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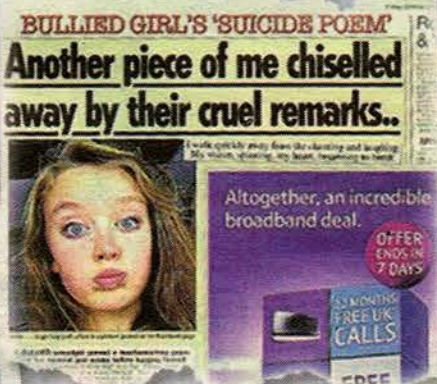


Sun woman

ANOTHER TEEN FACES CYBERBULLYING ORDEAL

I nearly joined growing list of suicides

ask.fm



HAPPY... Jaydene, left and right, before. Centre, Sun story of Izzy's poem

AS 15-year-old Jaydene Roberts looked at her account on popular social networking site Ask.fm and read her messages, she froze.

"Can't wait to see your pretty face turn ugly... Mr Glass Bottle is coming for you... You'll be getting glass picked out of your face... Scars on your face."

And when the screen flashed up a new batch of anonymous messages that read: "I wanna kill u... Please go and die... This isn't a threat, it's a promise... diieeee," the terrified teen immediately rang her mother.

Jaydene's ordeal, which took her to the brink of suicide, is revealed days after the mum of another cyberbullying victim told of her family's heartbreak.

Izzy Dix, 14, killed herself after vile online abuse.

Last week her mum, Gabbi, went public with her daughter's heart-wrenching poem, I Give Up - penned shortly before her tragic death.

Izzy is among a group of teens who committed suicide after cyberbullying on sites including Latvian-based Ask.fm.

It has few safeguards, does not block and allows users complete

EXCLUSIVE By AMANDA REVELL WALTON

anonymity. Ciara Pugsley, 15, Erin Gallagher, 13, Canadian Amanda Todd, 15, and Hannah Smith, 14, were also driven to ending their lives after abuse and death threats from cyberbullies.

Gabbi has demanded the closure of Ask.fm.

Her call is backed by Jaydene's mum Michelle and dad, Mike.

Thankfully, Jaydene is still here to tell her traumatic tale.

And she hopes, in doing so, she might save other youngsters from taking their own lives.

Mum-of-two Michelle, 39, says: "It was heartbreaking to see my daughter so completely terrified."

Within weeks, worse was to come for Jaydene - when the fear of her faceless cyberbullies turned into a deep depression.

Jaydene says: "They were drumming it into my head so much that I wasn't worth anything, that I shouldn't be breathing, that I should die. I ended up thinking, 'It must be true'."

"It just got too much for me and made me feel like I wanted to die. I wanted my life to end."

When Jaydene was first targeted by bullies at secondary school, she says it was "just intimidation".

She says: "They kept calling me a slut and whore and I was put on the 'slag list', a list of people they don't like. I asked one of them once why they didn't like me, and

she said, 'I ain't got a problem with you... no-one else likes you, so I don't like you.'"

But at the start of last year, the abuse at Nova Hreod College in her home town, Swindon, got more violent. Jaydene says: "One girl went to kick me down the stairs."

"So I ran and locked myself in the toilet. I could hear her screaming, 'I'm going to get her.'"

'One girl called me a whore'

"Another time one of the girls started calling me a whore and punched me in the eye."

"I was shocked, but then another girl walked in and punched me again in the face."

Another assault was caught on CCTV in the school corridor.

It showed footage of Jaydene being bullied, then quivering in the corner and hiding away.

One of her teachers admitted: "It was the look of fright on Jaydene's face that was the most distressing

thing to watch." Her attackers were disciplined - but the campaign of hate continued.

Shop assistant Michelle says: "She would be walking down the corridor and they'd trip her up, or barge into her and knock her over."

"She fell once and bruised her back badly. Another time they tried to pull her hair out."

"One morning, Jaydene rang me in tears after a girl threatened to punch her on her way to school."

"She had been wandering the streets, too scared to go into school."

But it was not until Jaydene joined the Ask.fm site - popular with teenagers and with more than 30million members worldwide - that the abuse started to become much more sinister.

Jaydene says: "I'd been on the site for a few months and it had been fine."

"But one day I went into school and everyone was laughing and asking me, 'Are you pregnant?' - Everyone's talking about it." They

didn't believe me when I said no. Then it all started on Ask.fm with messages like, 'Are you pregnant? How's your baby?'

"Then I got these messages about being bottled in the face, and telling me I was going to die."

"I was shocked and frightened. I didn't know who was saying these things - and if they would actually do it."

Michelle says: "Jaydene was really scared. And, to be honest, so was I."

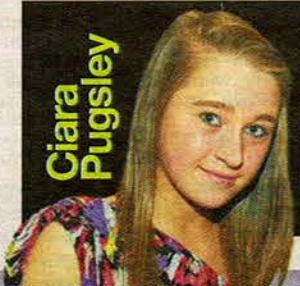
"This was really sick stuff. I couldn't believe how graphic the messages were - how someone could even think like that."

"They were describing to a tee everything they were going to do to her - down to the bottle being a vodka bottle."

"I was terrified they'd do what they said."

After showing Mike the on-line threats to maim and kill their daughter, the shocked couple went straight to the school.

She says: "When a senior teacher saw the messages he said, 'This has



Ciara Pugsley



Erin Gallagher



Amanda Todd



Hannah Smith



SUPPORT . . .
Jaydene, left,
and with her
parents
Michelle
and Mike



gone to another level now. I cannot guarantee Jaydene's safety in school."

Michelle and builder Mike felt they had no other choice but to take their daughter out of school.

But it did not stop the bullying and harassment, which continued on-line and in the street.

Jaydene says: "One time I was walking back from a mate's house and someone wearing a hoodie was following me.

"That messed with my head completely."

Michelle says: "She kept having constant calls, texts and messages.

"We reported them to police, but when they traced the phone it was a pay as you go, so they couldn't prove who it was.

"Because those using the Ask.fm website can remain anonymous, it was impossible to prove who was sending the messages."

The police officer in charge of the investigation spoke to three of the girls involved.

Michelle says: "A couple of the

girls admitted that they don't know why they did it. They said, 'We just don't like her'.

"Mike has approached one of the girls' mums and she said, 'I keep telling my daughter not to do it. What more can I do?'"

Just before Christmas last year, Jaydene hit rock bottom.

She says: "It just seemed like it was never going to stop. It was getting to me more and more.

"I felt sick all the time. I couldn't eat.

"I started to believe what they were saying was true. I really just wanted to die."

'I really just wanted to die'

Thankfully, in Jaydene's words, she "didn't have the courage to do it".

And Michelle is eternally thankful she heard her daughter crying in her room that day.

She says: "I went into her bedroom and she said, 'Mum, I don't know what else to do'.

"She told me she wanted to die. It was so horrible that she was even contemplating doing something like that.

"We talked. Thank goodness she came through it."

Although Michelle is relieved Jaydene no longer wants to take her own life, she says it is still heartbreaking to see the effects the bullying has had.

She says: "Jaydene used to be

bubbly, outgoing and confident. Now she has become withdrawn. She doesn't want to go out.

"One day I went with her to the school to pick up some coursework and, as we approached the school, Jaydene went as white as a sheet and started shaking and panicking.

"I managed to calm her down and that's when she told me that she felt like this every time she went into school."

Jaydene had to spend her final four months of education studying at home for her GCSEs.

Mike says: "Jaydene was essentially being punished for being the victim.

"The girls who were doing the bullying were still in school, they still got to finish their education."

Mike and Michelle have another daughter, 11-year-old Allannah, who was due to go to the same school as her sister.

But the bullying has meant she will have to go to another school several miles away.

The couple have campaigned to ban the Ask.fm website.

They also want to find better ways of dealing with bullying in schools and on social networking sites.

Mike says: "Ever since what's happened to Jaydene, it's been our goal to shut Ask.fm down.

"We don't want another child to go through what Jaydene has been through.

"This really is a matter of life or death for many young ones."

Izzy Dix

