

YEA Beating Bullying
Minutes of Meeting 1st March 2009 - 11am-1pm at County Hall

Present - Emily K, Zoe, Katharina, Louise, Bronwyn, Chelsea, Sophie, Laura, Jamie, Georgia, Jordy, Bryony, Cathryn, Chloe, Jade, Esther, Sherilyn

Apologies - Charlie

Absent without apologies - Perry

Introductions

This is the first meeting of the bullying subgroup so everyone introduced themselves and talked a little about their reasons for joining this group.

Group identity

It was decided that the group would be called YEA Beating Bullying and that our colour would be blue. A logo will be worked on of a crumbling brick wall with graffiti and missing bricks.

Action points - Jade and Zoe will work on designs for logo and bring them to the next meeting

Sherilyn - To start process of ordering blue hoodies and polo shirts for the group.

Bullying

The issue of bullying was discussed at length with the main points being:

- Not all schools acknowledge that bullying happens when it does.
- Teachers need to know more about bullying, there needs to be training.
- Pupils need training around bullying too.
- Sometimes teachers can make a problem worse.
- There needs to be long term emotional support for targets of bullying as the effects on self esteem can be extremely damaging and last a long time, people also need to know how to make sure they are not susceptible to becoming targets again. It can also affect school grades.

- Parents often say 'just ignore it', they need information so they can offer more support and to know what signs to look for with their children.
- Bullying is often only recognised if it gets to a violent stage - it needs to be stopped sooner.
- Everyone involved needs support including the bullies.
- Teachers and parents need to take it seriously.
- Need to understand what friendship is and what is isn't.
- Transition from primary to high school is a vulnerable time and more needs to be done to stop bullying.
- Bullies need to know that what they are doing is wrong.
- Schools say not to bring in problems from outside of school but sometimes they are relevant to what is happening in school.
- Teachers and adults can bully too.
- There are no excuses for bullying, ever.

What can we do about it?

There was a lot of discussion around what we can do about bullying with lots of good ideas. Everyone agreed that we should work on running an event to coincide with Anti-Bullying week in November.

The event could include:

- Training for teachers and pupils
- Understanding what friendship is
- Feeling good about yourself
- Case studies of experiences taken from within the group
- Information to take back to school, leaflets, packs etc.

Action Point - Everyone to think about running an event and the sort of things it could include.

During the meeting lots of people talked about their own experiences of bullying and the affect it has had. It may be a good idea for the group to have an 'away day' where we concentrate on building up our own and the rest of the groups self esteem.

Action Point - Sherilyn to look at booking a day fort this, rest of group to think about anything they would like this day to include.

Next Meeting

It was decided that Cathryn would chair the next meeting (there will be a different Chair each time), if you have any points you want adding to the agenda please forward them to the YEA office. The next meeting will be Saturday 28th March 11am-1pm at County Hall. If you can't attend you must send apologies to the YEA office before the meeting.