

## **A SRE Case Study: The South Leeds Academy March 2010**

The South Leeds Academy has seen a transformation this year in their Sex & Relationships Education (SRE) provision. With an Assistant Principal leading the way, the academy has moved from a long standing drop-down day delivery model (where the school timetable was collapsed for 5 days a year to deliver PSHE and SRE) to a combination of specialist teachers and trained form tutors now delivering SRE with impartial and coordinated external agency support in place.

This year, the academy appointed an Assistant Principal to coordinate PSHE and she has been instrumental in bringing about these positive changes. Since taking on this new role, she has enlisted support available from the secondary PSHE consultant at Education Leeds who has helped her to plan the way forward. The Assistant Principal was well aware that it would be her staff who would potentially have the greatest impact on the academy students, staff with ongoing, positive relationships with those young people. Having the keen support of the Learning Leader in Science, the SRE curriculum including relationships is now delivered by the Science Faculty at key stage 3. A staff questionnaire was then designed so the Assistant Principal could consult with her form tutors at key stage 4 to see who would be interested in delivering SRE. She had an overwhelmingly positive response. Training for staff around two particular areas: contraception and signposting to services, was then arranged using the multi-agency SRE training team in order to give staff greater skills and increase their confidence to deliver this material. The school nurse was also invited to take part in the training and to remind academy staff of the role of the Healthy Young People Service (HYPS) already on site at the academy. These two approaches, coupled with external agency support around key SRE areas, are working well at The South Leeds Academy.

At a recent inner south SRE task & finish sub group looking at Sex & Relationships Education in schools, the Assistant Principal and school nurse spoke with enthusiasm about responses from staff delivering and young people receiving SRE in the academy. It was uplifting to hear news that the numbers for young people attending the HYPS clinic rose significantly after staff began to deliver the SRE lessons in school. We also heard that young men were coming in to the after school clinic asking for specific sexual health services, like C-swap, a direct result of the lessons being delivered. It was good news indeed to hear that the SRE provision is meeting the needs of those young people.

Keys to success for improving SRE provision at The South Leeds Academy:

1. Strong senior leadership support
2. Overall strategic plan for the delivery of SRE
3. Acknowledgement from the school that staff need training in order to increase skills and feel more confident to deliver SRE
4. Good communication and coordination of services
5. A coordinated approach of the external agency contribution to support SRE delivery