

Report to: Children's Services Panel Cabinet

Date: 8th Mar 2007 15th Mar 2007

Subject: Reporting of racist incidents involving pupils in schools and pilot recording of other hate-incidents or bullying

Report of: Director of Children and Young Peoples Services

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Purpose/summary: To inform Members of

- i. the returns received from schools on racist incidents involving pupils during the Autumn Term 2006, and
- ii. progress towards reporting other hate-incidents and bullying.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: N/A

Recommendation/decision: That Members are asked to:

- i. note the racist incidents involving pupils that occurred during the Autumn Term 2006;
- ii. note the progress on piloting a method of reporting other hate-incidents and bullying; and
- iii. reaffirm their commitment to support schools in their work in dealing with racist incidents and all other hate-incidents and bullying involving pupils.

Key Decision: (This report does not involve a key decision)

Implications:

Financial:	There are no direct financial implications
Staffing:	There are no direct staffing implications
Policy:	Comprehensive Equality Policy
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	n/a
Wards affected:	All
Special Interest Members – Which have been consulted	Councillor B Wilson

For Cabinet reports only:

Categorisation of the report:	
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	X
Sharing for corporate understanding	

Discussion	
Decision	
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
08.03.07		15.03.07	

Proper Officer



Date

February 2007

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The present procedure for the reporting of racist incidents involving pupils in schools came into operation on 1st September 2004. The procedure involves sending a fax copy of a paper record form (without pupils' names) to the Community Safety Team. The Hate-Crime Co-ordinator then supplies the aggregate figures supplied in section 4.0 below.
- 1.2 Schools are expected to make returns on all racist incidents involving pupils. Schools that do report racist incidents may be those that acknowledge the importance of addressing racist behaviour. Reflection on the figures by the Schools' Equality & Diversity Group and the Anti-Bullying Strategy Group suggests that the system has become better embedded in the practice of many schools. However significant work remains to be done to increase awareness for recording purposes.

2.0 Pilot scheme for reporting incidents online

- 2.1 As previously reported, the pilot of an online incident recording system called Sentinel is now operating in a small number of volunteer settings. The pilot group comprises five primary schools, five secondary schools, one special school, five residential homes, two respite centres, Connexions, Education Welfare and the Youth Service. Sentinel, from Vantage Technologies, is a new web-based system specifically designed for the simultaneous recording and reporting of all bullying incidents, including racist, homophobic and other hate-incidents. The pilot period finishes on Friday 30th March 2007, to be followed by an evaluation to decide whether to recommend the adoption of Sentinel as a borough-wide system.
- 2.2 Accordingly, the racist incident report for the next two terms will include incidents from two parallel systems, i.e. Sentinel in the pilot schools and the existing paper-based system in the other schools. Subject to a successful evaluation and consequent amendments, Sentinel could replace (and extend) the current system from September 2007.
- 2.3 As this initiative is part of a national pilot involving several other local authorities, feedback from Wigan Borough can also influence the final design of the system.

3.0 Support to schools

- 3.1 Schools are expected to report racist incidents to their governing body on a termly basis and have been encouraged to make use of recent national guidance from the DfES on tackling racist bullying. This guidance is available online, via the Teachernet website, and includes incidents related to religious belief following recent increases in Islamophobia nationally. Training on dealing with racist incidents has recently been delivered to several schools on request.
- 3.2 Schools in the Leigh township are now becoming involved in the Leigh Neighbours Project, a multi-agency initiative of the Leigh Township Forum to promote community cohesion. The headline indicator for community cohesion is the percentage of people who think people of different ethnic backgrounds get on well together there.
- 3.3 Most school governing bodies have now indicated their intention to combine their equality policies under a single Equality Scheme. Action plans to promote race equality, disability equality and, from April, gender equality will fit under this overarching statement. Without having to produce lengthy new policies, schools will

still fulfil their new legal duties as long as the separate actions are clearly identifiable. The duties on schools arise from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Equality Act 2006. An intensive programme of training is continuing, with separate sessions for governors and staff.

4.0 Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Autumn Term 2006

	Secondary	Primary	Total
Ashton in Makerfield & Bryn	1	2	3
Atherton	2	11	13
Golborne & Lowton	2	1	3
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge & Bickershaw	0	3	3
Leigh	4	5	9
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	1	0	1
Shevington, Standish & Aspull	4	0	4
Tyldesley & Astley	3	7	10
Wigan North	2	6	8
Wigan South	0	6	6
Total	19	41	60

5.0 Commentary on the figures

- 5.1 As always, extreme caution is needed in interpreting these figures. The on-line reporting method currently being explored (see 2.0 above) should provide a more realistic picture.

6.0 Recommendations / conclusion

That Members are asked to:

- i. note the racist incidents involving pupils that occurred during the Autumn Term 2006;
- ii. note the progress on piloting a method of reporting other hate-incidents and bullying; and
- iii. reaffirm their commitment to support schools in their work in dealing with racist incidents and all other hate-incidents and bullying involving pupils.

APPENDIX

Comparative figures from previous three terms

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Autumn Term 2005

	Secondary	Primary	All
Ashton in Makerfield & Bryn	0	7	7
Atherton	6	2	8
Golborne & Lowton	0	0	0
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge & Bickershaw	1	14	15
Leigh	11	12	23
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	0	2	2
Shevington, Standish & Aspull	0	2	2
Tyldesley & Astley	0	2	2
Wigan North	2	0	2
Wigan South	0	3	3
Total	20	44	64

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Spring Term 2006

	Secondary	Primary	All
Ashton in Makerfield & Bryn	0	3	3
Atherton	8	0	8
Golborne & Lowton	0	5	5
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge & Bickershaw	0	6	6
Leigh	3	11	14
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	3	2	5
Shevington, Standish & Aspull	0	5	5
Tyldesley & Astley	2	0	2
Wigan North	2	8	10
Wigan South	0	3	3
Total	18	43	61

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Summer Term 2006

	Secondary	Primary	Total
Ashton in Makerfield & Bryn	0	3	3
Atherton	2	2	4
Golborne & Lowton	0	0	0
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge & Bickershaw	6	2	8
Leigh	3	6	9
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	0	3	3
Shevington, Standish & Aspull	0	3	3
Tyldesley & Astley	0	2	2
Wigan North	4	3	7
Wigan South	0	5	5
Total	15	29	44