

Calderdale Anti-Bullying Strategy

2008 - 2011



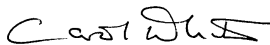
Foreword

The Calderdale Anti-Bullying Strategy describes Calderdale's ambition and key priorities to reduce bullying and reflects our commitment to ensure that children and young people in Calderdale are protected from all forms of bullying. And where children or young people experience bullying that they are consistently supported and the bullying effectively challenged. Bullying is neither an acceptable nor inevitable part of childhood.

Calderdale Council knows that all children and young people are different but that everyone matters. With our partners we want to support all children and young people in Calderdale to achieve their full potential and the five Every Child Matters Outcomes to be healthy, to be safe, to enjoy and achieve, experience economic wellbeing and to make a positive contribution.

Bullying has a detrimental affect on our children and young people, our communities and society as a whole and any child or young person can experience bullying. The impact of bullying and the damage inflicted is often underestimated. What we do know, however, is that bullying can cause considerable distress to children and young people, affecting their health and development as well as affecting their emotional and mental health.

The strategy has been developed following widespread consultation and in partnership with all services for children and young people, including the Third Sector. Most importantly the views of children and young people, parents and carers have helped to shape this strategy.



Carol White
Group Director
Children & Young People's Services



Councillor Craig Whittaker
Lead Member
Calderdale Council

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What is the nature of Bullying?

Bullying is a subjective experience and can take many forms, making it extremely difficult to define, however, all bullying involves an imbalance of power which may result in the individual who is being bullied feeling defenceless, vulnerable and isolated. The experience of bullying can be repetitive incidents or a singular event, instigated by an individual or group which can have a profound and sometimes a life long impact on the individual.

Bullying can consist of emotionally or physically harmful behaviour which could include name-calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, physical abuse, inappropriate text messaging and e-mailing, sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet Cyberbullying, gossiping, excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful or untruthful rumours. Bullying can take place anywhere for example in children's homes, youth clubs, schools, within the community, on the way to and from school, on the bus, or children and young people can be reached via text or internet or anywhere where they come together.

The nature of bullying today has changed dramatically for children and young people especially with advances in electronic media which has led to incidents of bullying affecting children and young people at all times, this can include evenings, weekends, when at home or even on holiday, and respite from bullying no longer exists for some.

Some children and young people may be additionally vulnerable because of race, gender, disability, faith or sexual orientation but also because of appearance, belief or lifestyles. This includes disabled children and young people, children and young people who live away from home in statutory care and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT) young people.

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Why we need a Calderdale Anti-Bullying Strategy

The National Picture

The Government has made tackling bullying in schools a key priority and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has made it clear that no form of bullying should be tolerated and further, it is not a normal part of growing up, it can ruin lives.

In addition the DCSF, Staying Safe: Action Plan (2008) identifies a number of key actions to tackle bullying and to support children and young people.

The Calderdale Picture

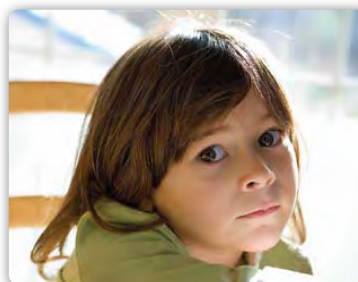
Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 states :

"Calderdale schools continue to receive good reports by OFSTED on the way in which they deal with bullying. However, in the TellUs 2 Survey that was part of the 2007 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) process, 39% of young people in Calderdale who responded to the survey indicated that they had been bullied in school within a four week period. Nationally, the result was 29%. While this is of concern, this needs to be considered in the context of the relatively small number of children and young people who responded to the survey.

Concern about bullying was a key message from the looked after children and young people who were consulted about our Looked After Children and Young People's Policy and Strategy. Actions have been included in the action plan to support foster carers, staff in residential homes and in schools to address this issue.

This issue was also raised by disabled children and young people and has been included in our Disabled Children and Young People's Strategy.

This year, the Youth Council has concentrated on what needs to be done to help children and young people feel safe out and about in and around Calderdale. They are particularly concerned about the need to ensure that children and young people can feel safe on public transport and that there are well-lit and safe places for young people to meet in all parts of the Borough." (Children and Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011, Page 50)



As part of developing this strategy consultation with parent/carers, children and young people was undertaken across a range of service provision e.g. schools, young people's services and support services for children and young people. From the analysis of 1470 completed questionnaires:

- 87% of parent/carers considered bullying was a major issue facing children and young people, 70% were confident that Schools would listen to concerns in respect of Bullying and 77% felt that Schools took the whole issue of bullying seriously
- 53% of parent/carers who were bullied as children have children who have been or are being bullied

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- 58% of Primary School children and 36% of Secondary School children said they had been bullied
- 93% of Primary School children had a clear understanding of what bullying is and know that it is not allowed and 76% said that adults would make sure that bullying stopped
- 46% of young people at Secondary School experienced verbal bullying, 20% physical and 13% homophobic bullying. However, research by GALYIC (Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale) has found that 77% of young people who identify themselves lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual (LGBT) have experienced homophobic bullying and 78% have witnessed homophobic bullying.

Quotes about bullying

from primary school children....



"Stop bullying! Sort problems out!"



"If I was being bullied I would want someone my age or a teenage mentor to talk to. I think it will also help kids get through family problems at home too."



"We should get the people who are bullies and talk to them about why they were bullying others."

"Actually listen to people."

"Remember don't bully a bully."

"I am afraid to tell an adult in case the bully does something worse."

from secondary school children....



"I used to get bullied and the bully was my best friend. She made my life a misery."



"People get away with more than they should. Some people can be intimidating and that restricts what you can do in want to avoid certain people. Other people get dragged into stuff by their mates."

"I think it is very important to tell someone if you are being bullied."



"I think that teachers should support people more when they are getting bullied because it makes it hard to concentrate on your lesson."

"I think my school is very good at sorting out bullying. We have many people within the school that you can talk to about the situation, if that person feels confident to."

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Quotes about bullying



from parents/carers....

"My child has been bullied since she started school, mainly because she is part English and part Pakistani, even though she is Muslim. The problem has never been resolved, she simply toughened up and eventually made friends because she is a likeable girl."



"I think bullying needs to be dealt with seriously right from nursery. I think bullying is not just physical and parents as well as children need educating as it can start from words heard at home."



"Teacher listened to my child and spoke to the children concerned and resolved the situation. No problems since."



"It seems that all schools now have an Anti-Bullying Policy. This can however, just be a paper policy and not fully implemented until situations become extreme. PSHE lessons address the problems of bullying but do not necessarily empower an individual child with it. Unfortunately, you will never really know how effective your school's policy really is until your child has a serious problem."



from professionals....

"We all need to own the responsibility to safeguard our children and young people from the affects of bullying"



"We should not be complacent about bullying or the extent of it. It is a real issue and has a major impact on the lives of children and young people"



"Children and young people are our future and deserve the right to express themselves positively as individuals without fear of recrimination or bullying"

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Our Ambition for children and young people who are the victims or perpetrators of bullying

The overall aim of this strategy is to create services and environments that promote a zero tolerance approach to bullying, in all settings.

The objectives of the strategy are:

- to have a thorough understanding of the nature of bullying and its impact on children and young people
- to further develop and embed anti-bullying guidance within all services for children and young people
- to develop a consistent multi-agency approach to tackling bullying wherever it occurs
- to ensure our workforce is skilled and proactive in addressing bullying issues.



Improving outcomes for Children and Young People

Tackling bullying is a priority within the Calderdale Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11, young people identified that they wanted to 'make sure that children and young people feel safe out and about'. This includes a zero tolerance approach to bullying in all settings accessed by children and young people.

Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board is committed to ensuring a multi-agency approach and accountability in relation to bullying.

The Anti-Bullying Strategy will support schools, services, settings and local communities to:

- actively involve children and young people in shaping services to support and tackle bullying
- work in partnership with parents and carers
- work in partnership, across services for children and young people to minimise and reduce incidents of bullying, harassment and violence
- ensure a joined up approach to anti-bullying work incorporating the full continuum of awareness raising, prevention, early intervention and targeted support/provision
- further develop a sense of shared purpose, values and goals across key stakeholders
- to promote and support effective anti-bullying policies, procedures and training across all stakeholders.

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A copy of the full Strategy is available from:

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or can be accessed at:

www.calderdale.gov.uk/education/parents/educational-welfare/bullying.html

**The Calderdale Children and Young People's Plan 2008 - 2011
can be viewed online at:**

www.calderdale.gov.uk/education/childcare/plans/children-youngpeoples.pdf

www.calderdale.gov.uk

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