

safestrongandfree

HIGHLAND

www.ssf-project.org.uk

Newsletter

August 2010



The Safe Strong and Free Project believes that every child has the right to grow up safe, strong and free and that preventing sexual assault and exploitation of children is the responsibility of the whole community. SS&F is a charity and voluntary organisation which aims to reduce the vulnerability of young children to abuse and assault by running a series of 3 workshops. Two puppets, Callum and Shona, help to teach pre-school children strategies they can use to help them stay safe, strong and free.

Bad News!



It is with regret that we have to inform you that Safe Strong and Free is one of the voluntary organisations that will have its funding reduced by the Highland Council over the next 3 years. In the year 2010 –

2011 our funding will be at a standstill; in 2011 – 2012 our funding will be reduced by 25%; and in 2012 – 2013 it will be reduced by a further 25%. Unfortunately, we were not given the opportunity to make representation against this before the decision was made and we were only informed a few days before it went to a meeting of council elected members.

Whilst we will be able to maintain the service throughout Highland in the next academic year that may not be the case for future years as providing the service will be dependent on accessing the funds from alternative sources. If we are not successful in raising the funds needed we will be forced to withdraw the service from several areas. This would mean that any younger children you have may not get ssf workshops. We feel that all parents should be supported and all children empowered to keep themselves safe in addition to the services needed to help families pick up the pieces when things go wrong. It should not be a choice between the two, prevention is surely of equal importance.

If you object to this development, please write to your local councillors and send copies to the Directors of Education and Social Work. All their contact details are on the Highland Council website.

Ssf has been running since 1989 and has worked with thousands of families. Since 2006 we have been available Highland Wide, working with over 2,000 families annually. We would hate for the service availability to be reduced because of lack of funds.

We sent out questionnaires to all pre-school staff and Head Teachers in Highland to give us a more holistic picture of how ssf is regarded and what the consequences might be if the service is withdrawn. We are very grateful to those who returned them. Results are very encouraging and supportive. They will be available for you to read in our Annual Review which will be on our website in September.



PLEASE NOTE; ssf WILL DEFINITELY BE OPERATING HIGHLAND WIDE 2010-11

Staff



Colleen



Janet

Unfortunately Colleen Ferguson, our Project Workers for Skye and Lochalsh, left us recently. However she was replaced in

December by Janet Russell. Janet progressed well through training and has presented numerous workshops.



Morven

Morven Jack, our Project Worker for Inverness, has also left. Morven had been with us since Oct 2008. We would like to wish Morven the very best with her nursing studies.

Both Colleen and Morven will be missed by ssf and the nurseries they worked in.

Project Workers would like to thank all nurseries they visited for making them feel welcome, and for their hospitality. The many cups of tea and coffee were very much appreciated.

Vacancies

Part-Time Project Worker

Inverness & South Ross-shire

All children's workshops are held during school hours and in term times. Some evening work is required. Applicants should have knowledge of child development and a background of working with children. Excellent communication skills are required. Relevant qualifications would be an advantage but not essential as training will be given. Full driving licence and own transport is essential, mileage and other expenses paid. 560 hours per annum.

Starting salary £9.17 per hour

An Enhanced Disclosure check will be carried out on the person appointed to the post

For an application pack contact SSF by:

Phone/Fax: 01463 712 669

Mail: SSF, PO Box 5610, Inverness IV1 1ZU

E-mail: info@ssf-project.org.uk

Closing date for applications Tuesday 7 September

Workshops

Some of you will have already booked your workshops for this academic year. Don't panic if you are not one of them – the Project Worker from your area or Annette Ewen (Project Co-ordinator) will be in touch soon. All workers are feeling refreshed and looking forward to the workshops starting again after the October holidays!

Volunteers

A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped in our workshops and the office in the past year, their contribution was invaluable. We also wish a very warm welcome to our new recruits.

Donations & Fundraising News

A wee bit of fundraising was done in 2010, but we received many donations!

- £100 donated by a kind-hearted parent instead of buying Christmas cards
- £100 was bequeathed to ssf by a volunteer in memory of her mum
- £50 – generous volunteer
- £100 – Winter Festival
- £32 – Fortrose Academy

You can help raise funds for ssf by using Easyfundraising – if you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, Argos, Comet, iTunes, eBay or HMV, you can sign up for free to raise money for ssf while you shop directly with the retailer as you normally would.

How –

sign up to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ssf> and use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to us at no extra cost to yourself.

We've raised over **£45** with easyfundraising since November 09. Please sign up and start making a difference ...simply by shopping.

Ssf Annual General Meeting

The Safe, Strong and Free Project Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 17th September 2010 in Inshes Church, Inverness at 12.30pm. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. We would be delighted if you could join us.

Kids Corner



In June the Parent Councils at Duror and Glencoe covered the cost for our Project Worker for Lochaber, Shonda Barbour, to work with their primary 1, 2 & 3 children to follow on from the pre-school programme. The picture shows them proudly displaying their certificates of achievement.

If you wish to make any contributions, contact Annette Ewen or Laura Fiddes at the office.