Dr Stephen James Minton of the School of Education has arranged for a visit by Sylvia Lancaster and Kate Conboy-Greenwood of the UK charity, the Sophie Lancaster Foundation (http://www.sophielancasterfoundation.com), which was established following the murder of Sylvia’s 20 year-old daughter, Sophie, in a mob attack in Bacup, Lancashire in August, 2007, in which she and her boyfriend were targeted for no other ‘reason’ than the way in which they were dressed – which was in the ‘goth’ style. The visit will mark the formal beginning of a collaboration between the Sophie Lancaster Foundation, the Iorras le Cheile Community Development Project, and the newly-formed Psychology of Education Development Group in the School of Education, which will underpin a research project into investigating and addressing alterophobic prejudice (i.e., that directed towards members of ‘alternative’ sub-cultures) amongst school students in Ireland.

Sylvia Lancaster will be launching the second phase of a whole school-community programme, the Erris Anti-Bullying Initiative (http://www.iorraslecheile.ie/eabi.html) in Belmullet, Co. Mayo, on the evening Monday, 3rd October, 2011. On Tuesday 4th and Wednesday, 5th October, 2011, she will be meeting various interested parties, collaborators and supporters, and on Thursday, 6th October, 2011, at 1 p.m., she will be presenting a seminar entitled ‘Stop – Words Can Hurt: Addressing prejudice and violence amongst young people in schools and society’ in the School of Education.