

CYPSP raise awareness for Anti Bullying Week

This week is Anti-Bullying Week (from 18th-22nd November) and the CYPSP has taken the opportunity to raise awareness of the effects that bullying can have on children and young people, in particular, on their mental health and emotional wellbeing, their ability to enjoy learning and achieving in schools, and their perceived feelings of security in places that dominate a child or young person's life. The CYPSP has overseen the collection of a wealth of information for particular groups of children and young people that highlights the impact that bullying has on them.

For some children and young people from a black and minority ethnic background, bullying significantly impacts on their sense of security in schools and community settings. They may not report bullying when it happens because of; an acceptance that bullying is normal, not knowing how to report it, inaction when it is reported, or fear of the consequences if they are seen to be reporting it¹.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGB & T) children and young people face a number of mental health issues that are associated with stigma regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. The majority of LGB & T young people are aware of their sexual orientation or gender identity during their formative years in education, yet, at best, they may receive mixed messages about their sexual orientation. At worst, become victims of severe emotional, verbal and physical abuse. Again, they may refrain from reporting this behaviour and may actually see homophobic behaviour reaffirmed rather than challenged². A recent study suggests nearly all homosexual teenagers hear the word 'gay' being used to insult³

Bullying can be an issue for children and young people with a disability as well. For them, the issue is that while bullying is monitored, it is not classified in terms of disability and therefore the true extent of this type of bullying is not captured. For this group of children and young people, it is important to increase the ability and knowledge of children and young people with disability about what is not acceptable and how to report bullying⁴

The CYPSP is fully supportive of the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum's (NIABF) campaign this year, 'I see, I hear, I feel', and welcomes working in partnership with NIABF in the CYPSP LGB & T Sub Group. This theme is particularly relevant given the many varied ways that a child or young person can experience bullying. At a local level, the CYPSP is running a number of cyber-bullying workshops in the Southern Area, aimed at improving the knowledge of how to be safer online for children, young people and parents. For more information please visit www.cypsp.org.

¹ CYPSP Black and Minority Ethnic Children and Young People Action Plan 2011-2014

² CYPSP LGB & T Sub Group Review of Key LGB & T Research 2003-2013

³ http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_school/education_for_all/quick_links/education_resources/7956.asp

⁴ CYPSP Children and Young People with Disabilities Action Plan 2011-2014



SUPPORTING PARENTS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

■ **Concerned about the gap in communication? Feeling overwhelmed with technology?**

The **'Keep Up with Your Kid Online' Awareness Program for Parents** will be running events in your local area this month. The sessions are delivered by Youth Speaker, Digital Expert and Author **Wayne Denner**.

■ **Who should come?**

Parents and anyone who works with Children and Young People.

Wayne talks to parents and youth and community workers about what they need to know, to keep Children and Young People safer, reduce their vulnerability and build resilience when communicating online and via a mobile

■ **Session covers:**

- **Benefits and Risks of current and emerging technologies**
- **Social Networking, Gaming and Mobile Platforms**
- **Taking Control - Practical support, recommended software**
- **Reducing vulnerability and building resilience**
- **Support and resources**
- **Q & A Session**
- **Take Home Resources will be provided on the night.**

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Over half (63%) of parents say their 5-15 yr old knows more about the internet than they do.”
(Ofcom, 2013)

KEEP UP WITH YOUR KID PROGRAM EVENTS NEAR YOU:

South Armagh	29th October - 7pm to 9pm	Mullaghbawn Community House BT35 9RD
Armagh	4th November - 7pm to 9pm	Market Place Theatre Workshop 2 Armagh BT61 7BW
Moy	7th November - 7pm to 9pm	St. John's Primary, Moy, BT71 7SQ
Dungannon	18th November - 7pm to 9pm	Ranfurly House, Tower Room Dungannon BT70 1AB
Gilford	19th November - 7pm to 9pm Gilford Community Centre,	5 Stramore Road, Gilford BT63 6HL
South Armagh	25th November - 7pm to 9pm	Newtownhamilton Community Centre Newry BT35 0AA
Rural Dungannon	28th November - 7pm to 9pm	Galbally Community Centre 36 Lurgylea Road BT70 2NX
Banbridge	4th December - 7pm to 9pm	Banbridge Old Town Hall Scarva Street Banbridge BT32 3DA
Rural Dungannon	13th January 2014 - 7pm	Augher Primary School Augher BT77 0BE

For further information and to register for any of the above workshops, please call Lynsey Dempster on 028 9040 1290 or email Lynsey@ci-ni.org.uk