SCRIPT CHILDLINE FOR BULLYING

While most children live happy contented lives, this report paints a depressing picture of the pressures that tens of thousands of young people are facing, often on a daily basis. Childline say that over the past year they’ve seen an 87% rise in the number of children complaining of cyber bullying; a 69 % increase in complaints of racist bullying with children called terrorist or bomber; and a 33% increase in children reporting that they’re feeling suicidal. Self-harm is also on the increase.

[woman interviewed] “The opportunities…to be bullied …are increasing. Children nowadays – you know, it used to be the case that they went to their bedroom and shut the door and they were safe in there, and parents downstairs knew that they were safe. That’s not the case anymore. Now children can be reached 24 hours a day through smartphones and tablets, and devices which are not necessarily in the family room. “Hi, Wilfrid, is there someone you can talk to?””

Problems within families remain the main reason children contact Childline, and parental divorce as well as parents’ addictions, especially to alcohol, is an increasing concern to young people, say the charity. The NSPCC which runs Childline says the challenges facing children today are very different from what they used to be. They say it’s essential to children concerns are understood and addressed.

Michael Buchanan, BBC News.