

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR 09-05 (p.3) Annex C

All Wales Police School Liaison Programme - Dyfed-Powys

Dyfed-Powys Police

The programme has appointed 11 officers in total.

Each officer is responsible for a maximum of 5 comprehensive schools and their respective feeder primaries.

Out of the above provision, there are six fluent Welsh speakers and one learner catering for the Welsh Schools and Welsh streams within English medium schools in the Dyfed Powys force area.

Prior To The Introduction Of The Programme

Dyfed- Powys Police Service in partnership with Carmarthenshire Local Education Authority and Pembrokeshire Health Authority had trained and supported 60 officers in total, for the delivery of 'Safety' messages in schools and colleges. They implemented 'Talk Health' into the primary sector and wrote 'lessons' based on substance misuse for the secondary sector. They utilised existing materials and resources from companies such as 'Tacade' to support the 'Police Lessons'. The trained officers were encouraged to record their visits to educational establishments and submit fortnightly returns to the Community Safety's Project Manager at HQ for monitoring.

Programme

The programme is not identical to Gwent due to financial constraints. As a result Dyfed- Powys have adopted three drugs lessons that were designed by South Wales Police in partnership with the South Wales PSE advisory group for education. The lesson developed by our own authority in the area of 'Substance Misuse' lacked continuity and structure (in line with the PSE framework).

The main changes are in the drugs' strand

Wings to Fly – Its Your Choice

The Event – Class Act

D and A day – Rue the Day

These provide individual lessons that do not cut across the timetable.

Although not in the programme officers do take part in D and A days when schools organise their own. The local co-ordinator feels it provides pupils with relevant information of the local community and acts as a good culmination of all the work undertaken by local agencies with schools.

Additional Developments

Schools have made requests for lessons that are additional to the programme. The most commonly occurring themes were developed as lessons to fulfil local, changing needs. This resulted in the development of the following lessons, which currently are being offered in the officers 20% time. Usage and evaluation will determine their future placement in the Police Programme.

- An anti – bullying lesson for year 7 pupils (first year in comp, Key Stage 3). This lesson was written in South Wales and has been adopted by Dyfed –Powys.
- Alcohol lesson for Key Stage 4 (14-16).

The development of a Dyfed Powys Force policy to develop a corporate approach in relation to dealing with the use of police drugs dogs in schools is currently under internal discussion, soon to be presented to LEA representatives for further discussion and a final agreement.

Education Liaison

Initially, to inform all schools across Dyfed Powys about the programme the local co-ordinator sent letters/ e-mails to Heads of schools, informing them of her role and that of the school liaison officers that would soon be in post. They were also provided with an overview of the programme.

The local co-ordinator spoke to LEA representatives and Heads in Cluster meetings to put a ‘face to the name’ and to further explain the role of the police programme and answer any queries they might have.

Once in post, the officers were directed to make contact with their respective schools, initially via letter/ phone call, followed by a personal visit. During the visits the officers were to discuss with the coordinator, the aims, objectives and contents of the programme and to plan it into the school PSE curriculum.

The local co-ordinator then established a Dyfed Powys Steering group consisting of PSE Advisors who represented their respective Education Authorities along with Healthy Schools Co-ordinators, Health promotion officers, a Teacher/ Head representative from the schools, and a Police School Liaison Officer. They meet quarterly to discuss the implementation of the programme across Dyfed Powys.

To disseminate the programme to all schools and to outline how to integrate it into the school PSE programme, training days were organised in partnership with the Educational Business Partnership (EBP) (Careers Wales) for PSE co-ordinators. This allowed the teachers to familiarise themselves with the material and to discuss with the officer where it best fitted into their PSE programme as some lessons have preparation or follow up suggestions to ensure that the police officer input did not become stand alone deliveries. Teachers' packs were distributed to encourage integration with the PSE curriculum.

The training/ placement day has been trialled in the LEA of Powys. Unfortunately, there was little response from the Primary sector and as a result only one Secondary Teacher Placement Day took place; Wednesday, 9th February of this year at Llandrindod Wells Police Station. It was agreed that the teacher's placement day be conducted in an actual police station, in order for teachers to develop a better understanding of the role of a police officer. (On reflection, this helped to build relationships between education and the police service). This proved very successful, for all parties involved.

Training

When considering the implementation of the programme the local co-ordinator felt there was a need to combine officer expertise and experience with educational understanding. To achieve this objective the newly appointed designated school liaison officers initially undertook 12 days of intensive developmental training. This consisted of a two-day induction, followed by two separate weekly courses. To ensure that officers are appropriately trained and up to date with the educational system as well as keeping abreast of current trends, initiatives and changes in legislation the School Liaison Team meet on a half termly basis (approximately every six weeks), at Police HQ Llangunnor. The officers are expected to attend these meeting in order to continue their developmental training and share best practice. Advisors, guest speakers, representatives of relevant organisation along with internal police trainers have, and continue to, deliver training and provide support in the following areas:

Presentation Skills

PSE framework in Education

Teaching and Learning Styles

Circle Time

Classroom Management and Positive Behaviour

Substance Misuse

Domestic Abuse

Community Diversity

Child Protection

Bullying - Child line and NSPCC

Arrest Referral

Healthy Schools Scheme

To further professionalise the service and develop the officers training, the South Wales co-ordinator negotiated an accredited training course with Swansea Institute that is recognised by the University of Wales. Currently, six of the eleven Dyfed Powys officers have taken up study on the Diploma.

External Liaison

Partnership working is of paramount importance in the success of this programme. Informative discussions and liaison with a variety of agencies is a daily occurrence for all involved.

Multi-agency projects such as ‘Crime of Your Life’ (Key Stage 3) has been successfully running in Pembrokeshire for the past three years and has recently been trialled in Powys, proving highly impactful, relevant and successful (for all). In order to deliver the ‘Crime of Your Life’, programme staff have formed partnerships and worked with the following; Coleg Powys, Powys Challenge, The Magistrates, YOT, Victim Support,

‘Crucial Crew’ (upper Key Stage 2) is another multi- agency initiative, whereby partnerships have been forged with a multitude of organisations and agencies including fire, ambulance, trading standards, Domestic Abuse Forum, Local College, Childline/ NSPCC, Environmental Health, Coastguard, Local Authority (Health and Safety), SWALEC and the Farmers Association. Crucial Crew is hosted in Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

The local co-ordinator works with each of the authorities ‘Healthy Schools Co-ordinator’, and sits on Pembrokeshire’s Healthy Schools Steering Committee and an SLO representative sits on the Ceredigion Steering group, to link in and support the healthy schools initiative in these areas. It has been agreed that the work the officers do can help schools evidence the healthy schools objectives.

Evaluation

In order to ensure a co-ordinated approach to school liaison in Dyfed Powys, the local co-ordinator felt it

necessary to monitor and evaluate the content of the programme and the delivery by School Liaison Officers.

Internal Monitoring

Each section of the core programme needs to be monitored in terms of delivery and popularity with the primary and secondary sector of education.

For this purpose, the school liaison returns system in Dyfed Powys has been adapted.

The returns system is based on the three spirals of the core programme's commitments at both primary and secondary level. (The three spirals consist of: Drugs and Substance Misuse, Anti-Social Behaviour and the Community, Safety.

The new returns format will document the school, lesson input, and the date of delivery. An additional form has been created to record officers attendance to meetings and any other commitments.

Returns will be requested from School Liaison Officers on a half-termly basis from September 2004 to track the success of the core programme. The forms are on disc so that returns can be e-mailed to the School Liaison Co-ordinator and respective Line Managers.

Lesson Monitoring (School Liaison Co-ordinator)

The local co-ordinator evaluates lessons based on SLO delivery, in order to identify training needs and to appraise officers in their role. Each officer is monitored at least once a term.

Internal Evaluation

School Liaison Officer Evaluation

SLO evaluation forms ask for comments on the School Liaison Core Programme in terms of the police issues which are raised and the effectiveness of lesson resources.

Teacher Evaluation

Officers distribute a generic evaluation form to the class teacher at the end of each session. The form has been designed to encourage comments on resources, suitability of content for age group and officers delivery.

Student Evaluation

A Student evaluation form has been developed similar to that of the classroom teacher. The form has been devised for Upper Key Stage two, Key Stage three and four students (where student consultation is now necessary).

For this year an evaluation programme has been set which targets one Key Stage every half term. During the course of this academic year officers have completed and submitted evaluation forms on each lesson with the teacher and pupils. This has been further supported by occasional classroom observations by the local co-ordinator.

In more recent coordinator meetings it has been agreed to implement a common National structure for evaluation. This has meant the development of:-

- A Teacher / SCPO evaluation form which they complete together to encourage a partnership approach.
- A Key Stage 1 and L2 pupil lesson evaluation form more suited to pupil age and ability level.
- A Key Stage U2, 3, and 4 pupil lesson evaluation form.
- A common lesson observation guidance form adopted by all.