

# News Update

Issue 8

July 2014

## Special points of interest:

- News
- Future events
- Projects

## Inside this issue: Recent and Current Projects

### Thames Valley Partnership 'protecting victims, supporting offenders and their families'

The Thames Valley Partnership works in partnership with the statutory, private and voluntary sectors to provide long-term sustainable solutions to the problems of crime and social exclusion. We work to protect victims and reintegrate offenders. Our strength is in collaborative working and integrated approaches across sectors, particularly linking Criminal Justice services to voluntary sector and Local Authority providers.



### Women at the HeArt

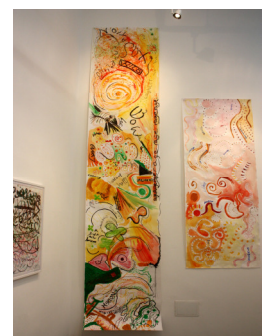
The dissemination event for Women at the HeArt was held on 18th February at Meadowbrook College in Oxford and was attended by a range of partners who were involved in the project and those who were interested to find out more about using creativity with vulnerable women.

*"Factors identified as instrumental to the project's success include: understanding the complexity of vulnerable women's needs, responding appropriately to individual and group need, high quality accessible arts activity, skilled facilitation, investing in the artists and investing in support staff".* External evaluator Alison Leverett-Morris.

For further information contact Judy Munday: [judy@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk](mailto:judy@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk) or go to the website for an Executive Summary report.



See page 5 for details



## Families Left Behind

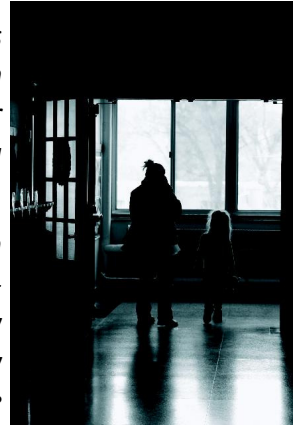
We were delighted that our Chair of the Board of Trustees, Lord Blair was personally able to support the **Families Left Behind** campaign at the Lords on 30<sup>th</sup> June – when the second reading of the **Criminal Justice and Courts Bill** took place.

Lord Blair spoke for approximately 10 mins in all – during which time, amongst other topics raised, he highlighted the lack of support for prisoners’ families, and particularly for the children. See extract below:

..... Lastly, I turn to a different matter. Is the Minister aware that there are roughly 200,000 children in the United Kingdom with one parent currently in prison? That is three times the number of looked-after children, who, in old money, are children in care. During their lifetime, boys who have had a parent imprisoned—I wonder whether the Minister knows this—are three times more likely to be convicted of a crime than their peer group, as well as having many more poor life outcomes.

Are the Minister and the House aware that no state agency has a duty to inform those responsible for education or social work that a child’s parent has been imprisoned? There is therefore no reason for a head teacher or any other teacher to know that a child’s parent has been imprisoned and, because the other parent will probably be ashamed to explain it, that position will not change officially. However, the likelihood is that the child’s playmates will find out that the child’s father or mother is in prison, and the effect on that child and the bullying that will follow will be awful.

Is the Minister aware of the campaign entitled “**Families Left Behind**”, which is backed by Barnardo’s, the Prison Reform Trust and the NSPCC, among many others? The campaign is to introduce a statutory duty on courts to ask whether an individual facing a custodial sentence or being remanded in custody—after, I should emphasise, not before that decision is taken so as not to influence the decision—has a dependant, to ensure that the child’s welfare is considered by statutory agencies. Whether or not he is aware, I would ask for a conversation with the Minister about whether the Bill would be a suitable vehicle for such a statutory duty to be included in Committee. I do not believe that such a proposal has significant resource implications downstream—and downstream it may massively reduce reoffending. I hope he will agree.



## Modelling Change gets a funding boost!

We are pleased to announce that our next Arts project, Modelling Change, has now successfully received funding from Amey Plc, Arts Council England South East and Artswork.



Modelling Change aims to use the creative arts to engage and empower girls aged 16 to 19 in the Oxfordshire area through the agencies and organisations that support them. Skilled artist facilitators will lead a mix of arts based activities and workshops which have been shown to have a positive impact on self esteem and self image – ultimately promoting an inner strength and develop new skills with potential

work placement and apprenticeship opportunities through our commercial sponsors, Amey.



For further information contact Judy Munday: [judy@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk](mailto:judy@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk)

## Family Matters



We held a dissemination event at the Clare Charity Hub in Saunderton for our Family Matters project. The event showcased our court desk project and progress made over the past three years. This was also an opportunity to increase awareness of the children and families of offenders amongst colleagues in an attempt to identify joint working practices. We are pleased to have had our 3 year evaluation conducted by Dr Sam Wright. If you would to receive a copy please email Saj Khan: [saj@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk](mailto:saj@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk)

*“ The Family Approaches project has revealed how the point of sentencing to custody provides a crucial early intervention point to reduce social exclusion among prisoners’ families. There is an urgent need to break the intergenerational cycle of offending and more work is required to explore the potential for this type of support to contribute to the reducing re-offending agenda. Such knowledge is likely to provide an important driver for future strategic and operational development of this work. To that extent, the Family Approaches project is a trailblazing piece of work that deserves wider recognition. It merits careful examination as part of any strategy to address both re-offending and child welfare.”*

Quote from the Executive Summary

Our Family Matters project has received continuation funding for delivery of the court desk crisis intervention services from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Kelly Family Trust and the Laing Charitable Trusts.

### Goodbye Cecilia!

The Partnership said a fond farewell to their Board of Trustee Treasurer, Cecilia Fry. They thanked Cecilia for all her hard work and support over the past five years and presented her with flowers, a framed picture and some sports vouchers.



Her successor is James Robinson who was welcomed at the Board of Trustees meeting held on 16th June 2014.

### ***What am I bid for this unique piece.....***

10<sup>th</sup> May saw the Partnership trying another new venture – this time a fundraising event with an Antiques twist! The evening attracted over 40 guests - Sotheby’s specialist David Macdonald was on hand throughout the night to value and comment on prized family heirlooms and trinkets - and a good night was had by all.



The evening was kindly jointly hosted by Trustee Hugh Buchanan and his wife Nony, at their home in Pusey, and Board Chair Lord Blair and his wife Felicity – many thanks to all for their continued support. Thanks also to all of our guests and those who were unable to attend but kindly made donations to support the work of the Partnership.

## TecSOS

The project continues to progress and there have been a number of significant developments. The service is now live in 26 forces with at least a further 4 signed up and preparing to go live in the very near future. To date over 7,000 high risk victims of domestic abuse in the UK have been issued with the handset and there have been over 1,000 live activations. The new device is being wholeheartedly welcomed by victims:

*"I feel safer when out and about".  
"...enables me to continue with my day to day life"  
"It was nice to walk the kids to school"*



Testing on the new handset has been completed successfully and the device is now available for operational use. A tracking facility has also now been added to the device which enables the police to locate the victim in cases where the victim cannot speak. Internationally, the project is now live in Spain, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Jersey and Ireland. The project manager has recently visited Cyprus who are considering a joint venture between the Sovereign Bases Authority and the Cypriot Police. Vodafone have recently asked the TecSOS manager to broaden his role to cover international markets as well as the UK. If you would like further information please contact: [johnliversidge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnliversidge@hotmail.co.uk)

Well Done



Following an assessment by the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation, New Leaf has been awarded their Approved Provider Standard quality mark. The APS logo is a national quality standard mark which is recognised by funders and commissioners as evidence of safe and competent practice. For a project such as New Leaf, it is the equivalent of an Oscar!

## The Web comes to Chilton ..

Just this week the Partnership had a surprise visitation ..... when an alarming dishevelled looking 'object' appeared - suspended by a thin web from the ceiling ...over the ladies loo! This was later identified by experts at Brookes University to be an 'egg mass' from *Tegenaria duellica* (the relatively common - but large - house spider ). With some trepidation (and a few screams!) the nest was carefully removed by staff and relocated to another (less troubling!) location in the outside shed area - however both mum and eggs appear to be still doing well .....



## A couple of ways in which you can help the Partnership :-

### **We need funds to support our core activity**

Running an office, paying our administrative and financial staff ensures we can provide support for our programmes of work, enables our projects to thrive, provides good governance and financial probity. However these essential 'back-office' functions which guarantee the smooth and effective running of our organisation are not easy to fund; it is our programmes which deliver the much needed services where we can attract Trusts and Foundations and occasionally local and national government funding. Typically at the start of each financial year we have a target of £50,000 to raise to support our core functions and this year is no exception.

So would you consider the following options .....

### **Do you shop on online?**

*Then please demonstrate your support and opt into the **Give as You Live** scheme – this scheme will cost you nothing and could raise us hundreds of pounds each year.*



In 2014 **Give as you Live** (GAYL) won the title of "most committed company to the charity sector" at the annual [Institute of Fundraising Awards](#). In 2012, for example the scheme helped supporters of the [Samaritan's Purse](#) campaign raise over £18,000, which went towards buying life-saving mosquito nets.

**How does it work?** **Give as you Live** works with 3,581 leading stores (including all the big names such as **Tesco, Amazon, Next, Expedia, John Lewis and hundreds more**) that have signed up to donate a commission, to the charity of your choice on every online purchase you make at a participating retailer. Therefore, if you sign up to support the Partnership we will receive a % of the value of purchases you make on-line - at no extra cost to you. Consider how much you spend online on holidays, flights, appliances, food shopping, clothes and gifts - and then please opt into this scheme. A broad estimate suggests that each shopper could potentially raise us up to £25 a year - that all adds up!

**What do you need to do?** Follow the link provided below and take a few moments to join up and install the GAYL browser on your PC. Then each time you browse online you need do nothing more – if you decide to purchase at a participating store a pop up tool bar will automatically appear on your screen, before you pay, prompting you to confirm that the % commission on your intended purchase will be credited to the Partnership account. The tool bar will also update from time to time giving you a running total of what you have helped to raise for us. Don't forget you can also invite your own friends, colleagues and family to support us too - just forward them the link below:

**Get started here ; <http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/thames-valley-partnership>**

If you have any doubts and would like to check this out before committing please view this short explanatory video: <http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/thames-valley-partnership/1031545/0/howitworks>

## Become a Friend?

Would you also consider becoming a Friend of Thames Valley Partnership? This option involves you making a contribution of your choice, however small, on a regular basis (you decide how often and send us details on a dedicated Gift Aid style form). We will send you regular newsletters, where possible offer preferential places at our events, and of course list you on our website as a supporter. More importantly you will have the feel good factor of knowing you are helping us to keep doing what we do!

For more information and a signup form contact Bron Jones:

[bron@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk](mailto:bron@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk)

THANK YOU

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