

**Royal College of General Practitioners and Warwick Medical School**  
**Annual Education, Research and Innovation Symposium**  
**16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 - Abstract Submission Form**

<b>PRESENTER'S DETAILS    Session B. Children and Younger People</b>		
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<b>Category</b> Audit, Research, Education Project, Innovation Project		
<b>Authors</b> Emma Scott, Jeremy Dale, Dieter Wolke & Rachel Russell		<b>Title of Study</b> Young people who are being bullied – do they want general practice support?
<b>What's the problem you are tackling?</b>  Childhood bullying is a major risk factor for health, education and social relationships, with effects persisting into adulthood. It affects half of all children at some point, with 10-14% experiencing bullying that lasts for years. With the advent of cyberbullying, it can happen at all times and places. There have been calls from various organisations, including the RCGP, for GPs to take a more active role in identifying and supporting young people who are being bullied. This work explores young people's and parents' opinions about whether general practice should be involved in identifying and supporting young people who are being bullied.		
<b>How did/will you do it?</b>  206 young people and 44 parents were recruited through established bullying charity websites and their social media channels to complete online questionnaires which comprised multiple-choice questions and unlimited narrative responses.		

**What did you find?**

Young people (90.8%) and parents (88.7%) thought it was important for GPs to be better able to recognise and help young people who are being bullied. Most recognised the link between bullying and health. The doctor's independence was seen as advantageous. Young people preferred completing a screening questionnaire to disclose experience of being bullied than being asked directly. They expressed concerns about how questions would be asked and whether information would be shared with parents/guardians. Parents were also supportive of the use of a screening questionnaire, and most expected their child's disclosure to be shared with them.

**Why does this matter?**

These findings provide evidence that young people and their parents would welcome greater GP involvement in identifying and supporting young people who are being bullied, provided it is offered in a caring, compassionate and confidential manner. It gives an insight into how both young people and parents would like this to happen and can thus be used to inform practice.