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**“Working to Empower the Community”
in Lancashire and Cumbria**

Pamela Beswick - Chief Executive Officer

Community
Legal Service



Help Point

Signposts Team Bulletin - April 2010

Team Bulletins are designed to keep you up to date with what is happening at Signposts - if you are new to the Team please visit the Website for more information - on the home page there is a Team Section, which contains the most up to date useful additional information and paperwork you may need.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Additional major funding from Preston City Council, the FC Scott Charitable Trust and Tudor Trust

Section 1 - Strategic Position

As I mentioned in the last bulletin Contract Compliance remains at the top of my agenda and I have been reviewing all our work with the Senior Management Team to make sure that we are delivering appropriately. I am pleased to say that in the main we are, but we still need to check quality of provision and to make sure that we are "on message" with key strategic drivers and national policy. As we await the date for the General Election we are all holding our breath to see what this will bring!

One change that you will notice and which has been flagged up - is amendments to the way that the Information and Advice Service in Morecambe operates. The impetus for this has come from the Community Legal Services review and also from the need to address issues raised in partnership working and links to ongoing casework. We increasingly need to be able to demonstrate outcomes with those with whom we work and to map progress in terms of addressing issues. This is not about throwing out the baby with the bathwater because open access and inclusion continues to be a key element to our work, but the drop-in does not always equate to an outcome focus which we can map and we are keen that regular users of our service are referred into our casework and that we can work with them on a drop-in basis and also in casework.

The changes will come into effect from 1st April 2010 - after the Easter Break and will be:

- Monday - open drop in
- Tuesday - Appointments only (Signposts and Agencies)
- Wednesday - Agencies only
- Thursday - open drop in
- Friday - open drop in

The Clinics and On Line Centre will operate as usual. (More information in the Project News Section of this bulletin)

We will pilot this for three months and then review - a series of meetings has been called but I don't think were well supported, and so if you feel this is the first you have heard of this - I can only apologise - and feedback remains welcome.

If you are directly affected by the changes - rota days etc - please check this with Susan Edwards. We will need staffing in each day to cover the opening times - so I am sure that times can be negotiated.

We will also of course be letting partners know.

Can I take this opportunity to thank Jean Withers who will be leaving the Information and Advice service for all her hard work and Joe Murphy who is to retire from driving the Travelling Tots Van in April.

Can I also take this opportunity to wish Jack Carr who has been the Cleaner/Caretaker at Grange Community Centre a long and happy retirement - Jack will be retiring at the end of April after a long and busy career. Jack came to Signposts after a career and working for Preston City Council for over 15 years. To mark this long service, Signposts will be organising a retirement do - details to follow.

You may also wish to know that Linda Cookson and Susan Arthington are both making good recoveries.

Team Inductions

The next Induction Evening for people who are new to the organisation in whatever capacity is Thursday 8th April at 4 - 6.30 p.m. at West End Community Enterprise Centre to be hosted by Susan Earnshaw and Katie Smith. I hope you will attend as these are intended to be informative and we can seem like quite a complex organisation. New team members and those who have not attended before will be invited. More information from Katie Smith about this.

Section 2 - Celebration

There is a need for us to celebrate what we do - we work hard and achieve much and we should remind ourselves of this. As we move into Easter we have achieved:

- Negotiation with Cumbria County Council to deliver HIV Services (tbc)
- Successful negotiation with Lancashire CC to deliver HIV Prevention Services in North Lancashire (tbc)
- First tranche of the Your Welcome Guidelines Toolkit completed
- Positive review of our Sexual Health Outreach Service in Lancaster District
- A new Reminiscence Group at Farringdon Park
- Re-vamp of the Food4Thought Café - the new sofas are a great addition
- The completion of a major tender for Solutions Plus - whatever the outcome this represents a lot of hard work - congratulations to all those who worked on this
- Successful negotiations to host the Young Inspector programme for Lancashire
- Successful event for International Women's Day
- Successful negotiation to take on the management of West End Community Enterprise Centre

As part of the Annual Report process I will be doing a flip chart exercise at the full team meeting to gather "Achievements" from your point of view.

Section 3 - Health and Safety at Signposts

We have undertaken a review of some key policies following discussions within the Health and Safety Committee and with our advisors.

Accident Reporting

The first thing we have done is to put an accident report form on our website - on the team information page.

Whenever there is an accident or near miss this form should be printed and completed in full - Parts 1 - 5. The form should then be submitted to Main Office marked private and confidential for the attention of Pam Beswick. This must be done immediately as we have to consider whether an accident is reportable.

ACCIDENT REPORT		Reference No : <input type="text"/>
1 About the person who had the Accident <i>Give full name, home address and occupation.</i>	2 About you, the person filling in this book <i>If you did not have the accident, give full name, home address and occupation</i>	
FULL NAME : _____ ADDRESS : _____ POST CODE: _____ OCCUPATION : _____	FULL NAME : _____ ADDRESS : _____ POST CODE: _____ OCCUPATION : _____	
3 Please sign and date <i>(the person filling in the book)</i>		
SIGNATURE _____ DATE / /		
The person who has had an accident should sign and date if they have not filled in the book (as confirmation that they agree that the accident recorded is a true and accurate record.)		
SIGNATURE _____ DATE / /		
4 About the accident <i>When and where it happened</i>		
DATE _____ TIME _____		
WHERE DID THE ACCIDENT HAPPEN? <i>(place of accident)</i>		
5 About the accident - what happened <i>Say how the accident happened. Give the cause if you can. In the event of any personal injury, say what it is</i>		
HOW DID THE ACCIDENT HAPPEN?		
MATERIALS USED IN TREATMENT		
6 Reporting of injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 <i>For the employer only - complete the box provided if the accident is reportable under RIDDOR</i>		
HOW REPORTED		
DATE REPORTED / / EMPLOYER'S NAME AND INITIALS		
REPORT PASSED TO PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY DATE / /		

ALL accident books have been returned to Main Office with the exception of books used by Travelling Tots and within a Work with Young People and Community Setting where it may not always be possible to access a printer. Forms will also be provided to centre users with an envelope for return with their monitoring information.

All forms will be reviewed and where necessary changes to practice to prevent accidents will be made.

Policy Changes - Travel and Mobile Phone

Changes have been highlighted in red in the policy section of the website - key changes to these policies link to:

- (1) **The use of mobile phones whilst driving** - it is illegal to do so and it has also been agreed that the use of hands free devices should also be prohibited whilst on Signposts Business.
- (2) **Mobile Phone Bullying and Misuse** which is becoming more prevalent in the world - you may have heard about this through the newspapers and television. Again there are laws preventing anonymous or abusive phone calls - Section 43 of the Telecommunications Act 1984.
- (3) Signposts also has a duty of care linked to **Driving and Car Maintenance** and as such we have added information about reasonable expectations to the Travel Policy. These include checks on:
 - Adequate (business use) insurance being in place
 - Driving Licences
 - MOT certification (where relevant)

This information will begin to be gathered in April 2010 and will need to be reviewed annually.

- (4) **Safe Travel Guidance** has also been included in the policy which you should familiarise yourself with. (guidance attached)

Volunteer Representation

Melanie Guilding has offered to represent the volunteer team on the Health and Safety Committee so will be invited to future meetings.

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Section 4 - Project News

Information and Advice - Changes to Service (Regent Road, Morecambe)

The service will have a mixture of drop-in sessions and appointment only. The reason for this is the success of the service in attracting agency bookings and generating a large amount of case work. It is hoped that this will help the service to work more effectively with clients and offer more structure. The rationale for this is:

- Due to the amount of case work that Information and Advice has generated the proposals will hopefully make information and advice needs more robust
- Agency bookings are also very good and regular
- The proposal is still to use Information and Advice five days per week but only three days will be a drop in service
- Agencies will still use the building as they are doing now
- On Tuesday it will be used by the Case Work Planning Team and agencies

- The service is not closing but just being used differently
- Hopefully it will slow the service down to allow more positive interaction with clients

The proposed opening times would be:

DAY	OPENING TIMES	PURPOSE
Monday	10.00am to 12:30 1.00pm 4:30pm	Drop in for generic information and advice and room bookings for agencies.
Tuesday	10.00am to 12:30 1.00pm 4:30pm	Appointments only. Case work team and room bookings for agencies.
Wednesday	10.00am to 12:30 1.00pm 4:30pm	Agency bookings only.
Thursday	10.00am to 12:30 1.00pm 4:30pm	Drop in for generic information and advice and room bookings for agencies.
Friday	10.00am to 12:30 1.00pm 4:30pm	Drop in for generic information and advice and room bookings for agencies.

If there are any issues or concerns about the proposal contact Sue Edwards

Signposts Dad's Work at Preston West and Riverbank Children's Centres

Dad's Art Attack Group

The Signposts Dads Worker is has taken the Lead on this piece of work. One Dad and his children returned from previous Dads Cooking Groups to the Dad's Art Attack sessions and new dads and children have been recruited.

The Signposts Dads Worker has worked in partnership on the sessions with Julie Smith (Art Tutor, Lancashire Adult Family Learning) and Ruth Abram (Signposts Worker, Sure Start).

The Dads Group will now be developed to a 'Dig it with Dad' outdoor/growing format and the content of those sessions will play an important role in retaining new Dads and children and building the group.

Dig it with Dad

The Dig it with Dad sessions are to be held at Preston West Children's Centre and are scheduled to begin On 19/04/10. The session will again be facilitated in partnership with Lancashire Adult Family Learning.

Sourcing Potential Partnership Agencies for Dads and wider sessions

The Signposts Dads Worker has sourced and met with potential additional support for Dig it with Dad and wider sessions in the form of The Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The Lancashire Wildlife Trust is able to offer one-off sessions growing / wildlife / environmental sessions or regular work over a longer period.

Mind Body Future Group

The Signposts Dads Worker has co-facilitated a series of Mind Body Future Courses at Preston West Children's Centre. Nine people attended the first session (22/02/10) and all have returned for subsequent session.

Consultation Work

A new consultation document has now been developed with the intention of consulting further with parents on male inclusively at Children's Centres sessions and groups.

Plungington Stay and Play Sessions

The Signposts Dads Worker has co-facilitated the above sessions with Sure Start staff at Plungington Community Centre.

Relationships with parents and children have been successfully developed and this has led to parents working with the Dads Worker to suggest and develop new ideas and themes for sessions.

It is intended that the Plungington Group alongside the Dad's Group, will form the initial basis for further consultation work upon male inclusivity.

Half-Term Groups

During the February Half-Term the Signposts Dads Worker continued to facilitate the Dads Group and also co-facilitated two story telling sessions (Preston West and Barton School) and a Bug Hunt session in Avenham Park in partnership with Preston City Council Park Rangers.

Steve Pedder - Signposts Dads Worker

Farming and Rural Health Project

The December Health Event we participated in, celebrating the 90th birthday of the W.I. was featured in Cumbria Life Magazine this January. The project was also

invited to join with Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service in receiving the Cumbria County Council Silver Award for their work with the Traveller Community, which more recently we have been part of. Congratulations to the Fire service team in achieving this award.



The Stroke Association needs to be congratulated as they have been successful in securing funding to extend their services in Lancashire. Results and evidence from Signposts partnership work with the Stroke Association were used in achieving this bid.

The Cumbria project has extended to isolated communities in Eden, at Culgaith, Bolton, Sandford, Penrith auction mart, Penrith travellers Community, and outreach sessions in Kirkby Stephen.

In Lancashire we have been part of a two day Health and Information event Operation Chesney, organised by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, this was organised in response to someone who recently died in a fire.

Both FRHP Lancashire and Cumbria have had well attended and enthusiastic steering group meetings.

We are busy booking the Agricultural Shows for this summer so if you would like to come along and help as a volunteer, please get in touch with me so you can get the dates in your diary.

Val Macconnell
Specialist Lead Farming and Rural Health

Working Together 50+ Forums April 2010

This project is gathering momentum. The forums in Carlisle, Penrith, Barrow and Kendal have been well attended and membership is increasing. In the future the forums will be self supporting, independent with their own Chairs.

Ulverston had its first 50+ in February, it was a great success, and over 16 people came. Farming and Rural Health gave a presentation.

Consultation papers that have been discussed at these forums are Fairer Contributions to Care, Big care debate, Fair Access to Equipment, Provision of care to help older people remain independent, at home in later life. The discussions are often lively and heartfelt.

The first Kirkby Stephen forum will take place at the end of April

Working Together Team
Kathryn Haigh & Kay Colley

BME Focus Group - Launch Event

Saturday 27th March 2010 from 11am - 2pm at West End Community Enterprise Centre, Westminster Road, Morecambe

A community-wide launch event is being held to ensure that the new Signposts Focus Group for the BME Mental Health project is widely known about in local area, and to ensure that people are aware of the group's purpose.

The launch the new Focus Group will give members of the various local communities an opportunity to become involved if they wish to, as community champions, advocates, volunteers or to simply get their opinions known.

We want to identify people who will represent their community's views and opinions, and individuals who are willing to be trained and act as advocates for others within their community and we want to ensure that we have an effective mechanism to hear and respond to the needs of local communities.

We will have some fun activity alongside some low level recruitment and aim to unveil the BME Focus group pottery class art work.

Section 5 - Curriculum Material

Parenting: Part 2 - Is it Legal? A Parents' Guide to the Law
(extracts from 3rd Edition - Family & Parenting Institute)

Is it legal to smack my child?

It is against the law for one person to assault another. At the moment it is not illegal for a parent to smack a child, but if the smacking goes beyond the line of 'reasonable chastisement', a parent could be charged with assault. There is no clear definition of reasonable chastisement. It is unlikely to be thought reasonable if it leaves marks on the child, such as visible bruising, minor swelling or it causes mental harm, or if the child is hit with a cane, stick, belt or other implement. The Government has now voted to limit but not completely remove the defence of reasonable chastisement - it has removed it for 'actual bodily harm' but it is still intact in relation to 'common assault'.

Is it legal for children to work?

The law about children working is complicated. The Trades Union Congress and NSPCC have estimated that there are over 200 pieces of legislation, including European and international legislation and local by-laws about children working. The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (CYPA) sets 14 as the minimum age for a child to be employed, on a part-time basis, but there are restrictions in place over the type of work and the number of hours.

No-one under 16 can work in a butcher's shop, in a fairground or amusement arcade, deliver milk or work in a commercial kitchen.

14 year-olds may do 'light work' only and cannot work for more than two hours on a school day; they cannot work before 7.00am or after 7.00pm on school days. On a Saturday or a day during the school holiday, they cannot work more than five hours and on Sunday no more than two hours. They cannot work more than 25 hours in one week and must have at least two consecutive weeks' holiday in a year.

13 year-olds are allowed to take part time employment, on a more restricted basis, if local by-laws allow it. This work would include employment by their parents in horticultural or agricultural work, or some categories of light work. Some local authorities allow 13 year-olds to work; others forbid it.

Local authorities set out the number of hours allowed a day, time of day, rest and meal breaks and other conditions. They are not allowed to set out longer hours than are allowed for 14 year-olds.

Children under 13 are not allowed to work, with some exceptions. They can take part in performances, sports and modelling, but a licence needs to be issued.

15 and 16 year-olds are allowed to work, but not more than two hours on a school day, not before 7.00am or after 7.00pm. They can work for up to eight hours on a school holiday day or on a Saturday, and for up to 35 hours a week during the school holidays.

From October 2009, 16 and 17 year-olds are entitled to a minimum wage of £3.57 an hour, providing they are no longer of compulsory school age i.e.: A person is no longer of compulsory school age after the last Friday of June of the school year in which their 16th birthday occurs.

The rate is £4.83 for people aged 18-21 inclusive; but below 16, employers are able to pay as little or as much as they wish. There are no laws about being paid more on Sundays, but some employers will do so.

Can I legally stop my child leaving home?

A parent cannot stop a child leaving home by locking them in or physically restraining them. But parents have a legal responsibility for their children until their child reaches 16, so they can take action in court to bring their child back if he or she runs away. Once the child has reached what is known as the 'age of discretion' (around 16) it is very unlikely that the court would force the child back home, unless it could be shown that the child was in danger.

Can my child go to the doctor without my knowledge?

Children and young people can visit their doctor at any time. However, children under 16 can only consent to treatment if the doctor believes that they fully understand all the issues that are involved. If someone under 16 is judged not to be mature enough to consent to the treatment, the consultation itself can still remain confidential if the child wants it to. From 16, young people can consent to treatment, although if they refuse treatment, their decision can be overridden more easily than with an adult. In some cases where decisions over treatment are difficult, for example, treatment for anorexia, the court may be asked to make the decision.

Is it illegal to take my child on holiday during term-time?

There is no law making it illegal for parents to take their children on holiday during term time, although the Government and schools are strongly opposed to parents doing so. The law says that schools have the discretion to grant up to ten days authorised absence in a school year. Each application will be considered individually by the school head, who will take into account factors like the child's general attendance record, the child's age, and the timing and length of the holiday. If parents take their children out of school without discussing it first with the school, the leave will be considered unauthorised, and the child could lose their place.

Can my teenager buy fireworks?

No-one under 18 can buy fireworks. No-one under 16 can buy caps, cracker snaps, and party poppers or throw downs.

It is an offence to throw fireworks in the streets, with an £80 fine. Under the Fireworks Act 2003, it is now illegal for under 18s to possess fireworks in public places.

If my child injures someone or damages something by accident, am I liable?

There is no cut and dried answer, but legal opinion suggests that a parent would not usually be liable. The court would have to determine whether the child had caused an accident through failing to take 'reasonable care' and so had been negligent. That decision would be partly based on the age and understanding of the child, but it is extremely unlikely that anyone injured or with damaged goods as a result of the child's negligence would sue the child.

The parent is not automatically liable for the child's negligence and would only be liable if it could be proved that the parent themselves was negligent.

The law has to tread carefully when entering the private world of the home. However, in the home, as in other areas involving children, there is a general duty to protect a child.

Leaving children alone

It is not against the law to leave children on their own in the home.

However, a parent could be charged with 'wilful neglect' if they leave a child alone when that may result in the child being harmed or injured. Leaving your child alone will depend on whether you and he/she feel comfortable and confident about doing so. The parent remains responsible for the child until the age of 16.

Babysitters

Contrary to common belief, there is no law setting out the minimum age for babysitters. Babysitters do not need any qualifications or a certificate. It is a matter for parents' judgement. Where a parent uses a babysitter under 16, and the child is injured in the babysitter's care, it is possible that the parent could still be held responsible and be deemed negligent.

Buying a pet

Children can buy a pet themselves from the age of 16. The RSPCA website is full of useful information about choosing and looking after a pet. See www.rspca.org.uk.

The Vetting & Barring Scheme - What's The Real Story?

Confusion arose in Autumn 2009 about when the Vetting and Barring Scheme will require people to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). Therefore the DCSF has issued guidance about when registration will be required. It

is our understanding that the key principles that govern when the Scheme does not come into play (and when it does) are as follows.

The Scheme:

- Does **not** apply where an arrangement is a family arrangement;
- Does **not** apply where an arrangement is made personally between friends, and is not on a commercial basis;
- Does **not** apply where an activity is not 'regulated activity' because it is not:
 - (a) An activity specified by the Scheme;
 - (b) Work for an organisation specified by the Scheme;
 - (c) A post specified by the Scheme;
 - (d) Does not apply where an activity is an exception to the Scheme.

There are two key questions to consider:

Whether the Scheme's requirement to register with the ISA will apply depends in particular on two key principles:

- (1) If an activity is arranged by an organisation (as opposed to being a private arrangement);
- (2) If that activity is 'frequent or intensive'.

Examples of when the Scheme will not require you to ISA-register

As a result of the Government accepting the recommendations in Sir Roger Singleton's *Drawing the Line* report, **none of the following** will have to ISA-register:

- Any individual who does certain work with children less frequently than once a week each month, or on fewer than four days in one month;
- Any individual who goes into different schools or similar settings to work with different groups of children - providing they don't meet any of these children more than once a week as above;
- 16- to 18-year-olds who do regulated activity as part of their education;
- Visitors working in England and Wales for up to three months with groups of children they bring from elsewhere to e.g. international Scout camps or the Olympics;
- Parents hosting a child for exchange visits under 28 days, where the parents of the child accept responsibility for selection of the host parents.

In addition the following circumstances will not require ISA-registration:

- [1] An older person being kept company by a teenager from a local school. The older person is not doing work (paid or unpaid) with the teenager. The older person is in receipt of the volunteering by the teenager, so the Scheme doesn't apply to the older person.

[2] A teenager keeping an older person company for a couple of hours a week. The teenager is not caring for, or supervising, the older person, so the Scheme doesn't apply to the teenager.

[3a] A parent making an arrangement with a friend, to take the friend's children to play football at a club

[3b] A parent who takes part in a rota with other parents to take each others' children to school once a week.

[3c] A parent who arranges with another parent to take that parent's child home from a youth club (e.g. because that child's parent is delayed at work).

[3d] A parent in sole charge of a football kick-about in the park with his and his friend's children, which he arranged with his friend.

[3e] A parent arranging, with the parents of her child's friends, for the friends to stay at her home for a sleepover.

In each of the five examples above (3a-e), the parent is making a personal arrangement. Even if friends will return the favour, this is not on a commercial basis. The Scheme does not apply to any of the parents.

[4a] A parent supervising their own child at a parent and toddler group where 70 parents come with their children and remain for two hours a week without any other staff. The parent is not supervising anyone else's child, so the Scheme does not apply to the parent. (As the Pre-School Learning Alliance says, 'Parents ... are responsible for their children during the session.')

[4b] A parent home-schooling their own child. The parent is not teaching anyone else's child, so the Scheme does not apply to the parent.

The Vetting and Barring Scheme does not apply to family relationships.

[5a] A parent visiting a school, to see the school play or a Christmas Nativity play, or discuss their child's progress with school staff, etc.

[5b] Any individual visiting a school or schools, without working for those schools.

In the two examples above, neither the parent nor any other individual is doing any work for the school, so the Scheme does not apply to any of them.

It is not now, nor will it ever be, Government policy to vet parents just because they attend events that their own children are taking part in.

- [6] An individual (16 or over) babysitting children, whose parent is a relative or friend of the individual.
- (i) Where the parent is a relative, it is a family arrangement;
 - (ii) Where the parent is a friend and it's not on a commercial basis, it is a personal arrangement.

So the Scheme does not apply to the individual.

- [7] An individual (16 or over) helping to run a stall at the annual parish fete, where some of the customers might be unaccompanied children.
- (i) Serving customers at the stall who are children is not an activity covered by the Scheme;
 - (ii) Working for the parish fete is not working for an organisation covered by the Scheme.

So the Scheme does not apply to the individual.

- [8] An employee providing first aid as an ancillary part of their job. Ancillary first aid is an exception to the Scheme, so the Scheme does not apply to the employee just because of the provision of first aid.

- [9] A volunteer who makes sets and sews costumes for youth theatres. The volunteer is not supervising or training children, so the Scheme does not apply to the volunteer.

- [10] A player at a tennis club, who arranges with the parents of junior players to regularly take the junior players to tournaments in his car. The player is making a personal arrangement, so the Scheme does not apply to the player.

- [11] A musician in a band that plays at evening events at a school, organised by the school's Parent Teacher Association. The musician is not doing work for the school with the opportunity of contact with the children, so the Scheme does not apply to the musician.

Further examples in relation to volunteering with adults

- [12] A volunteer who organises a bridge club, and regularly provides transport to another club for players, some of whom are older. The volunteer is not exclusively transporting people specifically because they have particular needs because of their age, so the Scheme does not apply to the volunteer.

[13] A friend cleans the flat of a pensioner in sheltered housing each week, not for commercial profit. The friend is making a personal arrangement, so the Scheme does not apply to the friend.

Further information

Parliament legislated for the new Scheme in the 2006 Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, for which there was overwhelming support. Instead of a blanket one-size-fits-all approach, the Government has proposed that the requirement to register with the ISA will apply only in specified circumstances. Outside those circumstances, the Scheme will not require ISA registration.

DCSF intend to provide updates each month in response to queries raised, from now until the start of ISA registration in November 2010.

Web Link -

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?event=news.item&id=vetting_and_barring_myth_buster

The above is based upon information circulated by Cumbria County Council and we gratefully acknowledge the source.

Around the World in 31 Days... April 2010

This month in Around the World we look at the Christian celebration of Easter and in particular **Easter Sunday**.

Easter is one of the oldest festivals on the Christian Calendar and **Easter Sunday** celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important date in the Christian Calendar and celebrated with great joy.

On the Friday before Easter Sunday (**Good Friday**), **Jesus Christ was executed by crucifixion**. His body was taken from the cross and placed in a cave-like tomb. The tomb was then sealed by a huge boulder placed across its entrance.

Three days later on the Sunday, followers of Jesus visited the tomb and discovered the stone had been moved, and the tomb was empty. Jesus was seen in person later that day, and again for days afterward by many people. **Jesus Christ had been 'resurrected'**

Celebrations of Easter Sunday vary throughout the Christian world. For example, in America a "sunrise service" is held outside of the church. The service represents the discovery of Jesus' empty tomb that Sunday morning. Throughout the world, Christian churches will be decorated with flowers and special hymns and songs will be enjoyed.

Not all customs associated with Easter are Christian in origin. **The Easter Bunny is Pagan in origin**. Rabbits are seen as a symbol of fertility and new life, and have

therefore become associated with themes of new life and new beginnings celebrated at Easter. Hot cross buns are often enjoyed at Easter and widely associated with the cross used in the Jesus' crucifixion, yet they also have links to the Pagan faith where they represent the moon and its four quarters

Eggs were first decorated and exchanged as Easter gifts in Egypt, Persia and Mesopotamia. They were and still are throughout the world seen as symbolic of new life and the resurrection of Jesus.

Discover more about Easter at <http://christianity.about.com/>

Section 6 - News for volunteers

Volunteering Opportunity - Adult Casework (reminder)

We are looking for more volunteers to support our ever increasing adult case work.

The Aim of the Help direct case work is to support those who are actively seeking to improve their own well being by,

- Staying independent
- To keep healthy
- To stay in touch with and see friends
- To keep their home and garden in good order
- To take part in leisure activities
- Have an opportunity to get involved in their local community

The Preventative homeless work aims to work with clients supporting them to maintain tenancies and prevent them becoming homeless.

The Entrenched homelessness project aims to support more challenging clients who are regularly homeless, to find accommodation and work more intensely to support them to become more suitable tenants.

As a volunteer within this area of work you would be delivering face to face advise work in the clients own home where appropriate, as well as at the Information and Advise Service in Morecambe.

A car owner would be an advantage but not essential.

As a volunteer all out of pocket expenses will be covered and training support will be given. The hours will be as and when required and can be flexible.

If you are interested contact Susan Edwards or Pat Williamson

Signposts Prison Project (reminder)

We need more Signposts volunteers to help run the Prison Visitors Service.

It's a 4-hour volunteering opportunity which involves greeting and meeting visitors to Lancaster Castle Prison, signposting them to relevant information and offering general support as needed.

There are 3 sessions a week: Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 12.30pm to 4.30pm

The work with the Prison has a great deal of potential, we have attended family days within the prison, have attended a variety of prisoner led groups and are developing our relationship to offer more support to the prisoners. The prisoners themselves have nominated Signposts and the Visitors centre as their chosen charity for this year, so look out for the events and activities that prisoners will be taking part in to raise money for us.

**If you're interested in finding out more,
please speak to Sharon Calverley (07825 207023)**

National Volunteers Week (reminder)

National Volunteers Week: runs from the 1-7 June every year - you can find more information on www.volunteersweek.org.uk

Lancaster District CVS and Preston CVS hold Annual Volunteer Awards and Signposts has submitted the whole volunteer team to each of them and we have received Certificates.

Lancaster CVS also invites organisations to nominate individual volunteers under two categories: Volunteer of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year - we have not done this in the past, but I did wonder if we should review this and attach a form at the end of the bulletin if anyone would wish to nominate someone. The closing date is Friday 14th May 2010.

Information on the process for Preston CVS is not currently available but will be circulated when it is.

We will look into what Cumbria CVS do linked to recognising volunteering.

Section 7 – Recruitment

Aiming High for Disabled Children – weekend provision

Signposts is seeking to recruit a team of people to help provide a weekend and holiday programme of activities for Young People with additional needs in the Lancaster District

Job Purpose:

To work with young people with additional needs to access positive activities and to provide short breaks for carers. To support young disabled people to participate in positive activities, learn new skills and meet new friends. To ensure the safety of the young people attending the sessions and to meet their individual needs.

Hours :

As and when required in six hour blocks for weekend activities which are fortnightly - we hope to recruit a bank of staff to operate a rota

Salary:

Unqualified/inexperienced: NJC APT & C scale 2 pt 12 (£8.26 per hour)

Qualified/experienced: NJC APT & C scale 4 pt 16 (£9.03 per hour)

Qualified/experienced Team Lead level: NJC APT & C scale 4 pt 20 (£10.14 per hour)

Appointment will be subject to an Enhanced CRB Clearance and two references.

Equal Opportunities Statement: Signposts is an Equal Opportunities Employer welcoming applications from all sections of the community

CLOSING DATE: Friday 16th April, 4pm

INTERVIEW DATE: Thursday 22nd April

For an Application pack contact Signposts Main Office or visit the Signposts

Website: www.signposts.org.uk or email signpostsmarc@signposts.org.uk

Only application forms will be considered - please do not submit a CV

Please share this information with people you know who might be interested in applying. Training will be available for those who have no experience but would wish to apply.

Section 8 – Forthcoming events

Diary Dates

- Saturday 27th March - all day- Lancaster Children's Festival at Salt Ayre Sports Complex - more information from YMCA and flyers have been circulated
- Saturday 27th March 11 - 2 p.m. Focus Group Launch at West End Community Enterprise Centre - a community wide launch event for the new Signposts Focus Group for the BME Mental Health project
- **Friday 2nd April - Good Friday Bank Holiday closure**
- **Monday 5th April - Bank Holiday Easter Monday closure**
- Wednesday 7th April 9 - 3.30 at West End Community Enterprise Centre - My Mum and Dad Argue a Lot - Parent Conflict (programme attached)
- Thursday 8th April - 4 - 6.30 p.m. Signposts Induction Event - West End Community Enterprise Centre (Susan Earnshaw) - **if you have already booked you don't need to book again, but places are still available**
- Saturday 10th April 10 - 4 p.m. at West End Community Enterprise Centre - Safeguarding Training (programme attached) **if you have already booked you don't need to book again, but places are still available**
- Tuesday 13th April at 7 p.m. Finance and Resource Committee at West End Community Enterprise Centre (Board Members only) - please note change of date
- Friday 30th April at 10 - 12 noon - Health and Safety Group - members only - the meeting will be at the West End Community Centre (tbc)

Advance Notice

- **Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday closure**
- Wednesday 5th May Governance Committee at 7 p.m. at West End Community Enterprise Centre - Board Members only
- Thursday 13th May - Full Team Meeting at 7 p.m. (venue to be confirmed) - the theme will be Sexual Health and HIV
- Tuesday 18th May - Personnel Committee at 7 p.m. at West End Community Enterprise Centre - Board Members only
- Thursday 20th May - Finance and Resource Committee at 7 p.m. at West End Community Enterprise Centre - Board Members only
- Tuesday 25th May - Board Meeting - at 7 p.m. at West End Community Enterprise Centre - Board Members only
- **Monday 31st May - Bank Holiday closure**

With best wishes Pamela Beswick, Chief Executive, March 2010

Attachments:

Programmes and Booking form - Safeguarding

Programme and Booking form EOI for My Mum and Dad Argue a Lot - Parent Conflict

EOI to nominate a Volunteer of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year

Travel Policy

Safeguarding Training
Saturday 10th April
10.00am – 4.00pm

West End Community Enterprise Centre
Westminster Road, Morecambe, LA4 4JE

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 10.00am | Arrival and coffee |
| 10.15am | Introduction and learning agreement |
| 10.30am
group | Safeguarding Children – questions and answers (Handout 1 – exercise) |
| 11.00am | Identifying Abuse – whole group exercise
Who Abuses and where can it happen – small groups |
| 11.30am
groups) | Safeguarding Children – cartoon exercise (Handout 3 – small groups) |
| 12.00pm | Feedback from morning exercises |
| 12.30pm | LUNCH |
| 1.00pm | Safeguarding Children – DVD scenarios (small group exercise) |
| 2.00pm | Signposts Confidentiality Policy
Vulnerability and Risk Factors (small group work) |
| 2.30pm | Adult Case Scenarios (small groups)
Recording and monitoring (whole group exercise) |
| 3.00pm | Action Planning |
| 3.15pm | Evaluation and close |

**Signposts Multi Agency Resource Centre Limited
58 Regent Road, Morecambe LA3 1TE**

Safeguarding Course

Saturday 10th April 2010

10am-4pm @ West End Community Enterprise Centre

- I intend to attend the course

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Access Requirements (if any): _____

Dietary Requirements: Vegetarian/Halal/other _____

Childcare Requirements (if any including names and ages of children):

Onsite Childcare needed

Payment needed for own arrangements
(Cost: _____)

Transport Requirements:

Transport Required from Preston

I can offer transport from Preston

Transport Required from Lancaster

I can offer transport from Lancaster

Personal Requirements: (Faith, culture etc): _____

Signed: - _____ Date: _____

Signed (line Manger): _____

Please return this form to:

Katie Smith, Signposts 58 Regent Road, Morecambe, LA3 1TE

Fax: 01524 411541 or email: katie.smith@signposts.org.uk

my MUM and dad argue a lot

Parent Conflict: Avoiding the 'fallout' for Children and Adults

Facilitators Workshop

Venue	Date	Time
West End Community Enterprise Centre Westminster Rd, (opposite Signposts) Morecambe LA4 4JE	Wednesday 7 th April 2010 12 places available with a reserve list for a future course.	9:00am (signing in and coffee on arrival) 9.30am start - 3.30pm Lunch and refreshments provided

Content:

This is a FREE one day training workshop that formerly addresses the issues of parent conflict and its impact on parenting and childrens development.

Facilitators: Sue Earnshaw and Ruth Paterson

Purpose:

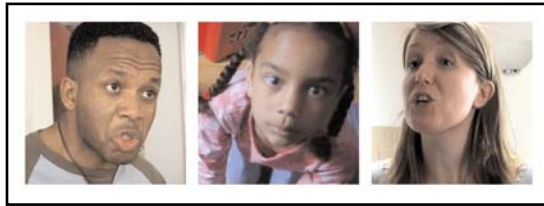
For use in delivering the content as an additional resource within parenting courses, a follow - on mini course or on an individual basis.

Target Audience:

All multi-agency staff that support families, deliver parenting courses or provide a one to one home visiting service.

To reserve a place on the workshop:

Please contact: Sue Earnshaw
District Parent Support Advisor
Lune Park Children's Centre
Ryelands Park, Lancaster LA1 2LN
07825207025
Sue.earnshaw@lancashire.gov.uk
Closing date: 26th March 2010



ONE
PLUS
ONE

SureStart



my MUM and dad argue a lot

Parent Conflict: Avoiding the 'fallout' for Children and Adults

Aims of the training:

To enable the parent education and support sector to respond to the needs of parents and families living with conflict and to reduce the harmful impact of conflict on children.

The term 'parents' includes those who are married, co-habiting, in civil partnerships, separated, parenting alone or in another kind of parenting role.

Objectives:

- To train parent educators and family support workers to include the issue of parent conflict in their work with parents
- To raise awareness and understanding of parent conflict and its impact on children
- To increase confidence in recognising and responding to parents in conflict
- To provide a sample of training materials and resources that can be adapted or slotted into parenting courses or parent group activities or individually in the home

**Signposts Multi Agency Resource Centre Limited
58 Regent Road, Morecambe LA3 1TE**

my MUM and dad argue a lot

**Parent Conflict: Avoiding the 'fallout' for
Children and Adults**

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Access Requirements (if any): _____

Dietary Requirements: Vegetarian/Halal/other _____

Childcare Requirements (if any including names and ages of children):

Transport Requirements:

Transport Required from Lancaster I can offer transport from Lancaster

Transport Required from Preston I can offer transport from Preston

Personal Requirements: (Faith, culture etc): _____

Signed: - _____ Date: _____

Signed (line Manger): _____

**Please return this form to:Katie Smith, Signposts 58 Regent Road,
Morecambe, LA3 1TE**

ax: 01524 411541 or email: katie.smith@signposts.org.uk

Main/Registered Office: Signposts, 58 Regent Road, Morecambe, LA3 1TE

Telephone : (01524) 419021 Fax : (01524) 411541

Community
Legal Service



Help Point



E-mail: signpostsmarc@signposts.org.uk

Website: www.signposts.org.uk

**“Working to Empower the Community”
in Lancashire and Cumbria**

Pamela Beswick - Chief Executive Officer

CVS Annual Volunteers Award Nominations

Lancaster District CVS and Preston CVS hold Annual Volunteer Awards and Signposts has submitted the whole volunteer team to each of them and we have received Certificates. They also invite organisations to nominate individual volunteers under two categories: Volunteer of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year.

Please fill in this form if you wish to nominate someone from the Signposts volunteer team

Volunteer of the year

Name:

Volunteer position:

Young volunteer of the year

Name:

Volunteer position:

**Please send this form to Pam Beswick, Signposts, 58 Regent Road
Morecambe LA3 1TE**

The closing date is Friday 26th March 2010

Charity Registration Number: 1117645
Member of AdviceUK (previously FIAC)

Company Limited by Guarantee: 5990592
Registered in England and Wales



North Lancashire
Teaching Primary Care Trust



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Additional major funding from Preston City Council, the FC Scott Charitable Trust and Tudor Trust