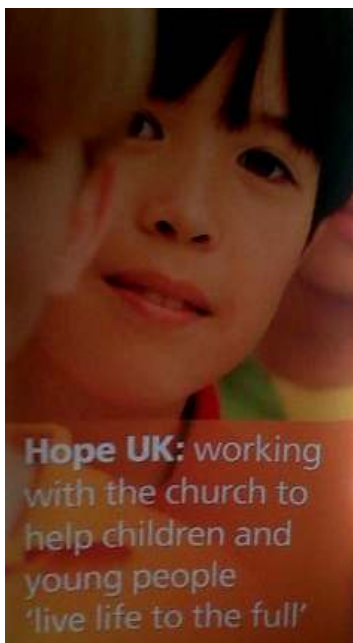


Scotland

Hope
UK
Sept 2011

My name is Jo and I'm the Hope UK Project Worker in Scotland.

I will be sending out a bulletin occasionally to let you know some of the exciting things that have been happening locally, as well as to keep you up-to-date with future events. Please email me if you would prefer not to receive this ☺



My aim is to develop a team of ten to twelve Drug Educators in North East Scotland; as well as encouraging the existing four Educators based in North Lanark, Edinburgh, Nairn and Moray. A trainee Educator from Inverness has been joined by another from Buckie. As most of the Educators in Scotland were unable to attend the annual Educators' conference, I plan to organise a mini-conference for all existing and trainee Educators during the September – November period.

Joy Duthie, a Hope UK volunteer, is telephoning churches across North East Scotland. Enquiries have been received from Peterhead and Forres.

An information evening at a church in Inverness was well received; the interest in drug education, and recognition of how important it is, was really encouraging. One lady has expressed an interest in becoming an Educator.

Following a meeting with the pastor of a Peterhead church, a presentation is planned for late October, it is hoped that other churches in the area will attend that presentation. Youth for Christ is interested in the possibility of their schools link workers in the Highlands receiving the Drug Educator training. Elgin Youth Café have kindly allowed us to put leaflets and information in the Café. Bethany Christian Trust in Edinburgh work across Scotland with people who have no permanent address and are interested in the possibility of accessing drug education training for their volunteers.

A Volunteer Organisation Networking Event in Moray provided the opportunity to make contact with the Boys Brigade Officer, YPAC (Young Persons Addiction Counselling) and The Loft (a Youth Project in Keith) and Enable (a charity working with young people with learning support needs). Interest regarding provision of drug education for parents and families has come from the Ardersier Community Council. These links will be built on.



'Beer goggles', which mimic the visual effects of drunkenness, are a great tool for getting people thinking and talking about alcohol. Used in conjunction with Hope UK's 'Take the Test' leaflet, they enable adults and youngsters to self-audit their drinking levels and hopefully make adjustments.



Hope UK needs you! Hope UK has been working in Scotland for many years, recruiting and training voluntary Drug Educators in different parts of the country. They have worked with children and young people in many different contexts as well as providing training for parents, youth workers and others with responsibility for children and young people.

With reductions in Government funding, more prevention work is being cut. We believe prevention is better than cure, and expect a huge increase in demand for our work. We want to train at least ten adults as Educators to impact their local communities and help prevent alcohol and drug-related harm in Scotland.

Hope UK's training is accredited by the Open College Network and is **provided free of charge** (the real cost of the training is currently around £860 per person, for which we fundraise). In return, we ask for your time to complete the 120 hours of training (which includes 3 training weekends and portfolio completion) and your enthusiasm to impact your community.

You don't need to be a teacher/trainer. The Educator training will teach you how to be a good communicator, how to plan interactive and inclusive sessions, how to work with children, young people or adults, as well as learning about alcohol and drugs. You will watch others taking sessions before doing your own. We will support you all the way through your training and afterwards.

We are looking to start the training in 2012. If you are interested, please contact our Head Office for an application form (this can be downloaded at www.hopeuk.org/church/train-as-an-educator).

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