



1. Title: Young Equality South West (YES)
2. Area (Local Authority and Region): South West
3. What was the issue? [100 words max] <p>The effects of bullying on children and young people can be devastating. In the DCSF TellUs3 Survey, 52.5% of children in the South West said they had experienced bullying which is above the national average of 48%. Most bullying is targeted at children who are perceived as different and is often prejudice driven against black and minority ethnic groups; gay, lesbian and bisexual young people and disabled groups. We need to construct infrastructures that develop young people's knowledge and understanding of prejudice based bullying and through this learning build their confidence, promote inclusion and challenge discrimination in all its forms.</p>
4. What action was taken? [100 words max] <p>Equality South West (ESW) supports a membership of VCS organisations that promote equality and diversity by providing training; advice and guidance but most work is targeted at adults. Through a partnership with UK Youth Parliament, South West Youth Forum; Young ABA and South West Grid for Learning, young people will be recruited and trained to deliver equalities and diversity training. The project will be launched on the UKYP Summer meeting where the group will elect sub-regional Equalities Champions who will be trained by members of ESW as equalities trainers in their sub-region. Several bids have been submitted to support the project.</p>
5. What impact has this had (so far)? [100 words max] <p>The project has created an Equalities partnership that recognises the current gap in provision and the potential of using existing infrastructures. Learning South West has identified it is a priority for development and funding applications for the next two years and VCS groups are willing to train young people in their sub-region. GOSW funded a VCS regional meeting that enabled organisations to identify the equalities issues they could support and the geographical areas. Staff within the regional Young People's Participation Network have also endorsed the project and will provide the support required to ensure the widest participation of young people.</p>
6. How did the above action help to embed anti-bullying work in your area? [75 words max] <p>This initial investment has to enable our existing equalities organizations to be much more responsive to the bullying and harassment of children and young people and to reach both schools and wider communities. The VCS orgs work at strategic and grass-roots levels and can influence both directly and indirectly as they often live in the community and have huge credibility. They can embed an inclusive culture for this and future generations.</p>
7. Additional information (OPTIONAL): <p>The proposed model could be replicated in any region and be broadened to include other VCS organizations working with children and young people. There are regional and sub-regional Equalities and young people's participation networks that could initially focus on issues around black and minority ethnic groups; disabled children and young people; gay; lesbian and bisexual young people. The first phase could develop the capacity of relevant regional and sub-regional VCS organizations to work with young people to raise their awareness of prejudice based harassment and bullying of these groups and to train them as peer supporters and young trainers.</p> <p>Young people could then deliver equalities training and conferences to the wider children's VCS and statutory services e.g. faith groups; YMCA's; services for children with mental health issues; Children</p>

looked after by the Local Authorities, in order to raise awareness of the issues for other groups of children and young people and to enable their participation in the equalities network of young people.

Most of these VCS organizations are members of national organizations that could develop similar equalities projects within other regions and would have the infrastructures to support them.