

**To: Education and Children Policy Board**

**On: 3 November 2016**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Renfrewshire's Policy on Anti-Bullying**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Bullying is never acceptable. Renfrewshire Council aims to ensure that children and young people are safe and protected and that adult confidence and capacity to respond to bullying situations is embedded within school culture. Schools in Renfrewshire take this duty seriously. Where any such circumstances are reported timely action is taken in order to ensure a child is safe and their wellbeing paramount.
  - 1.2. The existing anti-bullying policy was agreed on 14 May 2015. This reflected national guidance at the time. However, it is our understanding that national guidance will be updated shortly. In light of this an updated policy will be developed and reported to the education and children policy board in due course.
  - 1.3. This policy has been informed by 'A National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People' (The Scottish Government 2010) and sits alongside other Renfrewshire Council policies such as Getting it Right for Every Learner in Renfrewshire (August 2014); Promoting Positive Relationships (August 2014); and Protecting Children and Ensuring Their Wellbeing (Standard Circular 57 – August 2014).
  - 1.4. Extensive in-depth development work is currently being undertaken with respect to Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service. This has included consultation and development of our approach, presentations to parent council chairs and head teachers, an evaluation toolkit being utilised and training for parents and staff.
  - 1.5. We are continuing to monitor bullying incidents to ensure each individual child is treated with dignity and fairness at all times.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The education and children policy board is asked to note the progress being made to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying behaviour in Renfrewshire schools.

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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Renfrewshire's policy on anti-bullying provides guidance to staff, parents, children and young people on the prevention, identification and management of bullying behaviour.

- 3.2 The context for the policy are informed by:

- Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC, updated 2012);
- Curriculum for Excellence, in particular, the Health and Wellbeing Framework, (Scottish Government, 2004);
- The Equality Act, 2010;
- The Children and Young People Act, 2014;
- Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act, 2004 and 2009;
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989;
- The Human Rights Act, 1998;
- The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. (Scotland) Act, 2000;
- Corporate Parenting Policy (Renfrewshire Council 2009), and
- Guidance on Developing Policies to Promote the Safe and Responsible Use of Mobile Technology In Schools (Scottish Government, 2013).

- 3.3 The policy provides information and guidance on:

- the definition of bullying and bullying behaviours;
- awareness raising and prevention;
- responsibilities for all staff, adults, children and young people;
- reporting, responding and recording of alleged bullying/bullying incidents;
- responsibilities of the local authority;
- data monitoring; and
- appendices to support implementation and consistency in practice.

- 3.4. In the context of the current policy schools have all been asked to review their own bullying policy as part of their school improvement process. A self evaluation toolkit has been provided by *respectme*. This toolkit provides schools with a simple set of questions to allow reflection on current practice. This then informs the school's standards and quality report and improvement objectives.

- 3.5. *respectme* is the national anti-bullying service which was launched in 2007. It is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) in partnership with LGBT Youth Scotland. The work of *respectme* focuses on working with adults involved in the lives of children and young people in order to develop the practical skills and confidence they need to support children who are bullied as well as those who bully others.
  - 3.6. Children's Services is working closely with *respectme* in order to build capacity in our schools so that bullying is approached consistently, effectively and appropriately whenever it occurs.
  - 3.7. *respectme* have provided children's services with valuable support through the availability of a self evaluation toolkit. This supports schools to review their current provision and plan for the future. The outcome of this is evident in school standards and quality reports and future school improvement planning.
  - 3.8. A range of awareness raising activities have been undertaken with parent council chairs and head teachers. This has provided a valuable focus for parents and schools to consider the implication of current practices, and areas for improvement.
  - 3.9. As a result of this awareness raising a series of training events have now been scheduled for staff and parents. These will be facilitated by *respectme* and will focus on ensuring a shared understanding of best practice.
  - 3.10. Once updated national guidance has been published the work with *respectme* will result in an updated authority policy which will be presented to the education and children policy board in due course.
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## Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications**  
None.
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications**  
None.
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**  
  

Children and Young People	- All children and young people should be safe and well. Issues of bullying will be addressed quickly and effectively.
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4. **Legal Implications**  
None.
5. **Property/Assets Implications**  
None.
6. **Information Technology Implications**  
None.

**7. Equality and Human Rights Implications**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

**8. Health and Safety Implications**

None.

**9. Procurement Implications**

None.

**10. Risk Implications**

None.

**11. Privacy Impact**

None.

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**List of Background Papers**

- (a) Renfrewshire's Policy on Anti Bullying, ECPB 14 May 2015

The foregoing background papers will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Gordon McKinlay 0141 618 7194 / [gordon.mckinlay@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.mckinlay@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

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**Children's Services**

GMcK/LG

26 October 2016

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