

Peer Mediation Profile around the World

This information was gathered by Liz Lawrence and the Mediation in Education Officer of the Scottish Mediation Network. Please send any additions you may have to carol@scottishmediation.org.uk

- 1. 108 schools in Georgia USA** – 1994 Autumn 91% resolution of disputes which went to mediation
National trend of approximately 90% success rate in school based peer mediations.
- 2. 5 schools New York** 1996 99% teachers agreed that the mediation programme had given students an important tool for dealing with everyday conflicts, 88% agreed that mediation helped students to take more responsibility for solving their problems
- 3. Norway** 45 schools, 13 conflict teams. Training programme. General conclusions – the programme facilitates leadership qualities, self-confidence, self-esteem and peer mediators act as positive role models for their peers. Concerns were expressed that students have too much responsibility as mediators, perpetrators are let off too easily and teachers risk losing control of students and students are not capable of maintaining confidentiality. None of these concerns were problems in practice.

Oslo has a network of 48 schools offering peer mediation. The peer mediation pilot was evaluated well and as a result of this evaluation the government developed an initiative to put mediation in all schools (600-700)

Denmark (25% of all children are in private schools) has 30-50 schools out of a possible 2000

Sweden 100 schools out of 280 schools have peer mediation services.

Finland Peer mediation was started by the Finnish Red Cross in 2000. Plan now to extend provision, have received funding from the minister of education.

Ålund Island (Small Island between Sweden and Finland) Local Government are committed to have peace issues as part of education process

- 4. New Zealand Terry O'Shea** 1996 effectiveness of peer mediation programme in a primary school.
Reduced playground conflict, majority of children took their disputes to peer mediators, some children used strategies at home, teachers had fewer referrals – less involved in resolving classroom problems because students using the strategies to resolve problems.

- 5. Northern Ireland University of Ulster** research and peer mediation team 1995/96 Conflict declined, pupils exhibiting improved relationships with more and better communication and co-operation. Pupils have increased in self-confidence and have an enhanced attitude to school and learning. Pupils with a history of conflict often modify their behaviour and become good mediators. Interim report Peer Mediation Survey 1998 Training programmes can contribute significantly to student's self-confidence, development of social and inter-personal skills and capacity to be respectful and affirmative to others. Report emphasises the importance of the process of the training programme and the improvement in relationships as well as the reduction in the levels of conflict and the skilling of all pupils to prevent their conflicts escalating. **A key finding** – all the evidence points to the role of the principal (head teacher) and adult relationships within the school as critical to providing the congruence and context in which sustainable children's programmes can be established.
- 6. International Seminar on Conflict Resolution in Schools,** Netherlands March 2000 Conflict resolution programmes in schools can be effective, result in the reduction of violence, improved learning environments, increased self-esteem, strengthened sense of responsibility, enhanced academic achievement. CR skills are transferable to many aspects of life.
- 7. Hilary Cremin PhD thesis 2000 UK** 3 schools. Only 1 in which the programme fully implemented. Reduction in frequency of bullying, feelings of empowerment improved, indications of increased self-esteem. Skills take time to be internalised and need to be consolidated in real life situations. In School1 pupils became competent in most of the skills and able to transfer them to other situations. It is adults who need to review their attitudes to conflict, power and control if peer mediation is to thrive.
- 8. London Sacred Heart School** in the middle of inner London has been running anti-bullying workshops since 1993. Peer mediation scheme was introduced in 1992.
- 9. CRU Institute** Specializing in peer mediation in schools, this organization provides a number of programs and services as well as curriculum for school-wide conflict resolution for students, parents, and faculty in elementary, middle, and high schools. Contact: 2661 Bel-Red Road, Suite 200, Bellevue, Washington 98008; Tel: (800) 922-1988 or (425) 867-1720.
- 10. Pomona Peer Resources** This organization creates trains, maintains and grows various kinds of peer intervention programs."Freshman Friends". Enrollment is open, and all students are eligible for one semester of Peer Helping. Students who pass competencies continue. They use materials gathered from many sources and materials created through their own advisors and programs. Contact: Mike Russo, Counselor/Coordinator, Pomona Peer Resources, 800 South Garvey,

peer mediation

Pomona, California 91766; Tel: (909) 397-5060, ext. They are school-based with over 20 programs in operation in the Southern California area. They also have extensive programs that are community-based, including Pomona Peer Theater and Pomona Teen Court. Their goal is to enhance school climate and safety through effective peer intervention. They typically use the term peer helpers, but they also provide programs called: Peer Counseling, Peer Tutoring, Conflict Mediation, CPeer [freshman academic advisement]

11. Students Offering Support - This Northern California-based organization created by Maureen Campbell and Sharon Yoerg provides peer training for maximizing school transition and peer training for effective peer mediation. Their complete curriculum for both transition and mediation training includes training for adults, a customized program curriculum, and training for peer leaders. Tel: (650) 359-1317, ext. 2; Fax: (650) 355-3485; email: shamo@peerhelp.com.

12. Prevention Education Associates - Prevention Education Associates is a non-profit organization that provides school-based prevention programs in Peer Helping, Peer Mediation, Ropes Course, and Assembly Programs. They provide training for faculty/staff in these areas as well as Student Assistance Programs and Training of Trainers. For further information: Prevention Education Associates, 7101 Highway 71 West Suite 200, Austin, Texas, 78735; Tel: (512) 288-9760; Fax: (512) 292-8949; e-mail: info@educating.org

13. PeaceMakers - A non-profit organization established in 1989, PeaceMakers has helped over 2,000 schools reduce anti-social conflict and campus violence through training of educators, parents and children in mediation techniques. Programs include Peer Mediation training. Contact: PeaceMakers, 2095 North Collins, Suite 101, Richardson, TX 75080; Tel: (972) 671-9550; Fax: (972) 671-9549.

14. New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution - Among the several mediation training programs provided, the Center trains student mediators to provide mediation services to other students in over 250 schools in New Mexico. In grades 4-6, selected students are trained as mediators and the program is managed by faculty coordinators. In secondary schools, a group of students and teachers are trained to mediate student-student and student-teacher disputes. Students are selected from both positive and negative leadership populations and receive 12-15 hours of training. Training and further professional development are also provided for trainers, and training manuals as well as resource materials are available. Contact: New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution, 800 Park Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102; Tel: (505) 247-0571; Fax: (505) 242-5966.

15. The Peer Support Foundation Ltd. - An Australian, non-profit, community based organization which provides training and resources for teachers who wish to implement the Foundation program in schools for young people aged 5 to 18 years. The Peer Support Foundation



Limited, 2 Grosvenor Place, PO Box 498, Brookvale NSW 2100,
Australia; Phone: (02) 9905 3499 Fax: (02) 9905 5134.