



Western Health and Social Care Trust

Press Release
1 October 2007

School Pupils Learn to 'BE SAFE'

Over 650 Primary 7 pupils from schools throughout Omagh District Council area attended the Bee Safe scheme at Omagh Leisure Centre this week. The innovative scheme promotes accident prevention and safety messages to primary school children.

The scheme was organised and delivered through a unique partnership involving Western Health and Social Care Trust's Health Promotion Department, Omagh District Council, Northern Ireland Electricity, NI Fire and Rescue Service, the PSNI and the British Red Cross. The scheme was jointly funded by Western Investing for Health and Home Accident Prevention Omagh.

The initiative is one of a number of similar schemes which take place throughout the province under the regional umbrella 'Bee Safe NI.'

Bee Safe is an imaginative way of teaching Primary 7 pupils how to prevent everyday accidents and dangerous situations. It provides valuable information and guidance on how to deal effectively and safely with accidents should they occur.

The pupils moved around seven accident themed scenarios throughout the event. The sessions are designed to promote a high level of interaction and involvement from pupils. Participation in stimulated scenarios in a controlled environment helps children to think for themselves and develop practical experience of preventing and coping with potentially hazardous situations.

Lesley Finlay, Health Promotion Officer with the Western Health and Social Care Trust's Health Promotion Department and Co-ordinator of the scheme commented: "The initiative has been running for fourteen years in the Omagh area. The key to its success is the partnership approach to delivery of accident prevention messages. Many organisations have given their time and expertise to highlight accident prevention and safety messages which could potentially save a child's life."

Ends....

**For further information contact:
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