



CAMPUS OFFICERS UNDERGO FIRST NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

PRESS RELEASE

Police officers from across Scotland have taken part in a unique training course designed to help boost their skills in schools.

Campus officers from Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway, Lothian & Borders, Central and Fife took part in the course designed to help them learn new techniques to deal with the ups and downs of school life.

Helping pupils with anger management, self confidence and issues surrounding violence and underage drinking were all addressed as part of the course. Among those presenting the sessions were senior educational psychologists Fiona Williams and Mary Bendermacher from Glasgow City Council, who presented a session on Child Development and Attachment, Dr Christine Goodall, Professor Richard Welbury and consultant Mark Devlin of the Glasgow Dental Hospital who focused on anger management and Anderston Primary School headteacher Mary McKerrell, who helped pilot the Glasgow for Nurture Groups. Mary delivered a session on the importance of nurturing in schools.

Inspector Patrick Duffy, who co-ordinates the Campus Officer programme, said:

“Campus officers perform a unique role - they’re not there to police classrooms, they’re there to build stronger community relationships, and children are a key part of any community.

“Many of the skills required to perform this role, such as helping pupils with anger management issues or violent behaviour are not covered in depth by standard police training, so in order to help the officers, and in turn, the pupils, we set up this course.

“The great thing about this course is that it not only benefits the officers and the kids that they can subsequently help, but also the school and the wider

community beyond, especially when it comes to issues like violent or anti-social behaviour.”

Thirty seven officers took part in the two training courses, which were held at the Scottish Police College.

At the core of the course was a series of sessions on Motivational Interviewing, presented by Steve Delight of Delight Training Services.

Rather than forcing troubled individuals to change their behaviour, Motivational Interviewing uses a range of techniques to encourage them to commit to changing their behaviour by focusing on the motivation for change rather than the act of changing itself.

Karyn McCluskey, deputy head of the Violence Reduction Unit and key developer of the Campus Officer training programme said:

“The best way to get a troubled youngster to change their behaviour is to give them a reason for doing so. For example, if you know that behaving violently could mean you don’t get a job, or you lose your girlfriend, you’re less likely to do it. Motivational interviewing helps people identify where the problems are and think about how they can change.

“By giving campus officers training in these techniques, we are giving them an important tool in helping to tackle problems of violence and anti-social behaviour, often before they fully flourish. This means a pupil who might be starting down the wrong path can begin to turn themselves around, something of benefit not only to them individually but to their family and the community as a whole.”

PC Geoff Smith, one of the longest serving Campus Officers, based at St Mungo’s Academy in Glasgow’s East End said:

“This kind of training will be hugely beneficial for campus officers on a day to day basis. Our job is not about patrolling pupils, it’s about building stronger links with the community, and kids are an important part of that – they’re the workers, parents and adults of tomorrow. Helping them build a better future for themselves means a better future for their community, too.”

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Campus officers are community police officers based full time within a single secondary school. Their role is to help develop greater links with the community and in particular young people. The posts and schools who benefit from them are agreed by local Divisional Commanders and

local Education Authorities. Funding of campus officers varies from area to area. In some areas it is joint funded by local divisional commander and the local education authority, in other places it is funded purely by the divisional area.

There are currently 41 Campus Officers across Scotland: 35 in Strathclyde, two in Lothian & Borders, one in Central and one in Dumfries and Galloway. Fife has five campus officers, two based at a single schools, two covering two schools each and one covering three schools.

2. The Scottish Government has agreed to perform a national evaluation of the campus officer role within schools.
3. Scotland's longest serving campus officer is PC Geoff Smith, who has been based at St Mungo's Academy in Glasgow's East End for the past three years. A preliminary report on the experience of two schools in 2006 highlighted that their role is a positive one. For example, levels of truancing fell in the school, as did levels of graffiti and vandalism. The campus officers act as a positive role model for hundreds of children and set the standards for behaviour in the school and the community. They join up the school to the parents and to the community that the school serves. As a result of PC Geoff Smith's presence at St Mungo's, some 12 pupils applied to be police cadets. Previously no pupil from the school had applied for over 20 years.
4. A list of those taking part in the course appears below. To arrange an interview with an officer from your area, please contact your force press office.

No.	Name	Force	School
1	Mark Lees	Strathclyde	Loudon Academy
2	Ross Kelly	Strathclyde	Auchinleck Academy
3	Daniela Giannoni	Strathclyde	Smithycroft Secndary
4	Susan Greer	Strathclyde	Eastwood High
5	Craig Borthwick	Strathclyde	Bannerman High
6	Stephen Wood	Strathclyde	Lochend High
7	Geoff Smith	Strathclyde	St Mungos Academy
8	Steve Cuthbert	Strathclyde	Coatbridge High
9	Stephanie Park	Strathclyde	Clydebank High
10	Colin Scott	Dumfries & Galloway	Annan Academy
11	Caroline McArthur	Strathclyde	Oban High
12	Gordon Stewart	Strathclyde	Rothesay Academy

13	Tommy Reilly	Strathclyde	St Pauls High
14	Rob Beckwith	Strathclyde	St Andrews High
15	Jim Foy	Strathclyde	Hamilton Grammar
16	Alan Hill	Strathclyde	Kilwinning Grammar
17	Craig Ritchie	Strathclyde	Clyde Valley High
18	Gillian Dods	Strathclyde	Springburn Academy
19	Neil McFadden	Strathclyde	Eastbank Academy
20	Colin Jones	Strathclyde	Marr College
21	Lynsey McEwan	Strathclyde	Cleveden Secondary
22	Mike Greville	Strathclyde	Woodfarm High
23	Clare Chalmers	Strathclyde	Ardrossan Academy
24	Paul Clarke	Strathclyde	Auchenharvie Acad.
24	Mark Armstrong	Strathclyde	Barrhead High
25	Trish Clark	Lothian & Borders	Tynecastle High
26	David Miller	Lothian & Borders	Boroughmuir High
27	John Munn	Strathclyde	Kyle Academy
28	Peter Brown	Strathclyde	Ayr Academy
29	Alasdair Moreland	Central Scotland	Larbert High
30	Iain Graham	Strathclyde	Earnock/Blantyre
31	Robert Armstrong	Strathclyde	Hamilton Grammar
32	Geraldine Roarty	Strathclyde	Whitehills Secondary
33	Ffiona Boyd	Strathclyde	Dunoon Grammar
34	Fergus Grant	Strathclyde	Grange Academy
35	Claire Jack	Strathclyde	Belmont Academy
36	Richard Cartwright	Fife	Kirkland High/ Buckhaven High

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