



**loudmouth**  
education & training through theatre

**Theatre in Education Tour  
to support  
Anti-Bullying Education  
In  
Staffordshire Moorlands  
Academic Year 2019-20**

Written by Eleanor Vale, Company Director, Loudmouth Education & Training

April 2020



## Introduction

This evaluation report is feeding back on a theatre in education project that took place during the academic year of 2019-20. The project was to use a Theatre in Education (TIE) programme to support Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE) including anti-bullying awareness in targeted schools (middle and secondary), in the Staffordshire Moorlands area.

The tour was delivered by Loudmouth Education & Training using their TIE programme Bully 4 U, designed to educate on anti-bullying.

The tour was funded by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and we would like to thank Vicki Ellis, Member and Community Support Officer for her support.

Established in 1994, Loudmouth Education & Training is a theatre company that supports schools and other organisations with their PSHE. Loudmouth's aim is to help children and young people to have healthy, happy and safe relationships. The company uses drama, interaction and discussion to explore issues that affect children and young people. Loudmouth's education and training programmes are proven to help learners to challenge attitudes, gain new skills and increase knowledge.

*"very relatable to the age of the students. Key bullying topics covered.  
Fantastic acting that engaged ALL pupils!"*

*PE Department, Woodhouse Academy*

*"The Loudmouth session helped me because they gave me examples and how to deal with bullying. Now my knowledge is much better on bullying."*

*Year 7 pupil, Woodhouse Academy*

## Executive Summary

- During the academic year of 2019/20 Loudmouth Education & Training delivered their interactive TIE programme, Bully 4 U, on bullying and cyber bullying in mainstream secondary schools in the Staffordshire Moorlands area.
- Loudmouth ran a total of 10 sessions of Bully 4 U.
- We visited 10 schools, delivering in each school a drama performance for a whole year group, with interactive workshop element.
- We worked with 1497 young people aged between 11 and 14 years old.
- After participating in the Bully 4 U programme, 91% of students stated that their knowledge of bullying /cyber bullying was 'Good' or 'Excellent'.
- Part of the session focused on a series of techniques that students could use to stay safe online. When asked after the session what someone should do if they are being bullied/cyber-bullied, 82% of students could name at least 3 of the key strategies they had been taught for dealing with cyberbullying. 19% could name all 6 of the strategies covered in the session.
- The most popular support service that students could identify after the session was Childline, 99% of pupils named Childline. This was the key service highlighted in the session. 45% cited thinkuknow and 39% the Loudmouth website. We are pleased that the top three organisations to which we signpost were the top three answers given by the students.
- 100% of students felt that Bully 4 U helps people to learn about bullying / cyber bullying.

*"It showed many types of bullying. It also shows how they affect people mentally and physically."*

*"They did it in a good and funny way which got more people involved so they are more likely to take it in."*

*"It helps to educate kids on what types of bullying can happen to people and how you can help stop it."*

*"If people are bullied then they can learn from this and go on the website and get help and advice. It can also help others to understand about bullying and what it causes."*

- 66% of students stated that as a result of the Bully 4 U session they would act differently in the future. The comments were mainly around speaking up when they saw bullying and giving support to those being bullied.

"As a result of seeing Bully 4 U I will say something if I see someone else being bullied."

"As a result of seeing Bully 4 U I think people would be acting different as they will realise how it actually hurts people."

"As a result of seeing Bully 4 U I will tell safeguarding team."

"As a result of seeing Bully 4 U I will be kind to others and help other people."

"As a result of seeing Bully 4 U I understand that everyone is different in their own ways and we should respect that. No one can be made into someone they are not."

- 99% of all students evaluated as part of this tour said they would recommend the programme to the next year's students.
- We provided each school with access to a term's worth of online lesson plans on anti-bullying.
- On a scale rating of poor, below average, above average and excellent, 100% of staff rated the Bully 4 U sessions "Excellent" or "Above average", with 78% rating them "Excellent".

"Sketches/drama which every individual could understand and relate to. A very healthy amount of discomfort when watching - it's meant to challenge." Head of Year, Leek High School

"Relatable, focused on lots of issues and always had kids' attention." Head of Year 8, Blythe Bridge High School

"Excellent acting, humour, engaging. The range of bullying represented was wide and it showed some 'hidden' types of bullying." Teacher, Biddulph High School

- 100% of staff said they would recommend the Loudmouth programmes they saw to other schools and organisations.
- 100% of staff recorded that the Bully 4 U sessions had a big impact on their groups, with 47% saying it had a "Considerable" impact and 53% saying it had a "High" impact.

"They can relate to the situations. Highlighted key aspects of bullying, how to spot bullying and what to do." PE Department, Woodhouse Academy

"I will be able to access over the next few weeks but looking at specific individuals I could see the impact on their face and engagement." Head of Year, Leek High School

"Bullying issues, how they can escalate – how social media has an impact on friendships. Relationship problems too, how even in relationships bullying occurs. LGBT mention, clear facts. Excellent advice at the end of the session." PSHE Lead, Woodhouse Academy

"Made the students consider other people's views and feelings." Senior Leader, Blythe Bridge High School

"Pupils were coming up with good questions for the characters, it got them thinking! They could also feel empathetic towards the characters on show." Teacher, Biddulph High School

- Staff were asked about the impact of the programme on themselves as staff and 59% commented that it had a "Considerable" impact and 41% saying it had had a "High" impact.

"Different approaches to tackling these situations. Allows staff to reflect on how difficult students might find bullying." Head of Year, Leek High School

"Teaching staff how it is okay to discuss taboo topics." Head of Year 8, Blythe Bridge High School

"Very enjoyable and a break from the norm of 'anti-bullying' assemblies. This was much more engaging for the pupils as they were getting the info in a different way." Teacher, Biddulph High School

## Summary of Activity

The tour took place in the academic year 2019-20

Loudmouth ran a total of 10 sessions, for middle school and secondary school aged students. Each session consisted of a drama performance with workshop element to a whole year group as follows:

<b>Date of Session</b>	<b>Venue Name</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>
23-Sep-19	Biddulph High School	9	207
07-Oct-19	Blythe Bridge School & 6th Form	8	194
07-Oct-19	Endon High School	8	140
11-Oct-19	The Cheadle Academy	7	110
24-Oct-19	Churnet View Middle School	8	90
12-Nov-19	Westwood College	9	180
12-Nov-19	Moorside High School	7	150
21-Nov-19	Woodhouse Academy	7	101
30-Jan-20	Leek High School	9	95
09-Mar-20	Painsley Catholic College	8	230
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,497</b>

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The tour has proved to be very successful again this year, with one more school engaging and all the schools from the year before coming on board again. We have fantastic feedback from both staff and pupils on the learning from the programme. We are thoroughly pleased with how the tour has gone and clearly had a positive impact on the children, young people and school staff.

All of the learning objectives were met by the vast majority of the participants, who learnt key information, skills and positive attitudes on anti-bullying to support them to have healthy and safe lives. We are particularly pleased with the learning around cyber-bullying and strategies to combat it.

The report also demonstrates that this approach of using TIE is a powerful way to communicate key messages about who to go to for support around bullying. The key organisations that we flag up during the sessions came out top in the evaluation.

In conclusion again as last year, the learning from the programme both for the participants and staff was very beneficial, with students learning how to spot a range of a) types of bullying and b) sources of help and support.

If repeat funding is available in 2020/21 we would recommend asking schools for a financial contribution as this makes the funding go further meaning we could potentially reach more children and young people.

School contributions are also advisable in terms of sustainability, as it will enable schools to start thinking about how they might pay in full for this type of work in future years, particularly with the approach of statutory RSE in September 2020.

**For more information about this tour or any of Loudmouth's work**  
[www.loudmouth.co.uk](http://www.loudmouth.co.uk) [info@loudmouth.co.uk](mailto:info@loudmouth.co.uk) 0121 446 4880

For info on commissioning Loudmouth: <https://www.loudmouth.co.uk/programmes/commissioners>

