



Children for Peace

in aid of **The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust**



P R E S S R E L E A S E

7,000 'Children for Peace'

On the 11th anniversary of the IRA attack on Warrington, The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust has released figures showing how almost 7,000 young people have been helped by its work.

Since the 'Peace Centre' was opened in March 2000, The Trust has been delivering unique flexible courses which give young people the opportunity to understand the impact their behaviour and attitude can have on themselves and others.

Trust Director, Clare White, said: "The Trust aims to inspire and enable young people to lead more peaceful lives by helping them understand the nature and causes of conflict and how to deal with conflict situations in a non-violent way. Our courses are delivered through informal and accredited programmes during youth exchanges, residentials, multiple day or day long pieces of work."

In the last four years over 7,000 young people have been helped through the Trust's educational programmes in citizenship, anger management and communication. Many young people have participated in youth exchange programmes specifically targeting those affected by conflict and 2,500 school children have participated in anti-bullying programmes. In addition, a detailed study into the needs of victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' who live in England, Scotland and Wales was launched at Westminster last November. The report made several key recommendations to Central Government, which are now being acted upon in response to those identified needs.

In April the Trust will host its annual Peace Lecture which will be given by Denis Murray, the well-known and much respected face of BBC reporting on Ireland, who has been an independent observer of Northern Ireland affairs for many years.

Trust Chairman, and co-founder with his wife Wendy, Colin Parry, commented: "The Peace Lecture, although not necessarily taking place on the actual date of the bombing, is an annual commemoration of that event. The lecture is given by a prominent individual who has experienced conflict on a protracted and/or international scale. It is a positive way to mark the anniversary as it draws attention to the issues and causes of conflict and hopefully leads to debate on how peace can be secured. It is vital that we learn from the past and focus on working with young people to engage them in dialogue rather than having them resort to the type of violence we see daily in the media. History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived but with courage need not be re-lived".

- Ends -

15 March 2004