



loudmouth
education & training through theatre

Evaluation Report

Loudmouth Education & Training

**HELPING
HANDS**

Theatre in Education Programme on Staying Safe for Year 5 & 6

Funded by monies from the Home Office Domestic Abuse Service
Transformation Plan through the Office of Public Health, Dudley Metropolitan
Borough Council
2016/2017



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Introduction

This summary report covers Loudmouth Education & Training's redevelopment and pilot tour of their Helping Hands theatre in education programme that took place from July 2016 to March 2017. This project was funded by monies from the Home Office Domestic Abuse Service Transformation Plan through the Office of Public Health, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The project's aim was to redevelop Helping Hands from a programme that looked at positive relationships by exploring domestic abuse to one that also included exploration of child sexual exploitation. The programme was to be developed specifically for years 5 and 6 and to use drama and discussion.

Teaching staff in the participating schools are able to access a term's worth of Loudmouth's online lesson plans to accompany the programme. Teaching staff can use the lesson plans to help them prepare the pupils for the theatre in education sessions and also to run follow up work to consolidate the pupils' learning.



Established in 1994, Loudmouth Education & Training is a theatre company that supports schools and other organisations with their Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programmes. 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 safeguarding and relationship issues that affect children and young people. Loudmouth's education and training programmes are proven to help children and young to challenge attitudes, gain new skills and increase knowledge. Loudmouth has been creating and running programmes on Child Sexual Exploitation since 1998.

"As a result of seeing Helping Hands I know how to keep safe on the internet or in the real world. It was e-safety week last week but this helped me be aware of it the most." Year 6 pupil

Executive Summary

- Autumn 2016 - Loudmouth Education & Training were funded by the Office of Public Health, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) through the Home Office's Domestic Abuse Service Transformation Plan to redevelop their theatre in education programme on positive relationships, Helping Hands.
- Autumn 2016 – Loudmouth carried out research with professionals and children and created the learning objectives for the programme.
- Autumn 2016 – Loudmouth rewrote Helping Hands to support children in learning about spotting signs of unsafe relationships and different forms of abuse (child sexual exploitation and abuse, online safety and domestic abuse) and knowing where to go for support. The NSPCC gave us permission to use their PANTS rule which is designed to keep children safe from sexual abuse. The programme includes drama and small discussion groups.
- Spring 2017 - Loudmouth delivered a total of 10 sessions to Year 5 and 6 pupils, aged 9 to 11 in 10 Dudley primary schools. A total of 499 pupils participated.
- Spring 2017 - Loudmouth delivered a showcase event for local schools and safeguarding professionals. 40 professionals attended.
- Before the Helping Hands sessions between 0-9% of participating children could identify what each of the letters of the NSPCC PANTS rule stood for, this rose to 89-99% after the sessions.
- 99% of the children felt the session helped children stay safe. Their reasons why were given as making a serious subject fun and memorable, that they had learnt the PANTS Rule and were now able to spot signs of abusive and unsafe situations, they had learnt how to stay safe including online safety and they felt they now knew what to do and where to go if they felt unsafe.
- 64% of the children were sure that as a result of Helping Hands they would now act or behave differently. They said they would now be more likely to help friends, talk about a worry to someone and know who to talk to, would look how to stay safer online, behave in a better manner towards others, know and remember the PANTS rule and know if they were being put in an abusive or unsafe situation.
- Loudmouth signposted all of the pupils to ChildLine as a support service by delivering ChildLine's key messages during the session and distributing a signposting card to every pupil at the end of each session. The children were asked to name 3 people or places that can offer help or support if they do not feel safe, ChildLine increased from 43% before the sessions to 81% after the sessions. Talking to a parent or an adult in the family also rose by 17% overall.
- 100% of teaching staff rated the Helping Hands sessions 'above average' or 'excellent', with 86% stating the programme was 'excellent'.
- 100% of staff and 99% of the children recorded that they would recommend the programme to other schools.

- All of the teaching staff stated that Helping Hands had increased the groups' knowledge of the issues of unsafe and abusive relationships.
- 100% of teaching staff stated that Helping Hands had taught their pupils new skills around staying safe.
- All of the staff stated that Helping Hands had increased their groups' knowledge of relevant services that can offer help or support to children affected by these issues.
- 100% of staff said that Helping Hands had increased their confidence in delivering work around the issues. 86% of staff stated that Helping Hands had 'greatly' or 'considerably' increased their confidence.



"Helping Hands helped me to stay safe because it helped me tell the teacher." Year 5 pupil

Recommendations

The evaluation results from the pilot tour have proven that the programme has been very successful and clearly had a positive impact on the pupils, school staff and other safeguarding professionals.

All of the learning objectives (see page 17) were met; the children learning the importance of telling a trusted adult if they have any worries or concerns or don't feel safe, the children having increased skills to spot signs of abuse including grooming / child sexual exploitation (CSE) or abuse (CSA), the children having increased knowledge of the NSPCC PANTS rule and other ways to stay safe, the children having increased knowledge of relevant and appropriate services that can support children if they do not feel safe e.g. ChildLine.

The evaluation results clearly show the success of the pilot tour, showing that Helping Hands greatly increases the knowledge and skills of the pupils on abusive and unsafe relationships. It is very positive to see the huge increases in staff's confidence in delivering further work on the issues once they have had Helping Hands in to their school. All staff said they would recommend the programme to other schools and rated the programme highly.

As a result we would like to get this programme out to more primary schools. We have spoken to the Office of Public Health that is part of Dudley MBC and they have agreed that we can use some of the funding they give us for running our other programmes in schools towards more subsidised sessions of Helping Hands in the area's primary schools (schools to pay 25% of cost). They are also looking into applying for more Home Office money so that we can offer more subsidised sessions out to even more schools in Dudley.



Summary of Activity

Development

Loudmouth started research with professionals e.g. CSE co-ordinators, professional bodies e.g. NWG, RSVP and children from Dudley primary schools from July 2016. The research took the form of interviews and questionnaires. This research showed that the programme needed to have a wider remit than we had originally thought. As a result of the research we decided the programme's focus needed to be on spotting signs of unsafe relationships and different forms of abuse (child sexual exploitation and abuse, online safety and domestic abuse) and knowing where to go for support. The NSPCC gave us permission to use their PANTS rule which is designed to keep children safe from sexual abuse.

In October and November 2016 we created the programme. We created a new drama montage that looks at unsafe and abusive relationships in a range of scenarios that are age appropriate with the PANTS rule running throughout the drama. The children are then given the opportunity to talk to characters from the drama to strengthen their understanding and put what they have learned in practice. The children then go into small discussion groups of up to 20 children maximum. Loudmouth actor-facilitators lead the children in talking about the different drama scenes in more depth highlighting why the characters didn't feel safe and the range of emotions that they may have felt. The groups go back over the PANTS rule helping children to build their knowledge and remember the rule to help them stay safe. The group looks at where people can go for support with children working together to come up with a 'Helping Hand' of 5 people or places that they could go to if they ever felt unsafe including ChildLine and trusted adults.

Tour

The tour took place in January to March 2017. A total of 10 sessions were delivered for children aged 9 - 11 years, in 10 Dudley primary schools. The schools got the sessions free. A total of 499 children participated from a mix of year 5 and 6. Loudmouth ran different formats to accommodate schools that have one class per year group and schools that have more than one class per year group.

Date of Session	School Name	Number of sessions	Year Group	Number of children
16-Jan-17	Queen Victoria Primary School	1	5	72
16-Jan-17	St Marks CE Primary School	1	6	32
18-Jan-17	Brierley Hill Primary School	1	5	30
20-Jan-17	Sledmere Primary School	1	6	58
30-Jan-17	Straits Primary School	1	5	47
30-Jan-17	Woodside Community School	1	5	52
10-Feb-17	Halesowen CE Primary School	1	5	28
16-Feb-17	Roberts Primary School	1	5	90
17-Feb-17	Our Lady and St Kenelm RC Primary School	1	5	30
14-Mar-17	Milking Bank Primary School	1	5	60
		10		499

Showcase

On 14/03/17 Loudmouth ran a showcase event for 40 safeguarding professionals including teachers. This event was to show the programme and feedback on the evaluation from the

pilot tour in the 10 primary schools. The event was organised by The Office of Public Health, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. The event was well attended and the response very positive, with professionals taking information about Helping Hands back to their organisations.

Qualitative Feedback From Staff Evaluations

"Children now understand which situations are safe and who to turn to."

Teaching Assistant, St Marks C of E Primary School

"Informative in a fun environment."

Year 5 Class Teacher, Roberts Primary School

"Introduces vocabulary to the children e.g. 'grooming'".

Year 5/6 Phase Leader, Sledmere Primary School

"It was very inclusive of children's thoughts and views. Age appropriate scenes and the children were given valuable information to use if ever needed."

Teaching Assistant, St Marks C of E Primary School

"Funny, yet serious."

Teacher, Straits Primary School

"Learning who they can trust and that both boys and girls are valued equally."

Teaching Assistant, St Marks C of E Primary School

"Ability to discuss things openly and honestly."

Year 5/6 Phase Leader, Sledmere Primary School

"Covering serious issues in ways accessible to children. used humour and different approaches to get the message over."

Supply Teacher, Brierley Hill Primary School

Put children at their ease when dealing with difficult issues."

Year 5 Teacher, Woodside Community School

"Age appropriate delivery."

Teaching Assistant, Halesowen C of E Primary School

"As always, it is entertaining, funny and very informative. It makes subjects that could be awkward or embarrassing to talk about much more accessible."

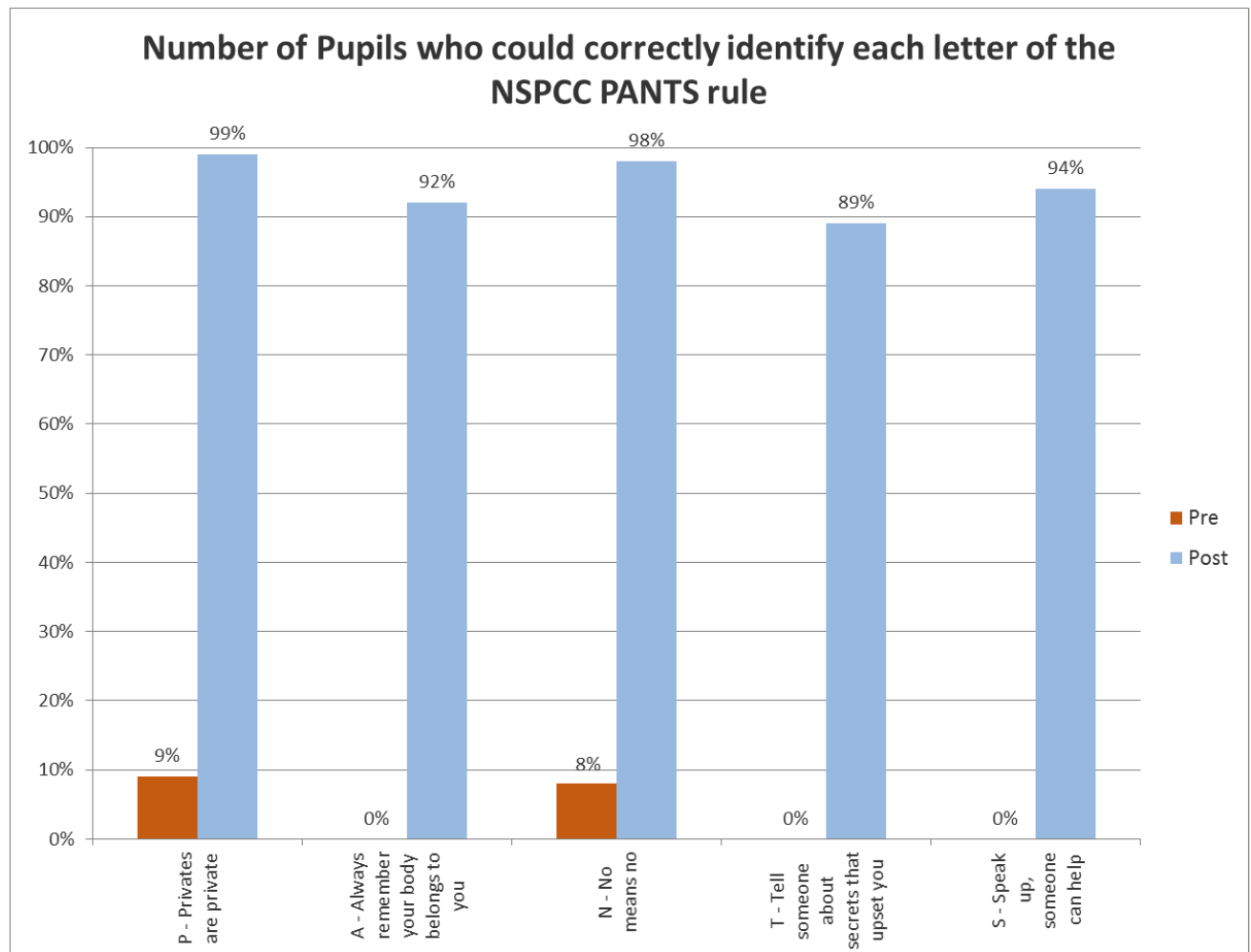
Year 5/6 Phase Leader, Sledmere Primary School

"Lively and engaging for children."

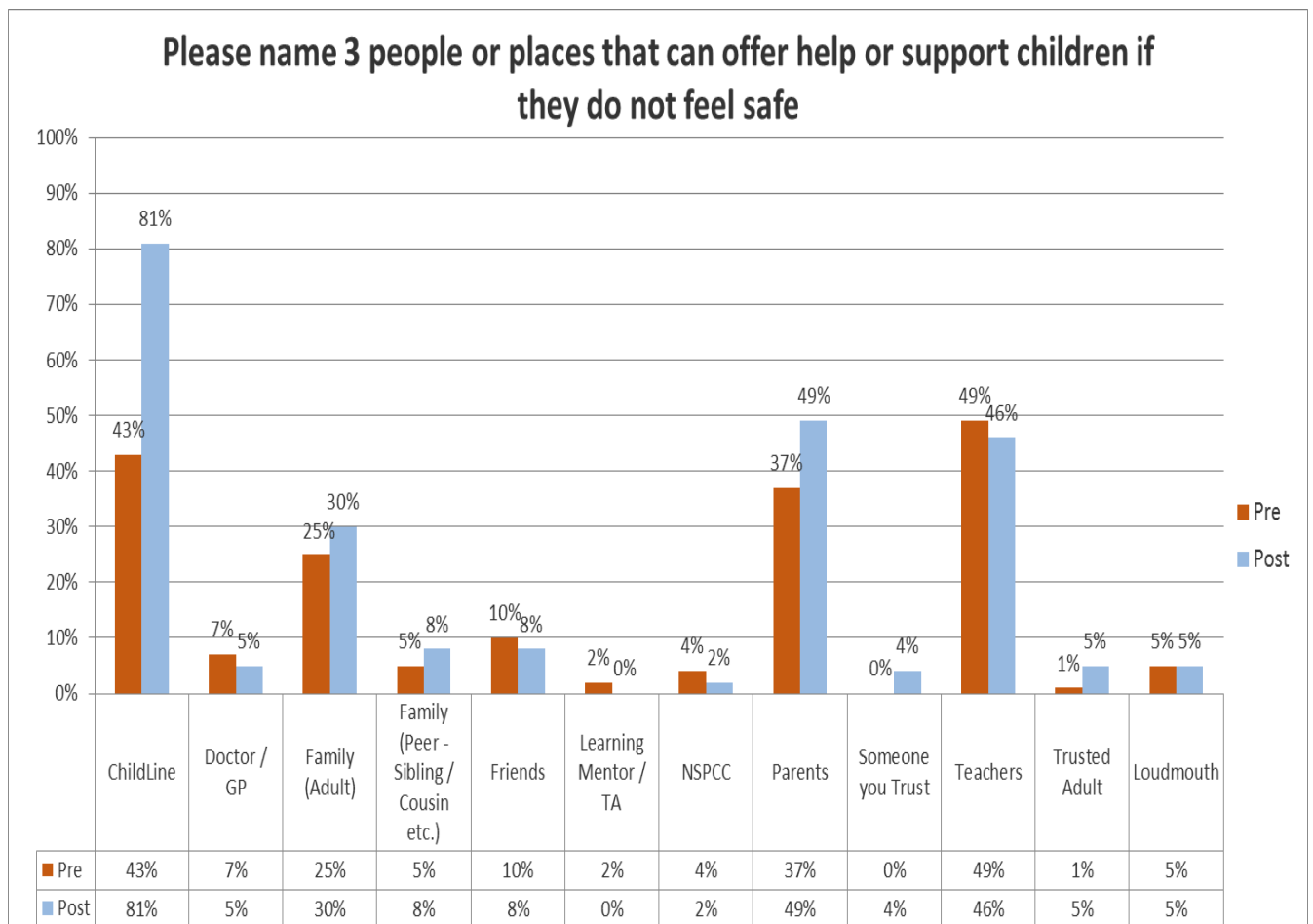
Year 5 Class Teacher, Roberts Primary School

Pupil Evaluation Results

Pupils from all the participating schools were asked to fill in evaluation forms before (pre) and after (post) the Helping Hands sessions. 135 pupils filled in the pre forms and 134 filled in the post forms.

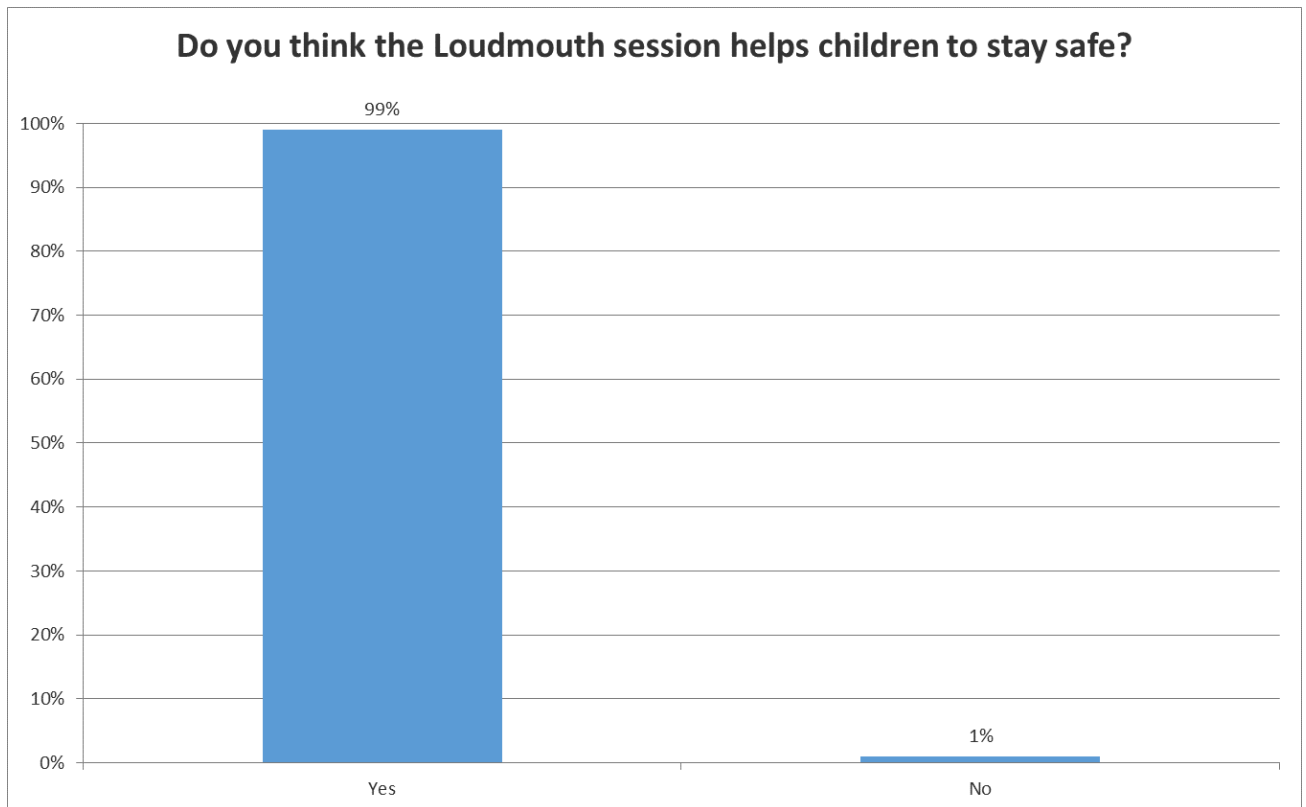


Before and after the Helping Hands sessions the children were asked to identify what each of the letters of the NSPCC PANTS rule stood for. 9% could identify P stands for "Privates are private" and 8% could identify N stands for "No means no". After the Helping Hands sessions this rose to 99% being able to identify "Privates are private" and 99% "No means no". None of the children could identify what the other letters A, T and S stood for before the sessions. After the sessions 92% knew that A stood for "Always remembers your body belongs to you", 89% had learnt that T stands for "Tell someone about secrets that upset you" and 94% had learnt that S stands for "Speak up, someone can help".



The children were asked to name 3 people or places that can offer help or support children if they do not feel safe. The main changes from before the sessions and after were the increased number of children naming ChildLine and an adult in the family or parent as a person or place that can give help and support. 43% of the children named ChildLine before the sessions, this rose to 81% identifying ChildLine after seeing Helping Hands. An adult in the family rose by 5% and parents rose by 12%. During the sessions we signpost the children to ChildLine, teaching them the phone number and giving key facts about the service. We also encourage the children to talk to a trusted adult in school, the community or in their household.





After the session, 99% of the children recorded that they felt that Helping Hands helped children to stay safe. We asked the children why they felt this way and the main reasons given were that it was a fun and memorable method of teaching a serious topic, learning the PANTS rule and now being able to spot signs of an abusive or unsafe situation and what to do if they feel they are in that situation including who to tell, learning ways to stay safe including online safety and learning things they hadn't known before about safety. Some of their many responses are below.

"It gives us loads of ideas on how to stay safe."

"I think it helps to understand a lot more when they did drama and had a chat about it later."

"They do fun drama sessions that help you understand and you also feel for the characters."

"It educates children how to keep safe at school, online and outside of school."

"It explains to children what can happen online and in real life (plus a card for ChildLine) also shows an enjoyable way of education."

"It tells children what to do when something is wrong and make them understand more."

"Children will know what to do if it happens to them."

"It teaches you about the 'PANTS' rule that can help you deal with staying safe."

"It's fun so it will stick in our heads."

"Because I know I have more confidence now to speak out."

"Because I didn't know the PANTS RULE before Loudmouth came in. "

"Because if anything happens to you, you know what to do. "

"By making it more interesting than just reading or being told it."

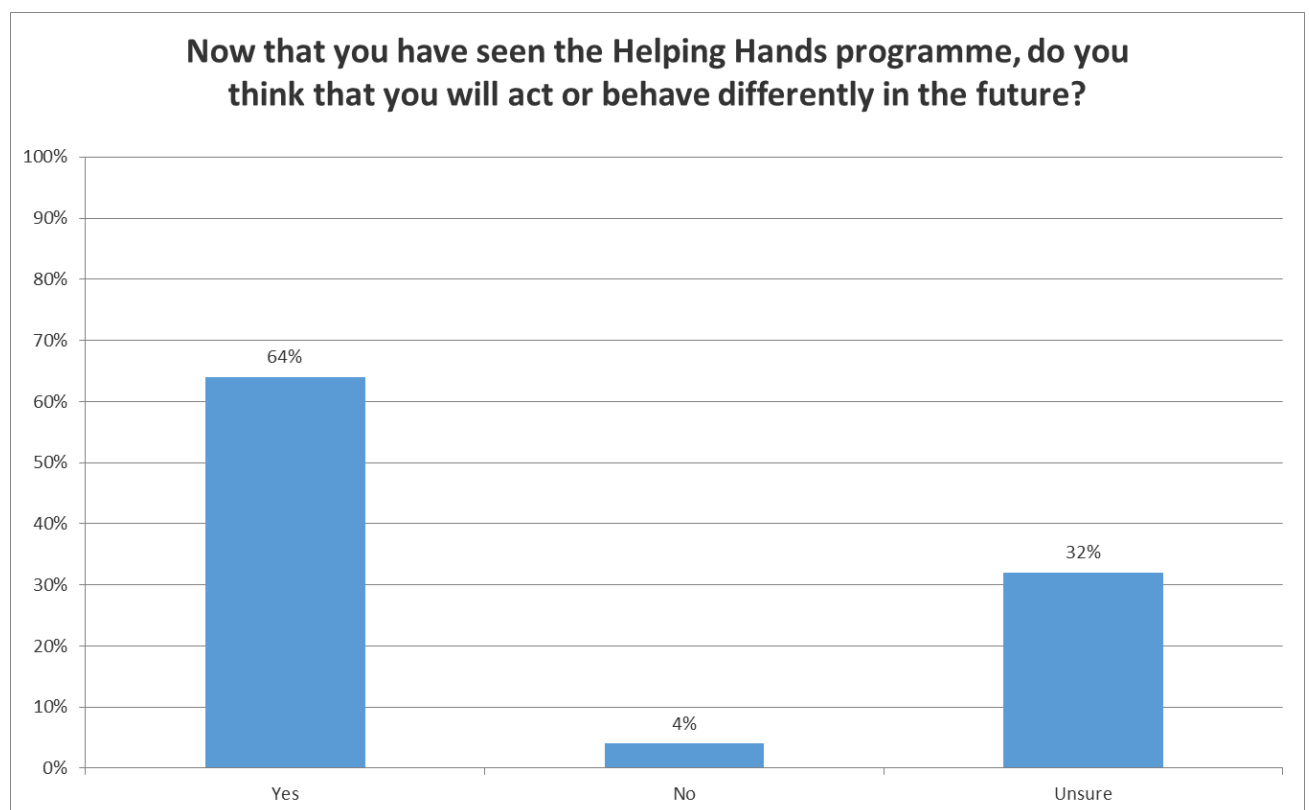
"Because it makes children aware of the dangers and who can help them and give them support."

"It tells us so that we know what is unsafe and safe to do and they make it fun."

"It helped me learn better because they did drama. It was really good. I learned a lot and want them again."

"They teach you about the organisations that can help you such as ChildLine (0800 11 11)."

"Because the information they give you is really serious but they act it out in a funny way."



64% of the children surveyed after the Helping Hands sessions said that as a result of the programme they would act or behave differently. The main themes that came out were that the children would now be more likely to help their friends, talk about a worry to someone and know who to talk to, look at how to stay safer online, behave in a better manner towards others, know and remember the PANTS rule, and know if they were being put in an abusive or unsafe situation.

Here are a few examples of the children's thoughts. As a result of seeing Helping Hands, I....

"now know that I could speak to a company called ChildLine, whose number is 0800 11 11 and I know the PANTS rule."

"should stay safe when on computer games."

"have realised that you need to stay safe and if you aren't tell somebody."

"have realised things can get serious if you don't tell."

"have learnt to always tell someone"

"would be more careful on the internet and won't speak to strangers."

"will set a good example, keep social media on private."

"would know who to talk to if I was in this situation."

"will keep safe online, tell immediately, help my friends and keep my information safe."

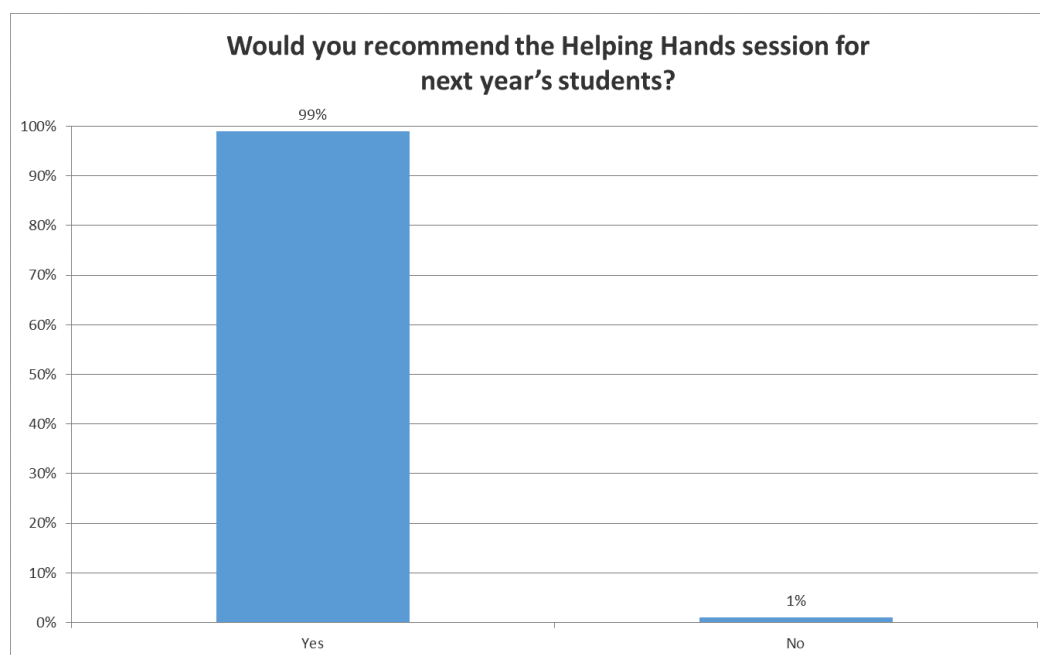
"will be able to know when I'm being controlled to do things or when I'm being assaulted."

"shall be more careful online and think about the PANTS rule."

"will not listen to strangers or do what they say, won't let anyone touch me somewhere inappropriate and help someone that has the same problem."

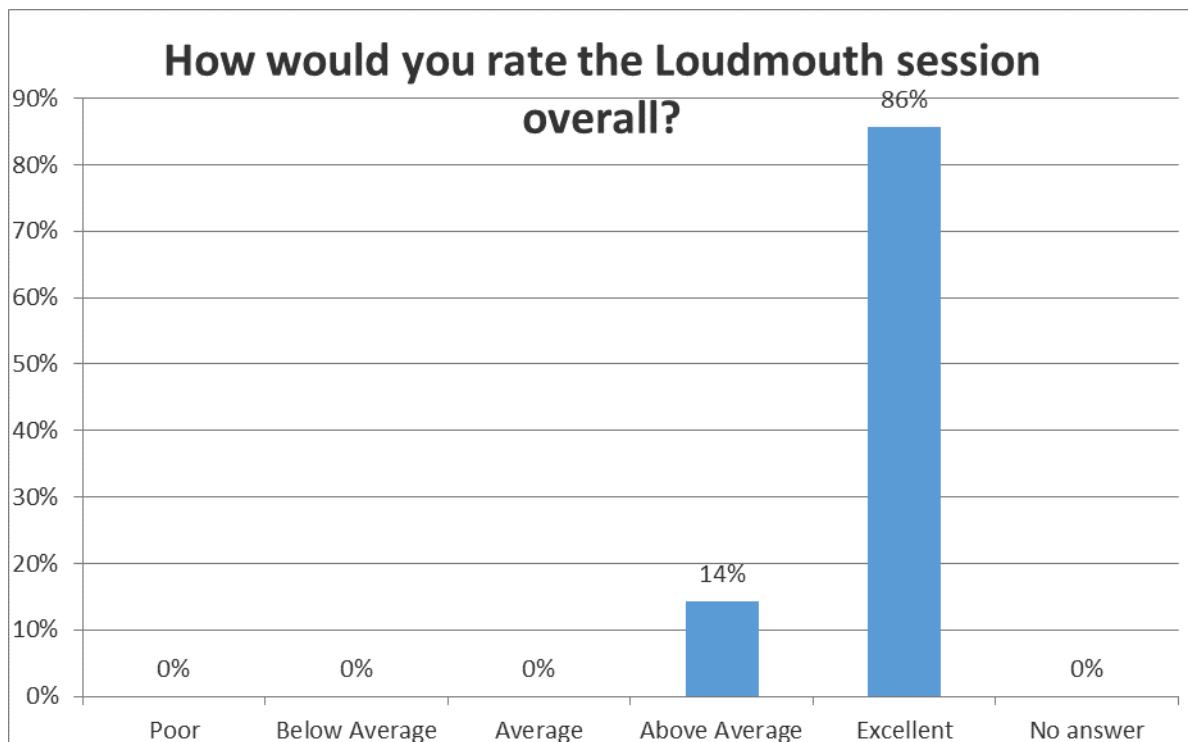
"will stop bullying my bro and stop shouting at my mom."

"know it will help because the things they said are useful and I'm going to warn my brother. Yes it does help!"

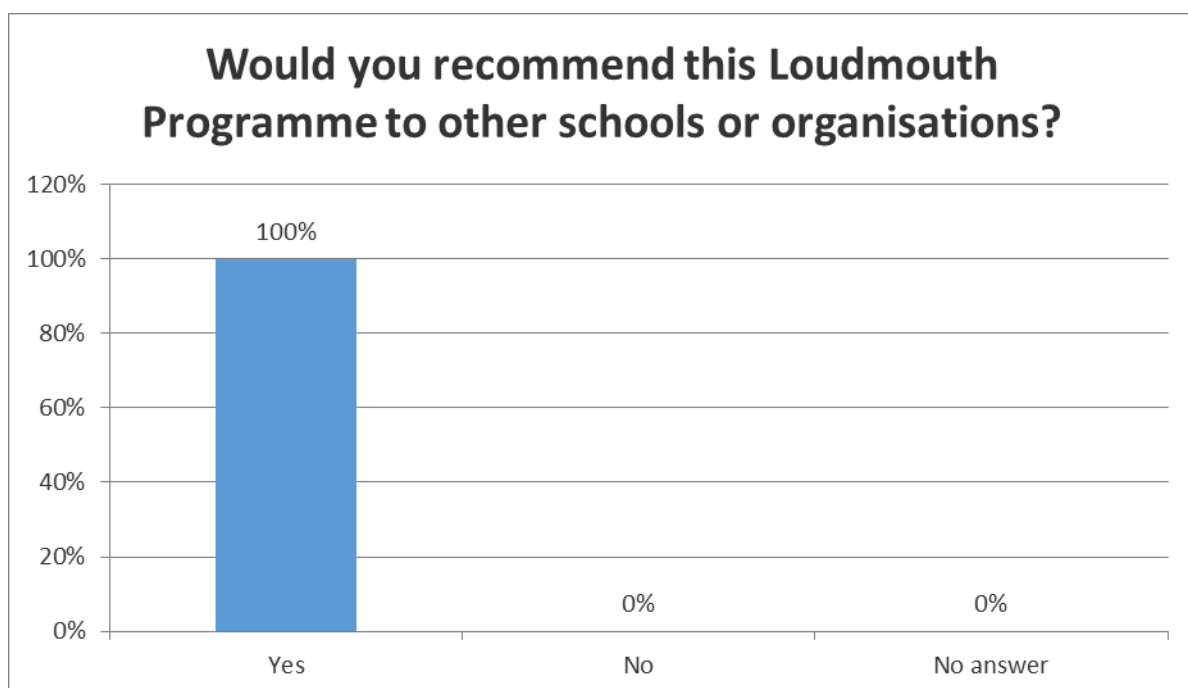


99% of the children surveyed would recommend the session for next year's pupils.

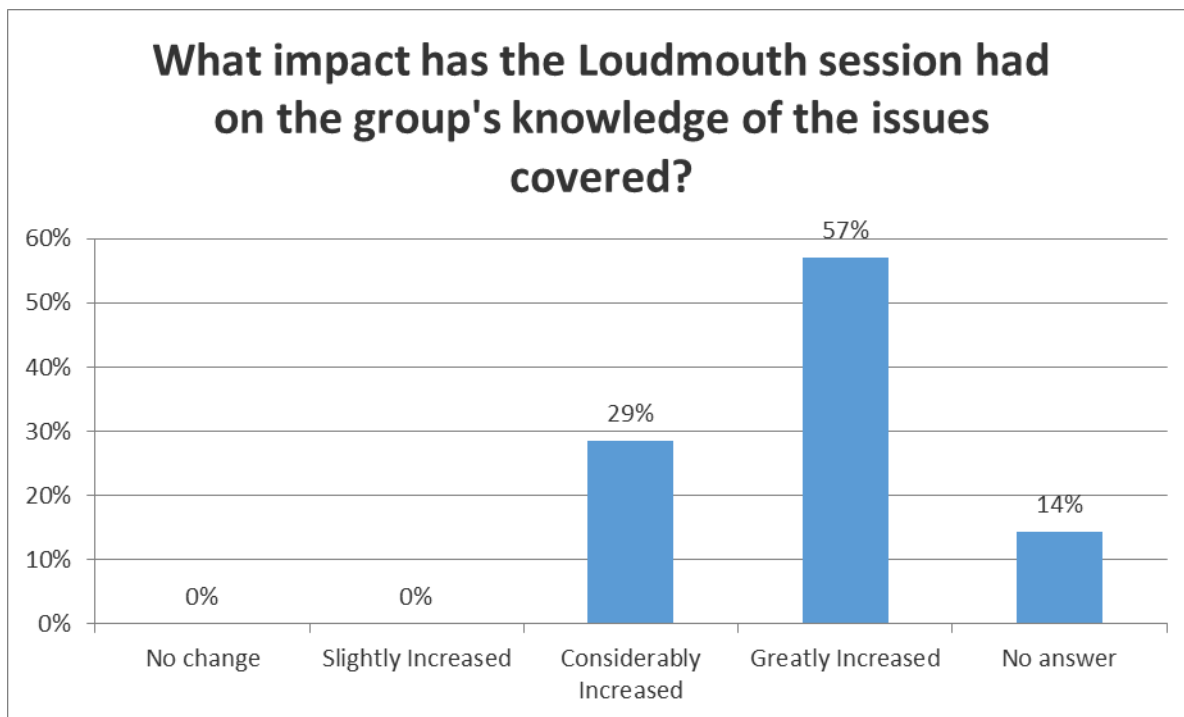
Teaching Staff Evaluation Results



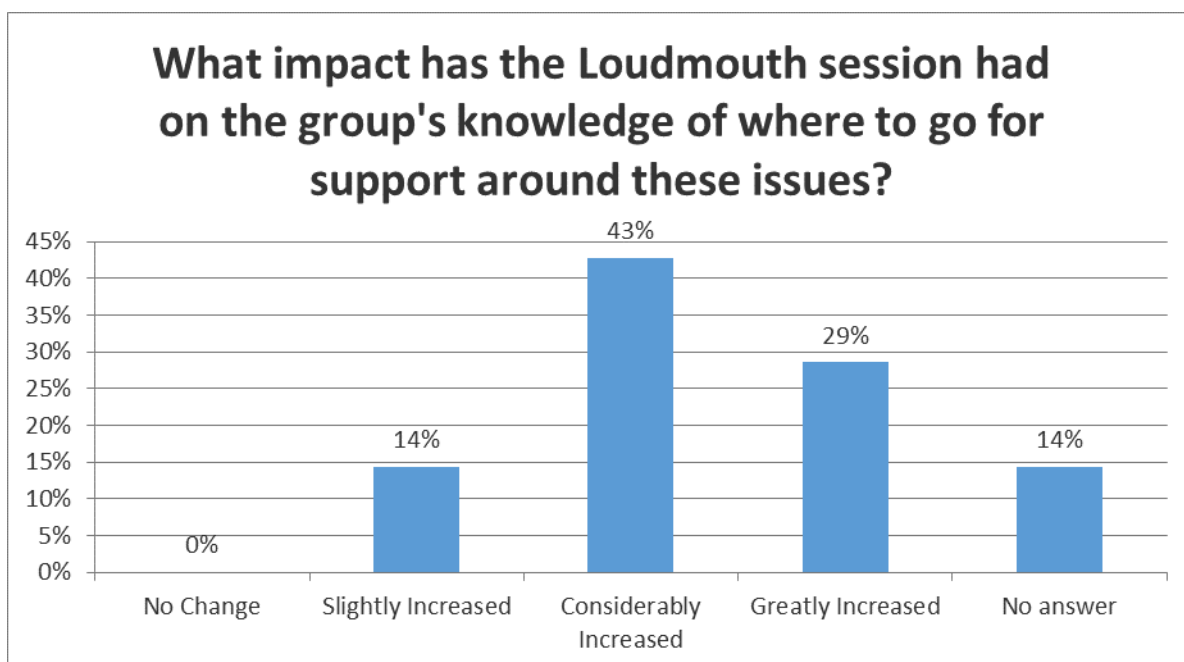
Members of staff were asked how they rated the Helping Hands session. 100% rated it 'above average' or 'excellent', with 86% stating it was 'excellent'.



100% of staff would recommend Helping Hands to other schools and organisations.

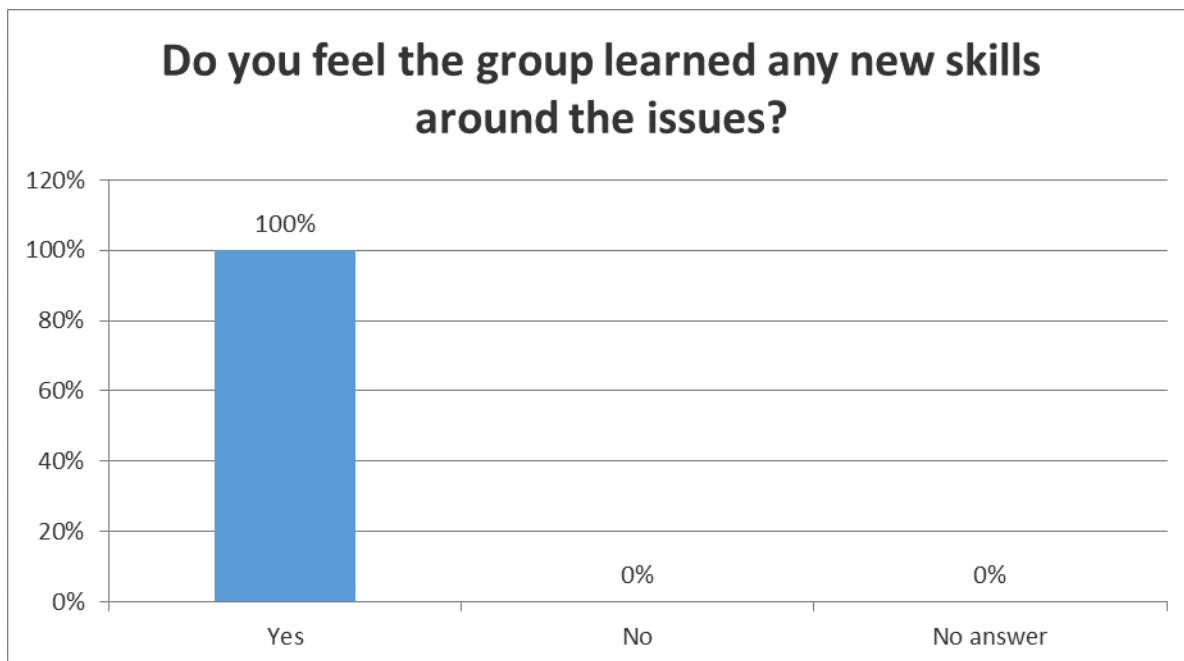


All staff who answered the survey recorded that the Helping Hands session had 'considerably' or 'greatly' increased the group's knowledge of the issues.



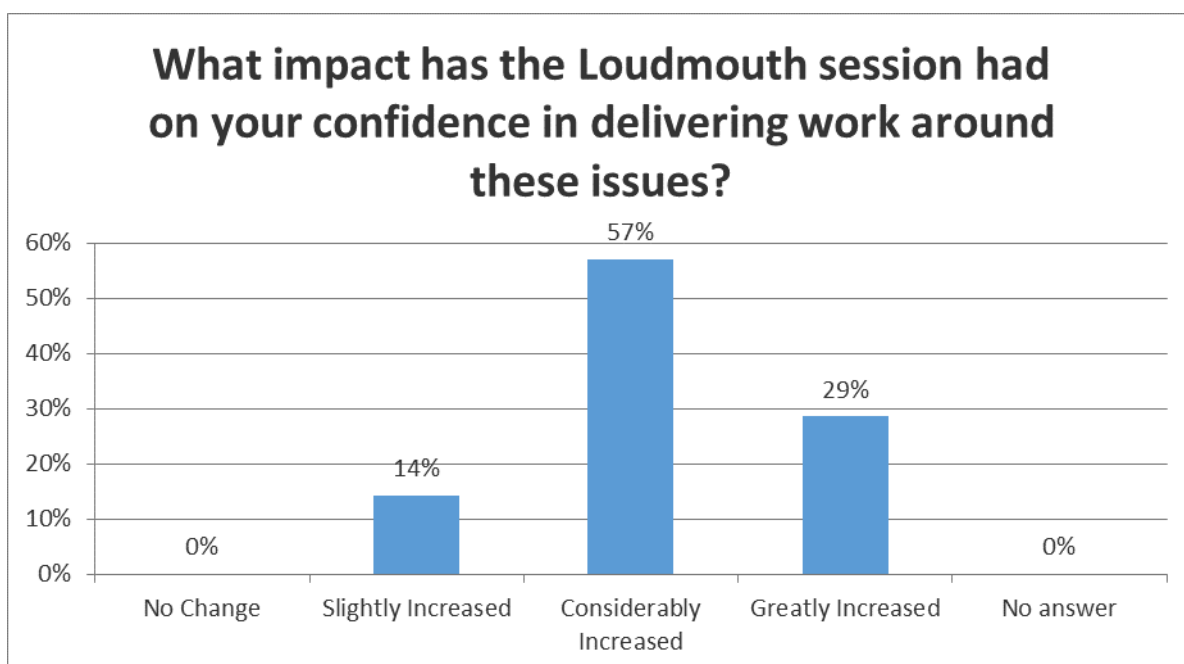
All staff felt that the session had increased the children's knowledge of where to get support on these issues of abuse and unsafe relationships.

"How to deal with issues of abuse - who they can tell."
 Year 5 Class Teacher, Roberts Primary School



100% of staff stated that the Helping Hands session had taught the children new skills.

"None of my class had any prior knowledge of the 'PANTS' rule."
 Year 5/6 Phase Leader, Sledmere Primary School



100% of staff said that Helping Hands had increased their confidence in delivering work around the issues. 86% of staff stated that Helping Hands had 'greatly' or 'considerably' increased their confidence. Many staff voiced to us in sessions that they have been nervous to teach about abuse in the past.

"It gives something to refer back to when talking about tricky issues and gives ideas of how to talk about these issues."
 Year 5/6 Phase Leader, Sledmere Primary School

Helping Hands Learning Objectives

Attitudes and Values

- Children have an increased awareness of what makes a safe and healthy relationship.
- Children have an increased awareness that if people are affected by abuse that it is not their fault.
- Children have increased awareness that everyone has a right to feel safe all the time.
- Children have increased awareness of the importance of telling a trusted adult if they have any worries or concerns or don't feel safe.

Skills

- Children have an increased ability to identify signs of abuse including grooming / child sexual exploitation (CSE) or abuse (CSA).
- Children have an increased confidence in telling a trusted adult if they feel unsafe.
- Children have an increased ability to stay safe online.

Knowledge

- Children have increased knowledge of the NSPCC PANTS rule* and other ways to stay safe.
- Children have increased knowledge of relevant and appropriate services that can support children if they do not feel safe e.g. ChildLine.

** PANTS is an NSPCC campaign designed to keep children safe from sexual abuse, for more information visit nspcc.org.uk/PANTS.*

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