

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		CYP/32/11
Committee:	Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
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<u>Anti-bullying work with the EYSC and YEA</u>		
Enquiries to:	Julie Keating Principal Officer (Anti Bullying and BAPs) Children's Support Service 01245 436012 julie.keating@essex.gov.uk	

Anti-bullying work with the EYSC and YEA

Paper for the Scrutiny Committee – 10th November 2011

During 2009 the Essex Youth Scrutiny Committee (EYSC) produced a resource for young people to help them with anti-bullying issues. The anti-bullying DVDs produced by the EYSC were distributed in 2010 to Youth Centres across the county, all schools and CSS units as well as to organizations that were present at the EYSC witness days.

As a response to this work a number of activities and workshops have taken place at several schools using the resource. This has included Greensward Academy where the film was promoted, shown and certificates presented to young people who starred in the film. In addition a 2 day workshop was organised as part of the Positive Activities for Young People Programme (PAYP) in Basildon, which is a targeted programme for Young People at risk. Basildon Youth Council also facilitated a workshop day for all schools in Basildon supporting schools champions to take back the resource to their own schools and facilitate workshops. Brentwood Youth Council also arranged workshops utilising the resource as part of their annual programme.

As a result of their work the EYSC have received a number of awards for their work, including:

- Changeit Photography Award
- Princess Diana Anti Bullying Award
- As a result of winning the Changeit Photography Award they were invited by Changeit to talk to key changemakers about involving young people
- Runners up in V Involved 2011 Volunteering Awards for Team of Volunteers.

The Young Essex Assembly (YEA) south sub group is now actively taking forward this issue as bullying, crime and feeling safe was one of the four key concerns highlighted by young people in the YEA election survey of 2010.

One of the first activities carried out with the YEA was an exercise to identify what was currently available in schools to support young people. The young people were also keen to capture the thoughts of their peers on what they felt would help keep young people safe in school as there was an over riding feeling that our current practices are having a minimal effect.

In March 2011 the anti bullying subgroup carried out further research into anti bullying practice through targeted sessions at the YEA Big Event, a conference for over two hundred and fifty school children from schools across the county. The group members also took the opportunity to question teachers who were accompanying their students to this event. The results of this day identified three key issues

- Pupils wanted advice and training on how to effectively stand up to bullies
- Pupils wanted teachers to be more accepting of difference in school. Anecdotal evidence on the day of students being told to act less gay or to wear their hair differently as teachers felt they were making themselves a target for bullies was a current theme
- Teachers received very little training at college around bullying and most would welcome additional support and guidance.

As a consequence the YEA is developing a number of activities and resources to tackle these issues. They are keen to develop an assertiveness package that can be used to support young people being bullied and will be receiving training from the charity Kidscape later in the year to help them with this project

The young people are also working to make links with training colleges to see if they can have some impact on the training new teachers receive on how to respond to and deal with bullying issues. They have already prepared a training brief which will be delivered for the first time on 5th November to a group of youth workers.

The subgroup are also involved in the planning and delivery of an anti-bullying conference to be held on 18th November, which is the last day of anti-bullying week. This event will be targeted at young people from secondary schools across Essex. Although the agenda is still to be finalised it is hoped that this conference will start spreading the message to accept difference as it will include inspirational speakers from Stonewall, a paralympian and our Chief Executive, Joanna Killian. There will also be workshops from the company Kidscape supporting the work the young people are planning to help bullied children respond effectively to bullying behaviour.

Julie Keating
Principal Officer
Anti-bullying and BAPs

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