

11 February 2013

'Chill and Spill' extended to older pupils at Carrickfergus College

'Chill and Spill' events are now available on Friday lunchtimes to all year 11 and 12 pupils at Carrickfergus College. These events offer a safe place for young people to relax and speak to local service providers from the voluntary, community and statutory sector.

Recent consultation with around 400 local young people identified that 34% of local young people were worried about school work, 32% about exams and 18% about family 'stuff' or personal problems. In response, the Carrickfergus Locality Planning Group together with pupils from Carrickfergus College developed the pilot 'Chill and Spill' initiative to address many of these concerns.

Following the pilot's success 'Chill and Spill' has been offered to pupils from years 11 and 12 as well. Pupils will have the opportunity to have access to local service providers in a familiar environment. They will be able to discuss issues and concerns such as bullying, making friends, stress over exams or issues arising from home or personal circumstances. It will also be a place where pupils can go to get involved in activities, play games, make friends, relax, chill, eat their lunch and have familiar faces to chat with.

Hedley Webb, Principal of Carrickfergus College, said:

"We are excited to be involved in this pilot initiative and hope that it now offers an opportunity for pupils from years 11 and 12 to

access additional help if they require. To date young people are very excited about being involved.”

Roy Beggs MLA, Chair of the Carrickfergus Locality Planning Group, commented:

“The ‘Chill and Spill’ initiative is an example of how local young people together with statutory, voluntary and community agencies can work together to make a difference in the lives of young people.”

The Carrickfergus Locality Partnership is one of a number of locality-based partnerships within the Northern Area Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership and which is led by the Health and Social Care Board.

If you would like more information about the Carrickfergus Locality Planning Group, please contact Selena Ramsey, Locality Development Officer, Naomi Centre, 2 Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, tel: 028 2563 6608.

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