

Outline

Open your mind, not your mouth



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ORGANISATION → Enable

FOCUS → Challenging Attitudes

What initiatives are in place to reduce bullying?

Challenging young people to think about their attitudes to learning disabilities will encourage them to stop and think before bullying and harassing a person with a learning disability.

Presentations, led by people with learning disabilities, are given to groups of young people. The presentations involve practical exercises as well as discussions on disability and bullying. The presentation ends with the lead presenter sharing their experience of having been bullied and the effect it has had on their life.

How are these initiatives being monitored and evaluated?

Presenters and their supporters complete evaluation sheets after each presentation. As a result of this alone, the presentation format is continuously updated and adapted - mainly to suit different audience age ranges. A pack with additional information is being produced for the young people and will include an evaluation questionnaire. The project managers are also involved in an in-depth evaluation on behalf of the project funders and will be targeting certain schools as a follow up evaluation of longer term impact.

What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers in implementing these initiatives?

This project supplements work that may already be happening in schools as part of PSE modules in disability awareness or anti-bullying.

Generally, schools have been welcoming of the projects presenters and have given very positive feedback. Some schools have however been wholly uncooperative.

What worked well?

Having a person with a learning disability taking the lead in the presentation with the support person having only a very minor role, comes as a surprise to the young audience and challenges their perceptions and expectations about people with learning disabilities.

What did not work and lessons learned?

Audiences cannot be predicted and in the past there have not been enough practical activities to engage our audience. This has been identified and supplementary activities are being added in to the presentation packs.

Future plans?

To train enough presenters to cover every school in Scotland!!
To take the project to youth clubs and other young people's community groups.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Outline series provides an opportunity for members of school communities to describe good practice. An opportunity to participate in the series is offered to schools presenting workshops at Network events.