

Counselling Services for Young People in Larne

For some months a small steering group involving youth service providers, schools and PSNI have been exploring possibilities to deliver counselling services in Larne for young people. This idea originated from some identified issues PSNI were having with anti social behaviour and underage drinking. From this a partnership was formed between New Life Counselling, the Federation of the Retail Licensed Trade (FRLT) and PSNI. Through this FRLT provided some funding to provide group based counselling for a group of young people in Larne to educate and explore issues around alcohol misuse. This was successfully delivered and subsequently PSNI secured further funding for the following:

- One to one counselling for young people
- Group based counselling (to educate and provide space for young people to talk about issues)
- Parenting workshops (to assist parents in talking to their children)

Colin Neill, Chief Executive of Federation of the Retail Licensed Trade (FRLT), said:

“The FRLT supports the delivery of practical initiatives to address issues of alcohol misuse and underage drinking through a range of local partnerships with local authorities and statutory agencies. Our financial support in the delivery of the New Life Counselling Positive Lifestyle Choices Programme has allowed the licensed trade to further enforce our key messages on safety and responsible alcohol consumption while helping young people to understand the consequences of alcohol misuse and develop practical skills to manage their behaviour.”

Noel Rogan PSNI Sector Commander for the Larne Borough, said:

“This excellent Programme was funded through Policing With The Community and Police Property Funds, totalling almost £20,000. Quite often Police concentrate on enforcement, however there needs to be a balance between enforcement and Support Mechanisms for young and vulnerable persons. We can do this much better if we, the so called experts engage with each other and deliver practical, visible and professional actions to support, educate and treat many of the difficult issues affecting our communities. This programme is the first of its kind in any of the Policing Districts and I am delighted that Larne has taken the initiative to seek new ways at tackling serious harm issues such as alcohol misuse in young persons.”

These programmes are currently available within the Larne area. Further information on the programme is available by contacting Alison Hogg at New Life Counselling on 028 90746184. Publicity materials and referral forms for those wishing to access counselling are available.

New Life Counselling



New Life Counselling has been long established as a provider of counselling services and has operated in Belfast since 1993 providing services also for children, adults and families for support on a range of issues from depression, stress, anxiety, relationship issues, drug / alcohol problems. self harming and suicidal behaviour amongst others.

New Life Counselling currently are providing counselling with all post primary schools in the Larne area and across most of the province funded by the Department of Education. New Life Counselling operates to the highest ethical and professional standards, all counsellors are highly trained and experienced and the organisation is accredited by the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy. Further information on New Life Counselling can be accessed through www.newlifecounselling.net where there is also an online referral form which can be used by those wishing to access services.