
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	16 March 2010
Report By:	Acting Director of Education	Report No:	EDUC/24/10/CL
Contact Officer:	Colin Laird	Contact No:	01475 712824
Subject:	Consultation on a national approach to anti-bullying for Scotland's children and young people		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a response by Education Services to the consultation by Scottish Government on a national approach to anti-bullying.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Bullying has the potential to be a problem in any educational establishment no matter how well-performing or well-managed.
- 2.2 Bullying can have serious consequences for the wellbeing of any pupil and can sour their individual experience of school.
- 2.3 An attempt to bring the issue once more to public attention is to be welcomed. The issue of dealing with bullying in educational establishments has been out of the limelight for several years.
- 2.4 Inverclyde Schools use a variety of strategies to combat incidents where bullying is found. These are listed in 4.6.
- 2.5 The proposed response is attached as Appendix 1. The deadline for the response was 26 February 2010. Appendix 1

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that members approve the response by Education Services.

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Until 2007, the Scottish Government funded the Anti-Bullying Network based in the University of Edinburgh. Funding was removed from the Network at that time and it became an independent charity.
- 4.2 Since then funding was also provided to respectme, to provide a national anti-bullying service and to Childline to operate a telephone help service.
- 4.3 A Scottish Anti-Bullying Steering Group was set up in November 2009 to launch the consultation exercise and to provide a focus for anti-bullying. The group includes members from Scottish Government, The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), The Association of Directors of Education (Scotland) (ADES), The Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland) (ACPOS), Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS), Community Learning and Development Managers (CLD), Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC), The Children's Parliament and the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).
- 4.4 It is hoped that the consultation will identify gaps in both national and local anti-bullying support and advice.
- 4.5 Bullying can take many forms.

These include:

- Name-calling
- Cyberbullying
- Having possessions taken
- Being the victim of rumours
- Being threatened
- Being ignored
- Being physically hurt
- Being abused

- 4.6 Inverclyde Schools tackle bullying by:
- Making staff available to listen to young people discreetly
 - Using bully boxes where complaints can be registered anonymously
 - Using playground and peer mentoring support schemes
 - Using safe havens for breaks and lunchtimes
 - Updating policies regularly
 - Highlighting the issue in both assemblies and personal and social education
 - Highlighting the issue to Parent Councils
 - Organising anti-bullying wall displays
- 4.7 A further national anti-bullying week will be held from 15 – 20 November 2010. The theme for that week is 'peer support'.

5.0 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 See recommendation 3.1

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

None

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Equalities – some aspects of bullying relate to cultural, gender or orientational difference between young people.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The proposed response has been shared with head teachers and other professionals working in the field of additional support needs.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- RespectMe Commissioning Brief RespectMe 2009
- A National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scottish Government 2009
Scotland's Children and Young People

Introduction

A national approach to anti-bullying for Scotland's children and young people

This paper has been developed by the Scottish Anti-Bullying Steering Group and includes a draft vision, aims and a proposed approach to anti-bullying for Scotland's children and young people. It summarises very broadly what is being done at a national level in Scotland to prevent and tackle bullying. Beyond this a whole range of local and issue based activity takes place. We acknowledge that bullying occurs in adult life; however this approach focuses on children and young people. This consultation seeks views so that areas for development and improvement can be identified. In particular, it provides an opportunity to seek the views of other agencies and professionals working with children and young people on a national vision, aims and approach to anti-bullying in Scotland and to consider:

- contributions at all levels to this approach;
- strengths and gaps
- what more needs to be done in the future at national and local levels
- how we can all contribute to this
- the role of the SABS in overseeing and co-ordinating this.

Respondent Information Form

Please complete the details on the Respondent Information Form below. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately.

Name:

Colin Laird

Organisation: (if applicable)

Inverclyde Council - Education Services

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Telephone Number:

01475 712828

- 1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box) * Required**
- An individual (go to Q2a/b and then Q4)
- on behalf of** a group or organisation (go to Q3 and then Q4)

2a. INDIVIDUALS

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
- No, not at all (We will treat your response as confidential)

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

3. ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS

The name and address of your organisation *will be* made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government website).

- Yes
- No we will treat your response as confidential

Are you also content for your **response** to be made available?

4. SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact

- Yes
- No

you again in the future,
but we require your
permission to do so. Are
you content for the
Scottish Government to
contact you again in the
future in relation to this
consultation response?

Consultation Questions

QUESTION 1

Your views on the draft vision, aims and approach:

ANSWER

I am entirely in agreement with the content. The aims listed are appropriate and are child centred. There is an appropriate focus on prevention and resilience on young people.

The key word has to be “cohesive” – the various elements and Stakeholders in the issue need to fit together and pursue the same ideals.

QUESTION 2

What do you think are the strengths, gaps and priorities for future development?

ANSWER

Strengths: Work done on anti-bullying previously. Many schools have strategies in place already. Everyone recognises that this issue crops up everywhere.

Gaps: Recent CPD – until now a national group leading the way.

Priorities: Targeting of early years

Fitting into the context of Health and Wellbeing

Parenting skills

Stronger role for Citizenship training

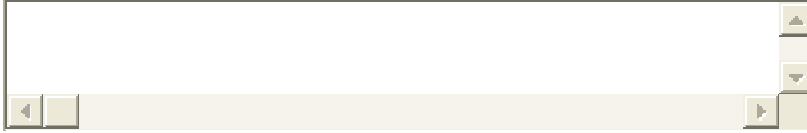
QUESTION 3

What more needs to be done:

- **at a national central level of co-ordination and support?**
- continue national coordination
- tie in with Children's champions
- CPD, launch-type event
- links to national Child Protection Guidance
- good practice documentation and evaluative tool from HMIe

- **at local level?**
- revision of local policies
- schools see as priority
- funding for pupil counselling service; funding for local initiatives
- coordinator in each school
- greater involvement of educational psychologists

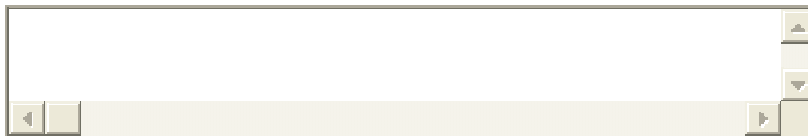
- **by your organisation?**
- prioritise in service plans
- refresh local policies
- possibility of using Drama to highlight the issue



QUESTION 4

What more can SABS do to support this?

- funding
- link officer contacts
- provide clear service of direction through conferences, newsletters using Enquire or Children in Scotland to greater extent



[Submit Responses](#)