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Praising positive power

Date: 13 Nov 2006



Weston-super-Mare is playing host to a national anti-bullying conference this week.

The [iPower](#) conference is being staged by [Actionwork](#) in association with North Somerset Council at the [Winter Gardens](#) in Weston on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 November.

This event sees over 500 young people and specialists coming together from all over Britain to talk about bullying, share anti-bullying strategies and resources and showcase best practice in dealing with and tackling bullying.

Esther Rantzen, one of the founders of [Childline](#), will be at the conference and Richard Taylor will present the [Damilola Taylor Young Achiever of the Year Award](#).

Other celebrities involved with the event include actors from TV's Grange Hill and Hollyoaks; world kick boxing champion, Lance Lewis; and Steve Borthick (Bath RFC captain and England International).

Children from St Nicholas Chantry C of E Primary will receive a Diana Princess of Wales Award for their buddying project and pupils from Sandford Primary who received the award earlier this year will give a presentation of their work on peer mediation.

The conference will take on an international flavour with performances by Californian dance

troupe 'Elevate'.

Representatives from organisations including [Childline](#); [Save the Children](#); and [Stonewall](#) will be at the event.

North Somerset Council's executive member for children and young people, [Cllr Peter Kehoe](#), said: "This event sees people coming together to share strategies for promoting positive behaviour that help tackle the problem of bullying. Many of the ideas come from the young people themselves and I have no doubt that the conference will be an uplifting experience for all involved."

Actionwork's Andy Hickson, said: "We are proud to be working with North Somerset Council on this event. It makes a real difference when a local authority not only puts in funding but also puts in their heart. The council has a real focus on helping young people."

There will be performances by a boys' dance group and drama group from Worle School as well as a drama presented by pupils from Wyvern.

The final of the national IPower! song-writing competition on the theme of exploring bullying will take place at Barcode on the Monday, with the winning song performed at The Winter Gardens on Tuesday, 21 November during the day.

The whole conference is being web-streamed so it will be accessible for schools in North Somerset who aren't at the venue.

North Somerset Council's teaching and learning adviser, Sue Walker, said: "We work closely with schools to help them with anti-bullying strategies and this conference will provide ideas which young people can take away and develop."

As well as the national conference, activities are taking place in a number of schools during [Anti-bullying Week](#).



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