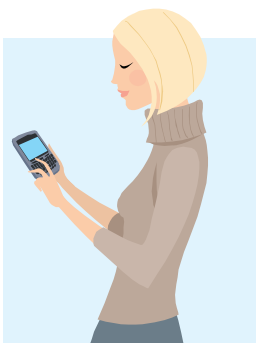


Now you can text us a donation

If you've got a mobile, you can now make a small donation (up to £10) to Hope UK anytime, anywhere. Just text HOPE25 and the amount, which can be £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10. Once you have keyed in this very brief message, you simply send it to 70070.

It's a great way to give—quick and easy; and lots of small amounts can make a big difference. So please tell your friends and family; or even put a notice in your church bulletin.

Every penny donated comes to Hope UK and will help us reach more children and young people.



STOP PRESS! We need your votes

Hope UK is working in partnership with the Refresh project in the London borough of Bexley (run by Belvedere Baptist Church) to train a team of voluntary Drug Educators in the borough. An application to **NatWest Community Force** for a grant of £6,000 for this project has been approved, but we will only get the money (shared equally with Refresh) if you vote for us. Please visit <http://communityforce.natwest.com/> between the 26th September and 23rd October and vote for the Refresh/Hope UK project.

Find out if there is a Hope UK Drug Educator near you

Although we are working hard to develop local teams, we continue to support about 160 Drug Educators in other parts of the country. If you would like a trained speaker to visit your school, church, Mothers' Union group, parents' group or youth club..... e-mail Debbie Devine at d.devine@hopeuk.org or call 020 7928 0848.

Call, email or use this slip to find out more

(Autumn 11)

- Please send me information on doing sponsored events
- Please send me information about how I can become a Voluntary Educator
- Please send me a guide to making a gift in my will to Hope UK.
- Please send a regular giving form

Title: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Email Address (if you are happy to be contacted in this way): _____

Please return to: Hope UK, 25(f) Copperfield Street, London. SE1 0EN.

T: 020 7928 0848

E: enquiries@hopeuk.org

www.hopeuk.org

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Hope UK Volunteering with Hope UK

Why do people become voluntary Drug Educators?

Why are so many people willing to give up hours of their time to be trained, and then work, as Drug Educators for Hope UK?

The reasons are as varied as the hundreds of individuals that have done the training over the past seventeen years. Some have a background of drug use – like Camilla Hunter-Blair who writes: "I thank God that He gave me a second chance and that I'm now in the privileged position of being part of Hope UK and enabling young people to make drug-free choices."



John Campbell,
Cumbria Educator

"I thank God that He gave me a second chance..."



"We appreciate all that you have done. You have made a positive contribution to our Future Jobs Fund Resilience Training Programme. We have noted a marked decline in drug/drink related work problems with our Future Job Fund employees compared to the first 6 months when you were not involved."

Derek Gard
Volunteer Coordinator
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Ltd

Or Clyde Khani, an Educator who featured in BBC 3's 'Cannabis, What's the Harm?' programme.

Others, like retired businessman Dave Linington, former practice nurse Sharon Murphy and psychiatric nurse Marigold Katsande, have worked with individuals in the grip of addiction and want to stop others going down that road.

John Campbell got involved because, as a Pastor and director of a local ex-users' Café and Rehabilitation organisation called Starting Point, he saw the consequences of addiction and wanted to help young people make the right decisions about drugs.

Still others are parents who want to give all children and young people, not just their own, the chance to realise their potential and live full and meaningful lives.

Whatever their motivation, Hope UK's Drug Educators are passionate about helping children and young people to make drug-free choices.

Hope UK wants to see children and young people grow up to fulfil their potential. Sadly, the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs results in many failing to do so. We train Voluntary Drug Educators who provide interactive drug awareness sessions for young people as well as those who have responsibility for them (eg, parents and youth workers) enabling them to make drug free choices. Hope UK was previously called the Band of Hope and was established in 1847. Its work today holds to many of the core values whilst remaining relevant to today's young people.

Hope UK NEWS!

The **Kingston** team is regularly participating in a Council-supported project, a youth work bus (photo) which is parked in a central location where young people can come and talk about health and lifestyle-related issues. Hope UK Educators use games and 'beer goggles' (which simulate the visual effects of drunkenness) as an opening to talking with teens about their drinking. Many young people already have first-hand experience of the effects of drunkenness but very little understanding of units and what 'sensible drinking' actually means – or of the health problems that are likely to result from such early and excessive



Two 13-year old girls talked about how they had polished off a bottle of Vodka between them in one drinking session.

consumption. Our volunteers were appalled to hear two 13-year old girls talk about how they had polished off a bottle of Vodka between them in one drinking session. One of our Educators managed to persuade two others to turn a planned binge drinking party into a pampering session instead.

But it isn't only their own drinking or drug use that blights the lives and prospects of youngsters. One of our volunteers writes: "I think the most striking thing for me are the stories that children tell me about how alcohol has affected their lives in a negative way. One little girl I spoke to said her father drank so much one day that he became unconscious and she thought he had died. She called an ambulance and he did need urgent medical care but thankfully survived - it was a wake-up call for him and had been horrendous for her. Another child said she had been taken away from her parents because their drinking was so out of control. When I did the session on cannabis this year, it became apparent that one youngster was obviously living with drug users - many of the things I mentioned she had obviously witnessed and been confused by - now she could make sense of some very odd behaviours and knew there was a reason for it all. This helped her, I think."

Stories like this underline the importance of prevention work with children and young people. **Caught early, we can stop them becoming like their parents and perpetuating the cycle of harm.**

Recruitment and Training Progress

Fourteen volunteers from the London borough of **Newham** completed their training in mid-September and most of them will take their first drug awareness session within the next month. A team of twelve volunteers from **Watford** began their training in July, with their second training weekend taking place this month. Recruitment continues in eleven other areas ranging from Cornwall to Scotland.

Annual Conference for Drug Educators

The annual conference was held at the beautiful (but cheap!) All Saints Pastoral Centre near St Albans from the 3rd to the 5th of June. For the first time, Hope UK's Annual General Meeting was held at the same venue, on the Saturday, which meant an influx of people coming to hear how Hope UK's work has progressed over the past year.

The many sessions on offer included an 'Introduction to Life Skills' (now an important part of Hope UK's work with children and young people), 'Domestic Violence and Drugs', and 'Safeguarding and Drugs'. It was great to be able to take advantage of the specialist knowledge of some of our Drug Educators to learn more about these and other very relevant subjects.



Impact of the Cuts

Hope UK is already being affected by deep cuts to Government and statutory funding, even though we have not received money from any statutory source since early 2009. This is because trusts and companies, our main source of income, are having to spread their money thinner and further as more charities turn to them for grants. This is now very noticeable and our income is being affected.

If you are able to support Hope UK on a regular basis with a small gift, it would help us enormously and make us less reliant on hard-pressed trusts. Please e-mail Marolin at m.watson@hopeuk.org and request a standing order form.

We are very grateful to everyone who already supports us in any way.



Hope UK Educators make a difference at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Under the Future Jobs Fund Scheme (funded by the Works & Pensions Dept), the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) employs a group of 80 18 to 24 year olds for six months who have been long-term unemployed.

Part of WWT's brief is to provide resilience training one day a week. **Alcohol and drug use has been shown to be a contributory factor to unemployment** and so Hope UK Educators were invited to come in once a month to provide drug and alcohol education.

The comment on the front page by the Volunteer Co-ordinator shows that the Educators made a significant difference.