

## S3 Health Drama Pilot Project 2017 Report



*“ I believe that utilising this type of arts based vehicle to raise awareness and understanding is much more impactful and reaches the emotions of young people therefore the information becomes much more memorable ”* (quote from a service provider)

### Introduction

This report provides a brief overview of the work carried out by the S3 Drama Project Steering group between 2016 and 2017 and a summary of the evaluation of the pilot.

### Partnership Working

A multi-agency steering group was established in October 2016 and included representation from health, education and youth work, the topics they agreed to address were; social media and sexual relationships, sexuality, self harm, alcohol, smoking and peer pressure. The overarching message required was *to talk to someone*, therefore, local and national websites and services would be highlighted as services young people could access.

### *Aim:*

To provide an interactive drama for S3 pupils in Argyll and Bute to address relevant health issues, to encourage young people to seek support and highlight services available.

### *Objectives*

1. Establish a steering group to direct the work and any subsequent working groups as necessary.
2. To conduct a needs assessment with stakeholders.
3. To secure funding.
4. To establish the content of the drama including methods of delivery and devise supporting materials that are relevant to young people.
5. To plan the drama tour and how supporting materials will be delivered.
6. To implement the drama tour and supporting resources.
7. To evaluate with young people and staff.

### Stages of the Project Delivery

- The powerful 60 minute drama toured A&B delivering the production to all S3 pupils and include 3 different scenarios to address the issues identified in this interactive drama. Immediately following the drama, local service providers worked with pupils to reflect on the play and consider what questions they had or what else they would like to know.
- A question and answer session (Q&A) with the pupils and local service providers then took place. The open Q&A session enabled 185 questions, the majority focussed on aspects of sexuality, sexual health, sexual material, explicit material, accessing help and self-harm.
- Provide pupils with a booklet containing exercises around self efficacy and resilience, useful information and details of services - around a quarter of young people shared this resource with their teacher.

- Lesson plans for teachers to deliver following the drama were provided as further follow up with pupils.

### Resources

£6500 to commission the S3 drama. Public Health, Health Improvement Smoking Cessation paid for the commissioning of the S3 drama.

£6625 to deliver the tour. The Education Department and Child Protection Committee funded the tour to allow all S3 pupils access to the drama (820) pupils.

### Media

Some local newspapers published an article about the initiative. Two pupils and Laura Stephenson, (Senior Health Improvement Officer) were interviewed for BBC Alba who presented the article on their news programme.

### Services and Schools

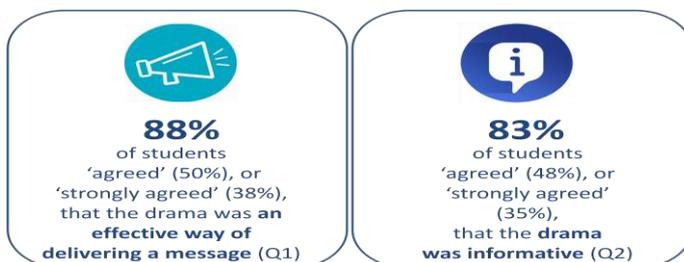
There was some evidence that pupils had made contact with services as a direct result of the drama; pupils had been referred to their school nurse, received support from youth work, self referred to Waverly Care and three schools were notified of disclosures for comments around suicide made by pupils during the Q&A sessions. There was a considerable increase of questions posted to C2T from the start of the tour to the end of October. The A&B sexual health website, [www.ab-wish.org](http://www.ab-wish.org) had an increase in activity during this time also, most visited pages were; services, homepage and CCard.

All staff were in favour of their school doing a similar initiative in future years and the majority of staff thought the drama was a useful input to the curriculum whilst considering the Health and Wellbeing Social Benchmarks.



### Pupil Evaluation

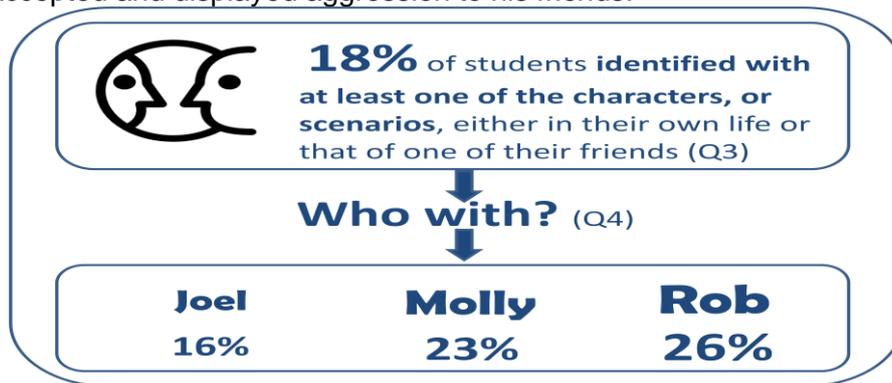
The feedback from the pupils was very positive, the majority liked the method of delivery, learned something new and wanted this type of project to be repeated.



Some of the S3 pupils could either self identify or had a friend they thought identified with the characters in the drama. The characters they most identified with were Rob and Molly.

- Molly's dad smoked and she wanted him to stop, she had good friends who used social media a lot but was being pressured from her older boyfriend to send sexually explicit photos.

- Rob felt under pressure to achieve and self harmed as a way of having some control.
- Joel used alcohol to cope with his sexuality, he was worried about how his sexuality would be accepted and displayed aggression to his friends.



Some comments on the evaluation form from the young people included:



### Conclusion

The S3 drama project was an effective way of communicating and engaging in conversation with pupils about health issues and services available. It raised awareness of health issues and services that young people can access, created an environment that facilitated pupils to ask questions and receive answers from service users and allowed for valuable discussion during class time. The majority of staff and services commented very positively on the project and would support it to run again in future years. Areas of improvement have been considered by the steering group and the following recommendations have been agreed.