



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Anti Bullying Service

County Durham Anti-Bullying Service provides support to schools in order to promote anti bullying practice.

The service has been working in Durham Community Business College and currently provides a confidential service to pupils via two link teachers at the school.

Consultation Event

Regular evaluations of the service are carried out with service users. As an extension to the process, consultation was carried out with young people in 2006/07. The purpose was to gather their views about issues relating to bullying and the work of the anti bullying service. Seventeen groups of young people were consulted in ten schools.

Following the events it was recommended that a reference group was established to decide how best to share the information gathered.

Peer Support Training

At the beginning of the year the student council had peer support training held by the service. Members found this extremely useful.

Circle Time

Circle time is offered to groups of girls and boys. The aim is for young people to share issues and talk about problems etc.. It helps build young peoples confidence and skills so that they are transferable outside of school.

Confidential Advice Sessions

This service is offered to pupils and is provided by the link teachers in the school. Pupils are able to self refer to the service.

Anti Bullying Interest Group

Regular meetings are held on specific issues and information is fed back to the school council and tutor groups. Sophie currently represents the school council on the interest group.

Students from the school council are involved with the steering group which aims to prevent bullying. Students worked with community organisations and the anti bullying coordinator and decided on an action plan to achieve the Co Durham anti bullying Service/Childline/NSPCC Award. Students decided to that through peer mentoring they would set up a room to come to if they felt low or were being bullied or just wanted a chat.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

Comments from members of the School Council:

- *“ Young People come up with the idea of putting posters up and around their school ”*
- *“ Since we started the anti bullying service in our school bullying has started to drop ”*
- *“ I think we can influence the way in which the service is run ”*
- *“ We have designed a web page and offer support on a lunch time ”*
- *“ A group of girls came to circle time and asked for their own group to be set up, this now happens ”*
- *“ There has been no problems since it started but its not like it’s a big issue now”*
- *“ Most of the teachers listen to you in the school, they will help and support you if you are being bullied, they always do something about it ”*

Adrian who is part of the circle time group said:-

“ What is said in the Circle stays in the circle. You are able to talk about your problems and bring things to the group that are special to you ”

Links have been created with Connexions, Educational welfare officers, school nurses and staff etc. so that everyone is aware of the service.

I would like to say a special thanks and well done to Lauren, Becky, David, Zack, Dylan, Adrian, Sophie and Chris who have been involved in the service and helped with the evaluation.

This report has been endorsed by the young people involved in the project.

On that positive note I have no hesitation but to recommend the Anti Bullying Service for its Investing in Children Membership.

Eleanor Seed
Investing in Children
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