

Early Intervention News

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GROUP INTERVENTION PANEL s now been operational for three years!

It is great to look back on the number of children that we have worked with and reflect that we have made a difference and enabled so many children and their families access mainstream services, in addition to the direct work that is done by GRIP staff. Prevention is notoriously difficult, if not impossible, to measure and so many of the outcomes achieved are soft and anecdotal rather than hard facts.

This issue focuses on partnership working and illustrates the wide range of agencies that GRIP involves when working with children and families. The factor that is still most valued and commented on in feedback by children and parents is the one to one support and direct intervention from the GRIP keyworker which every child accepted by GRIP receives.

Our targets for the next few years are mapped out for us within the Local Area Agreements (LAA) – to reduce the number of first time entrants in to the criminal justice system by 2008 and to reduce the number of young people who re-offend. The recent evaluation published by Huddersfield University for Lancashire Children’s Fund recognises that GRIP reduces the likelihood if a young person offending, improves school attendance and is ‘very well designed’. Many more parents have made referrals this year – many on personal recommendation!

Our 2005/6 referral data is detailed below for your information. We have again increased the number of referrals received and assessed and also the number of children we have offered a twelve week support programme to. In addition many children have received groupwork programmes in schools and not included in these figures. We hope to extend this service to other schools – contact your local GRIP office for details in your area!

1 APRIL 2005 – 31 MARCH 2006

GRIP AREA	Police	Social Care	Health	Education	Other	Total Referrals Received	Referrals Accepted	Sign-Posted/Refused
Burnley & Pendle	32	15	18	48	19	132	117	10
Fylde & Wyre	36	10	4	19	4	73	61	13
South Lancs	17	20	5	16	25	83	63	10
Morecambe & Lancaster	7	10	11	22	7	57	47	14
Hyndburn, Rossendale & Ribble Valley	19	14	10	22	4	69	58	0
Preston	23	14	5	37	9	88	65	13
TOTALS	100	68	41	110	46	502	411	60

Our Criteria:

GRIP will consider - any child or young person living in the Lancashire County area who;

is between 5-13 years of age inclusive

(Except in some areas of Preston, Pendle, Burnley and South Ribble, where additional funding enables us to extend the age range to the 17th birthday.)

AND has not received a Final Warning for offending

AND there is potential/actual involvement in criminal and/or antisocial behaviour.

N.B. Must agree to the referral !



Allotment



Above; before
Below; after!



Burney and Pendle GRIP team receive additional funding from Urban11 and SRB, which funds an additional part time worker (Neil Baxter) and a casual worker (Jeff Lee). This extra capacity has enabled the team to make the best use of an offer they could not refuse. Together with Jo, the coordinator and Liz, support worker, the team are beginning to transform an allotment which they have been given to use with young people. Passers by were amused by the sight of the GRIP team in wellies, gloves and face masks trying to reclaim a piece of jungle, soon to be a flourishing allotment - a cross between the Time Team and Alan Titmarsh's Ground Force! Items of archeological interest found on the site included a TV,

a stereo, car battery, a settee and of course there is always a shopping trolley and ONE trainer.

Work will continue through the spring with the help of children referred to GRIP and it is hoped that vegetables will be pushing their heads above the ground by summer. Volunteers, advice and ideas are needed, so if you or anyone you know may be able to help, please contact the Burnley team!

TERRY WINS LCF PARENT OF THE YEAR!



Terry and his wife Bev after receiving his award

One cold night in January, Lancashire Children's Fund held their Parent of the Year Awards ceremony at County Hall, attended by Chris Trinnick, Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council, other County Councillors and representatives from Lancashire Children's Fund projects.

Four parents had been shortlisted from many parents recommended by projects, all of whom deserved recognition.

We were delighted to see Terry be awarded parent of the year - he had been nominated by his GRIP support worker, Lynn Catterall and also by Preston Parenting Project! As received his award from Lancashire County Council Chairman Bob Wilkinson, Terry commented that if it had not been for Preston Parenting and GRIP, he and his family would not still be living in the same house.

Veronica Afrin, Chair of Lancashire Children's Fund said that the award 'is justly deserved and a true reflection of the impact that Terry has made.'

Terry is now a member of the Preston Parenting Steering Group and helps to support other parents.

A Day in the Life of a GRIP Support Worker.....

9 am Arrive in work with just enough time to have a brew and plan my sessions for the day, collecting all the resources and work files for each young person I will see today.

10 am My first visit is in a local secondary school. I see K in the school Inclusion Centre - he is always out of timetabled lessons for this session because of his behaviour. Seeing me at this time works well because it means he spends his time positively. We make a poster of different techniques he can use to stay calm, to put up at home.

11.30 am Back to the office and catch up on paperwork. Complete my Diary Sheets from my visits and an assessment on a new case I visited last night. This assessment will be used at the Panel meeting next week.

1 pm Lunchtime - Hooray!

1.30 pm Another visit - this time at home. J is on a part time timetable in school so he comes home early. Seeing him at home means I can chat to his Mum and see how things are going at home. J and I have a really good session on his future goals, how he can reach these, and what would stop him from achieving them.

3 pm Meet my next case as she comes out of school and take her to the local Family Centre. M works well here as there are less distractions. We play a game looking at Anti-Social Behaviour and who this affects. M works well so we have a brew and a biscuit together before I drop her off at home.

5 pm Home visit a new case with my Coordinator Jackie. We meet the family and the young person before Panel next week so we can collect more background information. It also helps to meet them in person, as sometimes our clients are nervous and unsure what to expect. We have a chat about the Panel and GRIP process, and get their views on what would help.

Katie Cook - Support Worker, Wvre and Fvld



New Police Officers now spend much of their training 'on placement' and in the community - PC Dave Benson reports 'As part of my community placement I had the great fortune of working with the GRIP team at Fleetwood's Wyre family centre. I was aware that multi agency groups existed but until now never knew of GRIP. I have come away with a valuable tool that I can take forward in my career. A large percentage of Police work involves young people who have a wide range of behavioural issues; effecting young people aged 5 to 13 who Jackie Threlfall and her team are dedicated to helping in the local community, offering support and help to their families too.

During my weeks placement I observed a small percentage of the teams' work. I attended home and school visits were the GRIP team took time to gather a wide range of information to plan the short term intervention ahead.

On one to one sessions I was amazed at the professionalism of the team and how each person they dealt with became engaged in the activities and was able to talk about ways to improve social and home life discussing the consequences of their behaviour and the effect on victims and family members. This included involving them in local sports and planning out of school hours activities that they had never experienced.

Preventing criminal offending, re offending and anti social behaviour are major issues in today's community and with a high success rate GRIPS intervention at such an early stage is a referral that I for one will make the most of and support the work they do.'

PC 828 Dave Benson, Fleetwood Police

If you are not sure exactly what we can offer – give us a call; we will either come to you to do a short presentation, or you could come to our offices!

On 24 April, we welcome a new seconded addition to the team – Graham Coxon is a firefighter and will be based at Corporation Street, Preston for the next twelve months; he will be working across the County area to ensure that children referred to GRIP who could become the firesetters of the future receive appropriate advice. LFRS now has a wide range of interventions, from the one off FACE (Fire Awareness Child Education) to the longer term FLARE and FIREBREAK programmes.



Some of the GRIP team members who attended our recent team development day, planning for the future --- looking very serious too!!!!

ON YER BIKE!



The GRIP team would like to say a huge thank you to the bike shop 'On Yer Bike' situated on Queen Street, Burnley. GRIP contacted On Yer Bike after working with a young boy who was being bullied in and out of school. This bullying resulted in the boy having his bike taken off him and broken on two occasions.

The young boy used his bike to get to school and also to attend sea cadets twice a week. As sea cadets was on the other side of Burnley to where he lives, he needed it as a form of transport and so was no longer able to attend. GRIP contacted the local police station and was able to obtain a bike for the young boy; however this bike (pictured above with Jeff Lee) was in need of some repair and needed to be checked to ensure it was safe to be used on the road. GRIP rang On Yer Bike and explained the young boy's situation, they very kindly agreed to check the bike for free and only a few minor repairs where needed.

The boy was presented with the bike and was extremely pleased; he is able to attend sea cadets again and continues to get the bus to school. GRIP is continuing to work with the young boy and his school to address the bullying problem.

Liz Bullock

GRIP CONTACT DETAILS ; see also www.saferlancashire.co.uk

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BURNLEY AND PENDLE GRIP OFFICE

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Support Workers

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