

YORKSHIRE MIXTURES YOUTH



LESBIAN,
GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER YOUNG
PEOPLE

Presentation to the Safeguarding Board
18 July 2012

Yorkshire Mixtures

Youth group is for Young
People aged 13-19 who identify as

Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual or

Transgender

(LGBT)



There are **three groups** across
Kirklees and they have **Youth
Workers** from Kirklees Integrated Youth
Support Service **supporting them**



A short

introduction to **Our**

story.....



The official **Yorkshire Mixtures Youth Group** started in 2007 in **partnership** with the then **Huddersfield Technical College**

In **2008** the group moved to **North Kirklees** as many of the group were living in this area



In **February 2011** a **second group** was set up in South Kirklees due to the demand for services in both North and South of the region (run by Louise Hardy)

October 2011 a **third group** was established in South Kirklees (Valleys Area) which runs on a **Sunday** (run by the Valleys team)



We are here today from the
North group (run by Kerrie Clark)

these are some of the things we are

proud of.....



2009 / 2010 the
group were meeting every week in North
Kirklees....

They were **campaigning** to tackle
homophobic bullying in their
communities and in **Schools**



We have a **play** that we perform about this kind of **bullying in schools**, we have tried to publicise this as widely as we can as we think **it is the best tool we have to get our message across.** (Quote from a Group Member)





2009
STOP PRESS





The
Philip
Lawrence
Awards

Yorkshire Mixtures Group wins a Philip Lawrence Award

For work
towards tackling
Homophobic
Bullying



The play is based on Sam's Story

A true story of a young
man who committed
suicide because of
homophobic bullying



As a result of the Phillip
Lawrence Award the group
were contacted by ITV Fixers

TOGETHER

They produced a DVD called
‘Straight Out’



It is a story of a world where everyone is LGBT and **being straight** is seen as a 'difference'

One young man is bullied because of his sexuality ...
because he is straight



The **DVD** is aimed at **Young People** or anyone wanting to have discussions with Young People about being **LGBT**, homophobic bullying or **heterosexist attitudes and views**

Heterosexism

a word to describe views and attitudes that assume people are 'straight' or in opposite sex relationships therefore discriminating against those who are not



2010 & Yorkshire Mixtures



ELD
IC



”We wanted to keep the **legacy of the Picnic alive** by offering to organise a **LITTLE PICNIC for Young People**

The committee under Stephen gave us a **generous amount of funding** and we are currently organising

PINK PICNIC’S LIL’ PICNIC”

(Quote by Young Person)



”The **Diana Award** was established in
1999 as a lasting legacy to **Diana, Princess
of Wales’ belief** that

**young people
have the power to
change the world”**

(Quote from Diana Award website)



The Award is to celebrate **young people** who
support others and **strive to**
improve their communities.

Young People receive the **Diana Award**
for demonstrating the qualities
associated with the late Princess -



COMPASSION

and a **selfless**
commitment to
improving the
lives of others.



The **reason** this has
been our campaign is
because most of us have
been **victims** of
homophobic
bullying



In a lot of cases the word **'BULLYING'** is too small to describe the stories we have to tell about what has happened to **ourselves** or our **friends...**

Homophobic **ABUSE**

Homophobic **HATE CRIME**

Are better words...



The list of ways people
find to hurt us is long

We are Bullied because we

Fancy or fall in love with someone of
the same gender as ourselves

Or

Because we feel that **We are not the
gender we were born as**



The people who commit this abuse?

MUM

CARER

BROTHER

DAD

SISTER

AUNTY

UNCLE

COUSIN

TEACHER

FRIEND

LOVER

POLICE

NURSE

SCOUT
LEADER

HEAD
TEACHER

PCSO

IMMAM

YOUTH
WORKER

CHURCH
LEADER

SOCIAL
WORKER

PARAMEDIC

DOCTOR



A few stories of abuse

A group of boys at School refusing to get changed in the same room as a young man who came 'out' as gay

A young woman who is bisexual having urine thrown at her by girls on the school bus on the way to group

A young man being beaten up by his Dad when he told him he was gay

Being thrown out of home aged 15 when Mum found out her daughter was bisexual

Sexually explicit text messages being sent round a School peer group by a young gay man to another, the other young person lured him into thinking he wanted a relationship so he could get 'proof' of his sexuality



Heterosexism

a word to describe views and attitudes that assume people are 'straight' or in opposite sex relationships therefore discriminating against those who are not

This is just as damaging and hurtful as abuse or bullying

Because it is generally done without anyone noticing they have done it



SOME EXAMPLES:

A nurse offering a young lesbian woman condoms on every visit to the surgery

A Social Worker suggesting to a 14 year old gay young man not to tell people he is gay until he is sure because he might 'end up straight' (this Young Man told her he was gay at 14, he is still gay at 19)

A young man who is gay being told by his Mum to 'settle down and find a nice girl'

A gay man being told by his Father that he 'is going through a stage' and that he will eventually realise that girls are good people

A teacher refusing to answer a question about gay sex during a sex ed lesson because 'it isn't relevant' at that age (question asked by an openly gay 15 year old young man)



Dominic Crouch

Dominic was bullied by pupils following a residential trip in which he is reported to have kissed a boy as a dare

On 18 May 2011 Dominic wrote a short note to his family



“Dear Family

I’m **SO SORRY** for what I’m
about to do.

I’ve **been bullied** a lot
recently and **had a lot of shit**
made up about me that
aint true”



After writing this letter Dominic jumped off a 6 storey high block of flats

The coroner who investigated Dominic's death recorded that there was **NO EVIDENCE** of bullying... despite Dominic's note



Following Dominic's death his
Dad Roger campaigned
tirelessly against
bullying
in 2011 he won

**Stonewall's Hero of
the Year Award**



Shortly after winning the
Award

Roger made the decision to
end his own life

He could not cope with the grief
he felt at losing his son



A recent survey by Cambridge University for Stonewall found the following:

23% of LGB (lesbian, gay, bisexual) Young People in the UK have **attempted to commit suicide**

The Samaritans state that in the overall population of the same age group (11-19yrs) **2%** of Young People will attempt suicide



**“We made it our aim in the group to
tackle
homophobic
bullying rather than
just having fun as a group”
(Quote from a Group Member 2009)**



This
REMAINS
our AIM



**We are a small group of
young people trying to
make a BIG
difference**

We wont give up



By inviting us to meet

**THANK
YOU**

make that difference

