

# Dyfed- Powys Drug Intervention Programme

Newsletter 7 - February 2008



Welcome to the February edition of Dyfed Powys Newsletter. The purpose of this Newsletter is to keep you up to date with what has been happening within the Dyfed Powys DIP region.

Dyfed-Powys Drug Intervention Programme is an organisation based in the counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys providing advice and support to drug misusers, their families and friends.

## All Wales DIP Conference

The Welsh Assembly Government is to host an All Wales DIP Conference at the Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea on Friday 14th March 2008.

The conference has a number of aims. These include:  
the development of Tough Choices in intensive DIP areas,  
to examine the development and implementation of the Treatment Outcomes Profile from a Criminal Justice Perspective,  
and to look at the role of Social Exclusion in maintaining substance misuse and substance misuse related offending.

Guests include Dr. Brian Gibbons, Minister For Social Justice And Local Government, and speakers include Dr. John Marsden, Institute of Psychiatry (Treatment Outcomes Profile (TOPS)), Chris Kelly, Nottinghamshire DIP (Tough Choices) and Phil Harries, Substance Misuse Consultant (Social exclusion, substance misuse and crime).

Staff from Dyfed-Powys DIP are involved in the organisation and arrangements for the day.

## Problematic Drug Use In Dyfed Powys Presentation- December 2007

A study was commissioned in 2006/7 in Dyfed Powys, by the DIP, to assess problematic drug use in Dyfed Powys. The study was conducted by the Research And Service Development Centre, whose final report findings were presented to an audience on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

The study investigated the size and extent of the drug using population in each of the four counties, a profile of drug users, views of former and current drug users regarding treatment services and experiences of treatment provision during and following imprisonment.



A key finding of the study was that whilst Police activity reduces the supply of drugs to an area, users are less likely to reduce their demand if a viable alternative, like treatment, is not readily available.

### The Good Soil Project

Monty Don, celebrity gardener, collaborated with 'Rocky' Hudson on the TV series 'Growing Out Of Trouble' in 2006-07. This project took drug-misusing offenders to a piece of land located in Worcestershire which was used as the location for a market garden. The project taught the group to grow, cook and eat vegetables as well as basic husbandry.

Following on from this project, the 'Good Soil Project' was born. This also is located near to Worcester and is managed and run by Rocky Hudson. It follows on from similar lines to the Growing Out Of Trouble project.

Attendees are given the opportunity to grow, cook and eat vegetables from the small holding, provide animal care and in addition utilise workshop facilities for carpentry and metal working. The site provides a home for pigs and chickens and the nearby pond acts as a focal point for a variety of wildlife.

The project has seen many successes with attendees reducing or stopping their drug use, gain valuable skills and go on to find employment in the local community.

Staff from the DIP attended the Good Soil Project in mid October 2007 on a fact finding visit. During the visit there were a number of other visitors to the site including local Probation Service staff and magistrates; and a national farmers group who were intending to set up similar projects around different parts of the country.

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### DAN 24/7 Helpline

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