

New Deputy CEO

In March this year, Joe Griffiths started working with us, as a Deputy CEO. His new role will involve helping us with our PR and fundraising, as well as with the day-to-day running of the charity. He says 'My career background is in the commercial sector, but I've always had a passion for youth work (volunteering in some capacity for all of my adult life). I feel particularly driven to help young people make informed life choices, especially around the minefield that is drugs & alcohol. It is my hope that as Deputy CEO, I can use my experience and passion to drive Hope UK's mission, to assure Hope UK's financial stability for the future, and to lead and manage the staff team and volunteers to achieve great things!'

Over the next few months, you may well hear from Joe, as he learns more about Hope UK, and meets those of you involved with our work.



Volunteers Needed:

Our team of very faithful volunteers need help! We have lots of opportunities we have to turn down as we do not have enough volunteers to fill the sessions (or the volunteers we have are too far away!). Over the page, you will read about what a couple of our volunteers were up to recently. If you think you might be able to help us, or know someone who could, please contact Chris (c.pull@hopeuk.org) for more information.

As you will probably know, we provide very full (free) training for all our volunteers. Once trained they can take drug prevention sessions and activities, run stands in places like libraries and shopping centres, help with Generation Hope (our Youth Branch) and represent us to local churches.

Each volunteer does very different things— depending on their available time, where they live and what they want to concentrate on. But all our volunteers contribute to this vital work— helping equip young people to make drug-free choices.

Kingston Junior Citizens!

Every January brings with it Kingston Junior Citizens – at least for me and my fellow Hope UK educator Alan Earwaker. Held at Chessington World of Adventure, this is a marathon drug education event for us during which every Year 7 child in Kingston Borough gets some vital information about the damage drugs can do. In all, we see about 1,800 children each year.

Junior Citizens Events all run in a similar way. The children from a few schools in the area concerned arrive, are divided into teams and spend the morning or afternoon going around 10 'stations', each of which aim to give information to help them be a better citizen. As well as drugs, the children attending learn about fire safety, Dr ABC, stranger danger, feeding the ducks correctly, bullying, travelling on the trains and buses, cycle safety and water safety (options vary at different Junior Citizens).

Each station only has 10 minutes per group so must make their points quickly and effectively. I don't have to tell you that this is a challenge for drug education as there is so much we could say! I always preface our talk by saying we are sorry it is so short to explain why we must zip through everything so fast which helps. I think Junior Citizens Events are an all-round good thing but the pace and breadth of info to be covered in the time is difficult for new educators. If the person taking the session isn't completely confident and gets side-tracked or confused it is an opportunity missed for those children. In the ten minutes we cover alcohol, cigarettes, cocaine, syringes, Legal Highs, Solvent abuse, Paracetamol and Cannabis - quite a lot! But most of the information given is new to the children and the rest reinforces some previous training in school. The syringe info (don't ever pick up or kick a used syringe) is practically always news to them and you can see the information being retained. They are also very often amazed to find out they won't get a visa to travel to the USA or Australia if they have a criminal record for Drug possession – this also makes a big impression.

Happily this year, as in all the four years I have done Kingston JC (Alan has done considerably more) things went really well and our feedback has been excellent. You can see some of the feedback we received below. As we know so well from all our work at Hope UK – prevention is always better than cure!

- * If you don't know what is in it, bin it! Don't take drugs. We now know what happens if we were to take drugs.
- * The person who delivered it was very knowledgeable. We liked that it challenged us.
- * It taught us the dangers of drugs and why we should never use them. It was good to see the effects drugs can have on us and how bad they can be for our bodies. A really good thing was that we got to see some of the harmful materials first hand-needles etc.



(Article, Kate Sandison.
some of the 'Junior Citizens')

Photo—Alan meeting

Future Events...



**Saturday 17th March
2018**

Science and the Bible

Latimer Congregational Church,
Ernest Street, London, E1 4LS

Welcoming guest speaker, Paul Garner, from the 'Biblical Creation Trust'. Can the Bible and science work together? Focusing on fascinating topics, which will give you the ability to explore your own opinions, ask questions and discuss.

(Age 14-25)

Cost: £5 for the day (which covers lunch and

To book your place go to:

bit.ly/2ynM6Sg

**Saturday 28th April
2018**

Drug Awareness Day

Latimer Congregational
Church, Ernest Street, London,
E1 4LS.

1 in 3 young people are offered drugs before they are 16—
don't be caught out!

We'll teach you:

What you want to know about
drugs.

How to deal peer pressure,
when you need to.

How to make your own
informed decisions.

Cost: £5 for the day (which covers
lunch and refreshments).

Go to bit.ly/2ymcXxs to book



Don't forget **Hope UK's Annual Conference and AGM**

April 6th—8th 2018 (starting on 5th for 15-25 year olds)

Held at All Nations College, Ware, Herts

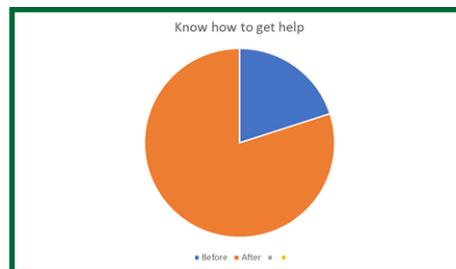
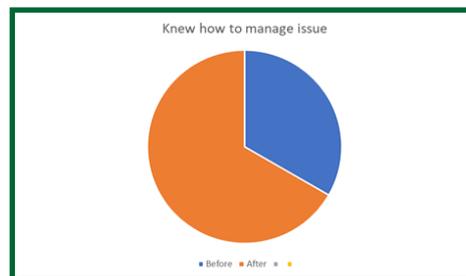
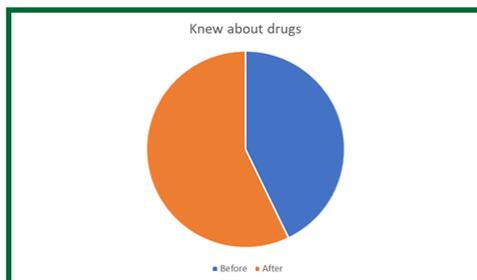
The AGM will be after lunch on Saturday 7th April.

Our Drug Prevention Work

In 2017, our staff and volunteers continued to deliver high quality, bespoke drug awareness and life skill sessions to a wide variety of groups. We worked in schools, colleges, universities, youth clubs and community centres. Our workers trained volunteers and professionals who work with children and young people. Other Hope UK representatives led informal drug awareness education ('detached work') in libraries, at freshers' fairs, in shopping centres and at market stalls.

We took 1,500 sessions around the UK, mostly led by our small team of volunteers. This was less than in 2016, as we deliberately slowed down developing this work, to give us time to restructure and manage the move. We reached about 50,000 young people.

The tables below summarise evaluation data collected during 2017:



Is your information up to date?

We hope you enjoy hearing from Hope UK, about our work. However, we are aware that we may be contacting an organisation and the person we used to mail has moved on—or maybe you would prefer not to hear from us any more.

Please contact us at enquiries@hopeuk.org if you would prefer not to hear from us again (or call us on 020 7928 0848)

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