

# EVALUATION OF KILLINARDEN DRUG PRIMARY PREVENTION GROUP

SUMMARY OF FINAL  
EVALUATION REPORT

STEPHEN ROURKE

October 2003

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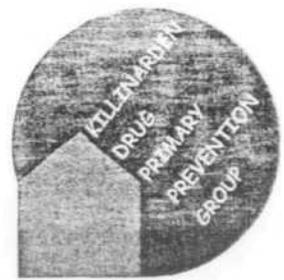
## Brian Horgan

CHAIRPERSON

*Few years ago a group of parents, together with some home I school liaison teachers from the Killinarden area joined in a small, tentative and experimental initiative hoping to put their talents and energies into stemming the tide of drug use and crime which was in danger of overwhelming their community and neighbourhood. This was not to be a project launched with publicity, fanfare and bright lights. From the beginning the group understood that their work would be low-key, limited and focused. But most importantly of all, it was recognised that the work would address the problems in a strategic, targeted and long-term manner, within the context of local educational services.*

*Since then, in line with its origins, the development of the K.D.P.RG. has not been, spectacular. Rather the development has been organic, characterised by openness to change and adaptation. There has been an emphasis on practice informed by skills and experience. Much has changed within the K.D.P.RG. in the last ten years, but the original spirit of optimism and determination has been maintained.*

*Many people and organisations have contributed to the work and development of K.D.P.RG. over the years. In particular the Tallaght Drugs Task Force, and the Probation and Welfare Service have been generous in their financial support. There are many*



*individuals, too numerous to mention, who have given freely and enthusiastically of their time and resources. In particular members of the management committees have always been of special assistance. A special word of thanks is due to the staff and facilitators. On behalf of K.D.P.RG. I wish to thank the Combat Poverty Agency who provided the funding for the evaluation report and everyone who has supported us.*

*The evaluation report published today chronicles the work of the K.D.P.RG. The report also suggests development and directions to be undertaken. Stephen Rourke has been thorough and comprehensive in his report. The way forward is challenging and exciting. Work has already begun on implementing some of these recommendations. We are about to begin work on a three year strategic plan.*

*This report is an analysis and also a celebration of the work of K.D.P.R.G.. I commend it to your attention.*



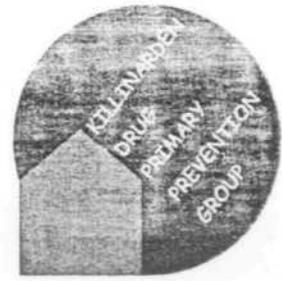
## Alice Murray

CO-FOUNDER, MANAGER

*In the early 1990's it became apparent that the drug problems in Killinarden were increasing. Drug misuse blighted families and the very fabric of our community. Local crime was on the increase; there was fear in the elderly and the worry in the parents and the teachers of our youth. The self-image of the community was very low; our community was in conflict with drug dealers and users, drug users were in turn in conflict with our community. It was a very dark passage of time in Killinarden. Luckily many local people were questioning agencies on their policies or lack of them and were demanding to have their voices heard. KDPPG was one of those voices.*

*In 1992 five parents and myself were back in school taking a second chance in education, some of us had barely made it through primary school. Drug education and awareness was one aspect of our training. We were encouraged and supported at local and national level, by many different agencies. Course built on course, challenge on challenge, and the biggest challenge being change. The education gave us the confidence to turn negative thinking and acting into positive and productive behaviour.*

*Education raised awareness in us on the importance of our input into our children's education. We were the primary educators of our children and have a very important role in the prevention of drug and alcohol misuse. By giving our children love and limits we give them an insurance policy*



*for a healthier life. Training through the Health Promotion School Network (now know as S.P.H.E. Social Personal Health Education) gave us the power and permission to encourage other parents to get involved in local courses and groups.*

*We worked a 3-edged approach, the school, the students and the community. That union of parents and teaches developed into an equal partnership, a partnership that today is still growing, strengthening and networking with other agencies, responding to the needs of young people. In my view we live in a community of remarkable and accelerating change. A change that sees the education system as part of the community and the community as part of the education system.*

*Ten years on who would have imagined a local parents' group who were set up by four home school community teachers, to bring drug education and awareness to parents and their children, evolving into a limited company with its policies, procedures, responsibilities and accountability in place, employing four local women and eight trained local facilitators.*

*As we embark into our second decade, who knows what the future holds. We are not as naive as we once were, but all the vision and passion is still therefor a caring, supportive and vibrant community that is our home, our work, our choice.*

*We'd like to thank each and every one of you who helped, encouraged and supported K.D.P.P.G. through the last ten years, you are too many to name but you know we mean you.*



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## INTRODUCTION

The Killinarden Drug Primary Prevention Group (KDPPG) was set up in 1993 to respond to the drugs crisis which existed at that time within the Killinarden area of West Tallaght. The people who were involved in setting up the project had a particular concern about the number of young people who were getting involved in drug taking and about the need to provide more information and advice to children and young people in relation to the dangers and consequences of drug/alcohol abuse. Since its formation in 1993, the KDPPG has worked with individual families in the area and has networked with a whole range of different groups and organisations (inside Killinarden and outside of Killinarden). In the period from 1997 to 2003, the KDPPG has also worked with a number of schools in the Killinarden area on self-esteem and drugs education/awareness programmes.

Therefore, a number of positive and significant developments have taken place in relation to the evolution of the KDPPG over the last 10 year period (i.e. between 1993 and 2003). At this stage, the Board and staff of the project felt that it was an opportune time to conduct an independent evaluation of the work and activities of the KDPPG. As well as enabling the project to assess its impact and effectiveness in the period from 1993 to 2003, it was also anticipated that the evaluation would help to inform the ongoing development of the project over the next period of time.



## 2. KDPPG- BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS, 1993 - 2003

### 2.1. KILLINARDEN AREA

Killinarden is an area **which** is located three miles to **the** west of Tallaght village. The large majority of the houses in Killinarden were built by Dublin Corporation in the 1970s and early 1980s - although there have been a number of smaller scale private sector housing developments in Killinarden over the last few years. There are approximately 1,700 houses in Killinarden and these houses accommodate a local population of over 7,000 people.

**For** a long time (from the 1970s up to the 1990s) Killinarden was bereft of the type of community facilities and services which were required for a population of over 7,000 people - especially facilities and services targeted at **the** young families, children and young people who comprised a significant proportion of local residents. However, noticeable improvements have taken place in recent times with the development of a range of community facilities within the Killinarden area e.g. community health facilities, leisure facilities, services for drug users, extension of the community centre in Killinarden.

There are high levels of socio-economic disadvantage in the Killinarden area. **The** extent of long term unemployment and educational disadvantage within Killinarden is considerably higher than the national and regional averages. Whilst many local residents in Killinarden have benefited from the employment opportunities created over the last 5-10 year period and from the initiatives developed by area based and local organisations there is still concern about the number of families and individuals who are living on low incomes and who have not benefited from the positive economic developments which have taken place in Ireland since the early 1990s.

A key challenge for statutory, local development and community based organisations working in Killinarden is to improve the quality of life for local residents and to increase the number of people who

are securing employment, who are accessing training programmes and who are completing their second level education. It is considered that these types of improvements will reduce the number of young people who might be tempted to get involved in drug taking and in other types of anti-social behaviour.

### 2.2. DRUG MISUSE/ABUSE IN THE KILLINARDEN AREA

At the national level, there was a significant and disturbing rise in the levels of illegal drug use in the early 1990s. This increase was characterised by more widespread consumption of opiates (especially heroin) within disadvantaged urban communities in the Republic of Ireland. Killinarden was one of the communities which was most affected by the drugs crisis of the early 1990s - a significant number of young people were getting involved in drugs, many of these young people were engaging in criminal activities to 'feed' their drug habit, there were very few treatment and rehabilitation services within Killinarden/Tallaght for drug users. There was a real sense that the drugs problem was spiraling out of control and that this problem had the potential to devastate and destroy communities like Killinarden..

In the absence of appropriate or effective statutory responses to **the** drugs crisis in Killinarden in the early 1990s, local community activists and community groups identified the clear need to develop community responses to the drugs issue. These responses took a number of different forms - reducing the supply of drugs into the Killinarden area through limiting the opportunities for drug dealers to operate within the community; the establishment of community based treatment and rehabilitation services for drug users (i.e. Community Addiction Response Programme). Other strategies to combat the drugs problem involved the provision of advice, guidance and accurate information about the causes and consequences of drug misuse. It was in this context, of setting up drugs education and drugs prevention programmes for young people and their families in the Killinarden area, that a number of parents and teachers came together in September 1993 to form the Killinarden Drug Primary Prevention Group (KDPPG)



### 2.3. DEVELOPMENT OF KDPPG, 1993-1997

The initial motivation for the establishment of the KDPPG emerged from the concern of a number of local teachers, healthcare workers and parents about the absence of drugs education and drugs information programmes and activities for children/parents within the Killinarden area. In the early 1990s, there were no courses or modules within the formal education curriculum which addressed issues concerning drugs, drug misuse and drug addiction. At the same time there was an obvious and urgent need for young people and their parents to become more educated and more informed about the causes and consequences of drug misuse.

In this context, a number of the Home School Liaison Teachers and local parents decided to set up an initiative which would aim to train parents in facilitation skills, skills which would then be utilised to deliver drugs awareness and drug education programmes within a number of local schools in the Killinarden area. In the period from the formation of the KDPPG in September 1993 up until 1997 (when the project began to receive ongoing statutory funding), the KDPPG engaged in the following activities and actions:

- The KDPPG became affiliated to CAD (Community Awareness of Drugs) in 1993. All of the facilitators involved in the KDPPG have participated in drugs awareness training programmes organised by CAD
- The KDPPG received support and encouragement from organisations like the Health Promotion School Network, Tallaght Youth Services and An Garda Síochána
- The founding members of the KDPPG completed a Group Dynamics course in 1994
- The KDPPG opened a Drop-in Centre for local people who wanted to be more informed about the issues relating to drugs
- The KDPPG began to work with individual families who had concerns about the drug taking habits of family members
- The KDPPG organised information stands at parent/teacher meetings within local schools in Killinarden
- The KDPPG organised drug awareness poster competitions in local primary schools

- The KDPPG linked into the DSS (Development and Social Studies) programme in Killinarden Community School
- KDPPG facilitators delivered a programme entitled 'How to Say No Without Losing Face' to pupils attending local schools
- KDPPG facilitators participated in a number of training programmes organised through the Health Promotion School Network (who provided support and funding for key training), the National University of Ireland at Maynooth, the National College of Industrial Relations (now called National University of Ireland) and the Regional Technical College, Tallaght (now called Institute of Technology, Tallaght)
- KDPPG facilitators delivered 6 weeks Drugs Awareness training, courses in three local primary schools and Follow-up training courses in Killinarden Community School.
- KDPPG facilitators piloted a Self Esteem programme in Sacred Heart Senior National School in 1997.

In the period from 1993 to 1997 the KDPPG worked from a small office above a local shop in the Knockmore area of Killinarden. It operated on a voluntary basis (the staff and facilitators were unpaid) and on a small budget (Tallaght Youth Services provided some money to cover training costs and the Katharine Howard Foundation awarded a grant of £3,000 to the KDPPG).



## 2.4. DEVELOPMENT OF KDPPG, 1997-2003

One of the key recommendations of the report of the Government Task Force to Reduce the Supply of Drugs (1996) concerned the establishment of Local Drugs Task Forces in areas which had been most affected by the drugs problem. Since its establishment in February 1997, the Tallaght Drugs Task Force has worked closely with the KDPPG - the KDPPG is represented on the Drugs Task Force, and the Drugs Task Force has facilitated the provision of ongoing core financial assistance to the KDPPG (the KDPPG received its first grant of £35,000 through the Drugs Task Force in 1998). The financial support has helped to consolidate the work of the KDPPG and has enabled the KDPPG to expand its activities, to take on new projects and new pieces of work, to pay staff and facilitators, and to strengthen the organisational infrastructure of the project. Other key developments which have taken place between 1997 and 2003 have included the following :

- The KDPPG facilitators have continued to deliver Drugs Awareness Programmes in a number of schools in the Killinarden area.
- The Self Esteem Programme which was piloted in Sacred Heart Senior National School has now been extended to the other primary schools in the Killinarden area.
- The KDPPG has continued to provide support and guidance to local families (parents and young people) who have requested advice and information about drug related issues.
- The Drugs Awareness Programme developed by the KDPPG and Crosscare has been extended to other locations in the Greater Dublin area.
- The KDPPG staff and facilitators have acted as a resource for other groups and organisations who are interested in setting up drugs awareness and drugs education projects/initiatives.
- The KDPPG made a successful application to the Probation and Welfare Services for a project entitled "Women Reviewing Equality Networking Standards" (WRENS) - this project aims to develop a range of activities and services for women in the Killinarden area
- The KDPPG relocated to better premises in Killinarden Enterprise Park
- The KDPPG became a legal entity (Company limited by guarantee) with its own Board of Directors

- The staff, facilitators and management committee/Board of the KDPPG have engaged in ongoing evaluation, review and teambuilding activities.

## 2.5 SUMMARY

It is evident that the KDPPG has made considerable progress since its establishment in 1993. This progress has been manifested in a number of different ways:

- The KDPPG is now clearer about its main roles and functions in issues relating to drugs education and drugs prevention
- The KDPPG has moved on from being a loose network of voluntary workers to a legally incorporated organisation which employs a team of paid workers
- The KDPPG is now recognised as an important and significant organisation within the drugs prevention infrastructure in the Tallaght area
- The funding base of the KDPPG has increased significantly since the establishment of the group - from a budget of a few hundred pounds in 1993/94 to a budget of 192,696 in 2002 (this 2002 budget comprises 84,026 from the Tallaght Drugs Task Force/Vocational Education Committee, 78,670 from the Probation and Welfare Service for the WRENS project; and 30,000 from the AIB Better Ireland awards)
- The KDPPG is much better resourced in relation to the quality/size of its office accommodation and the office equipment which it has at its disposal
- The KDPPG is now linked into many networks and fora at the local, regional, national and international levels

Therefore, a number of positive and noteworthy developments have taken place in relation to the evolution of the KDPPG between 1993 and 2003, developments which have helped to consolidate and strengthen the work of the KDPPG within the Killinarden area.



### 3. WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF THE KDPPG

#### SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMMES

The KDPPG is involved in delivering programmes within four schools in the Killinarden area. Three of these schools are primary schools: Sacred Heart Senior National School (where the KDPPG started work in 1994), Knockmore Senior National School (started work in 1995) and Scoil Caitlin Maude (started work in 1996). The fourth school where the KDPPG is delivering programmes is Killinarden Community School - the KDPPG began working in this school in 1995. The programmes being provided by the KDPPG to schools in the Killinarden area are as follows:

- Self Esteem Programme. This programme aims to build up and develop the self esteem and self belief of children attending third and fourth classes in primary schools in Killinarden. The motivation for this programme emerged from an understanding of the importance of good self esteem as a means of helping children and young people not to get involved in drugs i.e. the stronger and more confident young people are, the less likely it is that they will be tempted by drugs.

The facilitators delivering the Self Esteem Programme use a variety of facilitation and teaching techniques. These include games, role plays, exercises, projects, quizzes and discussions. The children involved in the self esteem programme respond well to the contents of the programme and the ways in which the programme is delivered by the facilitators. On the basis of comments made by the children and their teachers, it appears that the Self Esteem Programme is an enjoyable, useful and beneficial programme for the participating children

- Drugs Awareness Programme. This programme aims to build up awareness and understanding about different types of drugs (nicotine, alcohol and illicit drugs); and to outline the impact and the consequences of various drugs. The Drugs Awareness Programme is targeted an older age group than the Self Esteem Programme. People involved in the KDPPG are conscious of the dangers of providing infor-

mation about cigarettes, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs at too early an age. Hence, the sequential nature of the various programmes - with the Self Esteem Programme taking place in third and fourth classes and the Drugs Awareness Programme taking place in fifth and sixth classes.

In a similar way to the Self Esteem Programme, the facilitators who deliver the Drugs Awareness Programme utilise a number of different facilitation and teaching techniques. The children who participate in the Drugs Awareness Programme seem to have a clear interest in the issues being addressed by the KDPPG facilitators - many of the children already have a direct and/or personal understanding of the impact of nicotine, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs. In this context, the Drugs Awareness Programme provides some very useful and valuable information, information which make the children who participate in these programme more aware of the different types of drugs (legal and illegal) and the impact/consequences of the various drugs which are available.

- Follow-up Programme. The Follow-up Programme takes place in Killinarden Community School. This programme aims to build upon the Self Esteem Programme and the Drug Awareness Programme which take place in the primary schools; and to provide children who participated in these primary school programmes with an opportunity to discuss and work through issues relating to drug use and addiction. The Follow-up Programme is less intensive than the primary school programmes and primarily consist of one session each term with first year, second year and third year students attending Killinarden Community School.

In addition to the Follow-up Programme, the KDPPG has also delivered other programmes in Killinarden Community School. These include the Leaving Certificate Applied Work Experience Programme (which was run for one session each week over a four week period); and an Assertiveness Programme (which was aimed at fifth and sixth year students and was run over an eight week period).

### 3.2. WORK WITH INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES/PARENTS

In the period from 1993 to 2003, the KOPPG has been involved in carrying out work, in a confidential and non-judgemental manner, with up to 40 individual families around issues relating to drug misuse and drug addiction. Many of these families were referred to the KDPPG by teachers and youth workers in the Killinarden who felt that the KDPPG (as an organisation directly involved in drugs prevention and drugs education) had a particularly useful role to play in helping families/parents to work through drugs/alcohol related issues which were affecting the performance and behaviour of children and young people within local schools in the Killinarden area.

The nature of the interventions provided by the KDPPG to individual families/parents depended significantly on the particular needs and circumstances of these families/parents - some interventions only involved a one off discussion or consultation whilst other interventions involved a number of sessions. It is apparent that the interventions and supports provided by the KDPPG were tailored to the needs of the families/parents who approached the KDPPG for advice and guidance. In some situations the KDPPG was able to provide direct assistance (through counselling, listening, information) whilst in other cases the staff and facilitators from the KDPPG referred families/parents onto more appropriate drug sendees in Killinarden and within the wider Tallaght area.

### 3.3. WRENS PROJECT

The WRENS (Women Reviewing Equality Networking Standards) project builds upon work which the KDPPG has already carried out with families in the Killinarden area. Since its establishment in 1993, the KDPPG has organised a number of personal development and drugs awareness courses for local parents in Killinarden. The WRENS project, set up in 2002, aims to broaden and expand the range of work which has taken place with parents (especially with women) in the Killinarden area.

Since its establishment in early 2002 the WRENS project has engaged in a number of activities which have included outreach work; networking with relative agencies and groups; organisation and implementation of individual 1-to-1 meetings and group meetings; provision of information/advice and referral onto appropriate agencies and supports; organisation of workshops; provision of individual life coaching; and the delivery of parent training programmes around issues/themes like assertiveness, managing negative behaviour in the home, mentoring, citizenship, anger management.

It is considered that the WRENS project has made impressive progress since its formation in early 2002 (the three year pilot phase, funded through the Probation and Welfare Service at an overall cost of 236,011, is due to finish in 2005). The WRENS project has clearly identified the demand which exists for services focused upon issues like effective parenting, dealing with addiction within the family, handling conflict within the family etc. It is estimated that in October 2003 (half way through the three year pilot phase) the WRENS project had worked with over 100 people living in the Killinarden area - on an individual basis, in a group context and/or as part of a training programme.

In addition to the direct activities which have been stimulated and developed by the WRENS project, the project has also organised and implemented courses and other activities in conjunction with local education providers like Killinarden Youthreach, Scoil Caitlin Maude, Killinarden Community School and Killinarden Junior National School - most of these activities have focused upon the organisation of training courses and information sessions for parents/adults.

The WRENS project has served to enhance the profile and relevance of the KDPPG within the Killinarden area and has created a whole range of new opportunities for the KDPPG to carry out developmental work with local residents, local families and local groups in Killinarden. It is considered important that the KDPPG should continue to maintain the focus on families/adults (which has become clearer and better resourced since the establishment of the WRENS project) in addition to its traditional and ongoing focus on children and young people.



### 3.4. WORK WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS

The KDPPG has acted as a resource to community based groups within Killinarden and outside of Killinarden which are interested in setting up drug awareness and drugs education projects and initiatives within their own communities. In some cases, the KDPPG has provided advice and guidance whilst, in other situations, the KDPPG has become an active partner in local projects/actions. These projects and actions include the following:

- The organisation of the Community Addiction Studies Courses in the Institute of Technology, Tallaght. Together with other community based organisations, the KDPPG has played an ongoing role in the development and evolution of this course which aims to equip local workers and activists with a range of skills and information concerning drug related issues
- Ongoing work with Killinarden Community School. In addition to the Follow-up Programme with students from this school, the KDPPG has also been involved in providing an information stand for the annual parents and teachers meetings and in participating in the Drugs Awareness Weeks which have been organised by Killinarden Community School
- The KDPPG has participated in the work of the Tallaght Drugs Task Force. As well as being represented on the main committee of the Drugs Task Force, the KDPPG has also contributed to the Education/Prevention subgroup of the Drugs Task Force and to a working group which was set up to explore the issue of drugs education in the Tallaght area
- The KDPPG has contributed to the development of the Killinarden Education Network. In addition to its role on the main committee of the Killinarden Education Network, six members of the KDPPG received certificates from the Killinarden Education Network at an event organised in 2002 to recognise the work of local volunteers within the Killinarden area
- The KDPPG assisted in the delivery of the 2002 summer programme organised by KEEP (Killinarden Education Enhancement Programme) which is the School Completion Programme that operates in the Killinarden area. In addition the KDPPG, together with KEEP and Tallaght Youth Service, facilitated a programme for sixth class pupils from the three primary schools in Killinarden who were transferring to Killinarden Community School.
- The KDPPG has worked with the Tallaght Travellers Community Development Project and the Tallaght Travellers Youth Service in delivering drugs awareness /prevention and

anti-social behaviour courses to four separate groups in the Tallaght area. These courses, which each involved 18 hours of training and education, were delivered to one group of Travellers and three mixed groups (of Travellers and non-Travellers)

- The KDPPG has provided developmental support to local groups and initiatives outside of Tallaght which are involved in drugs education and drugs awareness activities. This support has generally taken place in locations within the Dublin area, in places like Cabra and Shankill.

### 3.5. OTHER NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

In addition to the developmental work with local and regional groups/organisations that has been detailed in the previous sections of this evaluation report, the KDPPG is also involved in a range of other networks/fora. These networks/fora are as follows:

#### *Local networks/fora*

- Killinarden Education Services Network
- Tallaght Youth Service
- Women Together Network, Tallaght
- Tallaght Partnership

#### *National networks/fora*

- City Wide (Drugs Crisis Campaign)
- Drugs Education Workers Forum
- CAD (Community Awareness of Drugs)
- Crosscare

#### *International networks/fora*

- European Network of Health Promoting Schools
- Merseyside Liverpool Drugs Education and Prevention Project

Therefore, it is evident that the KDPPG is linked into a range of local, national and international networks. Whilst participation in these networks might be useful and worthwhile, it is always important to identify the relevance of participation in these networks to the core work of the KDPPG within the Killinarden area. If involvement in the networks enhances and improves the ways in which the KDPPG delivers its services and programmes within Killinarden, these contacts should be maintained and continued. If, on the other hand, they are not directly relevant to the core work of the KDPPG and /or they demand too much time away from the Killinarden area, the KDPPG should re-assess the need to be involved in all of the networks/fora detailed in this section of the evaluation report.

### 3.6. SUMMARY

This section of the evaluation report has described the main work and activities of the KDPPG. All of these activities have served to enhance the relevance and profile of the KDPPG and have helped the KDPPG to access additional and more secure resources for its various programmes and actions. A key challenge for the KDPPG, as it enters the next phase of its development, is to build upon the work and achievements of the last 10 year period, to consolidate and mainstream the activities for which ongoing funding has not been received and to continue to identify new ways in which the KDPPG might contribute to the struggle against drugs misuse and drug/alcohol addiction in the Killinarden area.

## IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

### 4.1. IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The KDPPG has been involved in delivering programmes within local schools in Killinarden since the mid 1990s. The Self Esteem and Drugs Awareness programmes are now recognised elements within the school timetable in a number of schools in the Killinarden area. It is estimated that in the period from 1995 to 2003, approximately 800 children and young people from Killinarden have participated in the Self Esteem and Drugs Awareness programmes which have taken place in the primary schools and in the Follow-up Programme which has taken place within Killinarden Community School.

It is also evident that a high proportion of these children and young people have been involved with the KDPPG for a number of years - they have been involved in the Self Esteem Programme in their third and fourth classes in primary school, in the Drugs Awareness Programme in their fifth and sixth classes in primary school, and in the Follow-up Programme during their first three years in Killinarden Community School.

On the basis of feedback from the children and young people who participated in the KDPPG programmes and on the basis of observations from this evaluator it is apparent that the children and young people generally enjoyed the KDPPG programmes and benefited from their involvement in these programmes. In more particular terms:

- The children enjoy the variety of facilitation and training techniques and the ways in which a number of different techniques and strategies are used to deliver the programmes - the children particularly enjoy role-playing, group discussions and quizzes.

- The children relate well to the issues being raised by the facilitators e.g. issues relating to how they feel about themselves and others, how to be assertive, how to respond to peer pressure and, also, issues concerning different types of drugs and solvents. The children themselves clearly recognise the importance and relevance of these issues and respond fairly well to the ways that they are addressed by the KDPPG facilitators.

- The children have acquired new skills and new information through their involvement in the KDPPG programmes - as one teacher noted *"the children have learned so many skills and acquired a fund of information in a very relaxed, friendly atmosphere"*.

- The children have become more aware and more informed about the dangers and consequences of alcohol/drug misuse, and the KDPPG programmes have provided clear and accurate information, *"The course has told me what happens to me if I get addicted to drugs", "I learnt that drugs can kill me - I did not know that before"* (comments from two participants).

- Many of the children who participated in the KDPPG programmes have become more assertive and are less inclined to succumb to peer pressure in relation to taking alcohol/drugs. As one of the teachers noted *"The fact that the project teaches kids to say "no" is one of the strongest parts of the project"*.

It is difficult to determine the extent to which participation in the KDPPG programmes will deter children and young people from becoming involved in alcohol and drug consumption. It is evident, however, that the contributions made by the KDPPG have succeeded in making the participating children and young people more aware of the need to resist negative peer pressure (i.e. the ability and resolve to say "no" when presented with opportunities to take alcohol and other drugs).

The KDPPG programmes have also increased understanding of the dangers and consequences of alcohol/drugs and this understanding is likely to have a positive impact when children and young people might be thinking of taking an alcoholic drink or other type of drug. The feedback provided by teachers and parents would suggest that the KDPPG programmes have made a valuable contribution to the ongoing development of children and young people within Killinarden (especially in the primary school system) and have served to complement other work which is taking place within the schools, within the home and within the wider community.

## 4.2 IMPACT ON STAFF AND FACILITATORS

The staff and facilitators involved in the KDPPG over the course of the last 10 year period have generally benefited significantly from their participation in the work of the group. Virtually all of the activities and programmes of the KDPPG are delivered by local people who live in the Killinarden area —some of these people are now employed directly by the KDPPG whilst other people carry out sessional or facilitation work on behalf of the KDPPG. On the basis of the various evaluation interviews and analysis of evaluation forms, it is evident that the KDPPG has provided a wide range of education and training opportunities for the local people who have become involved in the KDPPG.

In considering the benefits which have accrued to the staff and facilitators of the KDPPG, the following represent significant and notable achievements:

- Many of the staff and facilitators have received certificates, diplomas and degrees from third level educational institutions like the Institute of Technology Tallaght, University College Dublin and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. On the basis of feedback provided by staff and facilitators it is evident that their involvement in the KDPPG was a key factor in their decision to return to education (a number of them would have left formal education at a relatively young age with no educational qualifications.
- Many of the staff and facilitators feel that they are stronger and more confident and have a greater belief in their own skills/abilities, as a result of their involvement with the KDPPG. This type of positive outcome is reflected in the comments of staff and facilitators who participated in education and training courses supported or funded through the KDPPG:

*"I was not very knowledgeable regarding drugs so I felt that this was a good opportunity to educate myself in order to educate my children"*

*"I have lived in Killinarden for 14 years and felt that something like this (i.e. KDPPG) was badly needed in the schools and that it was a very worthwhile group to be part of"*

*"I feel that the children of our community are really benefiting from the KDPPG programme. I now work with children from the ages of 8 to 18 years of age and I enjoy every minute of it"*

*"I have spoken at different conferences and facilitated at a number of seminars. I would never have been able to do these things without the support and encouragement provided by the KDPPG"*

*"It lets me stand up for myself and not to let other people pull me down"*

*"It gets you in touch with your feelings and behaviour and I have made friends with other members of the group"*

It is important that the KDPPG continually regenerate its team of trained facilitators to carry out work within schools and with other youth/community organisations in Killinarden. It is evident that a number of the facilitators who have been trained in recent years have left the KDPPG to take up employment opportunities and to pursue various education and training options. Whilst this is a positive development, it is also important to ensure that the facilitation team is being replenished on an ongoing basis and that new facilitators are joining the KDPPG on a regular basis. The need for new facilitators is likely to increase as the KDPPG develops new programmes and new initiatives (e.g. through the WRENS project) and it is considered that the involvement of new facilitators will help maintain the vibrancy and the momentum which has been built up by the KDPPG over the course of the last 10 year period.

## IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL INPUTS INTO THE DRUGS ISSUE

Evaluation interviewees referred to the participation and involvement of local people from Killinarden in the development and implementation of drugs related programmes in the Killinarden area. These interviewees and other people who have written about the work of the KDPPG feel that the involvement of local people (as staff, as facilitators) is a key and central aspect in the ways in which the KDPPG organises its work and activities. Since the local facilitators/educators have been brought up in Killinarden and/or currently live in Killinarden, they have a clear and direct understanding of the needs and circumstances of people living in the Killinarden. This local understanding and local knowledge is a key component in the developmental process which is being promoted and developed by the KDPPG; and it makes the approach of the KDPPG significantly different from programmes which are being delivered by external facilitators and external trainers from outside of the Killinarden area.

The role of local parents as facilitators of self esteem and drugs awareness programmes within schools and within other youth/community settings in Killinarden has also helped to break

down some of the barriers which exist between institutions like schools and the wider community which these institutions strive to serve. The process of training local parents to facilitate programmes within local schools has been one of the most innovative ways of involving a greater number of parents in the education process within Killinarden. Comments made about the involvement of parents as trained facilitators within local schools in Killinarden have included the following:

*"The students interact with local parents in a different manner to the way they relate to their teachers. They are more open with them in discussing issues in the community and relevant experiences"*

*"In relation to the local facilitators, contact with the students is not finished once the programme is completed but is maintained and built on in the local area and on the streets"*

*"The most effective element of the programme was that it was given by mothers of students from the community. They 'demystified' the drugs issue and explained it in a language that was clearly understood. There was no credibility issue involved. It wasn't a case of the teacher lecturing on the evils of drugs. It was a case of parents who were familiar with the problem telling it as it is"*

*"The facilitators are very good - they can talk the language of the children and the children can relate to what they say"*

In relation to the ongoing development of the KDPPG it is considered critical that the involvement and participation of local people (as facilitators, as trainers, as educators) should be maintained and strengthened; and that more opportunities should be presented for more local people play a more active role in the delivery of educational and community services within the Killinarden area.

#### **ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY OF PROGRAMMES**

There is a reasonably high level of satisfaction with the ways in which the KDPPG delivers its programmes. It is evident that the KDPPG facilitators prepare well for the programmes which they deliver in the schools - they are clear about what class they will be facilitating; they liaise with the class teachers in relation to any issues which the facilitators should be aware of; they are clear about the respective roles of the two facilitators for each programme session /class; they make sure that they have enough copies of relevant resource materials (e.g. handouts, certificates, exercises). The fact that the KDPPG facilitators are well motivated and well prepared has been recognised by teachers who work in the schools where the KDPPG programmes are operational e.g.

*"The women who facilitate the Drugs Awareness Programme and Self Esteem Programme in Knockmore Senior School are professional, efficient, punctual and always well prepared"*

*"The Team are so well trained. They make the lessons simple and practical. They are firm but friendly with the students. The lessons are well prepared, very comprehensive and have a strong emphasis on assertiveness and saying "no" which is not only relevant to drugs but a valuable skill in all areas of life"*

Whilst there was generally positive feedback about the delivery of the KDPPG programmes there is also concern about the ability and capacity of some facilitators to effectively control and manage a class of 20-30 children. It is recognised that this is a difficult task/challenge and that teachers receive specialist training in classroom management techniques whilst involved in teacher training. In a situation where the KDPPG facilitators receive far less intensive training in classroom management it can be difficult for some of the facilitators to keep control of the class, to know what to do when things start 'getting out of hand' and, more particularly, what to do with those children who might be disruptive or messing around. It is always important to ensure that the facilitators have the confidence and the skills to deal with a class of 20-30 children aged from 8-12 (it can be an intimidating and daunting prospect); and that they are provided with the necessary training in classroom management which will equip them with the confidence and the skills which are required.

#### **IMPROVEMENTS IN DRUGS SITUATION IN KILLINARDEN**

It is evident that there have been significant improvements in relation to the drugs situation in Killinarden over the course of the last 10 year period. When the KDPPG was formed in 1993, it was formed in response to a very serious and escalating drugs problem, where drugs were being openly distributed on the streets of Killinarden and where many people (especially young people) died or suffered long-term repercussions as a result of their addiction to drugs. Since those dark days of the early 1990s there is a general consensus that the situation has improved in Killinarden - there is less open drug dealing within the community; there are fewer deaths and serious illness as a result of drugs; there has been a decline in the number of drug users presenting themselves for treatment over the last five year period; there are a number of new youth, community and recreational facilities in Killinarden (which provide positive alternatives to alcohol/drugs consumption)



The KDPPG has played its own role in these positive developments. This role relates both to the direct delivery of the various KDPPG programmes (self esteem, drugs awareness, family support etc) and to the contribution which staff and facilitators from the KDPPG have made to a number of different networks and inter-agency groups/projects which have been set up in the Killinarden area. There can be little doubt that one of the key reasons for the significant levels of investment that have taken place in Killinarden in recent years (through the EU/URBAN programme, central government, local authority and other statutory agencies) relates to the lobbying, campaigning and advocacy work of local groups and organisations (including the KDPPG). In this context the KDPPG should take its share of credit for the significant improvements which have taken place within the Killinarden area over the last number of years.

### MAINSTREAMING OUTCOMES

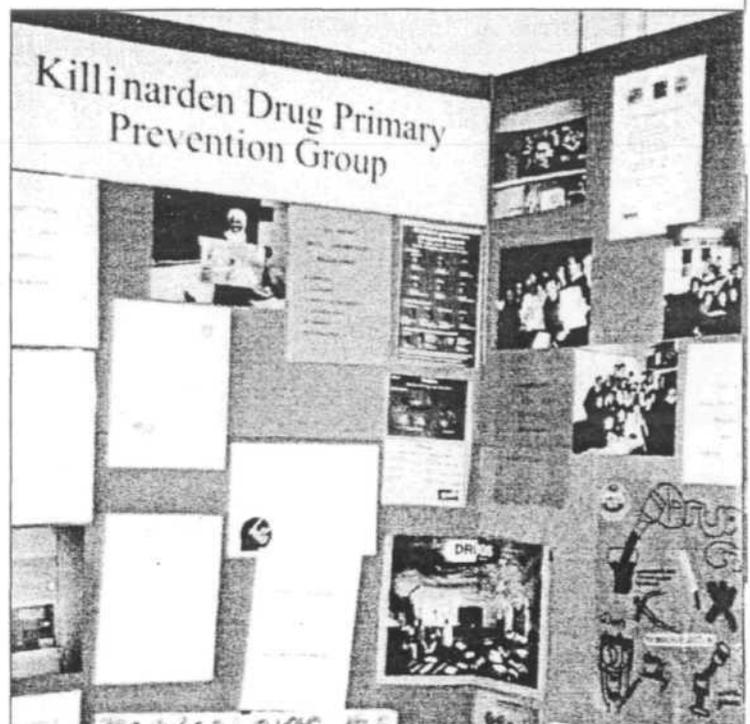
There have been a number of noticeable mainstreaming outcomes in relation to the work and activities of the KDPPG. These mainstreaming outcomes can be considered from a number of different perspectives:

- The way in which the Self Esteem Programme and the Drugs Awareness Programme have been mainstreamed into the curriculum of local primary schools in the Killinarden area. These programmes began on a pilot basis in one or two schools in Killinarden without any clear sense about whether they would be maintained and /or they would be extended to other schools. The fact that the programmes are now an integral and recognised part of the primary school curriculum in Killinarden schools is testimony to the relevance of the KDPPG programmes and to the appropriateness of using local facilitators to deliver these programmes.
- The work of the KDPPG and other drugs awareness and drugs education groups have helped to identify the clear need for issues relating to health education, self esteem, drugs/addiction etc. to be incorporated into the formal education curriculum within primary level and second level schools throughout the country. Whilst the KDPPG delivers its own programmes within a number of schools in Killinarden, it is also encouraging that the KDPPG approach (discussing issues concerning assertiveness, drugs, alcohol etc.) is also reflected in the new curriculum subjects which have been introduced into primary level and second level schools in recent years e.g. Walk Tall; Social, Personal, Health Education (SPHE) programme.

The KDPPG has succeeded in being approved for mainstream financial support from relevant statutory agencies. In the period from 1993 to 1997, the KDPPG survived on small one-off grants and donations to support its work and activities. In 1998, the KDPPG began to receive core financial assistance through the Tallaght Drugs Task Force and since 2001 the group has received mainstream funding from County Dublin Vocational Education Committee. The increases in annual funding from 1998 to 2003 have been of significant benefit and have enabled the KDPPG to consolidate and strengthen its organisational base, to employ paid staff, to pay its facilitators a reasonable fee and maintain a well resourced and well equipped office base.

### SUMMARY

In considering the impact and effectiveness of the KDPPG in the period from 1993 to 2003, it is evident that there have been a number of significant developments in this 10 year period - developments in relation to the programmes being delivered by the KDPPG, developments in relation to new projects and initiatives (e.g. WRENS), developments in relation to organisational and funding issues. These developments have increased the capacity of the KDPPG to carry out more work with a greater number of children, young people and families in the Killinarden area. The feedback and comments from evaluation interviewees would suggest that the KDPPG, together with other work taking place within the schools and within the homes, has assisted in the development of a large number of children, young people and parents in Killinarden.



## KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE KDPPG

Earlier references have been made in this evaluation report to the ways in which the KDPPG has grown and developed during the 10 years of its existence from a small poorly resourced group of people meeting together in inadequate premises to a relatively well resourced organisation which now employs a team of workers, delivers a number of programmes and operates from an excellent, well located office base. This type of progress is both significant and impressive. However, it is also important to recognise that the provision of a significantly increased amount of public funding also involves greater levels of responsibility and accountability. In more particular terms, increased funding needs to be matched by a corresponding level of increased activity and the establishment of appropriate management control systems and procedures.

It is evident that there has been a significant and substantial increase in the work activities carried out by the KDPPG during the course of the last 10 year period - it is working with a far larger number of children and young people and, since the establishment of the WRENS project, it is working with more adults/families in a more intensive and structured manner. Therefore, it is considered that the increase in funding secured by the KDPPG has been matched by an appropriate increase in the work activities being delivered by the KDPPG. In addition, the KDPPG has enhanced its capacity to respond effectively to new challenges and new needs in relation to the drugs issue in Killinarden; and has put in place an infrastructure of funding, staffing, office facilities and other supports which makes it a far stronger and efficient organisation in 2003 than it was when established in the early 1990's.

It is also evident, however, that the KDPPG needs to give a greater priority to recording its work /achievements and to evaluating the impact of its various programmes and interventions. These recording and evaluation activities should take place on a regular and ongoing basis and should aim to provide re-assurance to funders and other relevant organisations about the extent and quality of the work in which the KDPPG is engaged. There is an ongoing need for the KDPPG to critically

assess the 'value for money' which it is providing and to ensure that the quality and quantity of its programmes/projects can stand up to external scrutiny (through an ongoing process of recording, monitoring and evaluation of programme/project activities).

### MAIN ROLES AND FOCUSES FOR THE KDPPG

In considering the development of the KDPPG over the last 10 year period and the outstanding needs which exist within the Killinarden area (in relation to health education, drugs awareness, self development and self esteem) the following points are of some relevance to the primary roles and focuses of the KDPPG :

- The KDPPG has carried out very useful and valuable work within the primary schools in the Killinarden area. The feedback from teachers and parents of children attending these primary schools has been very positive about the contributions which have been made by the Self Esteem and Drugs Awareness programmes. It is suggested that this work within local schools should be maintained and developed further over the next few years - principals and other teachers are positively disposed towards the KDPPG continuing to deliver programmes within local primary schools.

In relation to its work within Killinarden Community School, it is evident that the new curriculum subjects (especially Social, Personal, Health Education) are now addressing similar types of issues to those which have been the primary focus of the KDPPG - the Social, Personal, Health Education course within Killinarden Community School involves a fairly intensive schedule of 76 classes (2 classes each week for 38 weeks). In this context, there is a need for the KDPPG to re-assess its role in delivery of the Follow-up Programme in Killinarden Community School - does the introduction of the Social, Personal, Health Education course negate the need for the KDPPG to deliver programmes within this school?

- There is significant potential for the KDPPG to carry out more work with individual families and parents in the Killinarden area. A number of evaluation interviewees said that it would be very useful and beneficial if more families could be referred to the KDPPG for advice, information and support. It is recognised that the

WRENS project has a particular focus on vulnerable families and women within the Killinarden area and that it has carried out developmental work with over 100 parents/adults in the Killinarden area in 2002 and 2003. This aspect of the KDPPG's work should assume a greater priority over the next few years and should be given the same type of prominence as the work which is currently taking place within local schools in the Killinarden area.

The nature of this work with families and parents is likely to involve a two-pronged approach - (i) the organisation and delivery of education and training courses which will be of interest to a number of families/parents in the Killinarden area; and (ii) the provision of more personalised advice and support to families/parents who are experiencing particular difficulties or problems. These types of services would be of significant benefit to many families in Killinarden and are likely to involve a combination of referrals (from schools, from statutory agencies, from community organisations) and self referrals from the families/parents themselves.

- The KDPPG should always ensure that it has a clear and direct focus on the Killinarden area and that the resources of the organisation (staff and facilitators) are firmly directed towards carrying out work within Killinarden. On the basis of the population of Killinarden (i.e. 7,000 people, the size of a medium sized Irish town) and the needs which exist within Killinarden, it is important that the activities contained with the

work plans of the KDPPG should be significantly focused on programmes and activities which take place within the Killinarden area. This work is likely to take place on a number of different levels - within families, within groups of parents, within schools, within youth groups/organisations.

- The KDPPG should strive to ensure that it continues to provide opportunities for local residents in Killinarden to acquire new skills/knowledge and to progress onto staff and facilitation roles within the KDPPG. There is a strong sense that the process of recruiting local people to become educators/and facilitators and the ways in which the KDPPG provides ongoing training and support to these local people is the greatest single strength and most important aspect of the developmental approach being promoted by the KDPPG.

The KDPPG should endeavour to continue to provide education, training and employment opportunities for local people and should aim to build up its existing team of local facilitators. The KDPPG should also continue to identify the most appropriate roles for the local trained facilitators (especially in relation to their confidence, ability and capacity to facilitate groups of 20-30 children within local schools); and should try to match the local facilitators with the various work requirements of the KDPPG organisation - for example, some facilitators might be more effective and more comfortable in providing advice and support to individual families than in facilitating the school based programmes.



## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KDPPG

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

It is proposed that the future work and activities of the KDPPG should be informed by the following guiding principles:

- The KDPPG believes that local residents living in the Killinarden area have an important and significant role to play in drugs education and drugs prevention work within the local area
- The KDPPG is committed to the process of empowering and enabling local people through the provision of education, training, employment and facilitation opportunities
- The KDPPG recognises the need for a multi-dimensional and integrated approach towards the drugs issue, an approach which requires the participation of a number of different organisations and agencies working together in pursuit of common goals
- The KDPPG believes that there is a clear link between high self esteem and healthy lifestyles (especially in relation to alcohol and drugs) and will continue to give equal priority to self esteem activities and to drugs awareness/education activities
- The KDPPG strives to maintain the highest standards of care and professionalism in the ways in which it manages its affairs and the services/supports it provides to local people living in the Killinarden area
- The KDPPG is aware of the need to constantly review its main priorities and work focuses as new challenges emerge within the drugs area and as other agencies and organisations develop new responses to the drugs problem (which might effect the existing activities of the KDPPG)
- The KDPPG recognises the importance and the benefits of providing advice, guidance and support to families within Killinarden who have been affected by the drugs problem
- The KDPPG believes that it has a significant contribution to make in tackling the drugs issue in Killinarden on account of the experiences, the skills and the knowledge which have been accumulated by group members since the formation of the KDPPG in 1993

### ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- The KDPPG should aim to strengthen and build up its team of local facilitators. The KDPPG should strive to have a constant active team of 20 facilitators (i.e. facilitators who are available to carry out work on behalf of the KDPPG) and should embark on a recruitment drive to attract new facilitators from the Killinarden area. The KDPPG should also continue to provide ongoing support and training to the current team of facilitators and to any new facilitators who might be recruited over the next period of time.
- As the organisation grows and develops, it is necessary to ensure that appropriate mechanisms and procedures are put into place for information flow and communications with the KDPPG. The information systems to be set up will also be influenced by clarification about the respective roles of the Board of the KDPPG and the staff of the KDPPG - this clarification should serve to determine which members of the KDPPG need to be informed about various decisions and developments which are taking place within the KDPPG.
- The KDPPG should put in place effective mechanisms through which the work and activities of the organisation can be recorded, monitored and evaluated on a regular and ongoing basis. The development of these mechanisms will help the KDPPG to review the extent to which it is meeting its objectives and goals/targets; and will assist the KDPPG in establishing realistic and attainable goals and targets for its next period of development.
- The KDPPG should produce regular work plans or work programmes (perhaps on a six monthly basis). These work plans/programmes would set out the main targets and activities over the next period of time and would be a benchmark against which progress can be assessed. In the first instance, the work plans/programmes would be drawn up by the staff of the KDPPG and would then be presented to the Board for consideration and decisions. It is considered that the production of work plans/programmes would also be a useful mechanism for reviewing and evaluating the work and effectiveness of the KDPPG on a regular and ongoing basis.
- The KDPPG needs to give some consideration to the profile and image of the organisation. It is suggested that, on the basis of which decisions are made about the future direction and focuses of the KDPPG, the KDPPG should endeavour to promote the work of the organisation through

the Killinarden area (through the organisation of open days, the production of brochures etc.) - as well as informing people about the organisation's activities, this promotional work will also act as a source of referrals to the KDPPG and as a mechanism for recruiting additional facilitators.

In relation to the issue of profile and image, it is also suggested that the KDPPG should consider changing the name of the organisation. In the opinion of a number of people the current name is cumbersome and unwieldy and does not accurately reflect the range of work in which the organisation is involved. In this context, there might be a need to devise a name which is more snappy and user friendly, and which conveys a more accurate image of the main focuses of the organisation i.e. focuses which extend beyond primary drug prevention.

#### WORK AREA 1- WORK WITH SCHOOLS

- The KDPPG should continue to deliver its Self Esteem Programme and Drugs Awareness Programme within the primary schools in the Killinarden area. These programmes should generally follow the existing format i.e. Self Esteem Programme for the third and fourth classes and a greater focus on drugs awareness for fifth and sixth classes; programmes to run over 5-7 weeks period comprising one class each week. It is considered that the inputs to be made by the KDPPG staff and facilitators over a four year period (i.e. from third class through to sixth class) have the potential to make a real impact on the extent to which the participating children might get involved in alcohol and drugs in a serious or dangerous way

- The KDPPG should continue to work closely with teachers in the primary schools so as to ensure that there is a clear, shared understanding about the objectives /content of the KDPPG programmes. There is also a constant need to ensure that there is clarity about the respective roles of the KDPPG facilitators and the class teachers; and about the most appropriate or effective way of dealing with problems which might arise during the delivery of the KDPPG programmes (e.g. difficulties caused by disruptive pupils)

- The KDPPG needs to be sure that the facilitators assigned to deliver the programmes in the schools have the confidence and the skills (espe-

daily classroom management skills) which are required to facilitate a class of 20-30 children. The facilitators need to have the skills to keep the children interested/engaged; to be able to adapt or change the programme when a particular approach or exercise is not working; and to be able to deal with disruptive pupils and bad behaviour in a fair and effective manner

- The KDPPG should re-assess the ways in which it works with young people in Killinarden Community School. It is evident that the Follow-Up Programme of the KDPPG has been superseded by the SPHE (Social, Personal, Health Education) Programme. The feedback from teachers and from young people would suggest that there might be more effective ways in which the KDPPG could contribute to the development of health promotion and drugs awareness activities for young people attending Killinarden Community School. These activities include ongoing participation in the SPHE Programme (through delivering a number of sessions within this programme), and the organisation of project based work which is focused around the issues of addiction and alcohol /drugs misuse.



#### 6.4. WORK AREA 2 - OTHER WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

- The KDPPG should aim to significantly increase the work which it is carrying out with children and young people outside of the formal education system. It is recommended that the KDPPG should activate contact with groups which organise activities and programmes for children and young people, with a view to identifying ways in which the KDPPG and other groups /organisations might collaborate around self esteem, assertiveness and drugs awareness programmes.
- The KDPPG should also give consideration to setting up its own after school club or group for children and young people who might be interested in participating in a programme which might involve a combination of activity, play/games, discussions, projects, music/drama etc. Any club or group to be set up by the KDPPG would have a particular focus on building up the self-esteem and confidence of the participating children (in keeping with the guiding principles of the KDPPG).
- The KDPPG should continue to participate in the organisation of summer programmes for children and young people in Killinarden - this type of intervention is of considerable importance given the other more negative activities (e.g. alcohol, drugs) in which young people might get involved during the summer months. The organisation of summer programmes should be carried out in conjunction with relevant organisations in Killinarden (with, perhaps, the KDPPG being contracted to deliver particular modules within these programmes).

#### 6.5. WORK AREA 3 - NETWORKING AND INTER-AGENCY WORK

- The KDPPG should continue to be involved in networks and inter-agency groups/projects which are involved in activities which correspond to the guiding principles of the KDPPG. In relation to its participation in the work of networks and inter-agency groups it is considered that the KDPPG has a particular set of experi-

ences and skills which it can contribute to the work of these networks/groups. In addition, participation in these networks /groups can help to advance some of the objectives of the KDPPG, e.g. the provision of greater levels of financial support for community based drugs projects, creation of heightened awareness about the needs of drug users and their families.

- It is also important, however, that the KDPPG should exercise a certain degree of discretion in deciding upon the networks and groups in which it is going to be involved. Participation in these networks/groups can be time consuming and it is always necessary to strike the appropriate balance between the direct delivery activities of the KDPPG (e.g. delivery of programmes in local schools, delivery of training programmes for parents, work with individual families in Killinarden) and the involvement of the KDPPG in various networks and inter-agency groups.

#### 6.6. WORK AREA 4 - WORK WITH FAMILIES/PARENTS

- The KDPPG should continue to provide advice, guidance and support to families who have either been referred to the KDPPG by other bodies (e.g. schools, Health Board, community organisations) or who have self referred themselves to the KDPPG (on account of concerns about family members, especially children and young people).
- The KDPPG should also continue to organise education and training programmes for local parents which will equip them with the skills and knowledge to deal with issues relating to the development of their children. These programmes would have a particular focus on empowering parents to understand the causes and consequences of alcohol/drug addiction and the strategies which might be put in place to prevent their children becoming addicted to alcohol/drugs.



## 6.7 SUMMARY

It is evident that the KDPPG has made considerable progress during the first 10 years of its existence, in the period from 1993 to 2003. It is now an appropriate time to review and evaluate the work of the organisation and to utilise the review/evaluation process as a mechanism for planning ahead for the next 10 year period. There are many strengths and achievements to build upon. There are also many challenges in relation to how the KDPPG manages the expansion of the organisation, how it responds to the ever-changing nature of the drugs situation and how it will sustain itself in a time of public expenditure cutbacks.

These are significant challenges and it is important that the KDPPG can demonstrate that it is an effective and professional organisation and that it is providing practical and relevant responses to the needs of its main target groups. It is considered that the KDPPG can continue to play a significant and meaningful role within the Killinarden area and that, with the assistance of the analyses and recommendations contained in this evaluation report, it will continue to build upon the positive achievements of the last 10 years.

