



Western Health and Social Care Trust

Press Release
19 October 2007

MONDAY 15-19 OCTOBER 2007

'BEE SAFE' KIDS

An innovative scheme that promotes accident prevention and safety messages to Primary School children takes place at St Columb's Park House this week. Over 650 Primary 7 children from schools throughout Derry City Council area will attend the 'Bee Safe' initiative between 15-19 October. The initiative is one of a number of similar schemes, which take place throughout the province under the regional umbrella 'Bee Safe NI.'

The initiative is a partnership between statutory and voluntary organisations including the Western Health and Social Care Trust Health Promotion Department, Derry City Council, Northern Ireland Electricity, NI Fire and Rescue Service, the PSNI and the British Red Cross and is funded by Western Investing for Health.

'Bee Safe' is an imaginative way of teaching Primary 7 pupils how to prevent everyday accidents and dangerous situations and how to deal with them safely and effectively should they occur. Children move around 7 accident themed scenarios in small groups over either a morning or afternoon session. The sessions are designed to promote a high level of interaction and involvement from pupils. It is considered that 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 as opposed to simply being taught about managing risk in a classroom.

Lesley Finlay, Health Promotion Officer with the Western Health & Social Care Trust Health Promotion Department and co-ordinator of the scheme said:

“The initiative has been running for fourteen years in the Derry City Council 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.”

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