

'Chatroom' performed to highlight the effects of cyber bullying

Research showed that 6.3% of Irish children have been bullied 'once or twice', in the past 2-3 months while 5.5% have been bullied at least once a week.

The 876 children, aged 12-16, described cyber bullying as the posting of "untrue messages" or negative comments about their photo on social networking sites like Bebo and Facebook.

The research shows that cyber-bullies come from both in and outside of school and are not always known to the victims.

To highlight this to secondary school students in County Roscommon, Roscommon LEADER Partnership Company with Roscommon Youth Theatre performed the play 'Chatroom' by Enda Walshe recently in 2012.

The award winning playwright explores issues of adolescent vulnerability, personal development and the path everyone takes from child to adulthood in a way that is warm, funny and deeply moving. In cyberspace six teenagers type and chat. What begins as seemingly innocent conversation takes a sinister turn as a chilling tale of teenage manipulation and rebellion unfolds.

The aim of hosting the play was to create awareness of the effect of cyber bullying among teenagers. This was well attended and an excellent performance by amateur actors from Roscommon Youth Theatre, facilitated by Catherine Simmons.

If you or know anyone effected by this subject please contact MYLINE helpline for young people in County Roscommon opened Friday evenings from 7 to 9pm, this is a listening and support service for young people operated by trained volunteers. Call 1850 588 599, or Text MYLINE to 50015, email mylineros@gmail.com. You are not alone!



