

Save the Children Young Ambassadors evidence to the Welsh Assembly Children and Young Peoples Committee 13th February 2011

Ambassadors from Willows High School and North Ely Youth Centre

Action: All Older Ambassadors walk on Stage and stand in a line

Michael: Hello everybody, I hope you have enjoyed the afternoon so far.

We represent two Inspiring Change Groups that ran for six months at the beginning of the year in Willows High School and North Ely Youth Centre. We are now working together and are the Welsh Older Ambassador Group. My name is Michael and this is

(All say own names one at a time down the line).

We all had a lot of fun in our groups and we also did a lot of work exploring child poverty and how it affected where we live. We have made a small film to show you where we live, what we decided were important issues for us locally and what we tried to do to make a difference in our local community. We hope you enjoy it!!!

Action: All to Walk off stage and film to be played (Film 5 mins)

Action: Michael walks on to the stage

Michael: Not bad little film was it? *(pause)*. When we were deciding how to present our work on child poverty, we thought it might be difficult for you to really grasp how some of these issues affect children and young people. I mean, if you don't experience it first hand, it can be difficult to understand what it feels like, and how it can affect the basic day to day things. So, we have written a mini drama to try and get across one of chosen issues in more detail. Enjoy!

Actions: Michael walks off stage.

Roleplay team walk in to position.

Cardboard Placard is held up by Lauren 'In a normal school Classroom'

Roleplay Begins (Roleplay 7 mins)

Role Play Script

Scene 1

Bully 1 – Sophie

Bully 2 – Courtney

Victim – Paige

Teacher – Shannon

Gang Member 1 – Michael

Gang Member 2 – Rhiannon

Sign People: Lauren & Jason

Sign: In the Classroom

Bully 1: Oi, Marsh, whose clothes have you got on today?

Bully 2: Your sisters???!!!!

Gang Members: (*laugh and snicker*)

(*Victim turns and looks away*)

Bully 1: Marsh, do you not know how to wash clothes?

Bully 2: Are you borrowing the uniform from your dog?

Gang member 1: It sure looks like it!!!!

Gang member 2: It's small enough!

Bully 1: and stinks!!!

(*All gang laugh and the bully throw another pen at the victim, hitting her on the head*)

Victim: (*Shouting*) just leave me alone ok, just leave me alone!!!!!!

VICTIM MONOLOGUE

SIGN: FREEZEFRAME

Victim: It's not fair, they are always picking on me. Calling me names, telling me I look stupid.

SIGN: Awwwwww

Have you ever been bullied? Picked on?: Made fun of? Do you know what its like to be the odd one out? The one who doesn't have the latest fashion, have the new hair style, the right bag. I'm not asking for much, but even this jumper is too small for me.....argh it's so frustrating!!! I just can't think straight!!!

SIGN: FREEZEFRAME ENDS

Teacher: Hey, Vicky, come back here!!!

(Teacher follows the victim out of the room and the gang are left in the class laughing their head off)

Scene 2

SIGN: IN THE OFFICE

(Set in Office, teacher is behind a desk with victim and bully standing opposite her.)

Teacher: Right then you three, what was all that about?

(Silence from both bullies and victim)

Teacher: Come on, I want to know what happened.

Victim: They're always picking on me and it's not my fault. Says I have filthy clothes and yesterday they said I had to give them my dinner money.

Bully 1: Well, you do have filthy clothes and no we didn't

Victim: yes you did and it's not my fault I have to wear my sisters old uniform.

Bully 2: whatever

Teacher: This is happening too often Charlie and Ingrid, this is not the first time I've had you in here for bullying. What's it all really about? Why are you doing it? Why?

Bully 1: Because we need money for lunch.

Bully 2: Just some spare coins for lunch that's all!

Victim: Well I ain't got nothing to give you!! *(shouting)*

BULLIES MONOLOGUE

SIGN: FREEZEFRAME

Bully 2: That's our problem. We choose the wrong people to tap money for. Always get it wrong. Always choose the ones with no cash. It's just that we're hungry and we've got no cash for lunch and we had no dinner last night.

SIGN: AWWWWW

(Turning to audience member) Did you have dinner last night?

(To a different audience member) Did you? Did you? Was it nice? Enjoy it? Well, we didn't.

Bully 1: Mum went out to work and Dad was asleep after his shift and forgot to cook us dinner. Dad used to say life is all about survival; well that's what we're doing. We're not bullies, just trying to survive. You ever bullied anyone? Come on, I know you have!!!!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHa

SIGN: HA HA HA HA HA
SIGN: FREEZEFRAME ENDS

BACK TO SCENE

Teacher: Right you three, I am trying to think of a solution here. If you had a new uniform and you had dinner money none of this would need happen again right?

Victim & Bully 1: Right

Bully 2: Well, maybe right

(Teacher looks at bullies in a suspicious way)

Teacher: Hmmm what to do? What to do???

TEACHER MONOLOGUE

SIGN: FREEZEFRAME

(To audience)

What should I do? What should I do? You, *(Looking directly at an audience member)*

what do you think I should do? It's hard not to get angry about bad behaviour in the classroom. We don't tolerate bullying in the school for any reason at all, but it's hard not to sympathise with the girls. They need help as well. One needs money for lunch, the other a new school uniform... *(Pretends to hear something from an audience member)* sorry, what did you say? "you have some money for school uniforms....a grant" well, that is fantastic, absolutely great news. *(turning to someone else)* And you, what did you say? Free school meals, maybe she can have free school meals,more awareness perhaps? " hmmm, maybe, just maybe....."

SIGN: FREEZEFRAME ENDS

Scene 3

SIGN: NEXT DAY & IN THE OFFICE

(Teacher, Victim & Bullies: Teacher standing behind her desk)

Teacher: It seems I have a solution to your problems. I've been having a word with a few people *(winks at the audience)* and they've been very kind to me and offered some money *(winks again)* to help pay for new uniforms for you.

Victim: What! *(protesting)*, I don't need help like that

Teacher: Yes, I think you do.

Victim: Ugh!

Teacher: (*Breathes in and turns to the Bullies*) and also someone is coming in to talk to your parents to see if you both could be eligible for free school meals and then you won't need to 'tap' anyone for any cash to get some lunch.

Bully 2: OMG, that is sooo embarrassing,

Bully 1: Free school meals is so eww. Everyone knows free school meals is for doughnuts. Those tokens are just disgusting pieces of plastic.

Teacher: don't worry a friend of mine (*winks to the audience again*) is looking into getting a new system to make it less obvious you are getting tokens for lunch.

Bully 2: thank god for that

Bully 1: Yeh.

Teacher: Anyone want to thank me?

Victim: Suppose so

Bully: whatever

Teacher: sorry?

Victim & Bullies: Thank-you Miss Hooper

Teacher: (*SIGHS*)

SIGN: THE END

Michael: Not bad mini-drama was it? (*Pause*)

As you saw in our drama child poverty can lead to horrible things like bullying, something we see on a regular basis in school and college. We, do not think child poverty is ok or acceptable.

What we are going to do next is tell you a few things we want to help tackle child poverty.

Action: *Whole group to walk on stage and stand in a pyramid format*

Jason: WE WANT...

Michael: young people's voices

Rhiannon: to be heard

Paige : We want:

Courtney: all young people

Lauren: to get a fair chance

Shannon: we want

Sophie: support for new

Jason: and existing groups

Michael; WE WANT...

Rhiannon: equal opportunities

Paige: and services for all

Courtney: young people

Lauren: WE WANT...

Shannon: everyone to feel

Sophie: happy and safe

Jason: in the areas

Michael: they live and learn

EVERYONE MOVES TO STAND IN A SEMI-CIRCLE

Michael: We have shown you what we have been doing in our groups to tackle child poverty, to try and inspire change and make a difference in the communities in which we live, the communities in which we learn. We have told you what we want, what we ask of you. But we can't do everything to try and make things better, and we shouldn't be doing this alone. Please ask yourself what you can do to support our work, to help end child poverty.

Thankyou. I hope you enjoyed our presentation.