

## Information on the YISP (Youth Inclusion and Support Panel)

The YISPs mainly work with young people aged 8-13 years and their families on a voluntary short term basis to prevent small problems getting bigger and trying to help young people keep out of trouble. The YISP is part of the Youth Offending Team's multi agency preventive strategy to reduce the number of first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System. Research from the Youth Justice Board highlights that if young people have not offended by the time they are 14 years they are less likely to get into offending behaviour at a later age. Research indicates the factors that may make young people more at risk of anti social behaviour and how to help. The YISP also monitors some of those outcomes such as families who have been affected by domestic abuse and the impact of its parenting interventions. The YISP also promotes views of young people and families being heard in their local community.

YISP panel members are from Education, Health, District Councils, Social Workers, Voluntary sector, Police, YOT and a community member. Others are invited to a monthly panel as needed and the family and school are invited to their part of the panel.



**The Christchurch YISP Project** started February 2004 and has a room in the Children's Centre. It is funded by the Children's Fund and has a YISP Worker, part time admin and sessional and volunteers. The YISP Coordinator currently spends Mondays in Christchurch. The project is well embedded with local partners and there is a reduction in crime in this District. A Christchurch Junior Youth Council for 8-13 years is also supported by the YISP and Christchurch Council. YISP community projects have included a bike project, tree planting and young people presenting at community safety meetings and providing holiday activities.



**Weymouth and Portland YISP** started February 2006 funded by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and has a YISP worker and part time admin and sessional workers and volunteers. It is based in a self contained annex at Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre. Alongside one to one work with young people and families this project has worked with Dorset Mediation and a school setting up peer mediation and has undertaken a reducing obesity project with partners and has undertaken an activity project with a local youth club. The Coordinator currently spends Thursday mornings in Weymouth and Portland. This YISP requires two workers and as the previous second worker has moved to West Dorset YISP we have a vacancy. Sometimes the second worker may be asked to undertake work in neighbouring YISPs



**North Dorset YISP** is currently funded by the Children's fund and YJB and started April 2007 with LAA funding and for that year worked with **5 -13** year olds and families. It also took Cafs operating as a CAF panel. It is based in the Blandford Children's Centre. The YISP Worker started at the beginning of June 07 with the part time administrator. The YISP Coordinator spends Wednesdays in Blandford. The panel has received good local support and has an enthusiastic panel

Photo courtesy of [www.rachaelpiper.co.uk](http://www.rachaelpiper.co.uk)



**The Purbeck YISP** was launched the end of September 08 funded by money from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. It is operating from the Purbeck Children Centre in Wareham and has been welcomed in Purbeck.



**The East Dorset YISP** was launched at the start of October funded by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and is based in the Community Safety Room at the East Dorset District Council at Furzehill Wimborne. The YISP ATM visits on Fridays.



**The West Dorset YISP** commenced October 07 from a small amount of CDRP funding and has received some additional CDRP funding October 08 alongside support from the Weymouth and Portland YJB YISP. It is based in Monkton Park Dorchester the Weymouth and Portland YISP with outreach locations available to the YISP worker and sessional workers across West Dorset.



**The Dorset YISP Project Worker for Young People in Care** has recently relocated to Monkton Park, Dorchester and this YISP worker covers all Dorset working to the Team Manager. This post is funded by the YJB. The launch took place in June 07 and the plan is now in place with three main themes to reduce the offending rate of Young People in Care in Dorset. It will be working with young people in the care or Dorset to reduce them offending or getting into trouble, all living in a variety of placements. ]

The part time YISP administrators in each office work to the Assistant Team Manager on a daily basis (usually mornings) and are also supervised by the admin manager who visits from another location. The YISP administrator types the panel paperwork, letters, opens and closes files, undertakes YISP petty cash and assists the Team Manager in maintaining budgets and statistics about the project. YISP workers type their own assessments.

Referrals for YISP are taken from different sources, a Common Assessment Framework form supports prevention requests. Referrals from level three services are taken by the Assistant Team Manager. Requests are verified and allocated as needed by the YISP Assistant Team Manager. The ONSET assessments are completed by a YISP Worker assessing the risks and protective factors around offending/getting into trouble. In turn these are reviewed at 3 months and closure. Integrated plans are made from the assessments working with the family.

YISP Workers need to be skilled in drawing together multi agency assessments and keeping families and young people at the heart of plans. The proposed plans are taken to a monthly multi agency panel chaired by the Assistant Team Manager. Families and Young People are involved at every stage. Interventions are varied and undertaken by several agencies. They may be one to one or family and group work in various settings. Core YISP interventions are usually short term for 3-6 months. During school holidays the project is involved in providing and promoting activities for young people. All YISP workers need to be flexible and adaptable and demonstrate an equal opportunities perspective in all areas of work. Sessional workers and volunteers are recruited to undertake some specific interventions with families and Young People. Payment is made for agreed costs of an activity, and mileage travelling costs and a rate for the agreed time to be taken.

Dorset YISPs are meeting their national and local targets for outcomes and standards. Feedback from families has been positive about the YISP approach. YISP panel members have been committed and enthusiastic and work closely with local schools. Every member of the team is valued for his or her own contribution. The work is varied and continues to offer opportunities to develop the YISP to meet local needs, make a difference, and work creatively with various services and the community. As part of the strategy to mainstream the YISP over the next months the YISPs will have stronger links with the Locality Managers moving into Locality Teams with regular supervision from the YISP Assistant Team Manager.

Some referrals for young people aged 14 years and over are starting to be received from the Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officers, and from the Safe Schools and Communities Team when restorative justice reprimands highlight a need for multi agency assistance.

A YISP Team Plan, budgets and procedures are now in place and a specification for a prevention data base nearly completed. The Key task of the Assistant Team Managers is to supervise staff, the YISP Workers, support YISP Sessional Workers and volunteers and monitor that work keeps on track and all outcomes are met.

**The YISP Family Intervention Programme is based in the Dorset Youth Offending Team Dorchester** to prevent Youth Crime It is being set up from September 09 to end March 2011 with two years Think Family money from the government. It will work closely with the YISPs in Weymouth and Portland and West Dorset. The FIP workers will have fewer families and work more intensively with families with high needs for a longer period. Multi agency assessments and plans will be linked to the YISP panels. The workers will work to the YOT Assistant Manager for Prevention and Pre court and be based with West Dorset YISP but able to hot desk at Weymouth and Portland YISP and Bridport hub. The FIP will

- Using a 'whole family approach', undertake a thorough and detailed assessment of the needs of the household, the underlying problems driving the family's behaviour and the risks of the behaviour of individual family members on themselves, other family members, workers and the community.
- Work with other agencies to put together an intervention package of measures to tackle the causes of the problematic behaviour within the family and prevent anti-social behaviour and other negative outcomes for the family and community.

**For further information please contact Rebecca Holmes Assistant Team Manager or Joyce Spiller, Dorset YOT Pre court and Prevention Team Manager Tel: 01305 221400**

**J Spiller 28/09/2009**