



CASE STUDY

1. Title: Are You Being Bullied? – A questionnaire for pupils with learning difficulties or communication issues.

2. Area: South West Region – Somerset Total Communication (STC)

3. What was the issue?

For many children and young people with communication issues resources for consultation are often inaccessible and consequently their opinions and experiences are not taken into account or acted upon. This makes a large number of children at risk of abuse, intimidation and bullying. The MENCAP consultation with young people with learning disabilities reported that 80% had experienced bullying; 60% physical violence and telling an adult made no difference. Somerset Total Communication (STC) is a multi-agency partnership with Somerset County Council, Somerset Health Community, Speech and Language Therapy Services and other partners to make sure of a consistent strategy of sharing an inclusive and common language. The tools of total communication include: speaking with facial expression, gesture, body language, signing, objects of reference, photographs, drawings, symbols with written words, multi sensory channels and access to modern technology.

4. What action was taken?

The ABA South West Regional Adviser contacted STC to discuss an accessible questionnaire that could be used by schools and other services or organisations to enable effective consultation with children and young people with communication issues. STC has produced a resource 'Are you being bullied' that is intended to be adapted for individual need to explore suspected bullying and is appropriate at Key Stage 3. It is most effectively used in 1:1 situations; however it can be adapted with small groups of pupils. The questionnaire uses symbols based on the Makaton symbols and bespoke to Somerset.



Are you being bullied?



Who can you get help from when you are being bullied?

STC are happy to provide support, training or for the questionnaire to be used by other organisations on the condition that they are acknowledged as the source.

5. What impact has this had

Several Anti-bullying leads have accessed the questionnaire and are considering how they can use it to develop their own pupil surveys and to embed inclusive communication

systems into schools and communities. STC and Makaton can be used with children and adults with a broad range of communication needs of all kinds: those interacting with the children and young people e.g. parents, carers, professionals, friends and all Service Providers for translation of information to increase user access. If schools and community organizations are to comply with the DDA and Single Equalities Legislation they will need to consider how accessible their communication and information systems are for a variety of service users.

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

Most professionals recognise that bullying is a real issue for children and young people with special educational needs. The use of total communication and technology can enable increased participation and protection of those at greatest risk of bullying. By circulating the contact information ; examples of accessible questionnaires or surveys throughout the regional networks it will raise awareness of the issues and their responsibilities to reduce the incidents of bullying experienced by these children and young people.

7. Additional information

Somerset Total Communication (STC) Leaflet [click to download ...

File Format: Microsoft Word - [View as HTML](#)

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or fill in the form below and click on the Send form button.



<http://young.mencap.org.uk/pages/Bullying.aspx>