

KNOW THE RISK – GET SMART!

In 2001 Ryan, a 14yr old was killed whilst doing his paper round. Ryan was a typical fun loving teenage boy, who was very keen to do a paper round to gain independence and earn his own money.

He went to work for a for a large newspaper chain. After Ryan had been working a few months his mum went out with him in the car as his bike was being repaired. She was horrified to see how far away from home his round took him. The round took in several country lanes, one of which was narrow and wooded. Another had a very dangerous junction. Most of the round was narrow winding lanes. Ryan's mum stopped him doing the round. Ryan begged his mum to let him do another round and the shop gave him a round much closer to home.

In June Ryan received a phone call whilst his mum was at work asking him to cover an extra round & his Dad agreed to him doing it. Ryan was sent out on the road his mum had previously stopped him delivering on several months earlier. Ryan was hit by a car and died in hospital of multiple injuries the following day.

After Ryan's death his mum was told by a police officer that the road had a 60pmh speed limit. **There had been no risk assessment, no work permit.**

During National Child Employment Fortnight this year we are trying to encourage employers in our area to

- Provide better safety equipment
- Supply proper training & safe systems of working – for example a return bag system at the end of the round
- To make proper risk assessments & share them with the child & parents (taking into account the roads etc the child is to use)
- To take responsibility for checking the bicycles are safe, lights & tyres etc, promote the wearing of cycle helmets.

LET'S GET SMART AND KEEP THEM SAFE ARE YOUR CHILD EMPLOYEES WORKING LEGALLY AND SAFELY?

Paperboy faces losing his job ... because he starts his shift 15 minutes early.

Come rain or shine, hard working teenager Sam diligently dragged himself out of bed to start his paper round at 6.45am every morning. So it was a shock when he found that his two years devotion to duty meant he was breaking a bizarre law banning children from working before 7am. Now the teenager may be forced to quit because starting later is making him late for school.

The Newsagent who employs Sam was threatened with court action.

Employment laws dating back to 1963 state that children of statutory school age can only work between 7am & 7pm.

Sam says, "I just can't give it up though. I really enjoy it, I wanted to work when I was 12 but had to wait another year because of the law"

Sam's parents have encouraged a strong work ethic in him.

Mr Laughton, Junior minister for children and families has been asked for the law to be reviewed. Mr Laughton says reforms were being considered "If a decision is made to change the legislation, this could not take place until 2012 or 2013" "The Government is currently considering possible reforms"

Taken from an article in Daily Mail 9/2/11

**In the meantime – any child employed
MUST be employed within current
legislation!**