, which leads to an ever increasing deficit in order to keep the same level of service at a time when we would like to expand the service.

We have also received confirmation from Lancashire Drugs Action Team that we will again receive £25,000 towards the work that GRIP staff do at tier 1 with young people who have substance misuse issues. At the time of writing, we have not yet had confirmation of additional funding so still have a shortfall.

Every Child Matters; Change for Children is relevant to everyone working with children and families; the document stresses the need for professionals to share information and to work together to achieve the outcomes for children; Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution, Achieve Economic Well Being - the panels do this and more!

GRIP is an ideal model of practice which is shown to be effective in focusing prevention work where it is needed and coordinating mainstream services. Your support is very much appreciated and needed if we are to continue.

Judith Gluyas, County GRIP Manager

## A letter from a parent—

'What can I tell you about our time with the GRIP team?? My 10 year old daughter had been stealing money and cigarettes. At first I wasn't sure what to expect, would they think I was an unfit mother, or ours was a dysfunctional family, but I need not have worried.....not only did Jackie do work with Sophie, she worked with the whole family, she spoke to Sophie on a one to one level, she also inspired Sophie to behave, listen more, think before actually doing something naughty and now I have my sweet little girl back. I won't pretend she is always an angel, but since Jackie taught her to think about her actions and the repercussions of getting into trouble, Sophie is a much better child. As a family unit, this has brought us much closer and understanding of one another.

It was a good experience and one that will stay with us for a long time.'

- Sophie was referred by the local Community Beat Officer; in addition to stealing, she was also spending time with her older male cousin, who was on an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Order to the Youth Offending Team and at serious risk of a custodial sentence.

### Sophie's comments??

' It made me think about what I did in the past. I feel that if I did that and carried on I will be in very big trouble and then I would have been taken away from my mum and dad. But Jackie helped me to prove I can be good and not be naughty. Thankyou Jackie and the GRIP team for helping me and my family.'

All parents and children are asked to give an evaluation at the end of the intervention, to help us reflect on the work completed and plan for the future.



## WORKING TOGETHER TO DETER YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

### Information from Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School, Preston

In May of this year, we were asked to undertake a six week pilot project with the GRIP team. Being a school involved in the Behaviour Improvement Programme we are well versed in dealing with children 'at risk' and thought that the ideas of having additional intervention strategies would be of great benefit to our pupils.

Six male pupils were selected to work with Jackie Johnson (GRIP SW student) on a weekly basis to address recurring anti social issues. Jackie and a school based member of our BIP team liaised to produce support plans for each child.

From the group work, referrals to other services were made, with two of the boys undertaking further work with PAYP (above and below) who provided structured activities out of school hours.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, especially the team building day, which was an excellent reward incentive.

Janice Bulger, Deputy Head Teacher





These three brothers from West Lancs (no, we couldn't get all 3 to be in 1 photo so one brother is on both!) were referred to GRIP because of their behaviour and received joint and individual direct sessional work

The 'Hungry Hippo' game was being used as a reward session at the end of some more serious work, but also teaches the boys how to play without arguments and fights!!!

Pictured below is Ian O'Neill, who attends Bowland High School, Clitheroe; he worked hard with his GRIP worker Dave and we were all proud to be informed that he recently won the 'Year 9 Pupil of the Term' award. Well done Ian!!



As can be seen from the information on this page, GRIP works with a wide variety of children and young people aged 5-13 (17 in some areas). Could we assist someone you know? Contact details are on the back page!

### [A Poem from Jordan, who lives in Pendle](#)

'Neil is my GRIP worker

he talks to me to help me with my anger

he comes from place to place to see me

when he does I go all shy and nervous but

Neil is here trying his best to help me because

He is my GRIP worker. We talk for a while

And then it is time to go back to class.'

### [GRIP currently offers placements to social work students from UCLAN –](#)

[Helen Fairhurst, currently placed at Preston GRIP, shares her thoughts!](#)

'There is not enough time and space to write down all the opportunities and learning experiences I have had in my placement with GRIP. At first the thought of a placement at GRIP was daunting due to the vast range of task that we do and the amount of responsibility I would have. I think that I would still feel this way if it wasn't for the huge amount of support and help from my practice assessor and work colleagues, who have been supportive, informative and patient (even when asked the same question several times!)

I feel I will leave this placement with a vast range of knowledge, skills and experience, as well as sadness that the placement is over!

[From Ruth Hurst, student at South Lancs.](#)

'The work is varied interesting, challenging and rewarding and provides many opportunities for a student to gain knowledge and experience of social work practice.'

[Collette Smith at Burnley said](#) ' my practice assessor has been encouraging and helpful in all work undertaken. I have received a wealth of knowledge from all involved and will hopefully carry this to my next placement. I feel like a valued member of the team.'

[Sara Cook, on placement at Lancaster](#) commented

'Working as part of a multi agency setting has made me realize how much can be achieved when people work together. It has made me realize the importance of interprofessional working and personal relationships.'

Thanks for these comments – we enjoy the extra dimension that students bring to the workplace!

