

# Newsletter

Winter 2008



Children's  
Safety  
Education  
Foundation

Aware, Alert, Alive!

## Winter has arrived! Children advised to 'Be safe, be seen'

Winter has officially arrived, meaning darker nights and CSEF has been advising school children to take extra care when walking home from school.

Last year, 41 children aged 5 to 16 years were killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents every week, and the risk is much greater during the darker months.



The Deputy Mayor of Manchester Alison Firth pictured at the road safety scenario at Manchester Crucial Crew which was attended by 39 schools

Young people are often hurt on the road because they can't be seen clearly by other traffic. The problem gets even worse during the winter, when the days are shorter and there is more bad weather, like heavy rain or fog.

The twilight hours – just before and just after the sun sets – are the most dangerous times of all, because drivers' eyes are adjusting to the changing light.

Children have been advised to stand out against the gloom by wearing bright clothing made out of reflective material. Other advice includes keeping to well-lit routes and crossing roads at safe places, like zebra or pelican crossings.

If pupils cycle to school while it is dark, lights should be fitted to the front and back of the bike. They should be checked regularly to make sure they are in good working order and that the batteries are well charged.

## London pupils taught to 'Think Safe'

Every year, 256 children are hospitalised each week. A further 700 will die and 10,000 are left disabled. CSEF and the Metropolitan Police have teamed up in November to deliver their Junior Citizen' programme to over 50,000 children from 600 schools across London.

The aim of the programme is to minimise the number of children killed or injured, by teaching them some vital skills needed to keep themselves safe. The programme will also mark the launch of a new DVD to support the programme and reiterate some of the essential safety advice to children, teachers and parents.

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for further details.

## Online child safety watchdog

The government has launched a new watchdog to advise on how it can increase the protection from dangers posed to young people by the internet.

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) will police websites containing inappropriate content, write industry codes of practice for publishers and advertise to children about how to stay safe online.

The establishment of a UK Council for Child Internet Safety was a key recommendation in Dr Tanya Byron's Report 'Safer Children in a Digital World'.

For further information:  
[www.dcsf.gov.uk/byronreview](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/byronreview)

## Carrying knives 'out of fear of attack'

A recent report called 'Why Carry A Weapon' by Nicola Marfleet, a governor at Pentonville Prison, has revealed that children as young as 11 are carrying knives because of fear of being attacked.

Researchers were told by young people that they turned to gangs for protection because their parents and teachers did not defend them. Alarming, they said tougher prison sentences would not deter them from carrying a blade.

The author spoke to under-18s in custody at Feltham Young Offenders Institution and young people who had been excluded from school attending two pupil referral units (PRUs) in Haringey and Hackney.



Figures earlier this summer revealed that one person is the victim of such a crime every four minutes. And in 2007, there were 16 fatal stabbings of teenagers in London. By August 2008, a further 20 London teenagers had been fatally stabbed.

### Coming soon...

In order to tackle this head on, CSEF has been working with the Metropolitan Police to produce a hard-hitting educational film resource that highlights the dangers of knife crime. Full details will be available soon but in the meantime, you can also get all the latest advice from the Metropolitan Police on knife and violent crime at:

[www.dropttheweapons.org](http://www.dropttheweapons.org)

# Crucial education in child safety

CSEF has once again joined forces with Stoke on Trent's Safer City Partnership to provide vital safety education to children across the city.

The Crucial Crew scheme will see more than 2,800 Year 6 pupils take part in a series of interactive workshops. The first series of workshops ran from Monday 8 September until Tuesday 30 September, and a second series will take place in February 2009.

The 'hands-on' events aim to teach children about important issues that are often overlooked by the curriculum, such as anti-social behaviour, basic first aid, road and fire safety and substance abuse.

The workshops are delivered by local safety agencies and will give pupils the unique opportunity to learn valuable skills from the professionals, through practical demonstrations and discussions in real life situations.

Patrick O'Malley, Head of Development at CSEF, said: "It's essential that young people learn about personal safety but getting this message across in the classroom is often not very effective. By allowing children to explore these difficult topics in a fun and interactive environment, with real safety professionals, the lessons become much more real and therefore, more likely to make a difference."

Pupils take part in a number of hands-on activities, such as crawling through dark rooms to escape fire and learning about resuscitation skills. They even find out about the consequences of antisocial behaviour, criminal damage and the effects of drinking.

The workshops are held at the Territorial Army Centre on Waterloo Road, and include sessions from the Safer City Partnership, Staffordshire Police Service, British Transport Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service, Staffordshire Fire Service, and A1+ Highways Service.



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## Crucial Crew reaches 2,500 children



Escape Plan - pupils learn how to deal with fire related dangers

More than 2,500 10 and 11-year-olds across Manchester and Trafford have benefited from CSEF's latest Crucial Crews.

The hands-on events involved a series of workshops teaching children about safety issues that are often overlooked by the curriculum, such as basic first aid, road safety, fire safety and anti-social behaviour.

Agencies helping to deliver the sessions included the police, fire service, council, ambulance service and health service. Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive and A-one + Highways also took part.

John McNamee said: "It's essential that young people learn about personal safety by experiencing risk in controlled conditions. By participating in the workshops, pupils were able to explore difficult topics in a fun and interactive environment, with real safety professionals."



Pictured l-r are Mark Stevenson, Sue Palmer, CSEF Chairman Lord Wade of Chorlton, Elizabeth Smith MSP, Margaret Brunton and CSEF CEO John McNamee

## Mole Valley Housing Association helps Ashcombe and Priory Schools deliver 'Respect'

Mole Valley Housing Association gave The Ashcombe School and Priory School's pupils and teachers a helping hand when staff delivered 1500 copies of a RESPECT booklet to assist them in their PSHE Citizenship studies.

Head Teachers David Blow, from The Ashcombe and Andre Sohatski, from The Priory, as well as pupils and teachers from Year 7, were pleased to welcome Community Development Officer Karen Dennis and Community Wardens Adrian Birtchnell and Kevin Aldridge, alongside Schools Partnership Coordinator for Mole Valley area, Alison Reed.

Addressing young people in the booklet's introduction, Managing Director of MVHA David Searle said "Our work is not just about housing - it's about homes and communities - and working with young people is one of our priorities."

Head of Lower School at The Ashcombe School, Jay Simmonds said "The book contains relevant topics, excellent advice and personal stories. The links to citizenship are particularly impressive."



Head teachers, staff and pupils from Priory and Ashcombe Schools receive copies of Respect booklets from Mole Valley Housing Association who sponsored the publication

## 'Toxic Childhood' author warns delegates - parents must learn to 'let go'

Sue Palmer, author of 'Toxic Childhood' has warned that we are raising a nation of bullies and victims by over protecting and over controlling our children.

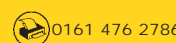
Sue, who is also an education consultant, addressed 80 delegates at an event held at the Scottish Parliament on child safety recently. The event was organised by CSEF to highlight the importance of child safety education in Scotland.

Hosting the event was Elizabeth Smith MSP, the Shadow Minister for Children, Schools and Skills. Elizabeth also spoke of her concerns over the lack of outdoor play and education for children and stressed that when it comes to safety, common sense must prevail.

Other keynote speakers included Margaret Brunton, Home Safety Officer at South Lanarkshire Council and Mark Stevenson, Chair of the Scottish Burned Children's Club.



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# Respect!

More than 100 people attended a Respect awards event in the summer celebrating the achievements of 70 young people of Burnley who successfully completed the Turning Point Safer Driving Project.

The flagship course, which CSEF provided the resources for, was hailed a 'tremendous success' since being set up a year ago by Burnley Road Safety Action Group. It equips young people with knowledge about road safety following anxious concerns raised by residents. The course also covers aspects of drug and alcohol awareness and the roles of the emergency services.

The event was attended by young people and their families along with youth organisations, the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

Councillor Birtwistle said: "It was a great evening and really positive to see so many young people from across the borough willing to get involved in a scheme that will save lives, protect vulnerable people across communities and ensure those behind the wheel don't end up in front of the police or in the cemetery."

# Safe routes to Madrassa

Burnley Council's Neighbourhood Management team is working closely with Positive Prospects, a local community group in Daneshouse and Stoneyholme, to develop a Safe Routes to Madrassa project.

The project aims to improve the safety of, and raise road safety awareness amongst, young children travelling each evening to each of the seven Madrassas in the area for their Quaranic lessons.

Up to 900 children, some as young as five, are travelling each weeknight, through the area at peak traffic times, often across busy main roads and sometimes unaccompanied. The project will support volunteers from the local community to act as Marshals at critical crossing points throughout the area.

All children between the ages of 5 years and 15 years will be given an article of high visibility clothing to wear during their journey and the Mosques will run a reward scheme to encourage children to wear their reflective clothing.



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# Parents call time on trick and treating

More than half of the parents polled for an online survey by CSEF said they would not be letting their children go out trick-or-treating this Halloween.

The findings revealed that 54% of parents would not allow their children to take part in the tradition, with 45% citing road safety issues and 43% highlighting anti-social behaviour as a concern. Other reasons included bullying, crime and underage drinking.

Of the children who were allowed to trick or treat, an overwhelming 89% of these would be accompanied by an adult. Furthermore, 72% of respondents said they would only allow their children to visit friends and neighbours that they know well.

Several parents stated that they felt it is more dangerous for children to trick or treat now than it was in the past, pointing to concerns about increased violence and knife crime.

Many more commented that they were not comfortable with the practice because it is akin to begging and is intimidating for older or vulnerable residents.

Despite their concerns, the figures showed that only 3% of children had been involved in an accident or crime while trick or treating. Reported incidents include eggs being thrown, robbery and assault.

Patrick O'Malley, Head of Development at CSEF, said: "The results show that parents now have a very real concern about safety during Halloween. Far from wanting to dampen spirits on the occasion, we were keen to help children have a safe and positive experience. And it was encouraging to see that the vast majority of children who were going trick or treating were doing so under supervision."

# Russet Homes encourage children to think about 'Anti-Social Behaviour'

Around 400 pupils in Tonbridge and Malling are being encouraged to think long and hard about the consequences of bullying, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage thanks to new sponsorship from Russet Homes.

Russet Homes, the largest provider of social housing in Tonbridge and Malling, donated £2,500 to a scheme being run by the Children's Safety Education Foundation. Pupils aged 7-14 years attending four local schools, Hugh Christie Technology College, St James the Great Primary, Longmead Community Primary and Holmesdale Technology College have been given the Foundations topical books designed to provide them with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to avoid and handle the risks they may face in their everyday lives.

Pupils aged 7-11 years received 'Will Power's', a book covering topics such as anti-social behaviour, bullying, smoking, alcohol and drugs misuse. Older pupils between 11-14 years were given a book called 'Respect - your life your choice', highlighting issues like car crime, shoplifting, domestic violence, racial harassment and vandalism and offering advice on personal safety.

Jacqueline Wilkinson, Russet Homes Operations Director - Housing Services, said: "As a landlord to so many local people we jumped at the chance to help promote these powerful messages to children and make them stop and think about the affect their actions can have on other people lives. Too often children submit to peer pressure and think it is acceptable to damage people's property and intimidate local residents and communities."



"Russet Homes has already signed up to the Government's Respect Standard for Housing Management making a visible commitment to residents and employed two specialist officers to help combat anti-social behaviour. We strongly believe prevention is better than a cure and by showing young people they have a choice and encourage them to take responsibility for their actions we can help reduce the anti-social behaviour in our communities and create a culture of respect."