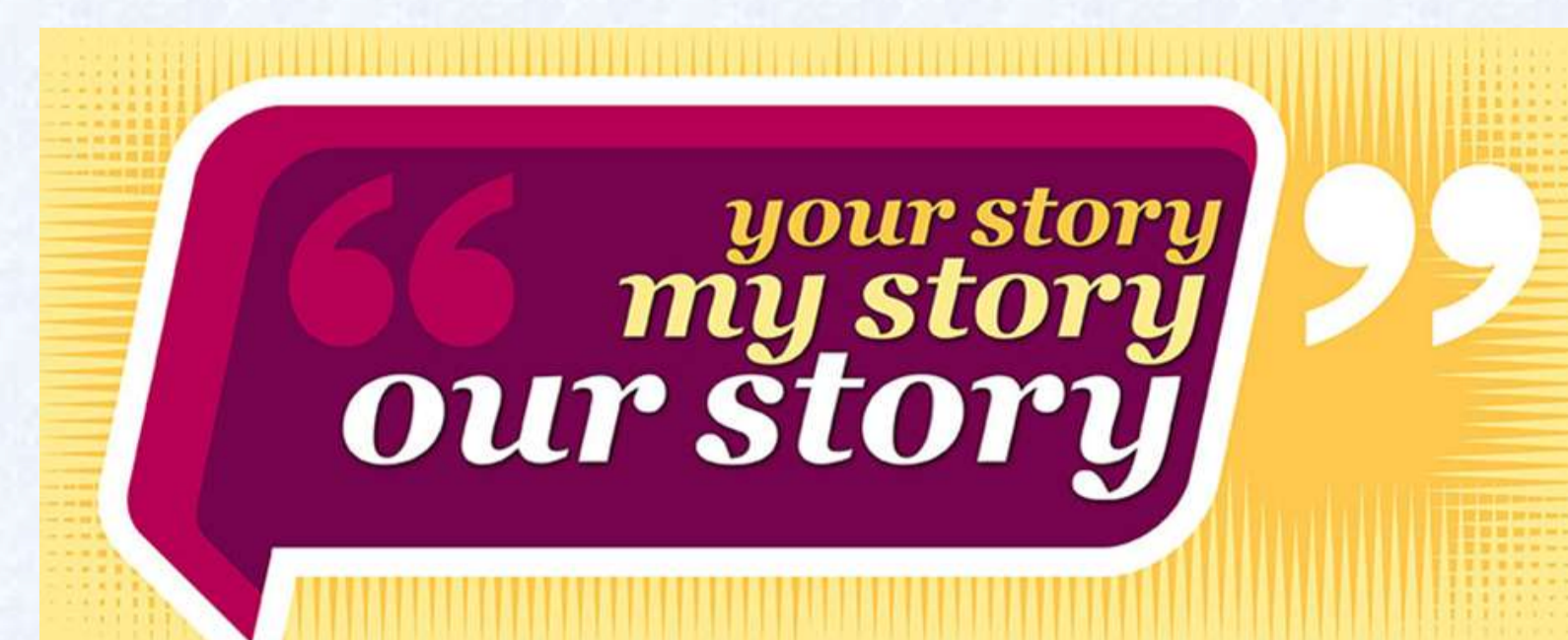




The project responded to a need identified by Biggar High School senior pupils who had siblings with additional needs and a resource called 'Your Story, My Story, Our Story' was created.



Method



In Autumn 2015 'Your Story, My Story, Our Story' resource was launched at The Fountain Lesmahagow. Parents and carers of children with additional support needs, voluntary agencies and education staff attended the event and worked in partnership in appraising the resource. The response was of resounding approval claiming the resources as a positive and valuable tool for families and professionals alike.

Process Change



Families meet challenges in many different ways. Three S6 students from Biggar High School wanted to ensure that young people who had a brother or sister with additional needs were as fully supported as possible in meeting these particular challenges. School staff recognised that an innovative approach was required to support the young people and their families. Pupils met with staff once per week to discuss how they could help others in similar situations and decided to produce a resource which would help to support families. They applied for funding and was successful. Education, artists, musicians, third sector, children's services and graphics worked collaboratively with young people to improve outcomes and create a resource called 'Your Story, my story, our story'.

Achievements



Three young women who have grown up in very different kinds of families where a member of that family - brother or sister - had additional needs. As they have grown and matured, they have realised they have acquired an ability to empathise more deeply with others in similar situations - something they were not able to do while in their younger years.

Their shared experiences have motivated them to create this resource with the aim to help support primary and secondary young people through similar experiences where they may feel isolated and, at times, overwhelmed.

However, we believe the experiences have a resonance for any reader. We hope the resource will be invaluable to parents and carers, education staff, and voluntary agencies. Although the resource was initially developed to support families, we feel it is useful for any person trying to make sense of their feelings and emotions.

Key Learning Points



LEADERSHIP

School staff realised an innovative approach was required to support the pupils and families using their experience and knowledge of additional support needs.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Education, artists, musicians, voluntary sector and local authority children's services and Graphics Department worked collaboratively with the pupils to improve outcomes.

LIMITATIONS

Originally, distribution. However SLC recognised the value of the resources and has made it freely available to all.

Results



What was the result of your project?

The pack contains 7 scenario booklets about trying to make sense of feelings and emotions:

- Having friends over
- Frustration
- Routines
- Different Day
- Anger
- Special Day
- Eye Contact.

There is also a music CD to accompany the booklets.



Conclusion



Impact:

- The resource is invaluable. I am a sibling of a child with ASN as well as an ASD parent I am a member of a parent/carer support group and will use the pack to pass onto other parents
- This resource is perfect for me as a parent of a child with ASD. Makes me think more about asking my son about how he feels about situations that happen in the house and also my daughter
- An incredible idea – what an achievement. It was a privilege to hear your story today.
- Thank you for making me think deeper about children in school.
- This pack has opened my eyes as a mum to a child with additional needs and older children. It answers a lot of my questions
- Excellent pack. Age appropriate but can accommodate older ages too.
- This resource could be used by schools, charities, training events, sibling groups and home.
- Opportunities for siblings to meet up and talk about their feelings.
- To raise awareness in young people's groups.
- Awareness raising with the rest of the Student Support Team

Scale / Spread



What next for your project?

Senior pupils and staff have made a major contribution and insight into sibling support for all families with children with additional needs.

Their legacy is a comprehensive resource which can now be accessed from the world wide web and can be used by families and professionals alike.

Morgaine, Robyn and Yvonne would especially like to thank their families and everyone who helped them with this project.

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