



TOTAL RESPECT

Total respect is an experience that people should take into consideration, as it's an interesting and exciting two days to do with the RAW team.

The RAW team itself puts in a lot of work and does a lot of training for the two days in which young people and the adults can go on. They also do other total respect days which involves the same activities. It's a training course for any aged 14 years and above.

When I went on total respect, it really influenced me to join the team and to work with young people, even though I am a young person myself, I would still like to work with others and to get involved.

I found that with total respect you have to want to participate, have a lot of energy, be awake for it, and to enjoy every minute of it. It's not a one-time opportunity thing to do because you can do it over and over again.

You get to do all sorts of activities which involve games, quizzes, art and design, watching and writing about the videos which involve a young person who was or is in care, and many more.

I really enjoyed my time spent with the RAW team on total respect and would like to do it again. As you get to meet new people, you can build your confidence up more, you get to be yourself, and you can enjoy the drama side of it. So if any young people or adults like drama then go on total respect, you will find another side of you that you didn't realise you had.

I would like to say many thanks to Carly, Adam and Aaron for doing total respect when I was there; it was an AWESOME experience for me.
Many thanks.

Zoe

Bullying

I opened the door, it slammed behind me.
Suddenly I heard a loud menacing voice.
I came face to face with the bully.
My mouth goes dry, my blood goes cold and I can't speak or move.

Arhh shrimp where's my money?
My hands in pockets I start to shake with fear.
My heart is beating faster with every step he takes towards me.
I know what's coming.

I look for AI, I can't see him he must have left for technology.
I saw the exit sign above the door, the bully filled the doorway like a brick wall, there was no going through him.
I was trapped like a fly in a spider's web.

When I come to, I saw fuzzy faces around me, my jaw caned.
My mouth felt wet, I put my hand to my nose, I looked at it, and I have blood on my fingers.

Shane

A big thank you to Shane for this poem. If you would like to have a poem, joke, story or article in the next issue of R.A.W update please contact Sharon Buckley



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The RAW summer event

On July 27th the RAW group, staff from children's services and volunteers presented the third annual RAW summer event at the Weatherly Centre Biggleswade.

The event was opened by Joseph and Carly a Raw member. After the opening a local band called 'Pretty basic' performed for the crowd. The guests walked around looking at all the excellent stands and taking part in the various activities both inside and outside run by agencies including NACRO, the national youth advocacy service, the youth service and our own 16 plus team who helped with T-shirt painting, plus much, much more.

We also had a bouncy castle which was enjoyed by everyone. We had all sorts of activities including circus skills, a disco, wheel chair basketball, a dance workshop and a chip pan fire demonstration from the local fire service.

In the afternoon after the superb food there was a karaoke competition where 2 members of staff, Steve and Gordana nearly brought the roof down with their attempt to sing!!! There was also a rendition from the 'Wooden Hill Old Geezers'. Luckily enough the young people were far better singers and scooped the top prizes. Following on there was a fantastic dance performance from one breath taking dancer, Paulina well done to her.

To finish we had another local band called 'Order of the day'

This was the best and most well attended RAW summer event so far. Well done to the RAW group and all of their supporters.

By Aaron Scholes

We are currently planning this years awards evening; the theme for the evening was decided by a group of RAW members and will be Fashion.

The date for the Fashion Awards will be the **27th October 2006** and will be held in the council chambers at Bedford county hall from 4pm until 7pm.

There is no strict dress code for the evening, although everyone who receives an award will have to walk along a catwalk to collect it where their choice of attire will be described!!!

Last year over 100 young people looked after by Bedfordshire social services received awards. We are hoping there will be more awards given this year!



On behalf of the R.A.W group I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped out and attended this year's summer event. It was fantastic to see so many of you. Everyone that we spoke with said they had a wonderful time and can't wait until next years.

If you want to know more about joining RAW and how to get involved please contact Sharon Buckley, Children's Participation Officer on 01234 276768 or 07748335052 or e-mail sharon.buckley@bedscc.gov.uk