

Boys & Young Men Network Newsletter

WORKING WITH BOYS AND YOUNG MEN 21ST MARCH 2002

A warm welcome to all of you attending today! Hopefully the temperature in the hall, will be slightly warmer than on the occasion of our previous workshop in December 2001, when we encountered a few difficulties with the central heating system...

The evaluation of that workshop was encouraging. Simon Blake, Director of the Sex Education Forum, facilitated the event and laid the foundations for the work of the Network, with a well received presentation on masculinities.

The Network's intention is to provide workshops that are led by workers needs. Consequently, as a result of the evaluation of the December event, today's workshop focuses on 'how do we actually *do* the work with young men?' a topic that was uppermost in the comments made on the December evaluation forms.

We are fortunate today, to have as guest speaker and facilitator, *Neil Davidson*, *Co-director of Working With Men*, an organisation that has been intrinsic to raising the profile of men's health in the UK. Neil has been described as a pioneering practitioner, working with young and adult men, with a focus on sex education and sexual health. He has particular expertise on methods of working with young men and has set the agenda for today's workshops.

For those people who are unable to attend today's workshop, there will be another chance to attend a condensed version (unfortunately, without Neil) on **Thursday, 16th April** between **7.00pm and 9.30pm**, again at Chequers Bridge. Details available from Paul Hopkins, Health Promotion Gloucestershire, Albion Chambers, 111, Eastgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1PZ (tel 01452 429343), or Bernie Cox, Gloucestershire Youth and Community Service, Cotswold Area Office, The Lodge, 47 Lewis Lane, Cirencester G L7 1EB (tel 01285 650067)



NEXT WORKSHOP.....

The next workshop is due to take place in early July. The workshop will again focus on an issue that many workers have raised as an issue, the mental health and well-being of boys and young men. Details to be circulated shortly.



SATELLITE WORKSHOPS

Whilst we have attempted to locate the workshops as centrally as possible, we realise that not everyone who wishes to attend can do so. We are looking at establishing satellite workshops around the county, as soon as we can define trainers and venues. Anyone who may be interested in facilitating this work, please contact Paul Hopkins or Bernie Cox.



RESOURCES

Resources to facilitate work with boys and young men are available from Health Promotion Resources Service, Albion Chambers, 111, Eastgate Street, Gloucester (see back page).



‘READY, STEADY, CHANGE!’

Following the success of ‘Boyz will be Boyz Comics’, a new resource is due to be made available this spring. ‘Ready, Steady, Change!’, is a comic-book that explores issues that boys with severe learning difficulties will face during puberty. ‘Ready, Steady, Change!’ is the result of a partnership between Health Promotion Gloucestershire, teachers, school nurses, parents, and of course, the pupils, at Bettridge school, Cheltenham. Covering the same territory as ‘Boyz will be Boyz Comics’, the comic-book uses Makaton symbols and simple, clear diagrams, again provided by illustrator Mike Higgs. It also contains an accompanying explanatory text for parents and carers, and a questions and answers section.

‘Ready, Steady, Change!’ will be available from the Resources Service from May 2002

A LOGO !

The Gloucestershire Boys and Young Men Network is a multi-agency network that has been formed to facilitate and support work with boys and young men, to identify resources and disseminate good practice.

However, as we are a multi-agency body, we come under a host of banners and do not, as yet, have our own logo. To address this, the Youth and Community Service will be holding a competition to design a logo that represents boys and young men in Gloucestershire. Hopefully, we will be able to include it in the next edition of this newsletter.

AIMS OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOYS & YOUNG MEN NETWORK

These aims have been adapted from Youth and Community guidelines for best practice for working with boys and young men. They are intended as part of a framework for this work that will be disseminated to workers, countywide.

- Boys and young men will have a heightened awareness and appreciation of themselves, their qualities and abilities, and will be motivated to develop these.
- Boys and young men will have a heightened appreciation of others and will have the skills and understanding necessary to be sensitive of others, and to be assertive in constructive and creative relationships.
- Boys and young men will have an appreciation of the diversity of masculinity and male roles.
- Boys and young men's confidence and self-esteem will be enhanced.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE NETWORK..

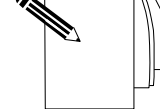


The Network meets regularly at Chequers Bridge Centre, Painswick Road Gloucester, to discuss practice, issues resulting from practice, share problems, ideas and resources and to develop joint working initiatives. Representatives from all organisations with an interest in work with boys and young men are welcome to attend.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 25th April , 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

For further details contact:

Paul Hopkins, Health Promotion Gloucestershire on (01452) 429343, or Bernie Cox on (01285) 650067



The resources listed are all primarily aimed at boys and young men. The Health Promotion Resources Service holds many more items that cover sex and relationships education.

Let's hear it for the boys – Resource designed to meet the health needs and emotional well-being of boys and young men. It offers guidelines and suggestions for choosing and developing sex education resources, also how sexual health and advice services can be made more accessible to young men. It provides training materials to raise awareness of boys' needs and to develop strategies for working more effectively with them.

Strides – A practical guide to sex and relationships education with young men. Designed for use by youth workers with groups of young men, it will also be useful in schools and colleges. The guide contains practical exercises and ideas, developed with young men, to help provide male-specific and/or male sensitive sex education.

Moving goal posts – FPA produced training manual that provides clear and practical guidance for planning and delivering training to people who want to develop their confidence and skills in providing effective sex and relationships education to boys and young men.

Weird and Wonderful World of Billy Ball Greedy – Contains a video and support manual useful to health and social professionals, teachers and youth workers who are working with young men on sexual health. Focuses on puberty, contraception, STIs and individuality.

A Man's World – Game-pack designed to help young men talk about their feelings, increase their knowledge, share experiences and look at their attitudes to being male. Covers a variety of topics including sex, sexuality, race, employment, drugs, health, friendship, fatherhood, domestic issues and violence.

Johnny Condom – Video on condom use and the dispersion of myths.

Condoms! – A video providing instruction on the basics of condom use.

Male Image Photo Pack – 52 black & white photographs of men and boys expressing a range of emotions. A useful starting point for discussion.

4BOYS – FPA produced booklet on sexual health for boys and young men 14+.

Boyz will be Boyz Comics – Comic-book on the issues boys will encounter during puberty. 10 – 13 years.

Checked your tackle? – Testicular self-examination poster.

Below the belt! – Pocket-sized leaflet on testicular self-examination.

Resources Service Tel No. 01452 429363

