



CHAMP (Protecting Children's Health through Alcohol Misuse Prevention) Ceremony

In January 2008 Mentor UK launched its prestigious Mentor UK CHAMP Awards (Promoting Children's Health through Alcohol Misuse Prevention). This biennial awards scheme, supported by Diageo Great Britain, recognises and rewards the best alcohol misuse prevention projects working with children and young people (14 years or under) from across Great Britain.

Twelve finalists from the categories Schools, Communities and Young People's Involvement have been chosen by a Judging Panel of experts, including teachers, health professionals and drug prevention specialists. They have shortlisted the most innovative and creative projects that address risk factors such as boredom and lack of aspiration, and that take into account factors that protect young people from alcohol misuse, such as encouraging achievement and motivation.

The twelve excellent projects shortlisted include a football club in Thorplands, Northampton which works with young people, some of whom have been excluded from school, alcohol workshops from the Churches Action on Substance Misuse and a poster campaign designed by young people in Denton, Newcastle which promotes the message that their town is an alcohol free zone in relation to underage drinking.

Panels of children and young people from across the country will make the final decision on a winner from each of the three categories and this will be announced at the Mentor UK CHAMP Awards ceremony at the Royal Institution of Great Britain on the afternoon of the 13th November, 2008. The three winners will each receive a cheque for £10,000 at the event and a further £10,000 worth of consultancy support in 2009. Crucially, the consultancy support enables Mentor UK to offer these projects independent evaluation and support them to ensure sustainability and to share their ideas with other projects across the country.

The awards ceremony will be opened by Baroness Susan Greenfield, Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and Patron of Mentor UK. It promises to be a fun, inspiring afternoon and we even have



Young people from the Peer Education Project, Dundee, finalist in the Mentor UK CHAMP Awards 2008

surprise celebrity guests presenting the winners with their awards!

To book a place at the Mentor UK CHAMP Awards ceremony please contact Derek Ferguson by e-mail at derek.ferguson@mentoruk.org or by telephone on 0207 739 8494.

The twelve finalists are as follows:

Communities (4 shortlisted finalists)

- ▶ Thorplands United Football Club, Thorplands, Northampton
- ▶ Strengthening Families, Cardiff
- ▶ Mitalee Summer School Project, Luton
- ▶ P.A.R.T.Y, Dumfries

Schools (4 shortlisted finalists)

- ▶ Alcohol Workshops, Churches Action on Substance Misuse, Wirral
- ▶ Adolescents Anonymous, Kirklees
- ▶ Take Risks? Take Care!, Durham
- ▶ Ludlow Junior Alcohol Project, Ludlow

Young People's Involvement (4 shortlisted finalists)

- ▶ LookOut Alcohol, Preston
- ▶ The Peer Education Project, Dundee
- ▶ Truth Is: A Denton Alcohol Free Poster Campaign, Denton
- ▶ Wasted, Leeds

Mission and Values

Mentor UK is a registered UK charity that works in conjunction with its partners in the international Mentor family, with whom it shares the same mission: The Mentor Foundation focuses on the prevention of drug misuse in its efforts to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people and to reduce damage to their lives. Mentor aims to support the effective use of human, financial and intellectual resources to achieve its goals.

International Kinship Carers Project Launched



EU Kinship Carers Project international partners

Mentor UK is leading a three year international project to support kinship carers to protect children in their care from the harms caused by drug and alcohol misuse.

The project is being undertaken in Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, Sweden, Romania and the UK.

The first all-partners meeting was held in London in July.

In the first year of the three year project, 210 carers and young people will be recruited to share their views. This will then influence the development of practical

resources that will be piloted in each country during the second year.

In the final year, the project will bring together the learning from across Europe to produce training materials for professionals working with young people in kinship care arrangements.

Eric Carlin, Chief Executive of Mentor UK, chaired the meeting and said, "this project is a real opportunity for us to learn a great deal from carers from across Europe. I was impressed with the energy and ideas that all our partners brought to the meeting to help us achieve this."

A literature review summarising research findings on kinship care will be published this autumn.

The partners on the project are: De Sleutel (Belgium), Regione Abruzzo (Italy), Mentor Lithuania, the University of Navara (Spain), Mentor Sweden, Holt Romania and Mentor UK.

The project has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Public Health Programme.



Sim Scavazza, new Chairperson of Mentor UK



Sim Scavazza, speaking at the Mentor UK Summer 2007 Reception

Sim Scavazza took over from Lord Mancroft as Mentor UK's Chairperson in March 2007 after three years as an active Trustee.

Sim's career spans 20 years in fashion buying for some of the UK's most successful clothing retailers. She has been Brand Director for Miss Selfridge and has recently set up the ethical clothing company Adili.com. Sim is very committed to Mentor UK's work and within her period as Chairperson she plans to help Mentor increase its funding and clarify its message.

Sim says: "It was a great honour to be approached to take on this challenging role, especially since it is the first time I have chaired a charity. I have found the

experience extremely rewarding and have been fascinated by discovering the differences between the third sector and my usual commercial life.

"In November 2007, I attended the ACEVO conference, the largest gathering of Chairs and Chief Executives in the third sector. I was struck by a phrase which seemed to sum up what I want to do for Mentor UK: 'Creating an agenda for improvement'.

"Thank you to all those of you who have supported Mentor UK in the past and I hope that you will continue to do so by spreading the word and getting involved where you can. It is up to all of us to help protect our children and keep them safe from harm."

Mentor UK reaching new horizons

Mentor UK launches Drug Prevention Quality mark

Mentor UK, with Futurebuilders' funding, is developing a new 'Quality Counts' Quality Mark and Consultancy service for agencies commissioning and delivering drug misuse prevention services for children and young people.

The majority of local drug and alcohol misuse prevention activities are not evaluated, and even when they are, the findings are not disseminated. As a result, commissioners cannot be sure that the prevention services that they are purchasing are likely to have any impact on the lives of children and young people. Mentor UK will provide support packages including expert web-based, telephone and face-to-face advice to help practitioners meet the 'Quality Counts' Quality Mark criteria.

Commissioning services that have been awarded the 'Quality Counts' Prevention Mark will indicate to commissioners that they are investing in a project that has

been developed in line with current best practice and research findings and that the project therefore has the best chance of preventing harm to children and young people. This service is unique and will:



- ▶ Support and disseminate good practice in drug and alcohol misuse prevention
- ▶ Expand the evidence base for prevention with children and young people.

In September 2008 Manuela Festa joins Mentor UK as Development Director for 'Quality Counts'. Manuela joins us from an IT marketing background and has recently completed a Masters in Marketing and Communications.

Mentor UK expansion in Scotland

With support from the Robertson Trust and Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, a Mentor UK Trustee, Mentor is to set up a new Scottish office in Pilton, Edinburgh. We will recruit a manager and an administrator to develop Mentor's Scottish strategy as well as to manage a new project focussing on developing alcohol

misuse prevention activities with minority communities in Scotland. We will be based with Circle, a charity which provides holistic, community based support to marginalised children and families. Circle will also be our project partners in the UK-based part of the kinship care project, which is being funded by the European Union.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC Radio 4 Appeal

The appeal was presented by Sim Scavazza, Chair of Mentor UK, on 15th June 2008 and has raised a total of £1,900 so far. Thanks to all those who supported this.

ACMD

Mentor UK's Chief Executive, has been appointed by the Home Secretary to the Government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. The appointment lasts for three years.

Fundraising

Mentor UK has appointed Cameron Wood as its new Director of Fundraising. He will prioritise establishing a Development Board of supporters of the Charity. He will also manage the planning for a joint Mentor UK-Mentor International Royal Fundraising Gala, to take place in London on 6th May

2009, hosted by Mentor's international President, HM The Queen of Sweden. Cameron has extensive experience in all aspects of fundraising, PR and marketing, at both operational and strategic levels. He has worked for charities including The Wildlife Trust, The Motor Neurone Disease Association and The Retail Trust.

London Youth Involvement Project

The City Bridge Trust has granted three year funding to set up a group of young volunteers who will feed their ideas into the network of Drug Action Teams coordinated by the London Drug Policy Forum. We are currently seeking match funding to begin this project.

Eric's blog

Mentor UK's Chief Executive, Eric Carlin, shares his personal thoughts and ideas in his new blog on <http://mentoruk.wordpress.com/>.



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Researchers & Consultants

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Esme Madill

Make a Donation

Please make a donation to support the continuing work of Mentor Foundation UK.

I would like to support the work of Mentor Foundation UK.

Here is my gift of: £ _____

I enclose a cheque payable to Mentor Foundation UK

Gift Aid Declaration

YES, I wish Mentor Foundation UK to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK tax-payer, and I understand that I must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity claims on my donations in the tax year.

Date _____

Signature _____

Youth Involvement Project report released

The final report of the Mentor UK Youth Involvement Project is now available to download at www.mentorfoundation.org/uk/youthinvolvement.

The report highlights the views of young people from around England and Wales who took part in the two year project and makes



Young people from the Mentor UK Youth Involvement Project talk to Brian Idden MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Drug Misuse



Young people participating in the Mentor UK Youth Involvement Project

recommendations to government and others to take forward their ideas.

The young people emphasised the need for drug and alcohol education and advice to be delivered by people they trust to give unbiased messages based on the known facts. They also highlighted that they felt their rights were being infringed on a daily basis in an effort to prevent them using drugs. In response to this, Mentor UK are recommending that statutory organisations ensure they respect young people's rights and that sniffer dogs should not be used in schools.

The young participants presented their views to a variety of people, including

Vernon Coaker MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime Reduction, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Drug Misuse and a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference of international parliamentarians. They also influenced two sets of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on drug and alcohol interventions with young people and gave the government vital feedback from young people on the 2008 drug strategy 'Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities'. Mentor UK are grateful to the Rank Foundation and Clore Duffield Foundation for funding this work.

New Mentor UK Strategic Plan

After an extensive consultation period, Mentor UK Trustees have agreed a new Five Year Strategic Plan. It sets impressive targets against the following objectives which will build Mentor UK's position as the leading UK charity working to prevent drug related harm to children and young people by:

Objective 1 Influencing drug and alcohol misuse prevention policy

Objective 2 Supporting good practice in drug and alcohol misuse prevention

Objective 3 Supporting drug and alcohol misuse prevention research

Objective 4 Increasing the profile of drug and alcohol misuse prevention and Mentor's work

Objective 5 To achieve a stable and expanded financial basis

Objective 6 To ensure good management and governance

Trustees will review progress against annual milestones at each Trustees' meeting and the plan itself will be reviewed annually.

Drug Education Forum plays key role in DCSF Effective Drug Education Review

The Drug Education Forum (DEF) has been a key participant in a government review of effective drug education.

As promised by the Children's Plan in 2007, the Department for Children, Schools and Families brought together experts to form an Advisory Group to examine the evidence and make recommendations to Ministers in order to help to make sure that children and young people across England are protected against drug-related harm.

The Forum was commissioned to carry out an independent on-line survey of the field. Over 350 responses were received, the majority coming from teachers, members of Drug and Alcohol Action Teams or independent education providers. Key findings from the survey include:

- ▷ 84% agreed that drug education impacts on knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- ▷ 78% of respondents felt that the

drug education that they know of is developmentally appropriate.

- ▷ Only 36% thought that drug education has the support of senior staff.
- ▷ 67% said that lack of specialist staff was the biggest barrier to improving drug education.
- ▷ Commitment by local leaders was seen as the most important driver to improving drug education.
- ▷ The three things that respondents most wanted to change were:
 - Improve the status of drug education in the framework of PSHE;
 - Increased access and commitment to training; and
 - Develop the curriculum and resources to deliver it.

Andrew Brown, DEF Coordinator also provided support to the review and a number of Forum members were on the Advisory Group.