

PAST REVIEW UPDATE (HOMOPHOBIC, BIPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC BULLYING)

Committee name	Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities Policy Overview Committee
Officer reporting	Daniel Kennedy, Director - Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
Papers with report	None
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the recommendations approved by Cabinet in June 2019 following the Committee's review into Combating Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Bullying of Young People in Hillingdon.

The restrictions that have been in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic have meant that some of the actions in the recommendations have been delayed. Nevertheless, there has been a lot of good work that has continued over the past 18 months which has aimed to prevent and tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

1. Note the updates on recommendations as agreed by Cabinet in June 2019

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Policy Overview Committee Recommendations and Update

1. Officers attend the Headteachers' Forum and Governors' Forum to promote all elements of equality, including a focus on LGBT issues and preventing and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, as well as how to report it.

Update: The Headteachers' and Governors' Forums have not taken place in the same way due to the pandemic. Officers will attend the next virtual Headteachers' termly meeting and present an item on promoting equality, with a focus on LGBTQ+ issues. Officers will also continue to share articles in the regular communications that go out to Headteachers and Governors.

2. Ensure homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying be included in the Council's programme of tackling hate crime and extremism in schools.

Update: The Stronger Communities team are delivering workshops to students in schools as part of their work in tackling hate and extremism and supported by funding from MOPAC. Due to the pandemic, the delivery of sessions has been difficult, although some sessions have been delivered virtually. Now schools have re-opened we have a number of sessions booked for the summer term. The team are also offering sessions to staff and other local agencies relating to LGBTQ+ awareness.

3. The Council release a template / guidance regarding LGBT bullying for schools, including best practice to combat homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, that can be used or adapted by schools to ensure it meets their individual needs.

Update: The Education Improvement and Partnerships team hold regular briefings with Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools and cover a variety of topics including bullying.

Officers from Adolescent Services will be attending one of these briefings in April to specifically talk about LGBTQ+ bullying in schools. Guidance will be produced as part of this briefing and will include signposting to resources, such as the Stonewall's 'Getting Started' Toolkits for tackling bullying.

4. The Council encourages local primary and secondary schools to join the "Stonewall Champions Programme".

Update: Officers attended the 'Stonewall Champions Programme' training day and will share their experiences in the presentation to the Headteachers' and Governors' Forums and encourage schools to sign up.

5. The Council release a press statement and fly the rainbow flag outside the Council on the date of "Pride in London" to celebrate LGBT awareness.

Update: A press statement has been released and the flag flown each year since the recommendation was approved.

Implications on related Council policies

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

The recommendations seek to improve support by local schools for young people in combating homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying.

Financial Implications

None.

Legal Implications

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.