

'Bullying – We're all in it together'

Anti-Bullying Network Conference November 2004

CONFERENCE THEME:

'To be effective, anti-bullying policies must take into account the fact that schools are communities composed of both adults and children'



November 2004

ORGANISATION **West Dunbartonshire Council**

FOCUS **Just Boys Project**

Can you briefly describe any initiatives or projects in place that illustrate the focus of our conference?

The project targeted boys at risk of exclusion from school and aimed to reduce their risk of exclusion by tackling issues related to behaviour. Issues such as bullying, violence and masculinity were explored through the medium of drama and dance. The group created the Just Boys performance, which explored ways of coping with bullying and was held across a school cluster.

How are these initiatives being monitored and evaluated?

- Just Boys members: photographic documentation; video interviews; informal feedback; group and one to one reflection
- Staff: regular review meetings; video interviews; steering group evaluation meeting
- Audience: questionnaires; video interviews with pupils and teaching staff; informal feedback from teaching staff.

This helped to identify how the project aims were met and issues for future practice.

What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people or members of your organisation, in implementing the initiatives or projects?

- Group members were unfamiliar with the process of creating and staging a performance
- Staff often used different and sometimes conflicting approaches with the group.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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What has worked well?

- Partnership working across different professions created the opportunity to bring expertise together and to learn from each other.
- New techniques to explore conflict, pressure, team dynamics and feelings by using the arts were demonstrated.
- The group had a unique experience of self-discovery and development through an honest expression of thoughts and behaviour.

What did not work & lessons learned?

The original project outcomes were adapted to meet the needs and capabilities of the boys. This demonstrates the importance of planning to meet individual needs.

Future plans?

- Programme Roll Out: the programme has been developed across other school clusters
- Evaluation report: this describes how the project aims and intended outcomes were met and will support future practice.
- Just Boys video: this will be used as a training tool for teaching staff and partner agencies to explore issues related to working with boys.

Any materials the school/organisation is willing to share or relevant publications that are for sale?

Just Boys evaluation report and video.

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