

# 'HOMOPHOBIC, BIPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC BULLYING' REVIEW

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## REASON FOR ITEM

This item is to provide an update on how the review into 'Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Bullying' (HBT) in the Borough has been progressed since the last meeting.

## OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

**The Committee is asked to note the update on the review and agree to delegated authority to the Chairman of the Committee, Labour Lead Member and Democratic Services Officer to circulate a final copy of the report to Committee members, agree the final draft of the report, and schedule the review to be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.**

## BACKGROUND

- At the previous meeting of the Committee, the draft recommendations for the review were confirmed by Members. Following this meeting, the Chairman of the Committee and the Chairman of the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee, met with a number of young people who attend the Fountain's Mill LGBT Youth Group.
- At this meeting, a number of points and suggestions were raised, which are summarised below:
  - Teachers must be better educated on the issues of HBT bullying.
  - General anti-bullying campaigns have not had much impact; schools need to be hands-on and approach the problems directly. Educating the bullies themselves was vital towards any success.
  - Students must be educated about homophobic language. HBT language is normalized, and is painful to hear. Improved Communications and awareness of this should be considered.
  - HBT language could be included in any guidance / templates that are issues to schools to tackle HTB bullying.
  - An LGBT Youth Group that was activity-based might be a popular idea. It would not just be somewhere to sit and talk, but to interact and engage in activities (such as sport). This would likely be more popular among LGBT youths, and might increase attendance at these groups.
  - Groups outside school would also be beneficial. Currently there are a number of events in/after schools, but nothing provided for weekends.
  - The Council could consider looking into so-called "safe havens" from bullying for people who felt under threat, similarly to the "Ask Angela" campaign that was aimed at protecting people who did not feel safe on a date. It was suggested that libraries could be used for this.

- More LGBT information should be put on the relevant websites; e.g. the Young Hillingdon website. Information on youth groups and advice, or links to other websites that provide advice, would be supported.
- The Youth Council might have some useful input to the review to open up more ideas and concepts.
- The Youth Group was very supportive of the idea of flying the Rainbow flag on the day of London Pride. It was noted that this took place in Harrow, and it was a nice gesture to the LGBT community that made them feel valued and supported.
- It was suggested that a LGBT-friendly event might be popular among LGBT youths. Suggestions for the event included sessions on the history of LGBT issues, role models, and breakout sessions to discuss experiences and support structures, with involvement from guest speakers, companies who were interested in supporting LGBT issues and Stonewall.