

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR(2) –13-06(p6)

Date:Wednesday 4 October 2006

Time:9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: "HYPE" - Merthyr Tydfil Peer Led Drug Project

This project is a joint venture involving South Wales Police, Drugaid, Year 12 pupils and teachers from local comprehensive schools plus representatives from Merthyr Tydfil College. This is the seventh year that the project has been run.

The key aims of the project are to:-

Provide training for young people and teaching staff.

Reduce the acceptability and health risks of drugs to individuals.

Provide a safe environment for young people to express their needs and fears, which may also help assess the scale of local substance misuse.

Enhance and develop existing good practice in schools drug education programmes.

The training programme will involve each peer tutor to be committed to:-

Residential weekend training 28th to 30th September 2006.

Residential weekend training 19th to 21st October 2006.

Subsequent delivery of drug education to younger pupils within their school.

The training weekend involves team building exercises, inputs including drugs information, sexual health, police procedures, presentation skills, lesson planning, contact monitoring forms, role-play development workshops with Spectacle Theatre, etc. Peer tutors will develop a number of new skills which will not only help them to deliver drug education but also aid their own overall personal development.

The residential weekend will take place at the Dare Valley Country Park Aberdare in clean comfortable and secure surroundings.

The benefits for peer tutors are:-

All training is free.

A supportive and structured framework enabling them to develop self-confidence and use this to increase their interactive and communication skills.

Increased ability to make informed decisions.

The ability to use their acquired knowledge in workshop and presentation situations.

The responsibility to work with others.

Valuable OCN accreditation of their work to add to their record of achievement and curriculum vitae.

The programme is aimed at reducing the number of substance misuse incidents involving juveniles in the Merthyr Tydfil borough. It is also hoped that the peer tutors will be a more accessible point of information for young people with any concerns in relation to substance misuse.

Evaluation of HYPE Project - September 2005

2 Training weekends completed with 27 students trained.

15 peer tutors from the previous year attended as trainers.

All Secondary schools and the Local College now have tutor groups.

23 students returned their evaluation form.

Q1 Prior knowledge of Substance misuse.

2 said knowledge was poor

8 said knowledge was fair

7 said they had a good knowledge

6 said they had very good knowledge

Q2 Why did you decide to do course.

Replies included. To increase knowledge, to help others, to make Merthyr Safer and to gain confidence and something to improve their CV's.

"I feel it's important to educate young people on the effects and dangers of drugs at an early age to give them a better chance in life"

Q3 What did you most enjoy.

Replies included:

All of it

Role play

Drugs information

Sex Ed.

Learning new things

Making new friends

Police dogs

Interaction between other schools and learning important facts.

Q4 What did you least enjoy.

Nothing really

Not keen on role-play

Some talks were a bit long/no visual aids

Sex ed. (uncomfortable – embarrassed)

Early mornings

Food.

College students were too old for the rest of us.

Q5 To improve course what extra training would you include.

Updates at school as new information becomes available

Make course longer

More videos showing effects of substance misuse.

More lively inputs

Info on how people are dealt with if they have a drug problem

Someone speaking from past experience...user...etc

More professional people attending

How to speak to a class

More practical work

Q6 What input did you consider least useful.

Some speakers boring or too quiet

All inputs were relevant and useful

It's all good

Barbiturates

Sexual health

Some scientific words were difficult to remember

Q7 How would you rate your knowledge after training?

1 said Good

13 said very good

9 said excellent.

All students said they benefited from the course in some way

4 indicated their level of knowledge remained the same at the end of the course.

19 said their level of knowledge had increased.