



## **Inverclyde Peace Initiative**

### **AGM**

**Monday 13th June 2011**

## **Youth Development Annual Report**

**Chris Barlas**

This Annual Report will cover all my work since starting my role as Youth Development Worker on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to April 5<sup>th</sup> 2011.

### **Port Glasgow Youth Group**

The Port Glasgow Youth Group has been a great success with regular attendance and positive feedback from the young people. All of the young people were busy completing their Scottish Parliament security clearance at the end of 2010 for our exhibition in the Scottish Parliament in January 2011.

In October of 2010 we recorded a DVD at the request of BBC Children in Need about our organisation and what Children in Need has done for us. This was then edited superbly by one youth group member who is a music technology student at university.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 we had a visit from Alison McVicar, who is a lecturer at the James Watt College, to hear our ideas for the presentation our young people would be presenting at the Inverclyde Drug and Alcohol Day. Two of our Youth Group members successfully presented this pitch regarding cultural change to Alcohol in the Greenock Town Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October at the Inverclyde Drug and Alcohol day. Six more of our young people supported me at the same event to man our stall.

We had 2 young people representing IPI on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at a mental health awareness day in the Port Glasgow old library. I also had 1 Youth Group member accompanying me on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October to the James Watt College to deliver Conflict Resolution Training to the Prince's Trust team (Team 23).

In November 2010 we had a visit from Francis Bain from Mellow Parenting who is part of the Joint Action Group for Violence Reduction carrying out research on services within Inverclyde who could contribute to reducing violence.

In January of 2011 all of the young people were involved in helping us prepare for our exhibition to Scottish Parliament and 5 of our youth group members accompanied us on a rotational basis to Holyrood throughout our 3 day exhibition.

Our youth group also entered a butterfly sculpture into the Gibson art exhibition at the MacLean museum which ran from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 for 2 weeks. This was made by 2 of our young people who represented IPI at a mental health awareness day in October 2010.

In February of 2011 our young were busy supporting me in the planning of our residential weekend away which was at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011 to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2011. I allowed the young people to choose the centre and also the activities they were involved in, and they continued to be involved in every stage of the planning, empowering them to organize such an event.

Also in February 2011 we had a visit from Joe Pearce Inverclyde's *Young Persons Alcohol Worker* who delivered a talk on alcohol awareness to our young people.

We also had a few visits from Gordon Peacock *Community Education Worker* C-Level Project in Glasgow to train our Young People in Hepatitis-C awareness. This was excellent training and our youth group were presented with their certificates on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

In March 2011 we had a fundraising football match at lady Octavia Sports Centre to raise money for our youth group funds.

Also in March one of our youth group members was seeking to be elected on to the Scottish Youth Parliament and was busy campaigning in the build up to the elections. Unfortunately she was not elected but gained a great deal of experience and skills during the process. She is already a member of the Inverclyde Youth Council and will continue to be a great asset to all the young people she represents.

We also had a forward planning meeting with our young people which was very worthwhile and will assist me greatly in the future of our youth group. This was then presented to the board by one of our two youth group members who are now board members.

#### **Stuart McMillan MSP Visit**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010 Stuart McMillan MSP visited our office to learn about the work that we do. He met with Jane, John, Bert and I and seemed very impressed with the amazing work that we are involved in.

#### **Scottish Parliament Exhibition**

Our exhibition in Holyrood from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 was a great success. We had 2 youth group members each day supporting us to man our stall and all the MSPs we spoke to were very impressed with the positive way in which our young people spoke about our organisation. Every MSP we spoke to had their photograph taken with our young people. I then emailed the pictures with a note thanking each MSP for taking the time to find out about our work and offering to talk to anyone in their areas who could benefit from hearing what we do. I received many encouraging replies.

#### **Residential Weekend**

Our residential weekend was at the Auchengillan Outdoor Centre on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. This was an amazing weekend, enjoyed by all the young people who attended. We had 10 young people which consisted of eight youth group members and two 5<sup>th</sup> year Greenock Academy Pupils. The activities included: Team Building, Crate Climbing, Air rifle Shooting, The Equaliser and Bouncy Castle. I was supported greatly at this weekend by our Education Development Worker and our Project Manager.

### **Community Groups**

Since starting my role as Youth Development Worker on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to April 5<sup>th</sup> 2011, I delivered Conflict Resolution training to a total of 257 young people ages 14-25. Most of this training was delivered to groups of young people, although I also delivered Conflict Resolution training to young people in the community on a one to one basis at the request of their key workers due to potential difficulties that could arise from them being in a group setting. The feedback and evaluations from young people and staff alike to all of this training was excellent.

- Agencies I have worked with:
- Argyll Training (Training Provider)
  - Intec Business Solutions (Training Provider)
  - Apex Scotland (Training Provider/Criminal Justice)
  - Tomorrows People (Employability)
  - Prince's Trust – James Watt College Greenock, Cumbernauld College, James watt College North Ayrshire, Kilmarnock College – Kilmarnock Campus and Saltcoats Campus
  - Personal Empowerment Zone, Kilmarnock College – Kilmarnock Campus and Saltcoats Campus
  - Leadership Academy, Kilmarnock College
  - NC Advanced Sport and Fitness, James watt College Largs Campus
  - SVQ Access to Beauty Therapy, James Watt College Greenock
  - Activate Groups, Skills Development Scotland Greenock

These last six months have been very exiting and I am delighted with the progress I have made in my role as Youth Development Worker. I have had great support from our Education Development Worker and our new Project Manager and must say a massive thank to them both. I am very much looking forward to next year and with the help and guidance of all the IPI board I feel extremely positive about what can be achieved.