

# 'HOMOPHOBIC, BIPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC BULLYING' REVIEW

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## REASON FOR ITEM

The Committee confirmed its minor review on the topic of Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Bullying, and requested witness sessions to hear evidence regarding the review.

## OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

**The Committee is asked to listen to the witness session, note the evidence submitted, and comment on the report, which will progress the review to the next stage.**

## BACKGROUND

- At the Committee meeting on 21 September 2017, a scoping report outlining potential terms of reference, witness testimonies and lines of enquiry were agreed, and a review into Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Bullying was confirmed.
- Chris Scott, Service Manager for Targeted Programmes in Children and Young People's Services, will be in attendance at the meeting to address the Committee regarding the Council's current provision for supporting young LGBT members of the borough.
- At this meeting, Members can discuss further information on the review using the terms of reference that were set at the last meeting:
  1. *To examine how the Council services, schools, and other relevant departments identify and support those who are experiencing, or have experienced, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying.*
  2. *To examine relevant work by this Council, other Councils, and voluntary sectors to identify opportunities and methods to tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in support of the Council's wider equality objectives and the aims of the review.*
  3. *To make practical, prudent recommendations to Cabinet (and other bodies if applicable) from the Committee's findings to support residents experiencing homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, and reduce instances of bullying within the Borough.*
- Further email correspondence with the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust led to the following message, outlining the work of Hillingdon's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Hillingdon School Nursing Service in this area:

### **Hillingdon CAMHS**

*The service has worked with schools and teachers with regards to transgender youngsters who have been referred to CAMHS. The service links with the tertiary service run by 'The Tavistock and Portman', where a young person is in treatment at their specialist 'Gender*

*Identity Clinic (GIDS)'. Locally – linked to specific cases – the team has got advice from GIDS in Tavistock to think about how the teachers and school staff could deal with these issues in a sensitive manner and helped them in specific instances and schools.*

*The service will raise concerns with SENCOs, and other pastoral care staff, when there are issues around bullying related to sexuality, which could either be related to genuine concerns for the young person or when false rumours are being spread. However, there has been no specific work in schools to talk about this issue. CAMHS involvement has been based around specific cases and supporting families and schools around the children or young people.*

*The service makes use of signposting to third sector organisations where children or young people are being bullied around these issues and, following assessment, there is no need for specialist mental health input.*

*As a five-borough CAMHS service, CNWL CAMHS are receiving more referrals, as is the case nationally, where the young person may have complex mental health issues related to identity, sexuality and bullying. We are aware that these children and young people are more at risk of self-harming behaviour. There is a role for CAMHS, particularly if there is an identified mental health problem to treat, or a need to support a tertiary referral to 'The Tavistock and Portman' where a child or young person and their family is exploring transition around gender. The service has provided a service-wide CPD training for a cohort of staff on Gender Identity issues facilitated by The Gendered Intelligence Team, a specialist external resource.*

### **Hillingdon School Nursing Service**

*The Hillingdon school nursing service delivers weekly drop-in sessions of one hour in all Hillingdon secondary schools. Young people can self-refer, or they can be referred by a member of teaching staff or family; no appointment is necessary.*

*The service is confidential and open to all children, but themes of issues are collected manually to identify trends and key issues for young people. Managers have reviewed these referrals, and the referrals are themed.*

*There is currently no evidence of any children or young people who have presented an issue of homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying.*