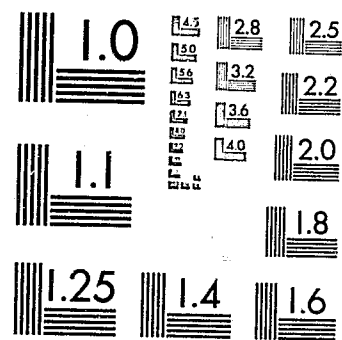


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Report of a Conference organised by the West Glamorgan Intermediate Treatment Liaison "Officers" Group held at the West Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education on Friday, 7 November, 1980.

U.S. Department of Justice  
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COUNTY INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT "OFFICERS" GROUP.

MEMBERSHIP:

|                               |                       |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <u>Chairman:</u>              | Mr. Glyn John         | - Deputy District Education Officer<br>County Adviser Social Education.  |
| <u>Conference Rapporteur:</u> | Mrs. Pat Davies       | - Professional Assistant Education Dept.   |
|                               | Mr. Gwilym James      | - Boys Clubs of Wales.   |
| <u>Group Secretary:</u>       | Mr. Ben Lewis         | - Intermediate Treatment Officer.  |
|                               | Mr. Meirion B. Lewis  | - Assistant Chief Probation Officer.   |
|                               | Mr. Ted Morris        | - National Association for the Care &<br>Resettlement of Offenders. Youth<br>Opportunities Programme Co-ordinator. |
|                               | Mr. Arthur Peacock    | - Senior County Adviser for Youth and<br>Community.  |
|                               | Supt. Eric Place      | - South Wales Constabulary.  |
|                               | Mr. Colin Preece      | - Principal Officer, Social Services Dept.   |
|                               | Mr. Seymour Southwood | - Boys Clubs of Wales.   |

Co-opted for debriefing and evaluation - Mr. Graham Williams, Social Work Services Officer, Welsh Office.

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FOREWORD

I am privileged to have been asked to contribute to this publication.

We have heard much in recent years of the need for more and better agency co-operation. This Conference was in itself an expression of that very theme. It grew out of the local Intermediate Treatment Liaison Group and the presence of so many and various organisations reflected the will towards such collaboration. It became an opportunity to meet one another on a personal basis, as well as being representatives of parent bodies, in order to learn and to talk and exchange views, frankly and constructively.

We are indebted to the Planning Group which made it possible, and to those who helped, on the day, to maintain a tight schedule. But I am sure everyone will agree that, while pleasingly successful as it turned out to be, it was still only a 'first shot' in West Glamorgan - a starter upon which more now needs to be built.

This report gives a concise account of the day's proceedings, including extracts from the addresses given by both speakers and summaries of the workshops, with the conclusions of the discussions involving everyone at the Conference. I hope it will be widely read by those at the Conference, and by those with a genuine interest in strategies for coping with youngsters at risk.

These are uncertain times, with many changes taking place about us, in life styles, employment patterns, and moral codes. How much more difficult must it be for those young people, less equipped and/or in environments hardly to be described as helpful to sound personal development, who additionally are facing the difficulties and uncertainties of their own adolescence.

There is still much to do to convince others of the fact that it does pay to invest in young people, and that no wastage of human potential should be passively tolerated.

M. T. WALKER

Director of Social Services  
West Glamorgan County Council

Opening Address by Mr. Norman Chapple

Assistant Chief Constable - South Wales Constabulary

Mr. Chapple's address was an account of what was clearly a significant sociological study of the community of Kirkby which he undertook in 1974, and although in the time allotted to his address he could do no more than sketch the scene of his study, in so doing, he provided a vivid background to the conference. The new town of Kirkby in the extremes of its problems and deprivation highlights the conditions which encourage juvenile crime; conditions known to all those who work within an urban setting, but brought into clear relief by the stark statistics and horrifying pictures of a desolate and hopeless community many of whose members nevertheless take pride in the town's reputation for crime, violence and unruliness. Kirkby typifies the worst of urban deprivation and the causes of juvenile crime.

The first dwellings of the new town were erected in 1952 and in 9 years 10,000 council residences were completed at a rate which was twice the national rate of growth for new towns and which created a large population isolated from virtually all amenities in terms of shops, post offices, pubs, clubs and other social provisions. Even by 1974 public transport was extremely poor thereby accentuating the sense of isolation within a confined and confining ghetto. 85% of all dwellings in Kirkby are owned by the Local Authority, one third of which are high rise flats or the low rise flats which are the greatest cause of dissatisfaction because of anti-social neighbours, high noise levels, lack of privacy and space, high rents for poor facilities, a poor repair service (which was in part made worse by the attitudes of the occupants in requiring all repairs, however minor, to be undertaken by the Council) lack of play areas and the rubbish and vandalism in the non-defensible areas. The strength of dissatisfaction with housing was shown by the high rate of turnover (25%) and the amount of self inflicted vandalism designed to coerce the Council into the provision of more adequate accommodation. The slides of new housing in unbelievable states of vandalism, dereliction, filth and graffiti vividly spoke of the mixture of anti-social behaviour, hopelessness and demoralization in a community, some of whose members were literally prepared to pull the housing about their ears rather than continue living in it.

The problems of the town were further increased by the fact that it was virtually a single class community with 86% of all males classified as manual workers and over 50% of these in the semi and un-skilled category. In 1971 the rate of male unemployment was 18.8% and now as much as 25%, thus creating a society in which young people had little prospect of employment when leaving school and who had frequently married and started their own families without

ever having experienced employment. The size of this problem is obvious when it is known that early in the 1960s Kirkby had the highest birth rate of any Western European community with 48% of the population being under 15 years (compared with the national average of 27%) and the town still has an abnormally high birth rate. The classic complaint of young people that there is nothing for them to do was surely never so true as here; no recreational facilities, a paucity of qualified youth leaders or interested parents, lack of privacy at home and unemployment. Not surprising that whereas the rise in crime in England and Wales from 1973-74 was 21%, the rise in Kirkby was 51%. In 1974 the crime rate in Kirkby was 16% higher than in the whole of the Merseyside force (which had the highest crime rate to population of anywhere in England and Wales), a crime rate which was nearly double that for the whole of England and Wales. The indication is that the situation is not improving and there is a dramatic rise in crimes of arson, vandalism and theft. In fact, crime and anti-social behaviour is such an accepted way of life that many crimes are not even reported; not only do the police work in an impossible situation but they have to work within a community which protects offenders and will deliberately at times impede the efforts of the police. The most serious problem facing the town is undoubtedly that of the large number of juveniles; in 1973 the indictable offences involving juveniles was 31% for the Metropolitan Police District, 32% for South Wales and 53.5% for Kirkby.

Thus the picture was drawn of a situation in which new initiatives needed to be taken to combat the basic problems of an anti-social attitude and a lack of community spirit. Mr. Chapple outlined recommendations which he had made in his study of ways in which the police could assist in overcoming these attitudes in adults and young people. First, the setting up of small neighbourhood councils originated by the Police and Social Workers which would be orientated towards self help; self help is the key to any attempt to change the ethos of the community and has been shown to be beneficial in other parts of the country. Schools experience an intolerable burden in such an area where non-attendance is very high, parents interest very little and there is an absence of any attempt by parents to instil a sense of social conscience in their children. In an attempt to inculcate some social awareness in the parents of the future, Police-School Liaison Officers were suggested to assist the schools in placing a greater emphasis on a wide ranging Civics programme designed to provide a contra view to the prevailing sense of anti-social behaviour experienced by the young people.

Mr. Chapple ended his address by presenting slides of the town of Kirkby which graphically underlined his words and presented clearly to the conference members the deprived, depressed and disadvantaged environment experienced by so many young people at risk.

Family Orientated Intermediate Treatment

1. The Project arose out of a concern about youngsters involved in I.T. groups who were "treated" in comparative isolation from their family group and who were returned to a non changed family situation; it was felt that youngsters returning to the unchanged family situation with new skills, modified anti-social behaviour and a new found confidence might experience considerable problems. There was also an awareness that many I.T. group workers were critical that once a young person was admitted to a scheme the family Social Workers often ceased to be involved with the individual and the family.
2. Obviously such a project was impossible without the commitment of a family who were willing to involve themselves fully in this venture and who would indeed become its architects. The initial stage involved a building up of trust with the members of the family and assessment of their needs by building up a picture of them from a variety of sources, including the family's own self perceptions (both individually and as a family), a view of members of the family by others who played a significant role in their lives, their expectations from the intervention and the desired areas of change with a view as to how these might be effected.
3. The agreed contract was for a period of 6 months with meetings to be held every two weeks. It was decided that there was a need to concentrate on the present situation rather than to probe into the past because it was believed that this would be more likely to encourage present choices and options towards change.
4. The aims of the work with the family were:
  - (i) a reduction in feelings of individual and family isolation and a promotion of a sense of self and family identity;
  - (ii) the inclusion of all members of the family so that no one member of the family would feel threatened by being talked about;

- (iii) a more open form of communication:- the family appeared to have little practice at conversation, discussion or collective co-operative decision making;
- (iv) the provision of social pursuits intended to provide a model for a group identity and family decision, to be of low cost to meet the family income, to be within the home and community, to be continued easily if wished at the end of the project and to offer enjoyment.

5. The methods employed were role play, sculpting, mood setting, verbal and non verbal signals, open ended questionnaires, cross checking systems, indoor games, outdoor activities - e.g. nature walks, treasure hunts, picnics.
6. Evaluation:- During the course of the project the Social Worker experienced feelings of great vulnerability, a need to be continually flexible, a sense of loneliness and frustration, a need to assume roles of initiator, interpreter, scapegoat and passenger, feelings of exhaustion and reward i.e. the project was continually exhausting and demanding, requiring a constant need to take stock, reassess and develop new avenues.

All members of the family exhibited positive change during the sixth month period and all said that it helped them by making them feel less alone and knowing that someone cared. All members of the family became more outgoing and socially aware by developing new interests or new relationships, performing better at school or, in the case of the Mother, making an effort with personal appearance and making social contacts outside the home.

Contact:- Mrs. S. Cole, Area 1. Social Services Department.

### Neath Farm School Project

The proposed project is a pilot scheme which aims to provide an intermediate treatment scheme for boys aged 11½-16 years as an alternative to full-time residential care integrating the resources of the residential and fieldwork sectors of the Social Services Department to provide a scheme within a residential setting operating at weekends only.

Referrals to the project would be made by the Area Officers of the Social Services Department in Neath and Afan and selection made by a panel consisting of the Officer in Charge of the Farm School, the I.T. Officer and the Social Worker referring the case. Parental consent would be obtained. The size of the group would be limited initially to six boys but it is intended that the project should provide an ongoing resource, with referrals being accepted as places become available and the participants continuing to attend for as long as is considered necessary. Participants should, however, be expected to attend for a minimum of six weekends in order to obtain a meaningful experience.

The programme would operate at weekends under the supervision of the residential staff of the school and would consist of the full range of activities organised by the school i.e. gymnastics, outdoor games, farming activities and visits to places of interest. The progress of each individual participant would be reviewed every nine weeks by the selection panel.

One possible criticism of the scheme is that some may consider that individuals could be adversely influenced by the boys in full-time residence at the school. It is, however, considered that this is not a major problem first because the school accepts a wide range of youngsters including non delinquents who are in care primarily because of family breakdown, schooling difficulties and behavioural problems and secondly because there would be a full programme of activities under close supervision and firm control.

It was suggested, in the discussions following the workshop, that it would be essential, not only to co-ordinate the fieldwork undertaken by the youngsters during the week but that they should come together as a group with the fieldwork staff during the intervening periods of residential experience.

Contact: Mr. Ben Lewis

### Programmes for Latch Key Children

This workshop was possibly misnamed and would have better been described as Play Group Provision for youngsters of 5-15 years. The aim of the workshop was, however, to stress the preventative work which can be undertaken with children at a young age. Such has been the success of these play groups that there has been considerable interest in extending the resource to times of year other than the Summer alone. The presenters described a play group operating in a Local Authority Primary School and play groups run by the West Glamorgan Play Association and the City of Swansea. Basically, all three groups aimed to provide organised play for youngsters particularly to provide a service for working Mothers with young children and as a resource for all Mothers trying to cope with children during a long Summer holiday. All groups operated on a relatively low budget and provided a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities under the supervision of leaders.

The ethos of the groups differed somewhat according to the background, and philosophies of the organizers e.g. the school based group was far more structured than that of the West Glamorgan Play Association groups in that it was run by teachers although the teachers certainly felt that their informal contacts with children in the Play Groups greatly benefitted their relationships with their pupils at a later stage. The Play Association, which is a voluntary body aiming to promote play and improve facilities for play, has a belief that play provides the opportunity to create a free atmosphere between child and adult, an atmosphere in which the all too common ingredient of fear is absent. One of the main aims of the play groups provided by the Association is a growth in the building of relationships with adults through the medium of play which has a serious and developmental importance for all human beings.

All three presenters provided their hearers with a wealth of practical information about setting up such groups ranging from the choice of suitable leaders, ways and means of obtaining materials and premises, an extensive list of activities and pursuits.

Contacts:- Mr. D. Morgan.  
Mr. J. Duff.  
Mr. A. Reid.



### URBAN AID PROJECT

The project is managed jointly by the Education and Social Services Departments with funds from Urban Aid to provide the services of one teacher and one social worker for a period of five years. The aims of the project are:-

- (i) To provide intensive group work to help school pupils in their personal growth and development, in the acquisition of social skills and in the establishment and maintenance of relationships.
- (ii) To provide social work help and support for children and their families, experiencing social and material problems, by undertaking preventative work with families at an early stage following school referrals.

The project has been in operation for one year working in one comprehensive school with groups of second year pupils who were referred by their form teachers because they were exhibiting difficulties in relating to school, to peers, and to authority figures. The groups have included pupils with a wide variety of problems, e.g. aggression, withdrawal, non-attendance, under functioning, problems adjusting to death of parent etc. Pupils selected for the project are those considered likely to be able to benefit from a group experience; the project does not aim to help pupils with deep seated psychological problems but those pupils who are thought to be at a stage of development when a programme of structured intervention may assist them to cope better with the demands of home and school. Considerable care is taken in the selection of pupils to provide well balanced groups; the aims of the project are the same for all pupils but the objectives will vary according to the needs of the individual.

The programme lasts approximately six weeks and provides an initial intensive block of group work followed by a residential weekend and the increasing inclusion of academic studies until pupils are re-integrated into the main school. The group experience is based upon the Developmental Group Work Techniques of Dr. L. Button of University College Swansea and is designed to increase self awareness, to develop social skills and personal confidence, to enhance a sense of social responsibility in both a willingness and capacity to help others and to establish and maintain relationships. This is achieved by the use of practical sessions comprising exploration of life space, friendship patterns, role play, self-assessment, trust and support exercises.

The project is an attempt to explore the efficiency of new methods to help young people who are experiencing difficulties at school. The experiment has demonstrated that even within the narrow confines of a six week period, change is possible and achievable and the project has been successful in offering pupils a new perception of themselves and an increased confidence which has enabled them to cope better with the demands of home and school. If this can be achieved in six weeks what could be achieved with more time and more resources?

Contact - Mr. T. G. John, Education Department.

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### "WALES AND INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT"

Welsh Office Workshop Session

Introduction: The presentation consisted of a talk and accompanying Display Panels relating specifically to Intermediate Treatment in Wales. The Panels had been prepared for the National Conference "Getting on with IT" which took place at Sheffield in July 1979.

Preparation of the Display: A Working Party consisting of representatives of Social Services Departments, the Probation and After Care Service, Education, the Children's Regional Planning Committee for Wales, and voluntary organisations had been established by the Welsh Office Social Work Service to prepare a Welsh contribution to the Conference. The Working Party had been anxious to prepare material which:-

1. would not be a repetition of other presentations at Sheffield ie a host of photographs showing youngsters involved in activities;
2. could be used after the Conference in Wales.

It had therefore been decided not to attempt a description by means of photographs of any specific projects or schemes, but rather to use material drawn from the whole of the Principality to illustrate the theme of the Display.

Theme of the Display: The Working Party felt that the development of Intermediate Treatment into an effective part of the strategy towards meeting the needs of youngsters at risk and in trouble was inhibited by a number of factors. Not least among these was a failure to properly describe and to convey to others the whole range of work being undertaken in this field. These problems of communication existed between practitioner and practitioner, between practitioner and decision-maker, between agencies/organisations involved in Intermediate Treatment and the public etc. Largely, they resulted from the fact that practitioners are so heavily committed to specific work that they have been unable to "stand away" from their detailed involvement and see the pattern of IT provision which is emerging.

The Working Party therefore set out to present a pattern which appeared to them to be emerging from the review of work undertaken in Wales, and organised the Display under three major heads. It was felt that one or other of these would adequately represent all the schemes/projects drawn to their attention:-

I

Provision of local  
Environmental  
facilities

II

Use of established  
Youth organisations/  
agencies

III

Provision of specialist  
facilities for:-  
a. Individuals  
b. Groups

Under each of these headings a number of photographs were used which illustrated points brought out in the accompanying commentary about the state of development of Intermediate Treatment. These were not intended to illustrate the schemes/projects from which they were drawn. Further details on these were given in the supporting Handbook circulated.

The Conclusions Drawn:

1. IT is about co-operation between Agencies, organisations and individuals.
2. No one individual or group has "the answer" to the problems of youngsters at risk or in trouble.
3. Boundaries of responsibility, perspective etc must not obstruct the development of an effective strategy towards meeting these needs.
4. The strategy has many ingredients.
5. Careful attention must be given to involving youngsters in the kind of scheme/project best equipped to help him/her at any point in time.
6. The progress of the youngster must be reviewed and the programme for him/her modified as necessary.
7. The progress of each scheme/project must be kept under constant review.
8. Staff involved in IT inevitably invested a great deal of time and effort in their work. However, it was important for them to "stand away" from this detailed involvement from time to time to look at broader issues about the organisation of IT and about the directions in which work of this kind might usefully move.
9. The presentation hopefully provided them with an opportunity to do this.

Further Information From: Chief Social Work Service Officer  
Social Work Service  
Welsh Office  
Cardiff

A Framework for I.T.:- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This I.T. programme aims to provide the courts with an alternative to custody and residential care by offering young offenders a challenge and adventure which it is hoped will provide a new control by deterring participants from reoffending and thus missing out on something which they have come to value. It must be emphasised however that participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's awards scheme is entirely voluntary. The project has operated in the Townhill Council Estate area of Swansea and has been run on a budget of £250 - a sum of money which would keep one group member in a detention centre for less than half his sentence.

Two groups have operated since October 1979; the groups meet for once a week for two hours and this meeting is preceded by a group leaders planning session. There is also a monthly leaders' meeting at which the progress of each member of the group is discussed. There are three awards within the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Bronze for those over 14, Silver for those over 15 and Gold for those over 16; each level has four sections: Service - to encourage the giving of service to others based on the belief that members of a community have a responsibility to each other and that voluntary help is needed. Skills - to encourage the discovery and development of personal interests, social and practical skills, by stimulating young people to take up and persevere at satisfying and purposeful pursuits within a wide range of practical, cultural and social activities. Physical Recreation - to encourage participation and improve performance in physical recreation. Expedition - to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery.

Advantages of the scheme have been that there has been involvement by the organisers with schools and it has brought young people naturally into contact with adults, including the police, who have been involved with the Service section of the Award. The scheme is not competitive but takes account of personal development so that all participants can experience a sense of achievement.

At Bronze level the scheme can be completed in six months so that each group has a finite life span but because of the progressive nature of the scheme participants can continue into a second year with the scheme, or, preferably, with a youth club at their school.

There were five participants in the first completed group, of these, four obtained a Bronze award and, more importantly, avoided further offences during the life of the group and since.

Contact:- P.J. Sutton



A Young Offender Programme as an Alternative to Custodial Sentence

The project was set up as an alternative to custodial sentences as a result of recent Government pressure to consider other methods of sentencing. The scheme takes on hard-core offenders which are not usually dealt with by the Probation service. It is intended that the scheme will run for 6 months followed by after care and involves 10 young people aged 16-21 at any one time, although the groups will be continuous with some members joining as others complete the course.

The scheme takes the offenders straight from Court where an Order will be made for 12 months and the aim of the scheme is physical and mental development. Offenders, who would probably otherwise receive custodial sentences, are told that if they take part in the project the going will be tough and it will take a lot of courage. Failure to comply with the demands of the system means that offenders will be taken back to Court immediately and dealt with accordingly. The approach is tough and firm, for example, one of the first group members who failed to turn up for an interview was sent back to Court to report. It is impressed upon the young people that the scheme is by no means a "soft option."

The scheme comprises two group sessions of three hours duration per week as well as reporting duties. The group work involves a rigid physical discipline which serves as a vehicle into the feeling level; it has to be recognised that violence is a part of the youngsters' lives and yet they must be brought to realise that they cannot live a life purely at this level (the work is symbolised by a fist and a dove together). Unlike the conventional Social Services involvement, the work does not start with the home, the background and the past but confronts the individual, sometimes brutally, with the here and now and through a realisation of his present situation leads him to a knowledge of where he could be with the required effort. One of the main goals is emotional growth and the group work takes the individual to experience creativity and spontaneity, to an appreciation of others to catharsis. Psycho-drama techniques are used as a means of exploring the truth and any offender involved must be prepared to allow group leaders and workers into every aspect of his life, for example parents, peer groups, school and employers, so that he will be continually aware of his commitment.

It is believed that there are distinct advantages in dealing with an offender on a community level within his own environment instead of within the confines of prison walls; treating the current cause rather than the symptom is a more effective way of achieving a gradual adjustment to circumstances.

Contact Deri Lewis, Port Talbot Probation and After Care Service.

NACRO - YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME (Y.O.P)

The workshop described the operation of a NACRO sponsored Youth Opportunities Scheme, financed by the Manpower Services Commission, which aims to help young people known to Probation Officers and/or Social Services to prepare for work and improve their chances of obtaining and keeping jobs. The scheme provides a work experience programme for up to 30 young people aged 16-19 and with the help of the Careers Service an individual programme is devised for each trainee which will include four major elements:-

- i) Induction.
- ii) Work experience in either community work situations on projects or on industrial and commercial premises.
- iii) Provision for further education and training.
- iv) Personal advice and support.

The induction period is crucial to the whole project and provides the opportunity for an assessment of each trainee with his or her own self-assessment playing a major role. This induction provides the basis for the work experience programme and explores the trainees' basic skills, abilities and needs. The project staff provide personal advice and support during the induction periods, indeed throughout the duration of the placement, with an emphasis on social awareness and confidence building.

Trainees have undertaken a number of community help projects, for example the painting and decorating of a community hall and the ambitious project of installing central heating in a Salvation Army Hostel, as well as placements with local employers.

The programme depends on close liaison and cooperation with Probation Officers and therefore an effort is made to provide regular opportunities for the Y.O.P. staff and supervising Probation Officer to review placement activities in order to assess how placements are functioning. Y.O.P. staff also keep supervising Probation Officers regularly informed of a trainee's progress - or lack of it - and provide regular counselling.

All trainees on Y.O.P. schemes are paid an allowance of £23.50 plus travelling expenses in excess of £4 a week.

The Y.O.P. staff aim to provide as wide a range of experience as possible in the field of work, backed up by further education, social and life skills training and personal supervision. They also aim to keep Probation Officers and Social Workers informed of their activities and welcome the opportunity to discuss their work.

Contact Ted. Morris, Co-ordinator, Telephone - Neath 51757.

Concluding Address by Mr. Alan Higgins, H.M.I.

Mr. Higgins expressed his pleasure at the response to the seminar, which had brought together such a large number of people representing a wide range of agencies working with youngsters at risk and the positive atmosphere and corporate spirit which pervaded the seminar. He underlined the purpose of the seminar by drawing attention to the meaning of the words of its title, "Coping" - grappling with successfully, "Youngsters" - lively or active boys, inexperienced and immature, needing a Mother's care and affection, whose innocence needs shielding, "Risk" - hazard, taking a chance, exposure to mischance.

Attention was turned to a national picture which is crying out for a mutual support of the caring agencies, a sharing of resources and a breaking down of separate traditional identities. The number of juvenile offences in Wales is growing alarmingly; of the 67,000 indictable offences reported in South Wales last year, 63% were committed by people under 21 years of age, 50% by youngsters under 16 and it is significant to note that 60% of all offences have some connection with alcohol. Sexually transmitted diseases are spreading further down the age range to include even Primary School children. There is a national concern for the high levels of truancy and vandalism. Unemployment is still rising, marital breakdown and other social problems are increasing the pressures upon young people. This is the backcloth to the work of the caring agencies; it is well known that the results of custodial sentences are very disappointing and very expensive so that there is a real need to develop good personal relationships into new and practical ways of helping young people.

The extent and attitude of these problems requires a high level of co-operation between statutory and voluntary agencies and yet it would be unrealistic not to recognise that there is an inter-agency divergence which is created by the coming together of different people with different perceptions of the problem, different motivations, strategies and solutions which can and sometimes does lead to an insensitivity to the views and perceptions of others; the road to unity is not easy. It is therefore a necessity that we should all sacrifice some of that preciousness that is part of every professional role in a growing consciousness that attempts to cope with youngsters at risk can only be administered by a collective and inter-agency approach and a corporate spirit of unity. All those who are involved with youngsters at risk are involved in the field of social education - no one agency can see the problems as someone else's problems; all have a responsibility and a contribution to make. Alongside this

ever pressing need for unity, it is vital that we do not lose sight of the specific skills and insights that each profession brings to meeting the needs of young people. The Youth Service, for example, unconstrained as it is by statute, allowed, by absence of law to be flexible in approach, is nevertheless rarely consulted in designing programmes for youngsters at risk and its wide variety of skills are rarely used as a resource. The Youth Service has undeniably something of value to offer Teachers and Social Workers but perhaps as a service it needs to define its strategies more closely and develop positive directions in practical situations which could then identify more tangibly a role for the Service in coping with specific problems.

The conference members were reminded not to generalize about young people, to remember that not all problems need involve us all and that all people behave in different ways in different situations - the youngster at school is not necessarily the same youngster in the youth club. The problems are complex and the solutions far from simple. United as we are in our concern for young people our need is to share our skills, our knowledge, our experience; our task is to take our concern to those who as yet do not recognise the needs of young people - the task is great and many are needed to undertake it.

The conference has been about young people and our concern for them. This common factor and common concern motivates us, inspires us and hopefully unites us; our nation's greatest resource is our young people, neglecting them can be our nation's biggest tragedy.

### Conclusions of Group Discussions

1. There was general agreement that the seminar had been a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience, enabling participants to put faces to names, to make contact with other agencies and to speak with practitioners about some of the work being undertaken.
2. There was a feeling of regret that there was insufficient time to participate in all workshops and that there was barely time for the presenters to deliver their addresses, let alone time for questions and discussion. To balance this was the view that the seminar, in making available a variety of workshops, had provided the opportunity for participants to taste a number of schemes and that it was the responsibility of the course participants to follow up schemes which had interested them. A number of people suggested that there should be some further follow up sessions possibly organised in smaller groups in local areas. Particular interest was shown in seeing more of the programme for young offenders as an alternative to custodial sentence.
3. One of the main messages of the seminar was the need for co-operation and coordination of agencies; in spite of the barriers created by the differing standpoints of the voluntary and statutory bodies, professional emphasis and conflicting philosophies, there is a very real need to explore ways of working together.
4. A note of caution was made should the seminar become too self congratulatory and complacently feel that a lot is being done; relative to the size of the problem, there is not a lot being done and there is a need to spread the message to those who are not convinced of the need for I.T. as evidenced in the small amount of money made available for the work. Attention was drawn to the need for work with youngsters under 14 years of age who are at risk, a need for early diagnosis and treatment.
5. There was a suggestion that by casting the net too widely, we may not be dealing with the youngsters most in need and that perhaps all agencies are mistakenly attempting to work with all levels of intensity whereas perhaps it would be more effective if there were more specialization with inter-agency co-operation - unity but not uniformity. There is a need for us each to define the limits within the specific sphere in which we work.
6. Some criticism was made that the workshops dealt mainly with male offenders. This was, in fact, inaccurate in that only two workshops involved work only with boys, one of these was the proposed project at Neath Farm School (a Boys' School) and the other was the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. All other projects involved boys and girls.
7. There was general approval of the fact that the police are now emphasising their social role and are seeking to be more fully involved within the community as an integrated part of the social control and caring systems.
8. Some representatives from the voluntary organisations felt that they tended not to be recognised by the statutory agencies and yet they felt that in a time of financial constraints, they were even more important than before as they could often offer an alternative and cost effective service. However, other seminar members did express their willingness to work with the voluntary agencies and recognised their contribution.
9. Representatives from the schools felt that they have a contribution to make to I.T. as they often have a very close relationship with youngsters as well as a wealth of information about them. The view was also expressed that teachers would also like more contact with Social Services and the Voluntary bodies as they felt able to benefit from their expertise.

COPING WITH YOUNGSTERS AT RISK  
CONFERENCE CANDIDATES

| <u>NAME</u>                  | <u>AGENCY/DEPARTMENT</u>             | <u>POST OR POSITION HELD</u>                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Miss Claire Armstrong        | Horizons Unlimited                   | Volunteer                                   |
| Mrs A. Bains                 | Boys Clubs of Wales, Abercrave       | Assistant Warden                            |
| David Bains                  | Boys Clubs of Wales                  | Warden Abercrave O.P.C.                     |
| John S. Barber               | Swansea Boys & Girls Youth<br>Leader | Full time Leader                            |
| Mrs Marian Basi              | Neath Child & Family Clinic          | Psychiatric Social Worker                   |
| County Councillor D.F. Bevan | West Glamorgan County Council        | Vice Chairman, Social<br>Services Committee |
| Mr Jonathan Booth            | Horizons Unlimited                   | British Co-ordinator                        |
| Mr Ronald Boulden            | Scout Association                    | Assistant County<br>Commissioner            |
| Miss M. Bruce                | Trehafod Child & Family Clinic       | Social Worker                               |
| Sgt. B. Busbridge            | South Wales Police                   | Juvenile Liaison Officer                    |
| Mr Mike Campbell             | N.A.C.R.O.                           |   |
| Mr N. Chapple                | South Wales Constabulary             | Assistant Chief Constable                   |
| Mrs C.E. Chiswell            | Cwmtawe Comprehensive School         | Deputy Head                                 |
| Miss Mary Clee               | Mynyddbach School                    | School Counsellor                           |
| Miss Deborah Cole            | South Wales Evening Post             |   |
| Mrs Sonia Cole               | Social Services                      | Social Worker                               |
| Mrs E.R. Collier             | Youth Service                        | Youth Leader - Full time                    |
| Beti Davies                  | Morrison Senior Comp. School         | Deputy Head                                 |
| Mr B.G. Davies               | Social Services                      | Superintendent                              |
| Mr David T. Davies           | Area 1, Social Services              | Social Worker                               |
| Mr Howard Davies             | Neath Farm School                    | Headmaster                                  |
| Mrs Pat Davies               | Education Department                 | Professional Assistant                      |
| Mr Russell Davies            | Cefn Hengoed Comp. School            | Deputy Headmaster                           |
| Mrs Vicki Davies             | Social Services, Dyfed               | Social Worker                               |
| Mr John Duff                 | West Glamorgan Play Association      | Chairman                                    |
| Mr J.C. Evans                | Social Services                      | Social Worker                               |
| Mr Malcolm Evans             | Social Services, Dyfed               | Social Worker                               |
| Mr M.M. Evans                | Youth Service                        | Youth Worker                                |
| Mr Roland Evans              | Horizons Unlimited                   | Co-ordinator                                |
| Mr T.L. Evans                | Clerk to the Justices, Swansea       | Deputy Clerk to the Justices                |
| Mr M.R. Francis              | Probation                            | Ancillary                                   |
| Mrs Debbie Frost             | Social Services                      | Social Worker                               |
| Supt. Philip B. Gibbs        | South Wales Police, Morrison         | S/Divisional Commander                      |
| Mr. S. Griffiths             | Boys Clubs of Wales                  | Warden Sports & Holiday<br>Centre           |
| Mr Stuart Harper             | Social Services                      | Social Worker                               |
| Mrs M. Harris                | Cefn Hengoed Comp. School            | Teacher                                     |
| Mr A. Higgins                | Welsh Office                         | H.M.I.                                      |
| Mr Brian Upton Hopkins       | Penlan Comp. School                  | Deputy Headmaster                           |
| Rev. Lionel Hopkins          | Church in Wales                      | Youth Leader                                |
| Mr Paul Howells              | Social Services, Area 4              | Social Worker                               |
| Mr Gwilym James              | Boys Clubs of Wales                  |   |
| Mr Glyn James                | Social Services                      | Assistant Director                          |
| Mr Paul James                | Probation Department                 | Student                                     |
| Mrs Megan Eluned John J.P.   | Magistrate                           | Chairman Juvenile Bench                     |
| Mr T. Glyn John              | Education                            | County Adviser, Social<br>Education         |
| Mr Pete John                 | Pentrehafod Comp. School             | Youth Tutor                                 |
| Mr Colin Johns               | Probation Department                 | Probation Officer                           |
| Chief Supt. Graham LL. Jones | South Wales Police, Swansea          | Div. Commander                              |
| Miss Helen Jones             | Probation                            | Probation Officer                           |
| Sgt. Kingsbury               | South Wales Constabulary             | Juvenile Liaison Officer                    |

COPING WITH YOUNGSTERS AT RISK  
CONFERENCE CANDIDATES

| <u>NAME</u>              | <u>AGENCY/DEPARTMENT</u>                        | <u>POST OR POSITION HELD</u>                   |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Mr Ben Lewis             | Social Services                                 | Intermediate Treatment<br>Officer              |
| Mr Deri Lewis            | Probation Department                            | Probation Officer                              |
| Mr M.B. Lewis            | Probation Department                            | A.C.P.O.                                       |
| Mrs Rita Lewis           | Social Services                                 | Social Worker                                  |
| Mr Peter Lewis           | Sports Council                                  | Technical Officer                              |
| Mr Paul Littlewood       | Social Services                                 | Social Worker                                  |
| Miss Mary Lody J.P.      | Magistrate - Afan                               | Member County I.T. Liaison<br>Group            |
| Mr I.J. Loten            | Boys Clubs of Wales                             | Research/Development Officer                   |
| Mr Maxwell P. Milburn    | Social Services                                 | Community Officer                              |
| Mr David Morgan          | Dunvant Primary School                          | Teacher  |
| Mrs Jennifer B. Morgan   | Social Services                                 | Social Worker                                  |
| Mrs Sandra Morgan-Davies | Social Services - Dyfed                         | Social Worker                                  |
| Mr Ted Morris            | N.A.C.R.O.                                      | Y.O.P. Co-ordinator                            |
| Mr Graham Mullins        | Regional Planning Unit                          | School Counsellor                              |
| Mr LL. H. Nicholas       | Cymmer Afan Comp. School                        | Secretary                                      |
| Mr D.J. North            | Boys Brigade                                    | Senior County Adviser for<br>Youth & Community |
| Mr Arthur Peacock        | Education Department                            | Superintendent                                 |
| Supt. E.W. Place         | Police Department                               | Principal Officer                              |
| Mr C. Preece             | Social Services Department                      | Senior Officer                                 |
| Mr D.H. Price            | Probation Department                            | Leisure & Recreation Officer                   |
| Mr Andrew Reid           | Swansea City Council                            | Probation Volunteer                            |
| Miss A. Richards         | Probation Department                            | Student  |
| Mr Dave Richards         | Probation Department                            | Social Worker                                  |
| Miss Pam Rossiter        | Social Services - Dyfed                         | Social Worker                                  |
| Mrs Mary Rudgley         | Social Services                                 | Social Worker                                  |
| Mr Bert Russell          | Sports Council for Wales                        | Senior Technical Officer                       |
| Mr J. Salisbury          | Regional Planning Unit                          |  |
| Chief Supt. E.M. Sanger  | South Wales Constabulary                        | Divisional Commander                           |
| Mr G.D. Smith            | Education Department                            | District Adviser - Youth<br>and Community      |
| Mr S.J. Southwood        | Boys Clubs of Wales                             | Executive Council Member                       |
| Mr Philip Sutton         | Probation Department                            | Probation Officer                              |
| Miss Linda Talbott       | Powys Education Department                      | Youth & Community Worker                       |
| Mr Dilwyn Thomas         | Curt Sart Comp. School                          | School Counsellor                              |
| Mr J.W.H. Thomas         | Probation Department                            | S.P.O.   |
| Miss Karen Wood          | Extra Mural Department -<br>Atlantic College    | Deputy Director                                |
| Mr M.T. Walker           | Social Services                                 | Director                                       |
| Mr L. Walters            | Bishop Gore Comp. School                        | Deputy Head                                    |
| Mrs G. Watkins           | Penyrheol Comp. School                          | School Counsellor                              |
| Ms. Michelle Whitworth   | Pontardawe & District Youth<br>Action Committee | Development Officer                            |
| Mr W.H. Wicks            | Probation Department                            | Senior Probation Officer                       |
| Mr Gordon Williams       | Social Services                                 | Social Worker                                  |
| Mr T. Graham Williams    | Powys Youth Service                             | Youth Leader - Full time                       |
| Mr Graham Williams       | Welsh Office                                    | Social Work Services Officer                   |
| Mr I.D. Williams J.P.    | Lliw Valley P.S.D.                              | Chairperson Juvenile Bench                     |
| Mr Jack Williams         | Sandfields Comp. School                         | School Counsellor                              |
| Mrs M. Fay Williams J.P. | Swansea Juvenile Court Panel                    | Chairman                                       |
| Mrs Penny Windsor        | Youth Enterprise, Swansea                       | Co-ordinator.                                  |
| Mr Brian Davies          | Social Services Department                      | Social Worker                                  |

### Conclusion and the Way Forward

The organisation of the seminar was timely for many reasons; in an atmosphere of worsening social problems and financial retrenchment, there is a pressing need to examine our present position and the ways in which we are seeking to cope with youngsters at risk, to analyse the optimum use of resources and to extend every skill and resource at our disposal. The size of the task is overwhelming; Kirkby already means something to each one of us, we are working in an environment of increasing unemployment and social distress of all kinds in which the needs of youngsters are ever more demanding. The seminar demonstrated that there is an enormous amount of goodwill and camaraderie amongst those engaged in the task - the task is overwhelming in prospect but we are not overwhelmed for there is a recognition of the need to work together, to co-operate, to coordinate our work and to explore new ways of working together.

The seminar provided the opportunity to share something of what is being done and to pose the questions - what could we be doing and where do we go from here? The seminar will have provided a limited purpose if we do not now take a step forward, to build and develop existing projects, to extend into new areas of work, to forge closer links with other agencies, to break down any barriers which prevent effective work with young people, to assess the most appropriate contribution which can be made from each agency - statutory and voluntary.

The organisers of the seminar feel that as an extension to the day together, it would be useful to arrange full day sessions on some of the workshops in which there was particular interest and the workshop presenters expressed a willingness to do this. It is also proposed that the seminar should become an annual event. The agenda for that occasion is the responsibility of each seminar member - the responsibility to further the work of Intermediate Treatment before that date.