



Date: 27th September 2010

'WHAT IF' new leaflet for 11-16 year olds

A new leaflet has been issued this week to all 11- 16 year olds across North Devon and Torridge to help young people who don't know who to turn to for help and advice. Developed and funded by Devon & Cornwall Police, in partnership with Safer North Devon, the 'WHAT IF' fold-up leaflet provides information, telephone numbers and websites that a young person may need to contact, or require information from.

Contact details are provided for numerous agencies both local and national, giving young people advice and information on a wide range of issues including, contraception and sex, mental health, child abuse, bereavement, money and relationships. The leaflet also gives contact details for; specialist local help available for young people getting into trouble, with drug and alcohol issues; Youth Intervention Officers and the local Police switchboard.

'WHAT IF' was put together by PC Graham Lees, Youth Interventions Officer from the Neighbourhood Support team in Barnstaple, after he was asked on numerous occasions by young people, 'What if this or that happens who should I contact? I need advice, who can I turn to?' 10,000 leaflets have been issued to date and it is hoped that in the future new students entering secondary school will also continue to receive an updated version.

"It's a great initiative and means young people have all the contact details they may need for support and advice in one place," says Mick Cammick, Deputy Head of Park School, Barnstaple. "The leaflet has been well thought through and folds down to credit- card size which is appealing for this age group as it can easily be carried."

The leaflet also gives young people information on how to report a crime and what to do in an emergency. For more information or to download a leaflet visit www.safernorthdevon.co.uk or visit: www.yospace.info for more help and advice.