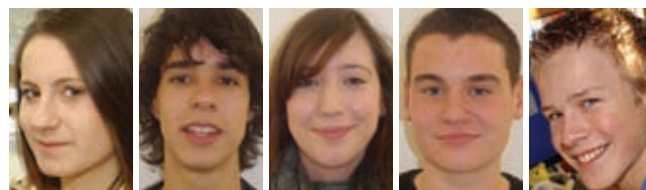


Connect

ISSUE 8 MARCH 2010

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST NEWSLETTER

A warm welcome to Hampshire's Care Ambassadors



Mercedes Oliver Joao Crismann Stacey Hardy Joe Sutton Ricky Harding

Hampshire County Council is delighted to announce that, as part of the developing Children in Care team, they have appointed five Care Ambassadors. The Care Ambassadors will use their own experiences of being in care to inspire and encourage other young people in care to get involved and influence issues

and decisions that affect their lives.

Mercedes Oliver, Joe Sutton, Joao Crismann, Ricky Harding and Stacey Hardy will be working together to make a difference by: encouraging participation for children in care; achieving an even better care system; encouraging children in care to speak out and be heard; putting a smile on the face of every child in

care; and being a voice for children in care so that they all have an equal opportunity to have a happy and positive outlook on life.

Care Ambassadors can be contacted through the Care Council by email care.council@hants.gov.uk. Further information is available at www.3.hants.gov.uk/care-matters.

Care leavers have their say

Two Hampshire care leavers were amongst those who made presentations to a group of key senior managers at the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) regional summit in Guildford at the end of last year. Joe Sutton and Mercedes Oliver described their own experiences of the care system and those of their relatives and friends.

The event was planned to launch initiatives to improve the life chances for vulnerable adults. In particular, to make sure they have access to good

quality accommodation, as well as education, employment and training opportunities.

Young people leaving the care system are particularly vulnerable at times, especially when housing costs are high and employment is difficult to find.

Key partners from all agencies in the region listened to the messages from service users. They were then invited to take part in working groups to help stimulate ideas on imaginative and innovative ways of improving people's lives.

Joe and Mercedes addressed more

than 60 people, giving examples of what had been good experiences for them in the care system and what would make life even better for them. They gave serious accounts, but also brought a touch of humour. They were realistic, but also clear that some things needed to improve. Joe and Mercedes both said they felt empowered by sharing their own experiences and they hoped it would help other young people in care to improve their lives in the future.

Information about the Care Matters programme in Hampshire can be found at www.3.hants.gov.uk/care-matters.



Director's Cut



Welcome to the first edition of Connect for 2010, which contains some great

stories highlighting the continued dedication of organisations and individuals in improving the lives of children and young people in Hampshire. Thank you to those who have contributed.

I would like to welcome the Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Board to the newsletter – please look out for their section in future editions, highlighting key initiatives and good practice in keeping children safe.

With arrangements for Local Children's Partnerships shortly to be announced, there is necessarily a strong focus on future joint working. I do want to thank all concerned, especially schools and other partners, for the constructive debate we have had about local partnerships. One thing is not in doubt – we all share the same ambition for Hampshire's children.

This edition highlights a number of successes and I would like to extend my own congratulations to the exceptional foster carers who were honoured in the New Year and also to the social care staff whose months of hard work were rewarded at a recent ceremony. In addition, I am pleased to read the achievements of our children in care and would like to welcome the new Care Ambassadors. I'm looking forward to hearing more about your work in future editions.

Finally, read on to find out about the Hampshire Family Information Directory, which was launched in January. Please think about how your organisation can contribute to and promote the Directory to ensure it is a valuable resource for families, young people and practitioners across Hampshire.

Foster carers honours

Three of Hampshire's dedicated group of foster carers were honoured in the New Year's Honours list. They have been foster carers for many years for the County Council and have a wealth of experience between them.

Felicity Brown from Hook has been a foster carer for more than 30 years, offering short term placements and emergency care to children aged from 0 - 5.

Meanwhile Eric and Mary Snook from Eastleigh have been foster carers for the past 40 years and have fostered numerous children of varying ages with a variety of needs, many having very complex needs.

These dedicated carers are all being awarded the MBE for their services to children and families. They were nominated for the excellent care and support they have given to children over the years. Mary and Eric have also provided invaluable support to other foster carers, offering advice to new carers.

Congratulating the foster carers, Councillor David Kirk, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Children's Services said, "I am delighted for our carers and congratulate them on their MBEs. The honours recognise their dedication to helping children and young people. They are among more than 500 foster families who do such a vital job caring for children and young people in Hampshire, providing a safe and secure environment for them at a time when they most need that kind of support. Hampshire County Council is very fortunate in having some very loyal and dedicated foster carers, like Felicity, Eric and Mary. My heartfelt congratulations to them for this well-deserved award."

To find out more about Fostering, contact **0845 601 1895** or fostering.team@hants.gov.uk or visit www3.hants.gov.uk/fostering.



New Fostering DVD

Most of us know something about fostering, however, few of us have experience of what it is like.

A new DVD produced by the County Fostering Team uses the experiences of foster carers and young adults who have lived in foster care, to talk about fostering and its role in improving outcomes for vulnerable children and teenagers. Commissioned to support the recruitment of foster carers, teams or partners who come into contact with foster carers or children living in foster care may find it a useful tool to support effective working and building understanding. Copies of the DVD can be requested from mags.rivett@hants.gov.uk or by calling **01489 587017**.

More care leavers going to university

In 2009 the number of Hampshire's care leavers attending university was the largest to date. There are now 23 students attending universities across the country on a range of courses including: forensic science; jewellery making; youth work; film making; and law.

The greatest number of students come from the north of Hampshire. They include several young people who came into care as a result of being unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Some students who are in

the final year of their degrees have already secured employment ready for when they graduate.

Care leavers attending university are well supported with a financial package from Hampshire County Council Children's Services. From September 2009, all care leavers undertaking a degree course are also entitled to an additional bursary. This is in recognition of the fact that they graduate with even greater debt than their peers.

The increase in the number of care leavers going on to higher education is not only indicative of



their individual success, but also of the improved aspirations for Hampshire's care leavers in general.

Further information about care leavers can be found at www3.hants.gov.uk/care-matters.

Celebrating staff achievements

More than 230 staff who work in social care celebrated their achievements at the end of last year, when they collected a range of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) at Hampshire County Council's eleventh annual awards ceremony, held at the Great Hall in Winchester.

Staff receiving awards were from Children's and Adult Services Departments and work in a range of areas across the County including; residential child care and foster care services; Connexions and youth offending teams; older people's residential, nursing and day care services; learning and physical disabilities services; community response services and the information services section who support Adult Services.

Staff have studied for up to a year to gain their qualifications, undertaking college sessions,

workplace observation and assessment, and additional study in their own time each week. Close partnership programmes with local colleges and universities have been important in the achievement of these awards.

The County Council has been supporting staff to achieve NVQs across all levels since the early 1990s when the NVQ was first available. To date, over 3,000 staff have achieved an NVQ, demonstrating the commitment by both departments to the personal development of staff.

The awards were presented by: Councillor David Kirk, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services; Councillor Felicity Hindson, Executive Member for Adult Social Care; Steve Crocker, Deputy Director Children's Services; and Richard Ellis, Deputy Director Adult Services.

National Foster Care Fortnight 17 –30 May 2010

Fostering Fortnight runs from 17-30 May, providing a national focus on fostering and in particular, fostering recruitment.

A range of events and activities are planned to raise the profile of fostering and the need for more foster carers, as well as to thank existing foster carers for their valuable contribution, with the focus this year being the new fostering DVD. If you would like to be involved in Fostering Fortnight your support is welcomed – a range of recruitment materials are available for display and hand out opportunities and bespoke activities can also be arranged. We are particularly interested in hearing from colleagues who are able to screen the DVD (or excerpts) in waiting rooms or on information screens around the county. If you can help please contact mags.rivett@hants.gov.uk or call 01489 587017.

Silver Surfers national award



Hampshire has won the Award for 'Corporate Social Responsibility' at the Real IT awards ceremony, which was held in London on 26 November 2009.

The Hampshire project brought together an internal programme developing IT skills for staff and a Digital Literacy programme based around two IT knowledge bases: Learn.IT and Computer Skills for Life, to create a shared learning resource free to the learner. The programme's objectives were to improve social inclusion, health, wellbeing, education, employability and enable service transformation.

Competition for the Real IT Awards, run by The Corporate IT Forum, comes mostly from the private sector. For the second year running Hampshire has shown that it can beat the best as recognised by a panel of mainly private industry judges. The awards recognise the contribution that is being made by IT projects to business success.

Arthur England, Linda Campbell and Natalie Hickman were on hand to receive the 'Corporate Social Responsibility' award for 'Improving ICT literacy of staff, citizens and

silver surfers.' They all agreed that 'it was a pleasure to bring back another national award for the trophy cabinet.'

If you want to find out more about Silver Surfers or the Computer Skills for Life campaigns in Hampshire please see www.hants.gov.uk/silversurfers or www.hants.gov.uk/computer-skills.

This year, Silver Surfers week runs from 17 – 21 May and a range of taster sessions will be held across the county, to guide older people through the basics of using the Internet. Schools are a perfect place to host these events and in previous years many schools across Hampshire have taken part and opened their doors for older people in their community to learn new skills; many supported by pupils at the school. We are looking for more schools to take part this year, so if you are interested in holding an event please see the events planning webpage where you can advertise and gain support with your event www.hants.gov.uk/silversurfers/event-planning.htm.

ContactPoint
because every child matters

ContactPoint training begins in Hampshire

The Department for Children, Schools and Families' (DCSF) ContactPoint system is now ready to be rolled out nationally to authorised users.

ContactPoint is the quick way to find out about other practitioners working, or services involved with a child or young person. Currently ContactPoint data is only available from national sources, but over the coming months data from Hampshire and other local authorities will start to be loaded into the national system.

At Hampshire County Council, the Hantsdirect Children and Reception Team, Emergency Duty Team and Children Missing Education Team have volunteered to be our initial pilot users and have been trained in how to use ContactPoint. From April 2010 we are hoping that some schools and health partners will have become accredited to use ContactPoint and can join the pilot. Feedback on their experiences and the benefits of using ContactPoint will be gathered and used for the wider roll out of ContactPoint across Hampshire in the autumn.

Hampshire ContactPoint information can be found at www3.hants.gov.uk/contactpoint or for national information please see www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/contactpoint.

New Childcare and Family Services Directory for Hampshire



Hampshire's new family services and childcare directory, the 'Hampshire Family Information Directory' (Hampshire FID) is now live at www.familyinformationdirectory.hants.gov.uk.

The name of the directory has recently changed from the 'Hampshire Parent Know How Directory'.

The national Family Information Directory is available through the Directgov website: <http://www.direct.gov.uk>.

The Hampshire FID provides a comprehensive range of service information for families, young people and practitioners across the county. The Directory is part of the national Family Information Direct programme – a suite of free services designed to support families, or those working with families.

It has replaced iCHis (the previous childcare database) and HantsFish (the previous family services directory). Information held in both directories has been transferred across to the new directory – and many new services have been added.

Search categories include: disability; childcare; health; leisure and recreation; and teenagers.

We want to ensure that the Hampshire FID contains an extensive range of information and services for families, young people and practitioners. Therefore, if you hold information about services that are not already in the Directory, please add by visiting the 'adding a service page' www.familyinformationdirectory.hants.gov.uk/addaservice.php.

Please check out the new directory and feedback any comments to familyinformation@hants.gov.uk.

Pupils with designs on their school

On Saturday 30 January, 60 pupils and 30 teachers from secondary schools in Havant and Horndean attended a special workshop to design a school of the future.

The design workshop was held as part of the County Council's ambitious Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme which will transform secondary education in Hampshire. The event was held in the Council's award-winning Elizabeth II

Court Headquarters in Winchester.

Pupils and teachers worked with the County Council's architects on a series of four practical, creative and fun activities aimed at teasing out ideas and inspiration. They explored the use of space to develop an awareness of good and bad design features, using a variety of large-scale materials and equipment.

There was also a Big Brother style video diary room for pupils to record their views on BSF, what they hoped to gain from it and how they thought it would benefit their community.

The work will form the basis of design blueprints for the remodelling and refurbishment of schools and will be taken back to schools to share with others to inspire further design work as the project progresses.

Richard Gooden, Hampshire County Council's Assistant Head of Architecture said, "We are especially

keen for young people to be involved in BSF to make sure our plans reflect their aspirations. This was an exciting opportunity for pupils and teachers to work with our architectural staff – we were able to help them develop ideas to create innovative and inspiring designs for their schools."

Schools in Havant and Horndean are first to benefit from BSF. £80 million will rebuild, refurbish or remodel nine schools and one education centre, including the creation of an academy. A further nine phases of BSF in Hampshire have been proposed. The next phase will cover Gosport and west Havant schools, subject to Government approval.

Detailed designs for the first phase of the works are likely to get underway later this year with construction set for early 2012. For more information about BSF go to www.hants.gov.uk/bsf.



"I want to help change my school and at the event we talked about things that will make our school better."
Stuart Goodwin, Year 7, The Hayling College

Why the Handy Trust is part of the Children's Trust

Securing the well-being and unlocking the potential of every child and young person cannot be achieved by working alone, or by anyone working in isolation. The need to raise standards remains critically important, but there is a renewed emphasis on collaborative and partnership working to deliver improved outcomes, removing the blocks that undermine learning potential and building the enablers that allow children and young people to enjoy and achieve.

The Hythe and Dibden Youth Trust is a small voluntary sector charity, employing three youth and community practitioners with their funding from the local parish councils and community. Their aim is to make a difference for all children and young people in their area.

Working with a range of partners, including early years settings, children's centres, schools and colleges, statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations, they identify and address the risk factors that prevent some children and young people from realising their potential.



“Being part of the Children's Trust enables me to bring the voice of the young people to the forefront of our discussions and because we work at ground level and

see young people every day the young people know that their voices will be heard”, said Candy Huxham, Manager of the Trust.

For more information about the work of the Handy Trust, please contact Candy Huxham at The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe, Southampton, telephone **07718147032** or email **candy.huxham@btconnect.com**.

Hampshire Youth Parliament making history

For the first time in history Members of Parliament (MPs) were evicted from the House of Commons to make way for our leaders of the future. The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP), including six members from Hampshire, sat on the famous green benches of the House of Commons to debate significant issues such as: lowering the voting age to 16; youth crime and how to tackle it; public transport for young people; jobs for young people and the economy; and university fees.

A vote resulted in ‘lowering the voting age to 16’ being chosen as the priority campaign. In a reversal of roles, MPs were permitted to watch the proceedings from the public gallery.

The Prime Minister Gordon Brown applauded the event and said, “At a time when we are having to rebuild trust in politicians and sweep away many of the practices and systems of the past, this very special session of the Youth Parliament will be a symbol of the politics we should all strive for – politics that bring people together to work for what is best for us all.”

In addition to this landmark news we are delighted to announce that one of our Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs), Alex Armstrong from New Forest, was elected as the procedure group representative for the South East region of the UKYP. In this role he will be part of the national steering group for the UKYP, which includes making decisions about how the parliament will run and planning the annual sitting of the parliament.

To find out more about Hampshire UKYP please go to www.ukyphampshire.org.



Learning Together, Working Together

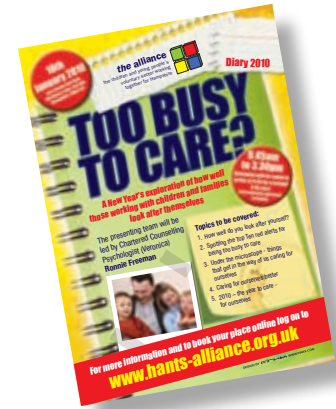
The Alliance has worked closely with the Children's Services Department to launch 'Learn Together Work Together', a programme designed to open up Children's Services training to the voluntary sector. The initiative contributes to voluntary sector capacity-building through integrated training and adds significantly to the achievement of a unified local children's workforce.

The Alliance has been able to reciprocate from time to time by offering places to colleagues on its own training programme, which is

funded by the Children's Workforce Development Council.

Recently, colleagues from across the children's workforce came together for the Alliance's 'Too Busy To Care?' event at East Horton Golf Club. Alliance Vice-Chair Jacqui Dixon said, "The Alliance commissioned this event because staff well-being plays such an important part in organisational performance."

In the course of a highly interactive event, Chartered Counselling Psychologist (Veronica) Ronnie Freeman and Associates helped attendees to discover how well they look after themselves now,



and how they can make 2010 the year to look after themselves better.

Further details of a range of free training available to the voluntary sector can be found on The Alliance website www.hants-alliance.org.uk.

Special Needs Information Day – April 2010

Contact a Family and the Parent Partnership Service are pleased to announce that this year's Special Needs Information Day will be held on Saturday 24 April 2010 at The Connaught School, Tongham Road, Aldershot.

This free event has been held for the past 13 years, giving families and practitioners the opportunity to gather information about support and services available across the county.

Visitors can come along at any time between 10am and 3pm to browse the exhibits and to chat to representatives from voluntary organisations and statutory services about a wide range of special needs and related issues.

Alongside the exhibition, a series of workshops and information talks

will be on offer and visitors can pre-book their free places on the sessions of their choice. Parents and carers will be given priority, but if spaces are available school staff and other professionals are welcome to attend.

There is ample free parking at the school and refreshments and sandwiches will be available during the day.

To register interest or find out more information, contact Elaine King at the Parent Partnership Service on **01962 845870** or email enquiries.pps@hants.gov.uk.

Anyone interested in exhibiting at this or future Special Needs Information Days can contact Cay Byford of Contact a Family on **01252 545345**, or email cay.byford@cafamily.org.uk.





Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) is a statutory body which co-ordinates, monitors and challenges its partner agencies in safeguarding children in Hampshire.

Agencies and organisations that provide services to adults and children must make arrangements to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of children (Children Act 2004 Section 11 and Education Act 2002 Section 175 (c.32)). This also applies to any services commissioned by them.

The HSCB is accountable to the Local Area Agreement Executive and Lead Member for Children's Services, through the Director of Children's Services.

The Board will continue to develop close working with the Children's Trust in Hampshire to influence the effective development of services, particularly in achieving the 'Staying Safe' outcome for children and is a formal consultee of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Although the HSCB works with a range of statutory and voluntary organisations the following are our statutory partners: Hampshire County Council including Adult and Children's Services; 11 District Councils; NHS Hampshire and five NHS Trusts; Hampshire Police; Hampshire Probation; Wessex Youth Offending Team; Connexions (now part of Children's Services); Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS); and the Armed Forces.

If you want more information or have a query for the HSCB team please email: debby.perriment@hants.gov.uk.

Learning lessons

Keeping the child in mind is the key lesson to be learnt following the recent publication of the analysis of serious case reviews commissioned across England.

Serious case reviews are local enquiries carried out by Local Safeguarding Children Boards into the death or serious injury of a child where abuse or neglect are known or suspected. Every two years an overview analysis of these reviews throughout England is commissioned to draw out themes and trends so that lessons learnt from these cases can inform both policy and practice. The latest review has recently been published and the study found that almost half of the 189 children were under one year of age, a third were very young babies under three months and 11% of children were over 16 years of age. In almost a third of the families, either the index child or a sibling were currently, or had in the past, been the subject of a child protection plan.

The most frequent theme of the reviews studied was that the professionals lost sight of the risk of harm to the child while they focused on, and became overwhelmed by, the problems of the adults in the family. The children were frequently not spoken to sufficiently, sometimes because they were not seen, or sometimes when they were too fearful, disabled or young for

workers to get their views.

Keeping the child in mind is vital; their voice needs to be heard. Even in young children their behaviour, growth and development can all contribute to the child's voice being heard. The survey also found that good quality support and supervision is vital to ensure workers keep their focus on the child.

The HSCB Joint Working Protocol on safeguarding children whose parents/carers use drugs/alcohol or have mental health needs, helps professionals and their managers to work effectively in this very challenging area of work. This protocol can be downloaded at: [http://www.4lscb.org.uk/documents/HCC_CS_JointWorkingProtocol_Mar09%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.4lscb.org.uk/documents/HCC_CS_JointWorkingProtocol_Mar09%20(2).pdf).

Understanding Serious Case Reviews and their Impact - Biennial Review 2005 - 2007 and other DCSF safeguarding information can be found at www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/safeguarding/.





Road safety messages in school



Year five and six pupils are promoting potentially life saving road safety messages in their schools,

as part of a new scheme launched in Hampshire.

Hampshire County Council's Road Safety Team have assisted schools to appoint Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) in 88 schools across the county. Supported by a member of the school staff, the two JRSOs in each school will take responsibility for ensuring their fellow pupils understand what they can do to keep themselves safe when they are out and about. This includes delivering road safety

assemblies, running competitions and maintaining a notice board focusing on specific road safety messages.

The scheme was piloted in three schools before offering the opportunity to schools in the rest of the county. The JRSOs are equipped with road safety messages and activity ideas to use in school to help reduce child casualties. These key messages include the importance of being a responsible cyclist, wearing a seat belt and finding and using safe places to cross the road.

The Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme (JRSO) supports National Curriculum objectives and fits into many curriculum subjects. JRSO supports the idea of peer mentoring, which is popular in developing children's independence and having ownership of their own learning, a key skill currently being

promoted in schools. Priority 4.3 from Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 states the need for making Hampshire's communities safer and more secure for all children. The JRSO scheme addresses this priority as it promotes road safety education through peer mentoring and raises children's awareness of key road safety messages.

The project complements the Department for Transport's THINK! Tales of the Road safety campaign, which was launched last year and aimed at primary school children. That campaign highlights elements of the Green Cross Code: find a safe place to cross; stop, look and listen; be visible to cars and cycle safely.

Information about road safety for children can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/roadsafety/children.

Effects of child maltreatment

Although brief periods of exposure to predicabile stresses, such as a new baby being born into the family, may be constructive in helping children to adapt to the stresses of ordinary life, the stress of abuse and neglect may be prolonged, severe and sometimes unpredictable.

If this happens early in life, and lasts a long time, the development of the nervous system's structures can be compromised. This has a negative impact on the child's physical growth, cognitive development and emotional stability. As the levels of stress and negative interpersonal experiences affect the normal

developmental processes, this can impact on a child's ability to relate to others as well as affecting the ability of the body to deal with physical or psychological stress.

Children who are seriously maltreated in early life are at a high risk of developing persistent mental health problems, cognitive impairment, problem-solving deficits, social maladjustment and poor regulation of emotions. Virginia Child Protection Newsletter, 77 2006: 1-6, 10-3, 15-6 gives more information on this at <http://psychweb.cisat.jmu.edu/graysojh/VCPN-77.pdf>.

The stress of the maltreatment may lead to the children being in a constant state of alert, unable

to respond to positive attention, being more focused on negative affect or overreacting to conflict. Alternatively children may become dissociated where certain thoughts are compartmentalised to avoid emotional stress. This may lead to disorders of attachment, behaviour or childhood depression.

To find out more please go to www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform. This website is useful source of current research and resources for professionals.





Helping to make babies safer across Hampshire

Hampshire Community Health Care (HCHC) has joined a campaign to get the message to parents that sleeping in the same room as their babies, but not in the same bed is the best option. 'Safer Babies' aims to reduce the number of Sudden Infant Deaths across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The initiative coincided with Bristol University's findings, published online by the British Medical Journal in October 2009, which found that sharing a bed is a factor in more than 50 percent of cases. Many of the deaths occurred when parent and infant slept together on a sofa. Also, over a quarter of 500 mothers polled by the Foundation into the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID) felt that sharing a bed with baby would put it at risk.

HCHC, in partnership with the HSCB, Police and Child Death Overview Panel, are educating and urging all of their health workers and visitors to deliver a consistent message about this subject to help ensure that parents are aware of the best way to rest their baby.

The HCHC initiative results from a successful project by Portsmouth Local Safeguarding Children Board with partner agencies which saw the number of sudden infant deaths in the city fall to zero during 2008/09, compared with nine deaths in the same period across the rest of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.



Prior to the Portsmouth campaign, the city had an infant death rate that was significantly higher than the national average.

To support the new campaign, 'Safer Babies Sessions' have been held to train professionals working with children and families and media in Portsmouth, Southampton, the Isle of Wight, Basingstoke, Winchester and Alton. To date 190 professionals have been trained. There has also been a series of 'Better Beginnings Seminars' aimed at all health professionals working with teenage parents before and after the birth of their baby. This is because of the increased risk to babies of younger parents; babies of parents aged 19 years or younger are at a six times greater risk of cot death than older parents.

HCHC Named Nurse, Barbara Goff said, "We are hoping that the campaign will help give parents and staff a clear picture of the key points to remember. Essentially, babies should sleep in a cot in the same room as their parents for the first six months, on their backs with their feet to the foot of the cot, so their heads cannot become covered. Sleeping with a parent on a sofa or armchair is particularly high risk and should be avoided."

Each staff training event included a talk by Judith Howard from the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths as well as a question and answer session.

To find out more about this campaign please email enquiries@hchc.nhs.uk.

Supporting pupils with substance misusing parents

“I need school to understand how hard it is and why our homework is late and why we are tired after mum has been on a bender”, said Emma, a young carer, age 12.

Supported by The Children’s Society Include Project, a booklet has been produced by young people to raise awareness of some of the issues they experience due to their parents’ problematic substance misuse. Each situation will be different and possibly complex, but you can help make sure

these children and young people are safe, have their needs met and know how and where to get help if they need it. This booklet highlights the issues, gives suggestions for good practice and

identifies support nationally and in Hampshire.

“It’s the worry of it all, sometimes I hate my Mum but I don’t really - I love her”, said Sam age 11.

“I’ve gone from 12 to 30 and it’s hard. I want to live a normal life. I want to be understood”, said another young carer.

A free download copy of this booklet can be found at www.youngcarer.com/hampshire or if you need more advice please contact Jenny Hine, The Children’s Society, telephone **01962 711511** or email jenny.hine@childrensociety.org.uk.

Rape: short word, long sentence

Hampshire Constabulary has joined forces with the county’s pubs, clubs, schools, universities, local authorities and the Treetops Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) to educate and inform young people about the links between alcohol consumption and sexual assault.

The campaign is primarily aimed at young people aged 15 to 24 and has three core messages:

Responsibility: encouraging women (and men) to think about how excessive drinking can make them vulnerable to sexual assault.

Consent: educating men about consent and reinforcing the message that having sex with someone too drunk to actively consent constitutes rape and could lead to arrest, conviction and imprisonment.

Look after your friends: ensure that your friends get home safely after a night out, and if they look like they are about to leave with someone they don’t know, then intervene and check their well-being. Equally, if a male friend looks as if he is leaving with a woman



too drunk to take care of herself, talk to him about his responsibilities and the possible consequences of his actions.

The Hampshire Safeguarding Children’s Board is working closely with schools, the Police and other partners to ensure that a DVD and associated teaching package is taken into schools to ensure this keep safe message reaches young people.

If you want to know more about this campaign please contact **barbara.piddington@hants.gov.uk**.

Hampshire schools and UNICEF UK

The Rights Respect and Responsibilities (RRR) initiative has been running in Hampshire for several years now. It has been accompanied by the development of the new UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA), which has been growing in popularity with our schools and others elsewhere in the UK.

We have benefited from the partnership with UNICEF UK over the last couple of years, as the award scheme has been gradually rolled out in several local authorities and is now set to go national.

In Hampshire, we have been able to celebrate some remarkable school achievements over the past two years: the first primary schools in the UK to get the higher level 2 award; the first special school in the UK to get the higher level 2 award; the first early years setting in the UK to obtain the level 1 award; and for 2010 it looks as though we will be able to celebrate the first secondary school to gain the higher level 2 award.

This is a great achievement and sits alongside the other 40 plus schools who have also been accredited with the UNICEF award, and 60 more who are working towards it.

The reasons for the popularity of the UNICEF award have been that: it has clearly understood criteria; it involves pupils/students from the outset; pupils/students are actively involved in the final accreditation procedure; it validates the schools' work on improving children's overall well-being; and teachers like it.



One Hampshire primary school said, "Each year we ask staff what they want to keep and what they would like to get rid of in school. There is always a strong request to continue with the RRSA scheme".

The evidence from the RRSA reports is very similar to that of our own research, which shows that rights based approaches have an impact on: how children's learning and social behaviours improve; reducing bullying and exclusions; pupil performance in tests; critical thinking; and pupils in more disadvantaged communities.

That research concluded: "In summary, RRR has been demonstrated to be a very effective means not only of children's rights, but also of education. The schools

that are rights-consistent and rights-respecting are functioning optimally and in the words of the overarching principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the child's best interests. As such, Hampshire has provided an outstanding model of how to provide children's rights education. It is a model that can and should be emulated in all education jurisdictions." See Covell and Howes full paper on www3.hants.gov.uk/childrensrights/rrr-whatsnew.

If you want to know more about the UNICEF UK RRSA then contact Will Jackson willj@unicef.org.uk or visit the website www.rightsrespectingschools.org.uk. For enquiries about RRR contact ian.massey@hants.gov.uk.

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