



SUPPORTER E NEWS JUNE, 2007

In This Issue

- DARE CEO
- Nottingham
- Other Areas
- Sport
- Local Units
- Music
- Office Move
- DARE Officers
- Partners

DARE Leadership

Since the departure of Paul Smedley as Chief Executive of DARE in March this year, the Charity has been managed by Richard Goad, who stepped down from the long term position of Chairman of the Trustees of DARE UK Ltd to enable his company to provide a consulting management service.

We have now appointed a permanent Chief Executive to replace Paul. David Gilbert has accepted the position and has taken over from 7th June, 2007. David has many years of experience with the DARE programme having acted as the main link between DARE UK Ltd and the Nottinghamshire Police force as Chief Inspector responsible for the team managing the DARE Officers. We are fortunate to gain the services of David who will now take the charity to new heights.

DARE Survives Nottinghamshire Setback and Grows Stronger

Despite the setback at the beginning of this year when the Nottinghamshire Police decided, under pressure to deliver against hard targets, to divert their funding away from DARE officers from September of this year, the good news is that DARE will still be available to all the schools in the County and City who want it from the Autumn Term.

We have been most heartened by the response from Parents, Teachers, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and the Education Authority in telling us that DARE has become an important part of the delivery of Life Skills Education in schools in the County. Together with our major sponsors, Wilkinsons and an anonymous sponsor, who together have committed to continued support of DARE in the current year to the extent of £70,000, we have put together a package of alternative forms of delivery of the programme from which schools may choose their favoured option. Schools are currently faxing their choice to us on a daily basis.

With less reliance in the future on police funding, DARE is more likely to be acceptable to other Counties in the future and we are currently gearing up to provide for increased interest nationwide.



DARE Officers Committed and Loyal

With their future at stake, we have been heartened by the continued dedication and quality delivery of the DARE programme by our DARE Officers since the beginning of the year. Unfortunately, we have had a small attrition rate, with three officers accepting offers for employment elsewhere, but even in these cases their departure has been most reluctant. Of the rest, we continue daily to receive glowing reports from the schools regarding their DARE Officer and pleas that they continue to provide the lessons in the autumn term. Following the withdrawal of police funding, we hope to be able to offer employment by DARE UK Ltd to as many of the DARE Officers as possible from September of this year.

DARE Continues to be delivered Outside of Nottinghamshire

With the valuable support of the City of London Police force, DARE in London continues to be delivered in both primary and secondary schools in the City of London area. The London Steering Group continue to play an important part in ensuring the viability of the programme in the City of London and of course the fantastic display that they enter to promote DARE in the Lord Mayor's Show each year. Look out for the DARE lorry and accompanying vehicles in the show, which is televised each year.

With committed officers in various parts of the Country, DARE continues to be delivered in various individual schools in a number of Counties. Leading amongst these are schools in the Devon area. DARE UK continues to support these officers with training, advice, workbooks, etc. Almost daily in recent weeks we have received enquires from police officers and teachers in various parts of the Country looking to introduce DARE into their schools.

DARE continues to be delivered to the children of British Forces in Germany and Cyprus by trained DARE Officers, who receive full support from DARE UK's Educationalist, Mel Vella.

Last but not least, we are actively seeking to re-introduce DARE into Wales, following what is understood to be a somewhat less than successful experiment with an alternative programme. Our previous experience in the Rhondda Valley was good and we hope to build on that success with a new initiative. Our man in Wales, Jim Davies, continues to work hard to get the programme re-established.

DARE Sport Carves out its Future

Bryan Steel, the hard working Olympic Silver Medallist on the DARE payroll, has continued to develop widely acclaimed programmes based on the DARE philosophy and teaching, to encourage young people to come involved in a whole range of sporting activities. Bryan receives separate funding from a sporting trust and the football foundation to develop and implement his programmes, which have been launched in various Counties outside of Nottinghamshire. These meet the primary objective of DARE by encouraging young people to concentrate on healthy pursuits instead of the less healthy options associated with substance misuse. As a new trustee of Sports Acts, a fundraising body working with DARE to help raise funds, Bryan is looking at ways whereby matching sports funding can be channelled into the development of DARE Sport programmes in the Nottinghamshire area.



SUPPORTER E NEWS JUNE 2007

Local Steering Groups

An important feature of DARE's activity in the past has been the strength and enthusiasm of Local Steering Groups. Unfortunately, many of those active in these groups were parents of DARE Graduates who have moved on since the graduation of their children. Where they have survived, however, the work that they do should not be underestimated.

Mention has already been made of the London Steering Group who work tirelessly in their area. The king amongst such Groups in the Nottinghamshire area is the Bassetlaw Group, chaired by ex-DARE Trustee and current Patron, Robin Searle. This group remain committed, loyal and hardworking and show what can be achieved by a group of dedicated individuals by giving full support to their DARE Officers, fund raising, raising the profile of DARE and generally supporting their schools in the provision of the DARE lessons and graduation.

The re-emergence of Local Steering Groups in areas where they no longer exist would be welcomed by DARE UK and we would be happy to assist in their inauguration. In the absence of such groups, however, it is our intention to develop closer relationships with the schools themselves and their Parent/Teacher Associations where they exist.

DARE Music – a Real Opportunity for the Future

We are currently working closely with the Carlton Male Voice choir to help them celebrate the centenary of the choir in 2008. During that year, they have chosen DARE as the body to whom their fundraising efforts will be directed and they are confidently seeking to raise around £25,000 for us, mainly as a result of a big concert in Nottingham in the autumn. They recently made available voice coaching to the various children who had been through the DARE programme. We believe that there is a big future open to us to develop a programme of musical activity in rather the same way that DARE Sport operates, providing a diversion into another healthy pursuit. Watch this space!

DARE Trustees

With Richard stepping down as Chairman of the DATE Trustees to provide interim management for the Charity, Phil Edwards, the previous Deputy Chairman, has ably stepped into the breach and chaired meetings of the Trustees since March. Phil is a retired businessman from the Hampshire area and current consultant to a number of firms and charities. The range of skills within the Trustee body is wide ranging, including Kate Allsop, a local councillor in Mansfield with



responsibility for economic development, Raj Chandran, a well respected local doctor, Pat Higham, a University Lecturer in Nottingham, Stewart Rickersey, a local businessman with strong marketing skills, Chris Adkin, an accountant with Howarth, Barnet and Turner and Sam Pella, Sales Manager with a Pellacraft, a promotional gifts company.

It would be helpful to expand our Trustee body to include new trustees with other skills and from a wider geographical base. If you are able to recommend anyone who might wish to be considered as a Trustee, including yourself if relevant, please let the DARE Office know.

DARE On the Move

In September of this year the DARE Offices will need to be relocated as the Bluecoats School will need to expand into the accommodation currently occupied. It may not be necessary to move away from Bluecoats, as one of the options currently being considered is to move to another location on the campus, but other options are also being reviewed. We will advise you of the change when it is clear where we are going.

Substance Misuse – the Complete School Programme

We have been conscious for some time that, as valuable as the 11 week DARE programme is for years 5 and 6 in schools, there is a need for something before and after this to ensure that the messages are reinforced. Backed by Experion in Nottinghamshire, a programme delivered by teachers and aimed at 6 and 7 year olds to help them understand about legal drugs and medicines has been developed and we are currently working closely with those responsible for this programme to create a close and logical progression through to the DARE lessons.

In a like manner, a programme called Respect has been developed for the secondary schools, which is aimed at giving maximum support to PSHE teachers and again we are developing close links to ensure that the work done with 12-16 year olds picks up from where DARE leaves off. In this way we are seeking to create what is called a “Spiralled Curriculum” for our young people to ensure that all such life skills lessons are compatible, progressive and constructive. As a result, of the life skills developed will be both stronger and sustainable.

Other News

DARE will feature in a new booklet being edited by Karen Moyse, who has worked with children and young people as a nurse for many years. One of our DARE Officers will be writing a contribution for inclusion in the book which will be published later this year.

Our thanks go to Nottingham County Council who are working closely with us to ensure that DARE from September is totally enmeshed with the school curriculum.

You may see a stall in certain key sites selling items under the DARE banner. These stalls have been authorised by DARE to sell items on our behalf, with a percentage of the profit coming to DARE. This scheme is experimental and currently under review.

Our thanks also to all our various supporters, both financial and non financial, who have given us encouragement to enable the programme in Nottinghamshire to go ahead. This includes the various Rotary Clubs around the County who have donated funds, along with individual Councillors who have given support from their individual allocations.