

# IYSS



ISSUE 1  
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## Highlights



**P3** Hang out in PODS



**P4** Helping victims of youth crime



**P6** 'I love my job...'

## Welcome to the IYSS

You're reading the 'Your IYSS', the new IYSS newsletter – but what is the IYSS I hear you say?

It stands for the Integrated Youth Support Services and offers all young people in Warwickshire access to something to do, somewhere to go and someone to listen through a range of activities and services available across the county.

Young people will play a big part in inspiring and guiding us in to creating the best service for young people and involves a number of organisations working together in a more integrated way, including:

- Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire
- Warwickshire's Respect Yourself Campaign
- Youth and Community Service
- Positive about Young People
- Warwickshire Youth Justice Service
- Warwickshire Children and Voluntary Youth Services

It means young people will never be far away from a range of activities, information or advice.

**Hugh Disley**

Head of the Integrated Youth Support Services

## Contact us

If you would like to get involved in writing articles for the IYSS newsletter or would like further details, email [stuartgoodwin@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:stuartgoodwin@warwickshire.gov.uk).



# AROUND THE IYSS

## Respect Yourself Campaign

Warwickshire's Respect Yourself Campaign is encouraging young people and parents to give their views on new national guidance for relationship and sex education in schools.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is consulting on an update to the Relationship and Sexual Health Education (RSE) curriculum, which will focus on how young people can cope with the pressures they often face from their peers or the media, when it comes to relationships and sex.

It also covers the importance of marriage and stable relationships in family life, as well as the value of delaying sexual experiences. It would be taught within age appropriate Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons.

Primary school children will gain a basic understanding of where babies come from, correctly naming parts of the body and listening to other people. Secondary school pupils develop the skills and confidence to say no if they are not ready for a sexual relationship, as well as how to avoid sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancy.

The DCSF consultation is open until Monday 19 April 2010 and is available at [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations).

The IYSS is made up of six organisations working for young people and in every edition, we will give you a taster of the things we do:

## Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire

At this time of the year, many secondary school students will be thinking about work experience placements.

During years 10 or 11, young people are offered the chance to choose a work experience placement to spend a period of time outside the classroom with an employer, learning more about the world of work.

It is a chance to get an insight in to the skills employers look for when they are filling a job vacancy – as well as helping build self-confidence and develop an awareness of careers. With this in mind, Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire is reminding students about the importance of taking part in the opportunity.

Thomas – a year 11 student – undertook a placement at a hair salon in Coventry over the summer, resulting in two job offers including professional modelling.

Thomas said: "I really enjoyed my time at the salon and it has definitely opened up some opportunities for me – as a result I am now working part time at a hair salon at weekends and so some professional male modelling as well.

"The work experience has helped me decide to follow a career in hairdressing when I leave school, either through an apprenticeship or college course, and I would encourage others interested in this or any other route to ask their careers advisor about the options available to them."

Rosie Jones, a Personal Advisor from Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire, said: "Work experience placements like the one Thomas did offer a real insight in to the world of work and help prepare students for their future careers.

"Employers will often take in to consideration any experience gained through programmes like this when selecting potential candidates, so work experience is really worthwhile."

*To find out more about work experience placements, talk to a Connexions Personal Advisor at your secondary school or in town centre offices.*



**Thomas with Connexions Personal Advisor Rosie Jones.**

## Warwickshire Children and Voluntary Youth Services

Voluntary organisations in Warwickshire have been awarded just under twenty three thousand pounds in WCVYS grants over the last 12 months to improve services for young people.

The umbrella organisation – otherwise known as Warwickshire Children and Voluntary Youth Service – provides a link between Warwickshire County Council's Youth Services and those in the third sector.

Every year, voluntary organisations are invited to apply for money that could be used for programmes and projects, as well as group and individual training for their staff wishing to take part in courses to enhance their work with young people.

Since April 2009, 32 grants were awarded for a range of uses including new resources for bereaved young people, website development, a residential trip, youth exchanges and a forest camp to name only a few examples.

## Positive about Young People

Young people looking for something to do in Warwickshire after school are being invited to hang out in PODS.

Otherwise known as Positive Operational Drop-in Strategy, they are run by the Positive about Young People programme (PaYP) offering 8 to 13-year-olds a range of activities across the county.

The free sessions – held between one or two evenings a week – include arts and crafts, sport, music and dance as well as a safe place to chat, play video games or finish homework.

POD sessions are run by trained activity workers from PaYP and other appropriate agencies to build relationships, talk, listen, offer guidance and positive role models or to signpost young people to other support services where necessary such as Early Intervention or Mentoring.



**An example of one of the Warwickshire PODS offering young people somewhere to go...**

For further information regarding Positive about Young People or to find out where the closest POD is to you, visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/payp](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/payp) or contact Mark Bolton on 02476 754174.



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

As this is the first edition, it seems like a good opportunity to find out more about the IYSS:

## What is the IYSS?

Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS) is a collaboration of services working with young people delivering the youth offer of 'something to do, somewhere to go and someone to listen', including targeted work with those young people who need us most. Warwickshire's IYSS works with 8 to 19-year-olds and includes 19-25 for those young adults who have special needs.

## How will it help me?

The delivery of IYSS is across 19 local forums, which means that it's a local service for you and includes all the support services you may need or help in connecting to them. It's also about positive activities offering something to do, somewhere to go and someone to listen.

We also have local youth panels, district youth forums, our VOX county youth panel and very active Members of the Youth Parliament, all of which are making sure your voice is heard in the right places so we are providing the right services at the right time and in the right place.

## Why has it been set up?

IYSS is a national government programme to bring services closer to young people and for these services to work closer, which should mean improved local provision for all young people.

Who can I talk to about the provision of youth services in my area?

We have a web site that can signpost you to any particular service that you are looking for – [www.iyss.org.uk](http://www.iyss.org.uk). Alternatively call 01926 742491 to speak to one of the area team leaders:

Cheryl Jones – North Warwickshire  
Dave Jones – Nuneaton and Bedworth  
Stephen Bell – Rugby  
Shinderpaul Bhangal – Warwick  
Rob Townsend – Stratford

## How can I get involved with the IYSS?

As a young person - local youth panels, district youth forums etc.

As an organisation - link to the 5 IYSS Area Team Leaders

As an adult - the same - where there are opportunities to volunteer or be trained in a variety of different services working with young people.

## Get your questions answered...

If you have any questions about the IYSS or issues affecting young people generally, why not get in touch? Email your details to [stuartgoodwin@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:stuartgoodwin@warwickshire.gov.uk) and you could have your question answered in the next edition.

## Youth Justice Service

Warwickshire's Youth Justice Service is helping young victims of violent crime recover from their ordeal as part of a pioneering new scheme.

The Warwickshire County Council-led team is running Goals UK motivational workshops for young men aged between 16 and 24, who have been a victim of an offence caused by another young person, as part of a trial that could be rolled out county-wide to all groups under 25-years-old.

Heather Shilling, Operations Manager (Interventions) for Warwickshire Youth Justice Service, said: "Becoming a victim of any crime can be a traumatic experience for anyone - however violent crime can often leave lasting effects on an individual.

"The Youth Justice Service is inviting young people to take part in workshops to rebuild their self-esteem and motivation to help them realise that in the majority of cases, they weren't specifically targeted and shouldn't feel that they were in the wrong."

Heather continued: "Much of our focus is on rehabilitating the offender but more recently in addition to this we're spending more time helping the victims of crime as well.

"While these workshops are aimed at young men, we encourage any victim of crime caused by a young person to talk to us for information and support after informing the police."

Funding for the project – running between 29 and 31 March – is being provided by the Community Cash back fund, which uses seized proceeds of crime to help those affected by it through providing services and facilities for local communities.

Contact Vicki Barnes at the Victim, Witness Information Partnership on 01926 680252.

## Youth and Community Service

Improving road safety for young people in North Warwickshire was the aim of a practical course organised by the county council's Youth and Community Service.

'Rev and Go' promotes the safe, legal and appropriate use of mopeds in a number of sessions aimed at developing skills and procedures that will minimise the risk of collision, while emphasising that these skills should only be put in to practice when riding is safe, legal and appropriate.

Practical and classroom learning covered the law, licences, insurance, fines, protective clothing and looked at the risks and consequences associated with dangerous driving such as physical harm.

A group of six young people from the Queen Elizabeth School in Atherstone and Hartshill School took part in the 12-hour course, managed by 90-one Education and funded by the North Warwickshire Youth and Community Rural project, last half term (15 and 16 February) at Polesworth School and Youth Centre.

# "I LOVE MY JOB..."

June Irippas



June Irippas is a team administrator for Warwickshire's Youth Justice Service in Rugby. She tells Your IYSS why...

"I have worked with the team since May 1999 and I can assure you there is never a dull moment. There are plenty of frantic moments, busy moments and surprising moments. The job is the most interesting I have ever had and everyday is different.

I love working with people – the team is really friendly and I get the chance to meet a wide variety of visitors as part of my job is on the front line, meeting visitors or answering the phone.

Part of my role is the administration side of the sessional work undertaken by staff supervising young people who are doing unpaid work as part of their orders, or perhaps learning new skills.

I have been a sessional worker myself in the past and I know how challenging the role can be but the sessional staff are a really good bunch, completing paperwork on time for me to process.

I love working with the young people who come in to the office – they respond well to being treated with respect; they love to tell the administrators when they've done something well, perhaps achieved employment or completed their orders.

Another part of my role is meeting parents, professionals, trades people and of course many volunteers who support the service. Learning is another key part of the job – whether getting to grips with the latest legal terms or trying to deal with various situations.

Central to the work of the team is concern for victims and communities and our remit is to prevent offending and re-offending by young people. I am proud to play my part in the work of the team and will continue to do so.

## ABOUT US...

### Your quick guide to the IYSS...

**Youth Justice Service:** The Youth Justice Service (formerly the Youth Offending Service) works with young people aged between 10 and 17 years who have offended or are likely to do so, their families and victims.

**Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire:** It is a free service that offers information, advice and guidance to young people aged 13-19 and young people aged up to 25 years of age with special needs.

**Youth and Community Service:** The Youth and Community Service aims to offer young people, mainly teenagers, 'Somewhere to Go, 'Something to Do, Someone to Listen', which is part of what is called the "Youth Offer".

**WCVYS:** An umbrella organisation that brings together all the major voluntary children and youth organisations in the county.

**Positive about Young People:** PaYP is a partnership between Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police. The aim is to prevent disaffection amongst young people and remedy it where it occurs through a community based multi agency approach.

**Respect Yourself Campaign:** It aims to provide all young people across Warwickshire with enough information, advice and guidance that will enable them to make positive informed choices about their relationships and sexual health.