

IZZY'S PROMISE [SCOTTISH CHARITY NO SCO33706]

MAY 2010 UPDATE

Over the past one month we networked with more than 500 support organisations in the UK via email to make them aware of all the services we offer to ritual/organised abuse survivors. We have provided consultancy services to 6 abuse support agencies via email and phone. Some of the agencies needed more information on how to support ritual/organised abuse survivors. We provided an in-house training to 15 support workers and volunteers on *Safeguarding Trafficked and Exploited Young People in Scotland*. We have two upcoming training opportunities for people and organisations working with ritual/organised abuse survivors which you are welcome to sign up to via our website www.izzyspromise.org.uk.

There were 10 new survivors who contacted Izzy's promise for support by email, phone and text over the month and all of them are in regular contact with us for support. In the same month 4 survivors received a face to face support, 7 supported via phone, 12 by email, 3 by texts and 30 were supported via the RANS Message board. Izzy's Promise responded to 46 phone calls, 250 emails, and 100 texts taking up 228 hours of support time. Some survivors were faced with very serious challenges including a child protection case and a homelessness case; we are continuously supporting these survivors.

The recession funds from the Big Lottery has enabled Izzy's Promise to increase the hours of our support worker from part-time to full-time this month. This means that more support is available for abuse survivors from Izzy's Promise. There is also a ghost-writer available to abuse survivors who wish to write their stories and memoirs (see RANS message board).

Our website (www.izzyspromise.org.uk) was visited by 465 people from all over the world, while the survivors message board was used by 31 people for peer support. Some of the people who used the message board requested that the site be updated. We are busy

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fundraising to be able to update our website and the survivors' message board.

We recruited 12 new volunteers in addition to the 8 dedicated volunteers that already work hard with us. Volunteers dropped in 48 times, doing different jobs, reading policies and supporting survivors. More volunteers are showing interest in volunteering with us by phoning.

Izzy's Promise will be holding a conference later in the year. We are busy working on the logistical aspects of the conference and, once everything is ready, we will post the info on our website and also circulate the information to all the statutory and voluntary organisations.

In terms of monitoring and evaluating our support services, there is an ongoing consultation with service users and abuse support agencies on our website. Feel free to log on our website and take part in the consultations.

In an effort to try and respond to problems affecting Black Ethnic Minority (BME) groups, we will be conducting a survey aimed at identifying the support needs by such groups. This project is also aimed at raising awareness and developing a training pack for use by support agencies and statutory agencies in understanding the needs of BME groups in the UK. Please take some time to complete the survey by following this link <http://www.smart-survey.co.uk/v.asp?i=22813xeete> . This will take at least 10 minutes to complete and the results of the survey will be used in designing a training pack on BME awareness. This project was triggered by the case of Sehar Shebaz and her 8-month-old baby, who were deported to Pakistan on the 22nd May 2010, despite her fear of going back home. This pack will be useful for voluntary and statutory agencies that are in contact with BME groups.

We networked with organisations such as Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre (FRASAC), Black & Ethnic Minorities Scotland (BEMIS), The Survivors Trust (TST), Positive Action in Housing

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(PAIH), Lily Walkers Housing Dundee, The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) on New Deal placements and Dundee Volunteer Centre among others on support and referral of abuse survivors.