

The November 2007 Annual Anti-Bullying Conference

Annual Questionnaire Results

1. Purpose and background

- 1.1 The Children's Trust citywide Anti-Bullying Strategy (August 2007), has in its Action Plan that an Annual Anti-Bullying Conference should take place, as well as an annual Anti-Bullying Questionnaire that could inform future actions that needs to be taken and allow for year on year comparisons, to assess which strategies work to combat bullying.
- 1.2 The conference agenda was developed by Impact's Anti-Bullying Service (ABS), a Voluntary and Community Sector organisation and ensured that children and young people participated in deciding what would be included.
- 1.3 The conference was split into a morning event for primary school pupils and an afternoon event for secondary school pupils, to meet the agendas of each, though each event virtually mirrored the other. ABS wrote to all School Councils inviting them to attend the conference that was planned for Friday November 23rd, which was the last day of 2007's national Anti-Bullying week.
- 1.4 Although this was organised and financed mainly through ABS, it involved multi-agency and organisation commitment, which is also promoted as the way of working in the Ant-Bullying Strategy. Support was given from a number of personnel across Children's Services for both events and the Head of Safeguarding with responsibility for anti-bullying, Barbara Williams, spoke at both, to officially launch the Strategy. The Glass Centre, where the events were held, offered the venue free of charge.
- 1.5 The questionnaire was kept as simple as possible and the same format was used for both primary and secondary to ensure consistency and assist any pupils who had literacy issues. To achieve this, "smiley" faces were used so that pupils could tick which were the most appropriate answers for them, for example:

How safe do you feel where you live?



Really Safe



Safe



Not sure



Not safe



Not at all safe

The Involving Children Service recommended this format for the questionnaire, for the age groups involved.

- 1.6 Additionally by keeping the number of questions asked to 10, it was hoped that this would help to maintain interest and keep their attention span throughout.
- 1.7 The key messages from this event will be fed back in this report to the Local Safeguarding Childrens Board, the Strategic Anti-Bullying Group and Sub Group.
- 1.8 The schools that took part in event will also receive a copy, so that they can feed back what the key messages were that they identified, to those children and young people who took part, with a covering letter explaining what happens next.

2. Attendance

16% of primary schools and 59% of secondary schools in Sunderland attended the Annual Anti-Bullying Conference. Over 230 primary pupils attended the morning event and over 100 secondary pupils attended the afternoon event.

3. Questionnaires

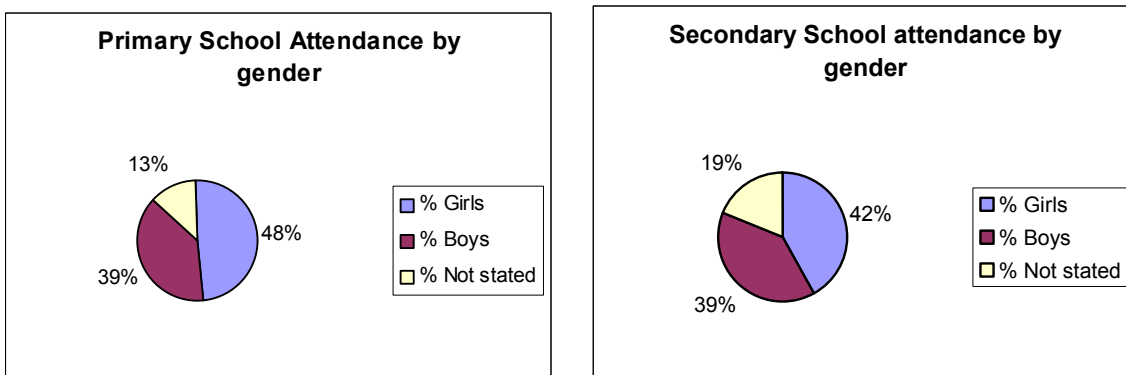
As quite a few schools had to leave early because of transport arrangements and after school anti-bullying activities from both the morning and afternoon events, not all who attended were able to complete the questionnaire before leaving the venue. In total 136 pupils handed in their completed questionnaire, of which 84 were primary pupils and 52 were secondary pupils.

The questionnaires were anonymous so that the children and young people could be confident that they could not be identified. The initial question only asked for the name of the school that they attended. When reviewing the results of the questionnaire, the total for each year group was considered and not the individual school. Asking for the school name was simply to assist in tracking which schools had completed the questionnaire.

Additionally, when reviewing the questionnaire, the percentages given were rounded up / down to the nearest half percent.

Pupils were asked to circle a cartoon picture of a boy or a girl to indicate which one applied to them. A point to note is that not all children and young people did this, so a number of “not stated” columns have been included in tables in order to capture their comments.

% Breakdown of gender of those who attended and who completed the questionnaire



To understand the age ranges of those completing questionnaires, pupils were asked which year they were in. The percentages are as follows:

Primary schools – % Year groups

Primary	YEAR GROUPS					
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6
%	1	3.5	6	25	36	28.5

89% of primary pupils who completed the questionnaire, were from years 4, 5 and 6, whereas there was a fairly even spread across the secondary year groups who completed the questionnaire, as seen below.

Secondary schools - % Year groups

Secondary	YEAR GROUPS				
Year	7	8	9	10	11
%	23	21	17	19.5	19.5

Results to the questions asked are as follows:

1. How safe do you feel where you live?

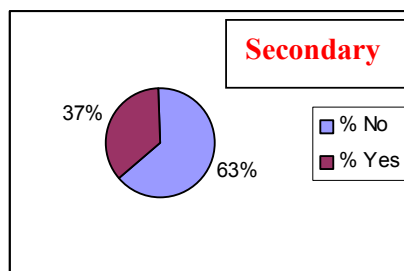
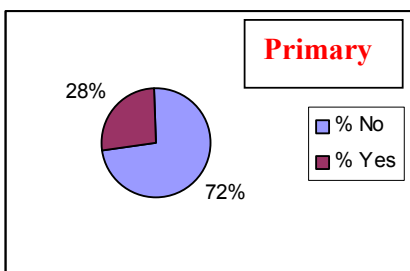
	%				
	Really safe	Safe	Not sure	Not safe	Not safe at all
Primary	62	21.5	11	3.5	2
Secondary	44	40	8	2	6

The breakdown above shows that generally over 80% of pupils feel safe where they live. As the table below shows, 90% of boys and 82% of girls at secondary school feel safe. However, 30% of those secondary pupils who did not state which gender they were, identified that they did not feel safe at all where they lived.

	Gender	Total Nos. responded to question	% of total nos. for each gender				
			Really safe	Safe	Not sure	Not safe	Not safe at all
Secondary							
	Boy	20	50	40	5	5	x
	Girl	22	36.5	45.5	18	x	x
	Not stated	10	50	20	x	x	30
	TOTAL	52					
Primary							
	Boy	33	70	15	12	x	3
	Girl	40	55	25	10	7.5	2.5
	Not stated	11	64	27	9	x	x

2. Have you been bullied outside of school?

Five primary pupils did not answer this question, but what does seem to be evident is that bullying in the community appears to be experienced more by secondary pupils.



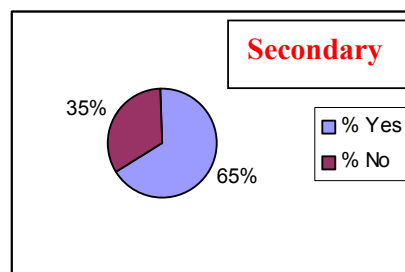
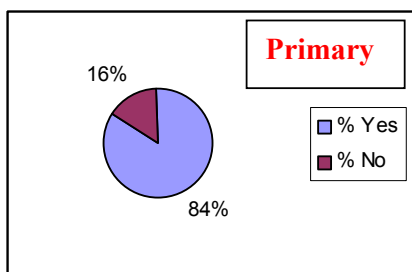
2. If “yes” where did this bullying take place?

Bullying appears to take place mostly in the street and in the park.

	Gender	Total Nos. responded to question	% of total nos. for each gender					
			Street	Youth Club	Park	Shopping	With friends	Other? Where?
Secondary								
	Boy	8	62.5	x	25	x	12.5	x
	Girl	7	14.25	x	43	14.25	14.25	14.25
	Not stated	5	100	x	x	x	x	x
	TOTAL	20						
Primary								
	Boy	17	18	6	23.5	6	17.5	29
	Girl	7	43	x	29	x	14	14
	Not stated	8	62.5	x	25	12.5	x	x
	TOTAL	32						

4. Did you tell someone about the bullying?

38 primary and 20 secondary pupils responded to this question. Primary pupils are most likely to tell someone about bullying.



5. If you did tell, whom did you tell?

	Gender	Total Nos. responded to question	% of total nos. for each gender					
			Friend	Someone in family	Someone who lives near you	Teacher	Policeman	Who else?
Secondary								
	Boy	5	20	60	x	20	x	x
	Girl	8	25	50	x	25	x	x
	Not stated	4	x	50	x	25	25	x
	TOTAL	17						
Primary								
	Boy	18	16.5	50	x	28	5.5	x
	Girl	15	20	67	6.5	6.5	x	x
	Not stated	8	37.5	62.5	x	x	x	x
	TOTAL	41						

The majority of pupils from both primary and secondary schools stated that they would tell a member of their family, followed by telling a friend, that they were being bullied. Secondary pupils are more likely to tell teachers than primary pupils.

6. What kind of bullying was it?

	Gender	Total Nos. responded to question	% of total nos. for each gender						
			Hurt you	Called you names	Tell nasty stories about you	Cyber-bullying	Demand money or food	Say racist things / names	Stop you joining in
Secondary	Boy	13	46	31	8	x	x	15	x
	Girl	11	36	46	x	9	x	x	9
	Not stated	6	33	33	x	17	17	x	x
	TOTAL	30							
Primary	Boy	25	36	40	8	4	4	x	8
	Girl	12	8	59	25	x	8	x	x
	Not stated	10	30	50	x	10	x	x	10
	TOTAL	47							

Secondary school boys are more likely to get hurt whilst girls are called names. In primary school name calling and spreading rumours affects more girls than boys, though name calling for boys is also high. Cyberbullying increases at secondary school, whilst being stopped from joining in is more prevalent at primary school.

1. Are you still being bullied out of school?

	Gender	Total Nos. responded to question	% NO	% YES
Secondary	Boy	6	100	x
	Girl	13	69	31
	Not stated	6	50	50
	TOTAL	25		
Primary	Boy	22	82	18
	Girl	17	88	12
	Not stated	9	89	11
	TOTAL	48		

100% of secondary school boys state that they are no longer being bullied, whereas just under a third of secondary school girls state that they are still experiencing bullying in their community. Most primary pupils are not being bullied in their community, though some still are.

2. Have you been, or are you being bullied now in school?

	Gender	Total Nos. responded to question	% NO I have not been bullied	% YES I was bullied before in school	% YES I am being bullied now
Secondary	Boy	17	65	35	x
	Girl	22	50	45.5	4.5
	Not stated	9	44.5	44.5	11
	TOTAL	48			
Primary	Boy	31	61	29	10
	Girl	38	71	24	5
	Not stated	11	64	36	x
	TOTAL	80			

About two thirds of secondary school boys state that they have never been bullied, whereas this drops to 50% for girls. In primary, girls appear to be less likely to be victims of bullying than boys and overall fewer primary school pupils have been victims of bullying. Some pupils in both primary and secondary are currently victims of bullying.

9. If bullying takes place in your school, where does this usually happen? You may not be the person being bullied but do you know where bullying happens?

	Total responses for all categories	% of the responses						
		During lessons	In the corridors	Break or lunch-time	In the toilets	Going to and from school	I do not know	Somewhere else
Secondary	71	21	14	42	4	10	4	x
Primary	98	11	6	47	9	10	11	5

For both primary and secondary pupils, bullying is perceived as taking place most often at breaks and lunchtime. Secondary pupils then cite during lessons and in the corridors are where the next most prevalent cases of bullying occur, whereas for primary pupils there is an even spread of lower instances of bullying. Primary schools mentioned “elsewhere” as assembly and breakfast clubs.

3. Do you feel safe at school?

	Gender	Total Nos. responded to question	% YES	% No	% Both / Sometimes
Secondary	Boy	17	82	6	12
	Girl	23	65	4	31
	Not stated	9	67	33	x
	TOTAL	49			
Primary	Boy	31	90	10	X
	Girl	38	90	5	5
	Not stated	11	100	x	x
	TOTAL	80			

Note that we included the “% Both / Sometimes” box as pupils had circled both and / or said they were unsure, or sometimes felt both safe or unsafe at different times. Overall though, secondary school boys feel comparatively safe at school, whilst some secondary girls are not 100% sure about how they feel. Primary school pupils overall feel safe in school.

4. What do you think would work best to try and stop people bullying?

Heading	Suggestion	Nos. of Secondary school pupils	Nos. of Primary school pupils
Tell			
	Tell someone	11	7
	Tell a teacher	3	5
	Tell best friend		1
	Tell my family / mam and dad		2
Listen & understand			
	Listen to the person you are talking to and try to understand		1
	Ask them what's wrong		1
	Try and calm them down		1
	Ask if they are being bullied, then talk to the bully		1
	Stop bullies or help those being bullied		1
	Get it sorted out straight away		1
	Teacher and parent to sort it out		1

Safe places for victims			
	Safe stop		1
	Make a friendship stop		1
	More safe places for people to go	1	
	Have a place where you can come in and talk to a teacher		1
	Drop in centre	1	
	Let victims know where they can go to for help	1	
	Secret classroom	1	
	Stay inside near teachers – they’re a walking bully deterrent	1	
Support victims			
	Playground buddies (primary)		1
	People could make groups so people aren’t lonely		1
	More Peer Mentors (secondary – “like Thornhill”)	12	
	Stand up for the person being bullied		1
	More buddying for younger students (Secondary)	1	
	Older pupils with younger ones	1	
	Working together and talking about problems		1
	More teachers to see everything		1
	Make people aware of situations	1	
	Teachers more approachable	1	
	Make teachers stop it in lesson time	1	
	Bullying Charter or school motto – see it, get help, stop it (secondary comments “like Thornhill)	1	1
Actions with bullies			
	Make them stay in until the bullying it stops		3
	Detention for a year		1
	Stop having bullies anywhere		1
	Permanent exclusion	1	
	Long term exclusion	1	
	Press charges / phone the police and get them locked up		2

	Punish the bully		1
	Tell the bully how they make the person feel		1
	Try and stop people bullying		1
	Talk to them		1
	Tell them to stay away from the person		2
	Ignore them and they will stop		2
	Eye witness		1
	Get people to watch them		1
	Prize for bully who gives up bullying		1
Other			
	More things to do	1	
	Put posters up		1
	Get someone to come in and talk about it		1
	Communicate with public	1	
	Call Childline		2
	Put loads of money into it	1	
	Anti-Bullying week		2
	I don't know because I don't think anyone is being bullied at my school (primary)		1

d. Key Messages

Community

1. The results showed that children and young people generally feel safe where they live, which is a similar response to that found in the 2006 Tell Us Survey.
2. Just under 40% of young people at secondary school experience more bullying in the community than primary children, which is just under 30%. The bullying that happens tends to take place mainly in the street or the park.
3. Although primary school children are more than twice as likely to tell someone about the bullying, both groups identified that they would more than likely tell someone in their family about the bullying. Telling their friends or teachers were the next likely people they would speak to.
4. Secondary school age boys are most likely to be hurt through the bullying, whereas for secondary school age girls and primary school, name calling is the usual form of bullying.

School

5. Over 90% primary school pupils feel safe at school, whilst in secondary school boys generally appear to feel safer than girls.

6. 34% of primary children stated that they had been bullied / are still being bullied at school. This figure increases dramatically to 46% for secondary school young people.
7. The majority of bullying takes place primarily at lunch and break times.

General

8. When asked what they thought would work best to stop people bullying, a lot of the answers had more of a school connotation, than actions that might take place in the community. For example, telling teachers, more teachers to see everything, teachers being more approachable, staying inside near teachers, playground Buddies or Peer Mentors, Bullying Charter or school motto.
9. They identified that teachers need to take a more active part in preventing bullying. There certainly needs to be a greater presence of teachers or other trusted adult staff, during break and lunchtimes and they need to be more approachable, so that children and young people will feel confident that they will be listened to and that effective action will take place. At the moment, they are more likely to tell someone in their family about bullying. Staff in schools need to be trained on how to handle any bullying situation immediately, as low level actions prevents the escalation of bullying incidents.
10. The children and young people also identified that having a place that they could go to which was safe was important, especially in school.
11. Many children and young people think that they forming supportive groups like Buddies or Peer Mentors will help those being bullied. This shows that children and young people feel that they are best placed to support their peers and work out their own solutions. Obviously this would involve training children and young people in the skills to do this.

e. Future Actions

1. The sample size is limited, so more thought needs to go into considering how to get the 2008 Annual Questionnaire completed by more children and young people.
2. Additionally, more thought needs to be given to how this information can be collated using ICT, as it has taken a fair length of time to collate this manually. Given that it was actioned manually, allowance should be made for any human error. Funding for ICT software needs to be identified.
3. There needs to be instructions for whoever carries out the questionnaires, to ensure that children and young people understand what they have to do – including circling whether they are a boy or a girl.
4. This questionnaire should be used each year so that differences can be monitored.
5. Presuming that most of those attending the conference were probably chosen because they were able to voice opinions, the results may not be a true reflection of how safe children and young people in Sunderland really feel. Thought needs to be given as to how to widen the participation of children and young people from a wider range of backgrounds, so that potentially more vulnerable children and young people are able to participate.
6. Although the cost of the conference was mainly born by Impact's Anti-Bullying Service, thought needs to be given as to who should fund future conferences and the cost of and coordination of the Annual Questionnaire in light of the above.
7. The cost of funding on going training for adults as well as children and young people needs to be considered, so that everyone understands what constitutes bullying and what effective strategies can be put in place to support the victim and help change the person who is bullying.

Finally, our thanks go to all children, young people and the staff who brought them to the conference for taking part on the day and for those who completed the questionnaire. Please let us know what you think of this report and let us know what we could do better. Please email the Anti-Bullying Service: enquiriesantibullying@sunfam.co.uk.