

## **Summary of Anti-Bullying activities**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform members about the ongoing support the council provides for schools and young people during the year to prevent and tackle bullying. Information is also included on Wiltshire's involvement in the forthcoming national anti-bullying campaign delivered by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA).

### **Background**

2. The role of the council with regards to bullying is to signpost and highlight resources for schools and partners that supports their anti-bullying practices. In particular, this takes place through the Healthy Schools framework and through training for schools on personal, social, health and economic education. In addition, data gathered through the Pupil Health and Wellbeing Survey is used to monitor pupils' experience of bullying and their perception of schools' ability to offer support that makes a difference.

Annually, the council reflects upon this work and knowledge to learn lessons and make future recommendations; historically it does this during National Anti-Bullying week, which usually takes place in November.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

3. **National Anti-Bullying week 2017**  
13-17 November has the theme 'All Different, All Equal'. During this week on 15 November, the council will hold its third 'Big Conversation' with young people from representative groups within Wiltshire; the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth, Children in Care Council, Youth Safeguarding Board and Healthwatch Wiltshire Young Listeners.

At this meeting, young people will meet with senior decision-makers to review activities of the past year, consider data from the Pupil Health and Wellbeing Survey and discuss key issues relating to children and young people's experience of bullying and the impact it has on their lives. In addition, discussion will take place on the support and interventions that can, and do, make a positive difference.

Whilst the Anti-Bullying Alliance is not able to confirm how many Wiltshire schools access the free campaign resources that are available, it is likely that almost every Wiltshire school will take part.

## **Podcasts**

During the November meeting, a series of audio clips will be launched which have been recorded to explain the casual factors of bullying, as well as impact and coping strategies. These podcasts have been developed by the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth as a way of raising the profile of the impact of bullying and what is helpful in supporting students. This initiative is being supported by BBC Radio Wiltshire.

## **What we know from the data**

The meeting will also receive data from the 2017 Children & Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey carried out with almost 10,000 local children and young people. What we know from this year's survey is that although most children and young people do not experience bullying during a single year:

- 25% of Wiltshire primary age children experience bullying monthly, or more frequently
- 21% of Wiltshire secondary age children experience bullying monthly, or more frequently
- 13% of post 16 students experience bullying monthly, or more frequently

*(2017 Wiltshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey)*

These rates are significantly higher than the findings from the 2015 survey. Bullying remains consistently higher within some of our most vulnerable groups (including Looked After Children, Special Educational Needs and/or disability, Free School Meals, LGB, Young Carers). The amount of children who report that their schools do not deal with bullying well has risen significantly in secondary schools since 2015 (from 30% to 37%). Final reports from the survey will be available before Christmas 2017.

## **Wiltshire Healthy Schools**

118 schools are involved in the Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme, with 73 schools currently accredited. Wiltshire Healthy Schools are asked to provide evidence on how they prevent, record and respond to bullying incidents. Anti-Bullying week is promoted by the Wiltshire Healthy Schools Coordinator to all Wiltshire schools, supporting direct contact from the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

## **All Together – united against bullying**

The council has encouraged schools to sign up to the 'All Together' initiative <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/get-involved/become-all-together-school>. Schools that engage in this programme receive resources to tackle bullying, and monitoring effectiveness.

## **Supporting Emotional Wellbeing of children who bully or who have been bullied**

This training for primary and secondary schools was part of a programme of training and was delivered during March 2017, in partnership with Charlie Waller Memorial Trust.

### **Anti-Bullying Charter**

Since its launch in 2016, Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Charter, created by the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth, has been promoted and delivered to all schools and is referred to during Healthy School training.

<https://www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org/core-themes/emotional-health-and-wellbeing/anti-bullying-practice/>.

### **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Transformation Plan**

Resources made available within the transformation plan to improve emotional wellbeing and mental health include Kooth online counselling and support, mentoring and peer mentoring within Thrive Schools, and CAMHS practitioners co-located within our targeted children's services teams to provide consultation, liaison, training to staff and brief direct evidence based interventions.

### **Current and ongoing work includes:**

- Encouraging schools to provide evidence of effective anti-bullying work through the Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme
- Provision of local guidance on writing and developing school anti-bullying policies
- Providing Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education schemes of work
- Providing central training for teachers
- Linking schools with training from organisations including Stonewall and Brook to address homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HTB) bullying
- Work with Wiltshire Police to support school presentations and promote local campaigns
- [www.onyourmind.org.uk](http://www.onyourmind.org.uk) website for pupils with section on bullying
- Healthy Life, Healthy Mind posters/leaflets signposting to national support
- Enhanced counselling provision, using transformation funding, including online counselling for all secondary school pupils from Kooth
- Primary and secondary peer mentoring programmes, including from Kidscape, a national charity providing children, families, carers and professionals with advice, training and practical tools to prevent bullying and protect young lives.

### **Safeguarding Considerations**

4. Not applicable.

### **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

5. Not applicable

## **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

6. Not applicable

## **Risk Assessment**

7. Not applicable

## **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken**

8. Not applicable

## **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

9. Not applicable

## **Financial Implications**

10. Not applicable

## **Legal Implications**

11. Not applicable

## **Conclusions**

20. Bullying remains a top priority for children and young people given the fear that they might experience this at some point in their lives. Bullying negatively impacts a child's experience of school and community life where this happens. Efforts must be sustained to work in partnership with school colleagues to tackle bullying and its detrimental impact on children and young people.

Opportunities exist for members to support the council's work in tackling bullying across the county. These include promoting the Healthy Schools programme to educational settings within each Community Area, sharing resources such as the [On Your Mind](#) website, and researching what action community partners are taking to promote an anti-bullying agenda.

## **\*Proposal**

21. Council takes note of the above. Members join the Big Conversation should they wish to.

**Terence Hebert**  
**Corporate Director**

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Report Author: James Fortune  
Lead Commissioner, 18 October 2017