

# GOOD PRACTICE NETWORK

## THE DRY ARCH CENTRE (FOR FAMILIES)

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2003



### G.P.N UPDATE

#### Latest News at the G.P.N.....

Welcome to the February edition of the G.P.N newsletter. Hope you all had a nice Christmas.

The Dry Arch Centre (for families) has achieved the "Investors In People Award", .....more details on page 1.

Courses on Personal Development & Health and Safety.....more details on pg 3.



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### Organisation Accreditation

The Dry Arch Centre (for families) decided that IIP (Investor In People) best met their needs in achieving an organisational accreditation. The Dry Arch Centre commissioned Raymond Ussher, Ussher Management Services to lead the organisation through IIP.

#### Organisation accreditation cont.....

The organisation underwent its assessment on the 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003. The assessment consisted of approx 40% of the staff being interviewed. Fifteen staff members were interviewed on the day.

We can now officially report that The Dry Arch Centre (for families) has passed their assessment and are now recognised as an 'Investor In People'.



The next stage will be a huge party for all and a presentation of the award to the organisation.

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# Children's Issues

## Creating a Vision for all our Children A Framework for Discussion

### Introduction

Since January 2001, the Northern Ireland Executive has been committed to the development of an overarching strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland, that is, for all children up to 18 years of age.

The announcement of plans to establish a Commissioner for Children and young people was placed squarely in the context of a strategy. This acknowledged the fact that although the Commissioner would be an important, impartial and influential champion for children **outside** Government, mechanisms needed to be put in place to ensure that the delivery of services for children and their rights and needs are co-ordinated, monitored and promoted **within** Government.

### How is the work being taken forward?

The Children and Young People's Unit in the Offices of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister has been given the responsibility to drive the development of the strategy, but it is clearly an area where input from a wide range of stakeholders is vital. Building on the approach taken during the consultation on the proposals for a Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Unit intends to consult very widely – with government departments; the statutory, voluntary and community sectors; the legal professionals; the private sector; academics; the faith-based sector; and perhaps most importantly of all, with parents and children and young people themselves.

*Continued*

### What will the strategy look like

**“a suggested structure for the strategy document”**

We intend that our strategy will **overarch** new and existing strategies; it will be high-level and will set the vision and guiding principles which all departments and providers of children's services must work towards to ensure that the lives of **all** the children and young people in NI are improved.

### **Our planned structure for the final strategy document is as follows:**

- Details of the process of developing the strategy – co-operation between sectors; a thorough consultation process;
- An overview of the position of children and young people in NI – facts and figures, attitudes etc;
- An overview of what departments/agencies are currently doing which impacts on children and young people, setting out examples of good practice and explaining the role of the commissioner for children and young people
- A vision for children and young people in NI and the values and principles underlying that vision
- The goals which flow from the vision and the objectives needed to realise them, with measurable outcomes
- Delivery of the strategy – who is responsible for delivering it; driving it and monitoring it; and how it will be resourced
- An Equality Impact Assessment
- A New TSN Impact Assessment, and
- A Human Rights Assessment

### Information taken from the children and young peoples unit 'booklet' Creating A Vision For All Our Children

## "Parenting Corner" up's and down's of parenting

As parents we all have different ideas of  
what

Success means for our children.

I think the most important aspect of success  
has to do with finding a real passion for  
something in life .

It means a responsibility to live up to one's  
Potential. That has to be discovered; It  
can't

be forced upon a youngster growing up.

We cannot expect children to be replicas of  
us. From the minute they emerge from  
the womb they are already themselves.

That must be honoured, and they must be  
given the tools and opportunities

To go as far as they possibly can on their  
own.

*Keynote address by Christopher Reeve,  
Brown University  
Parents' Weekend, October 2001*

*I hope you enjoyed this piece taken from his  
new book  
'Nothing Is Impossible'*

*He is an inspiration to us all!*



## Training Update

We have decided to run the following  
courses:

### **Personal Development**

( 10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> March)

### **Health & Safety**

April 2003

The tutor for both of the courses will be  
Terry Boyland, who is a tutor with The  
Limavady College. Terry is based within  
The Learning World office on Irish Green  
Street, Limavady.

Personal Development will be an 6hr  
course with a certificate from The  
Limavady College for those who take  
part.



Health & Safety will be an 6-8 hr course  
with a certificate from the Limavady  
College

Both courses will take place in The  
Learning World offices on Irish Green  
Street. The courses will cater for a max  
of 20 participants. Courses to start in  
Mar/April 2003.

If you already have completed training  
requested forms and marked either of  
the above courses, then you need not  
contact us, but if you have not requested  
either courses earlier then please contact  
Rosemary @ 02877742904 A.S.A.P as  
places will be allocated on a first come  
basis.

29 January 2002

Information taken from 4 local news website.

## “Tougher measures against sex crimes introduced”

Tough new legislation against sex offenders – including measures against Internet ‘grooming’ as a criminal offence and a crackdown on the monitoring of registered paedophiles. The Order of Council for the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Bill which was presented at Westminster today by Home Secretary David Blunkett.

The Bill comes on the same day as a PSNI report revealing that child prostitution is growing in the province, with children as young as 13 involved in the sex trade.

Whilst the reform of the law on sex offences applies to England and Wales, major changes for the province are to the registration requirements of the Sex Offenders Act 1997.

Under the proposed new legislation, offenders will have to notify police of changes to their registered details within three days as opposed to the current 14 days. All notifications must be renewed annually, in person, with a power for the police to take new photographs and fingerprints. The definition of home address will also be broadened to include any location at which the offender could reliably be found.

The Bill will consider children under 13 to be incapable of giving consent to any sexual activity, and any sexual intercourse with a child under 13 will be deemed as rape – carrying a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Continued on next pg

Local News contin.....

Anti – grooming measures have been designed to catch adults who meet a child with the intention of committing a sex offence before any activity takes place. The commercial sexual exploitation of a child – through prostitution and Internet pornography.



Commenting of tomorrow’s commons debate, Home Secretary David Blunkett said: “We are dealing with difficult and sensitive issues, and we aim to strike the right balance between providing greater protection for victims and ensuring fairness under the law for defendants.

The scale of the problem has become clearer in recent months , particularly since the start of Operation Ore on December 17, Operation Ore, a nationwide initiative between state agencies and the FBI in the US, has unearthed details on 250,000 suspected paedophiles and the police admit they have been swamped with information.

## Calendar Of Events

### “The Secret Of Happy Children”

An evening talk for anyone especially parents  
@ The City Hotel, Derry  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2003

### “Working With Fathers”

A full day workshop for professionals  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2003 - Belfast

### “Love v Discipline

### Alternatives to Physical Punishment”

An evening talk for anyone especially parents  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2003 - Belfast

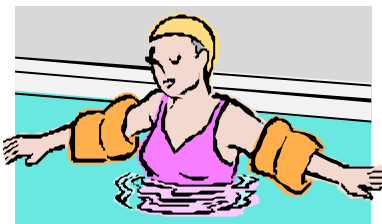
### “Making School a better place for boys”

A morning workshop for those working in the field of education  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2003 – Antrim.

For further information on any of the above courses please contact **sheila @ Parents Advice Centre** 02890310891 or email **belfast@pachelp.org**

## “Concern over Paedophiles’ picture messaging mobile phones”

SDLP assembly member Patricia Lewsley has expressed concerns that new mobile phone technology would allow paedophiles to take pictures of children and download them over the internet.



The lagan Valley MLA said today that parents should be aware that there were reports in England of paedophiles bringing these phones into leisure centres to take pictures of children.

“There is a need for parents to be aware of the dangers that are out there. I would also appeal to staff that work in leisure centres and swimming pools to be vigilant,” she said. “It is appalling and frightening that we need to think about these issues but the reality is that we must all be aware of the dangers in order to protect our children”

On January 6, the government launched a £1 million advertising campaign to encourage parents designed to make sure their children understand the dangers of communication with strangers online and to address the issue of ‘grooming’ in internet chatrooms.

Local News concerns.....

## “Concern over Paedophiles’ picture messaging mobile phones” cont.....

At the time , Home Office Minister Hilary Benn said “We want to encourage parents to help their children protect themselves so they can surf safely. Parents can play a role in making their children aware that strangers on the Internet may not always be who they say they are. The messages to children are clear; do not give out personal contact details online, and never meet up with someone you have met online unless accompanied by an adult.”

