



Media Release March 2011

## Unique new local enquiry into Cyberbullying

- **Are a third of teenagers being victimised in Cyberspace?**
- **How big a problem is homophobic bullying?**
- **How good is the e-safety advice we give our young people?**

These questions are being asked in an innovative programme run by local charity, EACH.\*

Cyberbullying, a new way of deliberately victimising others, has increased markedly in the past two years as new devices arrive on the market. It is thought to affect around a third of teenagers. Camera phones allow the use of humiliating photos, while social network sites can be the scene for freezing someone out. Others are bullied by text, instant messaging or in chatrooms. Even games consoles are now being used to send hurtful threats. For some children and young people there is simply no escape as bullies can follow you into all areas of your life both in and out of school.

The Cybersurvey, already successfully run in the Midlands, Oxfordshire and Essex, is beginning to reveal how many young people do not follow the guidelines on e-safety they have been taught. By the age of 14 one in five does not follow safety advice and half say they only sometimes do so.

To help us develop better e-safety advice, and to combat cyberbullying we are exploring what young people say in the West of England. This will be a 'first' as we explore homophobic bullying. The charity Educational Action Challenging Homophobia will use this information to work with young people to develop innovative new resources that will help to tackle it.

Schools, colleges and youth clubs, student unions and any service working with young people are encouraged to take part in this **free** opportunity for young people to have their views heard.

To find out how your organisation can take part in the Reach Cybersurvey, please contact: [akatz@youthworksconsulting.co.uk](mailto:akatz@youthworksconsulting.co.uk)

### Editor's notes

\*This Big Lottery funded programme is run by the charity EACH - Educational Action Challenging Homophobia. Titled REACH, it aims to explore the extent of homophobic bullying online and via mobiles, raise awareness of all forms of homophobia among a wide group of young people and settings and to develop an innovative training resource. Young people will be offered creative skills courses and provided with opportunities to contribute throughout. →

Is cyberbullying increasing?

- We hardly know the extent of cyberbullying because the research is fairly recent (since 2002) and it is not all comprehensive.
- Cyberbullying is now estimated to affect around a third of secondary age young people. (How Fair is Britain, EHRC)
- More than one third of boys (34.7%) have recently reported receiving homophobic insults or threats in Cyberspace. 29% of ten year olds experienced homophobic insults on their mobile phones. (The Cybersurvey, West Midlands 20010)
- Nearly half of all secondary schoolteachers in England acknowledge that homophobic bullying is common, but only 1 in 6 believe that their school is active in addressing this. ((How Fair is Britain, EHRC)

For further information on the Reach project please contact: [reach@eachaction.org.uk](mailto:reach@eachaction.org.uk)

NB. Closing date for responses: 8<sup>th</sup> April



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