



CASE STUDY

1. Title: SAFE HAVENS
2. Area: ROTHERHAM LOCAL AUTHORITY Secondary Schools registered with Safe Havens – Wath-on-Dearne, Brinsworth, Clifton, Dinnington, Oakwood, Rawmarsh, and Wingfield
3. What was the issue? <p>Safe Havens was conceived and developed initially by students at Wath-on-Dearne Comprehensive School. It was a response to serious concerns raised in the school community by students, staff and parents regarding the extent and severity of bullying in the school.</p>
4. What action was taken? <p>The project is run by young people in schools. It was launched in Wath-on-Dearne Comprehensive School in March 2007. Whilst it was initially designed as a response to bullying it quickly took on the wider role of “offering support to young people with a wider range of issues affecting their mental health and well-being”. It sees its work as being “Preventative, Restorative and Supportive”.</p> <p>Young people are recruited and trained to be “Safe Havens Volunteers” working at break and lunchtime. It provides a social setting for young people to access where there is a variety of games and activities available, and the opportunity to share concerns. Young people can self-refer or be referred by Form Tutors or Year Peer mediation</p> <p>The training is provided by young people and youth workers and includes a residential unit provided by Rotherham Youth Service. It has involved Rotherham Mind. The training includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication skills• Peer mediation and mentoring• Equal opportunities• Bullying and its effects• Issues facing young people• Safe Havens practices <p>The model has variations in the different schools.</p>
5. What impact has this had (so far)? <p>The project’s success in Wath-on-Dearne saw the project being supported by Rotherham LA and quickly spread to another two secondary schools. Following the Safe Havens Action Conference in February 2010 other secondary schools</p>

are now committed to developing the project.

Ofsted – “Students find Safe Havens a most valued resource. This very impressive scheme was presented to inspectors with confidence and assurance”.

Peer Evaluation – “There is good evidence that the project was well-managed and that relationships within the school had benefited from the project. This is a great project with good strategic management in partnership with the school.”

Safe Havens has received the Diana Anti-Bullying Award and Safe Havens representatives are now working as part of the Young Anti-Bullying Alliance.

6. How did the above action help to embed anti-bullying work in your area?

The Safe Havens Action Conference was attended by the National Strategies B&A / SEAL Regional Adviser and the ABA Regional Adviser. Both are now promoting the concept across local authorities in the region and referring those interested to those young people leading Safe Havens in Rotherham.

In July 2010 Safe Havens will host a ABA Regional Seminar that will focus on the role of young people in challenging bullying.

7. Additional information:

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