



## News Update June 2107

This term has been an exciting one so far. It is a great testimony to our primary work that Andy Avery was invited to take part in the Primary Schools Ethos Conference and we have been particularly pleased at the way our 'Invest' series of workshops to support and resource parents and carers is developing (you can read more about this below).

At the end of this academic year we will be saying goodbye to Fi, our RSE coordinator. Fi has been a wonderful asset to our team and we are very sad to see her go. Over her time with CSCW Fi has been excellent at strengthening our relationships with the high schools. This feedback from Upton-by-Chester High school speaks volumes about her work;

The service that Fi provides is crucial to the students. The fact an outsider, specially trained in this area, comes in to deliver the sessions makes the students sit up and listen. The information is current and issues discussed,(e.g. consent), are vital for the students to know about. This service is an asset to our program and feedback from students has proved how much they need it and value it. I truly believe that this enables them to think about what they should expect from future relationships and how in those relationships they should feel valued and respected.

We will miss Fi's input into our team and numerous teachers, from many high schools have expressed their disappointment that she is leaving. We wish Fi all the very best in her future which you can read about later on. We would like to say a great big thank you and pray for her as she follows God's call on her life.

Thank you all so much for continuing to support our work, without you we could not do the amount of the work that we do.

### Equipping Parents and Carers - CSCW 'Invest' Event

Last wednesday night saw the second of our 'Invest' events take place at the Festival Church Cafe in Chester. Gareth Cheesman from ACET UK led a workshop / presentation for parents and carers called **'The Talk' How to have Conversations with your Children about Relationships and Sex.**

*"This was a fantastic workshop. Gareth shared lots of really helpful information, ideas and practical advice which will definitely help me in listening effectively and engaging with my children on the subject of relationships and sex.*

*I think this is an essential workshop for people with children of all ages as it made me realise that whilst it helps to start early (obviously age appropriately!) it's never too late either".*

*(Feedback from the event)*

We hope to repeat this excellent workshop in the near future, however, we will be covering a variety of other topics throughout the academic year so look out for our advertising or **let us know if you would like to be put on the 'Invest' email list.**

These events are designed to equip parents and carers with children of all ages and also Youth Workers, Children and Families Workers and anyone else who might be interested.

## Goodbye from Fi

I have worked with CSCW since February of last year as the Relationships and Sex Education Coordinator and have loved every minute of my job. Having spent many years as a teacher in both a secondary school and more recently, a primary school, I have loved spending a lot of my time in the classroom. Its been great to help young people grapple with difficult issues and talk about the things they want to ask but often feel unable to!

In 2012, my husband Chris and I first took a team to Ethiopia with the charity Stand By Me ([www.standby.me](http://www.standby.me)). Little did we know then that this short trip would be the catalyst for us in 2017, to move hundreds of miles away from home to live in Bekoji, one of the poorest towns in Ethiopia. We have returned to the same project every year since that first visit and have obviously grown to know and love the people there dearly. When we were asked if we would join the team there on a permanent basis we knew this was what God had in store for us next.

In September we will leave our home in Chester and move to Bekoji where I will be the Director of Childcare Development for Stand By Me. The Bekoji Stand By Me project provides an education for over 400 of the town's poorest children, runs an HIV feeding programme and provides a home for 22 orphaned children in the Bekoji Children Village. We will be heavily involved in all these areas of ministry.

From a worldly point of view this makes no sense. We are giving up the security of a home and good jobs but we know that God is calling us and trust Him to provide for all our needs. We also are leaving behind three precious grown up children and that is hard. I count it a huge privilege to have been chosen by God to go. Will it be easy? No. Will it be worth it? Absolutely! I love the children there dearly and can't wait to do life with them. I want to

help them realise how very precious they are; help them to see that God has a plan for their lives; to help them dream big and have bright futures full of hope.

‘She who trusts in the Lord will never be disappointed’

Isaiah 49:23’



## Primary Schools and It's Your Move

I have recently taken part in the 1st ever Chester Diocese C of E Primary Schools Ethos Conference. It was for a range of schools and I was invited to run a Prayer Space on the theme of the day-Friendship. The day went really well and both the children and the staff responded well to the Prayer Space. Virtually no-one had seen one before but took some good ideas away to potentially do Prayer Spaces in their schools. Please Praise God for a great day!

Our annual 'It's Your Move' project has started well. Last year we reached about 800 Year 6 pupils and we are on track to reach even more this year. Please pray for Andy, Lucy, Jon Hosker, Lynsey Green and Nikki Smith as they lead the work in their local schools.

## Prayer Spaces

One of the activities that young people could engage with at our recent Prayer Space week was ‘Butterflies’. In this activity students were encouraged to reflect on change and what things they would like to change for the better moving forward. They then wrote on a coloured cut out butterfly something they would like to see change in the future and were given the opportunity to lift this to God in prayer if they wished. If they chose to they could then add their butterfly to the others on the window. There were hundreds of these by the end of the week and when the sun was in the right place the room was flooded with a burst

