

HELP & SHELTER
WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER GERMAN COMMITTEE PROJECT
MONTHLY M&E REPORT- SEPTEMBER 2010 - Submitted by Danuta Radzik

Community Educators' Monthly Reports

KANEVILLE

Community Educator: Tessa Greene

Community Mobiliser: Juliet James

Community: Kaneville, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 9 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total: 274 Females: 147 Males: 127

Persons Newly Reached: Total: 129 Females: 93 Males: 36

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 222

of H&S Posters Distributed: Nil

of Other Posters Distributed: Nil

Objectives of Visits

- House to house and counselling visits in Kaneville
- Focus group discussions with men
- Awareness session with patients at Grove Health Centre
- Awareness sessions at Grove Craft Centre
- Awareness with students at Xenon Academy
- Awareness session with Post Natal Clinic at Craig Health Centre
- Steering Committee Snack Sale

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

House to House & Counselling Visits – 14th September

- The CM was approached by a senior member of a FBO about an issue of domestic violence being experienced by a family member. After discussing the issue the CM referred her to the CE who spoke to her both by telephone and in persons. The persons in question is 22 yrs recently married but was already separated from her husband less than 1 year after the marriage due to constant physical and verbal abuse. The survivor is now also a mother of a child and lives with her mother and father. She stated clearly that she was not going back with her husband because he had been very cruel to her for the entire relationship and she only married him because she was pregnant. At present she is unemployed but has sent out several job applications and plans to complete her Diploma in Commerce at GTI when she enrolls in January. She said that the Court had ordered her husband to stay away from her for 1 year and he was also made to pay a \$10,000 fine. The Region 3 Probation Office had been in touch with her recently and a letter sent for her to visit the probation office to discuss her case. She asked the CE to accompany her to the meeting. According to the CE she has made up her mind to visit legal Aid to start divorce proceeding against her husband.

House to House & Mobilizing for Men's Focus Group Discussions– 18th September

- The CE, CM and 2 H&S volunteers walked the 4th Field inviting men to the focus group discussion and listening to their concerns and sharing information on available help at agencies.
The CE had received a request to visit a resident who was single-handedly raising her 5 children aged 11,9,7,4 and 2. The main problem was not being able to receive

maintenance for the children because she could not locate their father. After learning that the father sent money through an aunt she was advised to visit the MLHSS.

Another 38yr old resident shared her experiences of living in an abusive relationship with her husband. She has 4 children 19, 11, 10, 7, the 19 year old left home to work in the interior. She is not willing to seek help because she does not want to leave her husband.

Another 27yr old resident shared her experience of also living in an abusive relationship but managed to leave by going to live at a neighbour. She has 2 girls aged 2 & 7. She refuses to call her mother mom as she claimed her mother did nothing when her father was caught pulling down her underwear one night while she slept. She has a lot of anger towards both of her parents. She is unemployed but willing to work and was promised by the H&S volunteers access to information on skills training when it becomes available.

Mobilizing for Focus group Discussions with Men – 21st September

- A total of 30 men between the ages of 16-80 were reached and invited to attend the focus group discussion for men. All the men reached promised to attend sessions. A total of 27 H&S leaflets on Anger Management and H&S Fact Sheets were distributed

House to House & Counselling Visits – 25th September

- The CE received a call from the pastor of the Full Gospel Church with reference to a 17yr old girl caught up in a relationship with a 20yr old taxi driver. The young woman has been a member of the Church for a number of years and the Pastor was not aware that she was in a relationship until the abuse became unbearable and she spoke out. The young woman became involved with this partner 4 yrs ago and is very scared to leave the relationship because the partner has threatened to kill her. Additionally she was afraid that her parents would find out that she has been sexually active with this young man. The CE encouraged her to make a report at the station but she wanted someone to accompany her to the station as she was alone with her 14yr old sister and 10yr old brother. Since the CE was not present in the community she suggested the Pastor accompany her to the station. Before this could be done the young man turned up outside her home and kept calling her. The CE advised her to stay inside and lock the door and call the police station. This was done but the police station told her that the lone vehicle has just left for Georgetown but took the information and promised to pass this on as he was changing shift. The CE then asked the Pastor to send a Church member to the home of the young woman. This took place and the young man left with the Church member. Immediately after the young man called to ask back for the money he had put in her phone 2 days ago. The CE advised her not to do this as she would be endangering herself if she went to meet him or talk to him. The Pastor & wife promised to visit the young woman and take her to the Police Station to file the complaint. The young woman was worried about the young man's sisters harming her if anything happened to him after she goes to the station. The CE explained the importance of reporting such matters and advised that she should also express her fears to the Police while seeking legal help.

Focus Group Discussion with Men –25th & 26th September

- A total of 7 men between the ages of 17-45 participated in this 4 ½ hrs discussion on the 25th September. The session started late as many of the men did not show up. The CE, CM and a SC member had to go out and invite persons to attend the session as the facilitator was waiting at the venue. However once the session started it went well with the men sharing their thoughts openly. A request was made to have the male facilitator return for another discussion.
- On the 26th a total of 9 aged 45 + participated in this discussion which lasted 4 hours. Once again the CE, CM and SC member had to go out and invite persons to attend the

session as only 3 of the original invitees showed up. As before the session seemed to be an enjoyable one for the men. The coordinator was present at the session. A request for the facilitator to return was made which made clear that men need other men to talk and relate to. The CE recommended that the project should try to get more male volunteers to work in the communities particularly with men.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Awareness Session – Grove Health Centre – 1st September

A total of 46 persons, 37 females and 9 males between the ages of 45-69 participated in this 1 hr 45 min discussion on Elder Abuse.

The participants were at the HC for the diabetes and hypertension clinic. Feedback indicated that interaction among participants was good. However 2 women disclosed that they were being verbally abused by their sons. One of the women shared her that her son was trying to get her home from her and even threatening to kill her. The individual has never made any reports to the police and was advised by the CE to do so as early as possible. Both women were suffering abuse at the hands of their alcoholic sons. The other patients were very sure that the first woman should have her son removed from the home. She further stated that he repeatedly says that he is not afraid of the Police or anybody else and she can do whatever she wants to do. The suggestion was made for her to seek help in obtaining a restraining order against her son. She has promised to seek help ASAP.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topic discussed facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good. A total of 50 H&S Fact sheets were distributed to participants.

Grove Craft Centre – Friendship & Peer Pressure – 22nd September

- A total of 23 females between the ages of 17-22 yrs participated in this 1 ¼ hr session on Friendship & Peer Pressure.

The CE discussed friendships and the way they shape our personalities. The session looked at speech, style of dress, boyfriends, lying/dishonesty, disrespect, punctuality, attendance etc. Views were shared about the way friends pressure us to lie to our parents, encourage habitually late coming as a trait, influence us to skip classes or school thus resulting in poor grades which can lessen the chances of finding a good job. It was also pointed out that following friends can lead you down the wrong path. This topic was chosen on the advice of the teacher who indicated that she was having some problems with some of her students. Four of the students were already sent home because of pregnancy and the teacher thought that the girls needed to develop their own values and not try to fit in with the crowd. The CE also discussed aspect of self esteem with the students. The session was good as the teens and young women shared their views on whether they could be influenced by friends. Most of them said that they made decisions for themselves but sometimes they did listen to their friends. The CE also discussed using the positive pressure from friends to develop character and make better persons of themselves. The CE was asked to do another session with the students.

Grove Craft Centre – Self – 24th September

- A total of 23 female students between the ages of 17-22yrs participated in this 1 ½ hr session on Self.

The movie ‘Bring it On’ was shown and afterwards a discussion was held on aspects of self as it related to the movie. Some students felt there was nothing wrong in asking a boy for his telephone number if they were interested in him while others said they would not as they would be too ashamed to do so. The movie focused on a group of cheerleaders taking part in a competition. The idea of trying to fit in with peers regardless of what is

said to you though it may be hurtful was discussed as was the way in which actions, words and opinions of peers can influence self concept and self esteem in teenagers. Respect, trust, fear, homosexuality were some other areas that the girls were able to share their views on as each aspect was portrayed in the movie. The theme of the movie- Teamwork makes the dream work- was an interesting one and the CE tried to tie it to the limits and boundaries set by parents, teachers and others in order to help teens and students achieve their goals. A request was made for further awareness sessions.

Xenon Academy – Self – 23rd September

- A total of 64 teachers and students, 31 females and 33 males participated in this 40 min awareness session on Self.

Based on feedback, even though the setting for the session was crowded, there was good interaction and discussion with and among students and teachers. The CE asked the students who they thought influenced their self concept, students identified parents, friends and teachers as having the greatest influence. One male student disclosed that he was verbally abused by his mother who told him that he would not amount to anything and started to explain how he made a vow to himself that he would make his mother and father proud and then burst into tears. The pain and hurt this student felt was evident, the CE comforted him as he did not want to leave the room to gather himself. While this emotional situation was going on some the boy's peers laughed. The CE used this opportunity to explain that it was OK for boys to cry and let go of the pain rather than keep it inside and then react in a negative ways. Overall it was a rewarding experience because the teachers were very supportive and student interaction was good. In response to the type of family structure of students; slightly more students lived in single parent female headed household than in households where both parents were present, only 2 students lived with in single parent father headed households and 8 students were living with guardians.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topic discussed, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

A total of 45 H&S leaflets on Rape, Child Abuse and H&S Fact Sheets were distributed. There was a request for additional awareness sessions.

Craig Health Centre – Positive Parenting – 24th September

- A total of 45 persons attending the post natal clinic including 39 females and 3 males between the ages of 19-45 participated in this 3 hr session on Positive Parenting.

When participants were asked if they though they were good parents and doing a good job at raising their children they all responded positively by raising their hands. The CE discussed with parents the theme “every Guyanese a child protector” following the activities of the MLHSSS in the bid to protect our children. The 12 steps to positive parenting were outlined to parents as were the alternative methods of disciplining children. The idea behind the parenting session was to help parents understand how their actions or lack thereof will shape their child's behaviour. At the end of the session when the same questions was asked about being good parents there was a marked change in the amount of hands raised. This was as a result of the new information received about what positive parenting involved. It was a rewarding experience to see them acknowledge areas they need to work on to improve their parenting skills. Some parents admitted to not listening to their children sometimes, some admitted being abusive, some were guilty of comparing their children with other children. The CE emphasized that each child is different and special and should be treated as her/his own individual. She asked parents to join in the effort to reduce harm to children by watching out for all children not just their biological daughters and sons.

Evaluation of the session showed that participation was good, understanding of topics fair and facilitation and the session overall good. A total of 100 H&S leaflets on DV and H&S Fact Sheet were distributed. The medex at the health centre extended an invitation to the H&S team for similar sessions to be done on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays when she has a large clinic.

KANEVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORK PLAN - October 2010

Date	Activity	Time
7/10/2010	Steering Committee Meeting	5pm
14/10/2010	Awareness session-Craig Health Centre	9am
16/10/2010	Kaneville Community Walk About	3pm
19/10/2010	Awareness Session- IPE Secondary School	9am
22/10/2010	Awareness Session-Xenon Academy	1pm
22/10/2010	Awareness Session- Friendship Secondary School	1pm
27/10/2010	Awareness Session- Grove Health Centre	8.30am
29/10/10	Awareness Session-Grove Craft Centre	10am
29/10/10	Awareness Session-Grove Craft Centre	1pm
28/10/2010	Peer Educators Workshop	9am-4pm
29/10/2010	Peer Educators Workshop	9am-4pm

DEN AMSTEL

Community Educator: Ebeth McIntosh Christie

Community Mobiliser: Gaitree Bacchus

Community: Den Amstel, West Coast Demerara

Activities: A total of 5 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total: 162 Females: 129 Males: 33

Persons Newly Reached: Total: 78 Females: 45 Males: 33

H&S leaflets Distributed: 28

Leadership Skills Leaflets Distributed: 25

MLHSS DV Posters: Nil

GHARP Booklets (Super Gang & The Player): Nil

GHARP Posters: Nil

Empowering Women Booklet: Nil

HIV Leaflets & Booklets: Nil

H&S Posters: Nil

of Condoms Distributed: Nil

Objectives of Visits:

- To conduct 3 awareness sessions on Anger Management, Stress Management & Personal Health with Den Amstel Pre Natal Clinic
- To conduct an awareness session on Parenting Practices with the Kingdom Connection Youth Group
- To conduct an awareness session on Leadership Skills at the Nursery Teachers Cluster Workshop
- To conduct 2 awareness sessions on Personal Health and Types of Foods We Eat with grade 6 students from the Den Amstel Primary School

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Den Amstel Nursery Pre Natal Clinic –Anger Management – 9th September

- A total 27 parents, 26 females and 1 male between the ages of 18-38 participated in this 3 hr session on Anger Management.

Feedback from the CE and participants indicated that there was good interactive participation. Participants shared personal experiences of things that made them angry and ways in which they would normally react to feelings of anger with honesty. The majority of participants identified some of the things that their husbands or partners do that makes them very angry such as being unfaithful, smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol every day and coming home drunk, withholding money from them, being abusive, not being involved in family life activities, telling lies, not being home after work, too much or too little sex. The participants said they reacted to feelings of anger by crying, quarrelling, being silent, beating the children. The 4 steps to anger management were outlined:

- Admit it
- Explore it
- Express it
- Drop it

Participants said they will try to use these step to controlling anger and encourage others to Use these also.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were rated as excellent. A total of 28 H&S leaflets on Anger Management were distributed.

Den Amstel Nursery Pre Natal Clinic –Stress Management – 16th September

- A total of 26 persons, 25 females and 1 male between the ages of 18-38 participated in this 1 hr session on Stress Management.

Participants in discussing this topic said tat they were stressed every day because of too much work in and out of the home, not having enough money to spend in the home and to provide for themselves and their families. Most of the parents have children of school age and they were unable to provide a good meal for their child or children to take to school. Parents also said that they experience stress when friends are not being friends when they need them most. Most of the pregnant mothers also said they are just stressed out but try to control this because of their unborn child they are carrying. The CE in her presentations discussed stressors of daily life and the link between stress and disease. Participants were told that medical scientists associate stress with the following diseases; Bronchial asthma, tension headaches, migraine headaches, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcers, colitis, elevated blood pressure, immune system related disorders such as the common cold, allergies, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer (some types). A stress inventory/questionnaire to determine participants stress level was done.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were rated as excellent.

Den Amstel Nursery Pre Natal Clinic –Personal Health – 23rd September

- A total of 25 parents, 23 females and 2 males between the ages of 18-38 participated in this 1 hr session on Personal Health

The mothers were happy to talk about their bodies even though some of them don't feel good about how they look. Some of the mothers said they find it challenging to take care of themselves as they don't have the urge to do this while just being at home and sometimes the lack finances also contributes to this. The mothers also spoke about their spouses' personality and the effect this has on them and the relationship. With the information given the women say they will try to make a change in their own life and

then work on their husbands and partners. A lot of the discussion also centred around the use of simple remedies to enhance their appearance.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were rated as excellent.

Kingdom Connection Youth Group –Parenting – 12th September

- A total of 28 young people, 18 females and 10 males between the ages of 14-28 participated in this 3hr focus group discussion on Parenting.

The session took the form of a focus group discussion on parenting practices their parents used and how often these occurred. When asked if their parents hugged & kissed and told them they loved them 75% of teens and young people said this happened always, often or sometimes but 25% said they never experienced this. The majority of teens and young people, 93%, said that their parents always scolded and criticized them and 71% of parents always yelled or shouted at them if they did something wrong. 79% of teens and young people also said their parents never set house rules or explained the reason for these while 21% said this happened sometimes more than often. More than a quarter of participants, 29% said their parents always threaten them with licks or a beating when they do something wrong, 32% said this happens sometimes, 21% often and 18% never. When asked if their parents knew where they were at all times 71% said never while 29% said sometimes more than often their parents would know where they were. Additionally 54% of teens and young people said their parents would sometimes more than often know who their friends are. All of the teens & young people said their parents would never allow them to express their views if they disagreed with them. A further 82% said their parents would never apologize to them if they made a mistake. 71% of teens and young people also said that their parents never listen to their reasons for their behaviour before deciding to punish them. The majority of parents 71% sometimes more than often praise their children when they do something good while more than a quarter of children said their parents never do this. A further 54% of parents sometimes more than often encourage their children to talk about their problems while 39% said their parents never do this. 79% of teens and young people also said that their parents are sometimes more than often aware of concerns or problems their children have while 21% said their parents are never aware of this. 75% of children also said that their parents sometimes more than often show understanding when they are upset, hurt or frustrated.

Cluster Workshop for Nursery School Teachers – Leadership Skills – 14th September

- A total of 25 nursery school teachers between the ages of 20-53 participated in this 2 ½ hr session on Leadership Skills.

The teachers participated fully in the session. asking questions, taking part in the group work, doing presentation written or dramatic and engaging in open discussions on the topic. The leadership skills topic resonated well with the teachers as they are considered to be leaders by profession. Some of the teachers did acknowledge that as leaders they do not always do the right thing or sometimes do not know what exactly to do. They said that the session helped them to build personal capacity as well as teaching them ways to develop other staff members. They promised to use the information gained in and out of the classroom and with their PTA groups, youth groups, church groups and people they come into contact with. The teachers explained that all the sessions they do are recorded at the MOE as capacity building/staff development sessions and this is a requirement from the Ministry.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as excellent. A total of 25 leadership skill handouts were distributed.

Grade 6, Primary School- Personal Health – 22nd September

- A total of 22 students, 12 females and 10 males between the ages of 10-11 participated in this 2 hr session on Personal Health.

In discussing this topic only 2 of the students said that their parents had talked to them about personal hygiene before the others students had never been part of a discussion with their parents or teachers about this. The students spoke about the products they use at home. Areas discussed were taking care of your hair, teeth, body, nails. At the end of the session it was felt that there was a need to have more sessions such as these with students so they can be exposed to a healthier personal environment.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

Grade 6, Primary School- Types of Food We Eat – 29th September

- A total of 22 students, 12 females and 10 males between the ages of 10-11 participated in this 2 hr session on Types of Food we Eat.

During this discussion the types of food the students eat and drink and how this affects their bodies were discussed. Foods that should be avoided and reasons for this were discussed as were liquids to drink and those to avoid. This session was a follow up from the previous session on personal hygiene. It was stressed to the students that what we eat and drink determines how we feel and look inside and outside.

NO DEN AMSTEL COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORK PLAN for the month of October 2010 was submitted

GOOD HOPE

Community Educator: Suzanne Chung

Community Mobiliser: Olivia Simon

Community: Good Hope, East Coast Demerara

Activities: A total of 6 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total: 81 Females: 69 Males: 12

Persons Newly Reached: Total: 13 Females: 7 Males: 6

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 27

of H&S Posters Distributed: Nil

of Other Posters Distributed: Nil

Objectives of Visits:

- Follow up on child abuse case
- House to house & counselling visits
- Awareness Session at Lusignan AOG Church
- Awareness sessions at the Learning Centre
- Visits to Steering Committee members

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Follow up on Child Abuse Case – 6th, 13th, 14th

- The CE visited the 14yr old girl's school to explain the reasons for the child's absence from school and to bring her up to date on this H&S/ C&PA case. The new headmistress promised to promote the girl to a higher form even though she was not able to write the end of year exam due to the instability in her family life.
- The CPA case worker informed the CE that they visited the community and made arrangements for the girl to stay with an aunt of the family the girl and brother had previously been staying at. The girl later refused to stay there and the previous family

also said they were no longer able to keep her. As a result of this the CE took her down to the CPA office the next day. Finding a suitable home where the girl would not be at risk was not an easy task. The homes which may have been suitable were not prepared to take in a 14 yr old unaccompanied teenager. In the end it was decided that the teenager could not live on her own without supervision and since no suitable home was identified the tearful 14 yr old was again placed into the custody of the C&PA.

House to House Visit & Distribution of Food Hampers to Vulnerable Families

- The families who received the food hampers were very grateful for the help. The CE and CM also made a follow up visit to a young woman who had previously reported that she was being abused by her husband. According to the woman her husband was no longer abusing her which was good news for the CE and CM.

House to House visits – 28th September

- This was a follow up visit to the homes of children who had previously never attended school to check as to if they were now going to school. Happily the children were attending school and they and the parents were happy to see the CE and CM. A visit was also made to a little boy who was previously living in difficult circumstances here again it was found that everything was going well.

House to House Visit/Counselling – 30th September

- The woman at this home suffers every form of GBV. She is not allowed to leave the home alone at anytime neither is she given any spending money. The father of her 4 sons works from home and does all the shopping. He bribes and influences his sons to take sides against their mother and as a result the 4 boys show hostility to their mother. The woman however will not contemplate leaving the matrimonial home as she feels her boys will grow up to become abusers like their father.

House to House Visit/Counselling – 30th September

- This situation involves a mother who is extremely upset at the abuse that her daughter is experiencing at the hands of her husband and sons. Additionally the mother is only allowed to see her daughter occasionally. She knows of the abuse from her grandson and neighbours. She is very worried because her grandsons tend to find all kinds of excuses for their father abusing their mother especially as she is the one who disciplines them.

House to House Visit/Counselling – 30th September

- This case involves a 16 yr old boy who is allowed to stay out late at night liming with boys older than him. He also has access to extra funds which allows him to go out on dates with wild young women. In return for this he is expected not to say anything when his father abuses his mother. The young man tries to convince himself that his mother has done something to deserve the punishment he is given.

Visit to Steering Committee Members – 30th September

- Due to the absence of an official meeting as a result of Uncle George's illness, the attempted suicide of one of the younger male members and the illness of the CE's husband the CE and CM thought it best to visit individual members to keep them abreast of activities, plans and work being done.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Lusignan Assembly of God Church – 28th September

- The project coordinator, CE and CM visited the AOG Church which at that time was holding elections for positions within the Church. After the elections were finished the

project coordinator facilitated the session on DV and the Rights of Women with 21 persons, 20 females and 1 male. The session went very well with a lot of relevant information given on the topics.

Lusignan Learning Centre – Love & Friendship – 29th September

A total of 26 students, 18 females and 8 males between the ages of 10-16 participated in this session on Love & Friendship. The session started with the facilitator asking students to say something about themselves that no one would have know about before. After this introduction the topic of similarities and differences between love and friendship were discussed. The qualities that one would look for in a friend, a loved one, girlfriend, boyfriend, parents, siblings etc were also discussed. Each participant was asked to give three qualities they would want in a friend or a loved one.

A total of 24 H&S leaflets on Anger Management, Child Abuse, Child Neglect and For Friends were distributed.

NO GOOD HOPE COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORK PLAN was submitted for the month of October

COVENT GARDEN

Community Educator(s): Ebeth McIntosh, Chabela Lord

Community Mobilizer: Carol Henry

Community: Covent Garden, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 7 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total: 57 Females: 38 Males: 19

Persons Newly Reached: Total: 38 Females: 25 Males: 13

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 3

of H&S Posters Distributed: Nil

of Other Posters Distributed: Nil

Objectives of Visits:

- House to house visits/counselling & one on one discussions with residents
- Meeting with the NDC
- Identifying location for Project Banner

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

House to House Visits/Counselling & One on One Discussion with Residents – 7th September

- This was a follow up visit to a mother who was forced to leave her family home with her children and move into her mother's home due to serious neglect on the part of her husband. She said that since she was living at her mother's home on one occasion she called her husband to discuss a certain matter but instead of listening to what she had to say her husband used threats and intimidation against her and was very aggressive in his behaviour to her.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 7th September

- A male resident reported that he has been experiencing some marital problems which are centred around the use and control of family finances. He explained that his wife wants to be in complete control of finances and how they are spent. When she cannot have her way this brings about problems. He explained that this situation has been going on for years. A total of 3 H&S leaflets on Anger Management, Wife Abuse and GBV were distributed.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 9th September

- On this follow up visit to this home the CM was informed that the 16 yr old teenager who was being physically and verbally abused by her stepmother and who had been working in a rumshop had been removed from the rumshop by social workers. The social workers also called her parents to a meeting and the teenager was given an opportunity to decide where she would like to live. She is now living in the care of an aunt.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 9th September

- This was a follow up visit to the home of the 14 yr old girl who is now an unwed teen mother. The grandparents said they decided to raise the baby themselves because the mother is not responsible enough to take care of the child or give the bay the attention he deserves.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 13th September

- At this home the CM met a woman who said she was being physically and verbally abused by her partner whenever he drinks. She was given information about DV and abusive relationships. Subsequently the CM was informed that the partner and the woman herself use drugs. They also have a 1yr old child of their own.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 13th September

- At this home the mother informed the CM and a Sc member that she was aware of the work the project was doing in the community and issues they were addressing. She informed them that she had attended some of the sessions and as she was unclear about the different form of abuse these were shared with her. She also shared a painful experience she had previously. Days before the death of her mother she was prevented by her grandmother from seeing or speaking with her mother and was only able to see her again at her funeral and burial. Her grandmother also keeps her younger brother and sister away from her.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 15th September

- A follow up visit was made to the home where the banner is to be put up. Unfortunately this activity had to be rescheduled due to the fact that the family had other plans for the month. The date of October 18th was set for putting up the banner which would give this family enough time to return home and settle back in. During this visit some time was spent going through the parenting handout which had been left with this family to assess the success of parents in finding alternative ways to discipline their youngest son. The son was not home from school the day of this visit so a return visit was promised.
- Visits were also made to a shop and a short discussion was held with the owner on the project, H&S and activities in the community. H&S leaflets were also left for distribution.
- Follow up visits were also made to a number of other homes.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 20th September

- The CM saw one of the mothers who live on the sea dam who had previously not been sending her children to school. She was happy to report that these children are now going to school and has seen them in the classroom when visiting these schools. This success story was a collaborative effort by CEs, CM and concerned neighbours. Whenever visits are made to the sea dam the neighbours report on how they are encouraging the children's mother to keep them in school.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 21st September

- During this visit the CM was informed by an aunt of her concern for her nieces and nephews who were being physically and verbally abused by their mother. According to reports the mother would hit the children's heads against the wall and beat them whatever is in reach. She addresses her daughters as whores and uses racial slurs telling them what black men would do to them. This is a home we visited on many occasions addressing the issue of abuse and neglect.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Residents – 22nd September

- At this home the CM and a SC member engaged this mother in discussions on child abuse, neglect and other issues. The mother admitted that she beats sometimes and when angry would also curse him. However after wards she would regret her behaviour and cry. She said that it is due to her son's insolence as he feels he is grown up and can answer her back. She was encouraged to try other ways to discipline him and was given information about behaviour patterns of parents and how important it is to be an example to your children and role model. Anger management was another issue that was discussed with this mother and a return visit has been promised. It was discovered that this mother does not know to read and write.

Mobilizing for Focus Group Discussion with Men – 23rd September

- The CM and SC member went into the community mobilizing men to attend focus group discussion fixed for the 27th & 28th of September.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Resident – 23rd September

- The CM was informed that there is an unlicensed liquor shop in the squatting area and on week ends people would visit this location to drink and party. The children who live on the sea dam would be present at this location with their mother while the drinking and partying is going on. A concerned parent reported that one Saturday morning at 1a.m. (18thSep), she heard a child calling out to another woman who had left the party to return. When she looked outside she saw it was a child who lives on the sea dam.

House to House Visits & One on One Discussion with Resident – 27th September

- During this house to house visit to a client's home the CM was informed of a woman who beats her husband. According to this resident this man had bumps on his forehead as a result of the beating and was unable to go to work the day after. The CM visited the home where this abuse was alleged to have taken place and was told by the alleged perpetrator that a misunderstanding had taken place between her self and partner. According to the woman her partner had come home drunk and had been behaving stupidly. She denied that a fight had taken place. There were other visitors at the home of this woman so a return visit is planned.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Covent Garden Nursery School Teachers- Leadership Skills- 20th September

- A total of 3 female Nursery School teachers participated in this 1 hr and 15min session on Leadership Skills.

The teachers showed great interest in this topic as they were of the opinion that this was an area in which they need to do some extra work. According to the teachers having their co-workers present at these sessions gives them the opportunity to explore ways in which they can help to make the work in the Nursery Division easier. Teachers also indicated that they are expected to have the necessary skills to move into leadership positions or to develop them on the job. One teacher explained how much she looks forward to our monthly visits and awareness sessions. She said the awareness sessions have increased

her knowledge on a range of issues and made her a better teacher as she was able to utilize this new knowledge to the benefit of herself as a professional. The head teacher explained that with the leadership skills information received she can identify areas in which this can be used at staff development sessions. She also said that whether or not a teacher assumes a formal leadership position, this information can serve to enhance performance in the classroom.

Covent Garden Primary School – Personal Hygiene- 23rd September

- A total of 30 students, 17 females and 13 males participated in this 45 min awareness session on Personal Hygiene.

This topic had been requested by the class teacher as she saw the need for her students to be informed about the importance of this topic since many of the children came to school untidy or gave off a strong body odour by afternoon time.

The students were taught the importance of keeping up a good appearance, learning lifelong habits of good hygiene for healthy living and prevention of the spread of communicable illnesses and diseases. Practical health tips were given such as the importance of daily baths, brushing and care of hair and teeth, cutting of nail, wearing of clean clothes and frequent washing of hands. The students were taught ways to help keep clean, how to care for school uniforms. It was recommended that if there is only 1 uniform, the student should take this off as soon as they come home wash it with soap and hang out to dry for the next day. Cleaning of shoes was discussed and washing of hair with soap or shampoo regularly, for boys or girls with short hair daily for boys or girls with long hair at least once a week.

Throughout the session the students were very attentive and some questions were asked. It was learnt that some children did not wash their own clothes but depended on their parents to do this even if they came home late. Some children reported that they also never comb their own hair. In closing students were told that with a clean body, clean hair, clean clothes and shoes they will feel good and their friends will be happy to be near to them.

NO COVENT GARDEN COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORK PLAN was submitted for the month of October 2010