

Learning for Life

The Learning for Life is a powerful educational resource, bringing key social issues into the classroom.

Designed to promote a teacher/police collaborative approach to educational liaison work in schools, it broke new ground by introducing the concept and practice of citizenship to junior school children before the subject became part of the national curriculum. It's brave in its determination to tackle contentious issues such as drugs, bullying, domestic abuse; yet sensitive and intelligent in the structured way in which the subjects are handled.

Learning for Life was developed after an education authority report identified serious fault-lines in the relationship between police and local schools. Police officers, it found, were not trained to be effective communicators in schools and had no resources to support them.

The solution was a learning resource developed by Grampian Police with local schools, and supported by the Shell/Esso joint operation* and government.

Launched initially as the Police Box, the interactive classroom pack with 160 lesson cards – one side designed for pupils; the other for teachers – covers the key themes of drugs, law and order, vandalism, safety and bullying. Each card also provides a route for targeted multi-agency involvement. Teachers are given advice about when it is appropriate to bring specialists into the classroom, and also how to contact them.

The package was later developed on interactive CD-ROM – making it even more compelling for pupils and cost-effective for schools.

In 2007, after discussions with the Scottish Executive, a third section was added to the programme, which now comprises:

- Volume 1 - Bullying, Drugs Sense and Vandalism.
- Volume 2 - Safety, Citizenship, Law and Order
- Volume 3 - Diversity and Harmony

Police forces and educational authorities throughout the UK are adopting the Learning for Life/Police Box on an ongoing basis, and in addition numerous schools have purchased the resource on an individual basis.

For more information, please visit www.learnforlife.org

*For over 40 years the joint operation between Esso and Shell in exploring for and producing oil and gas in the North Sea has been a true success story. It has also revealed a number of common values – one of which is a shared sense of citizenship.