



# **SUPPORTING VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE**

**A report of a Working Party of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on the work of the Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale (GALYIC); the work of the Safer Schools Partnerships in Calderdale; and plans for the next six-twelve months regarding arrangements for responding to children who experience bullying.**

**November 2009**

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## **FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR**

**Councillor Howard Blagbrough**

This report presents the findings of a Working Party of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel which undertook a detailed scrutiny review on the issues of children who experience bullying; racist incidents in schools; the views of Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale (GALYIC) and the Safer Schools Partnerships in Calderdale.

The Working Party was set up following questions and concerns raised at earlier Scrutiny Panel meetings and all these topics were included for consideration as part of the Panel's 2009/10 Work Plan.

The Working Party held a single meeting and evidence gathering session on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, and the recommendations reflect the information obtained during this detailed and focussed piece of work.

I wish to thank all the members of the Working Party for their time and contributions in this matter, and all those who attended to assist us with our work.

Howard Blagbrough

Chair, Children and Young People Working Party,  
Supporting Vulnerable Young People

## **Introduction**

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel included in its 2009/10 Work Plan items on Racist Incidents in Schools; Children who Experience Bullying; Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale (GALYIC); and Safer Schools Partnerships.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Panel appointed a Working Party which met on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 allowing hard to reach groups to attend and express their views. It was determined that in undertaking this course of action that it was also important that the Working Group reported its findings back to the next scheduled meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

***The Working Party took as its terms of reference***

***‘To receive an update on progress and be informed of future plans for the next 6-12 months regarding the arrangements for responding to children who experience bullying; to review the nature and incidences of race hate incidence reporting in Calderdale Schools (1 April, 2008 – 31 March, 2009); to ascertain the views of the Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale (GALYIC); and to gain a better understanding of the work of the Safer Schools Partnerships’.***

## Findings

### ***Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale (GALYIC)***

We welcomed six youth members of GALYIC who gave a powerful and emotional presentation to the Working Party on the subject of: "Ten Years On; Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender (LGBT) in Calderdale – 2008"

We heard the key messages from GALYIC were that they felt LGTB Youth were highly vulnerable; few agencies met their needs; and there was evidence that the work of GALYIC reduced their vulnerability.

We were also told of on-going work of the Children's Trust and its Strategy Groups in reviewing the issues raised by GALYIC.

#### **Recommendation 1**

**That the Young People and Youth Work Team from GALYIC be thanked for their presentation and attending the meeting.**

#### **Recommendation 2**

**That the Scrutiny Support Officer circulate a hard copy of the GALYIC presentation to all Members of the Working Party.**

#### **Recommendation 3**

**That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on the findings/outcomes of the Children's Trust after it has considered the reports of its strategy groups on the issues raised by GALYIC.**

## ***Safer Schools Partnerships***

Mark Allsop, a Chief Inspector with West Yorkshire Police gave an informative presentation on the work and role of the Safer Schools Partnerships (SSP).

We heard about the role of the Safer Schools and Community Partnership; the Safer Schools Partnerships; Integrated Service Delivery around young people; School Clusters and Costs.

We were also told about the next steps required for the further development of the SSP in Calderdale. This included the need to identify future funding options; for SSP targets to be linked into Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets and local strategic drivers; for regular evaluation between stakeholders; and to further develop external arrangements such as a Young Citizen Panels for problem solving.

### **Recommendation 4**

**A report on the progress of the Calderdale Safer Schools Partnerships (SSP) should be submitted to a meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel in 12 months time (November, 2010)**

### **Recommendation 5**

**A copy of this SSP progress report in 12 months time should also be submitted to Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel for comment. All comments received to be reported back to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel.**

## ***Children who Experience Bullying***

Paul Sharkey, Safeguarding Manager to the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board and Deborah Scaife, Anti-Bullying Co-Ordinator presented a written report on the matter of children who experience bullying.

We were informed of the key points highlighted in the report, which included reasons for the delay in the implementation of the Anti-Bullying Action Plan; current progress; and a review and refinement of the original Action Plan.

We also heard about the establishment of a Strategic Implementation Group to oversee progress of the Anti-Bullying Action Plan and were provided with data on the nature and incidences of Race Hate Incident reporting in Calderdale Schools.

### **Recommendation 6**

**The Safeguarding Manager to the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board and the Anti-Bullying Co-Ordinator should be asked to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel to provide an update on the timescales outlined in the Calderdale Anti-Bullying Strategy Plan.**

### **Recommendation 7**

**A report on the progress of the Calderdale Anti-Bullying Strategy Plan should be submitted to a meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel early in the 2010/11 Municipal Year, to include effectiveness of preventative measures; support arrangements for victims; work with perpetrators and engagement of parents/carers.**

## Appendix 1

### Membership of the Working Group

Councillor Mrs Olwen Jennings\*  
Councillor Howard Blagbrough\*(Chair)  
Councillor Zafar Iqbal-Din\*  
Councillor Mohammed Ilyas\*  
Councillor Richard Marshall, MBE  
Councillor Ann McAllister\*  
Councillor Megan Swift\*

Mr D Warbrick, Church of England (Co-Opted Voting Member)  
Mr D Gott\*, Roman Catholic Church (Co-Opted Voting Member)  
Vacant – Parent Governor Representative (Co-Opted Voting Member)  
Mr A Knowles - Parent Governor Representative (Co-Opted Voting Member)  
Mr S Aziz – Muslim Faith (Non Voting Co-Opted Member)  
Mr A Thripland – Teacher’s Federation (Non Voting Co-Opted Member)  
Ms S McMahan\* - Teacher’s Federation (Non Voting Co-Opted Member)  
Vacant – University of Huddersfield (Non Voting Co-Opted Member)  
Mrs P Astwood\* – Free Churches (Non Voting Co-Opted Member)

(\*denotes present at meeting)

### Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Olwen Jennings (Chair)  
Councillor Howard Blagbrough  
Councillor Zafar Iqbal-Din  
Councillor Mohammed Ilyas  
Councillor Richard Marshall, MBE  
Councillor Ann McAllister  
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Mrs P Astwood – Free Churches (Non Voting Co-Opted Member)

(Support to this scrutiny Working Party was provided by Paul Preston,  
Scrutiny Support Officer, Democratic and Partnership Services)



## **Appendix Two**

### **Summary of Witnesses Giving Evidence**

Jan Bridget, Service Manager and Helen Whitehouse, Crisis Intervention Support Worker, GALYIC

Six Young People, GALYIC

Chief Inspector Mark Allsop, West Yorkshire Police

Sue Rombold, Head of Children's Trust, Calderdale Council

Paul Sharkey, Safeguarding Manager to the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board, Calderdale Council

Deborah Scaife, Anti-Bullying Co-Ordinator, Calderdale Council

Veronica Mellor, Safeguarding lead for Schools, Calderdale Council

Diane Lightowler, School Link Officer (Secondary), Calderdale Council

Andrew Ramsay, Principal Officer for Planning and Performance, Calderdale Council

## **Appendix Three**

### **References and Bibliography**

Presentation by GALYIC

Presentation by West Yorkshire Police – Safer Schools Partnership

Report of Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board, Safeguarding Unit

Any enquiries or requests for background information,  
please contact Paul Preston, Democratic and Partnership  
Services, Calderdale Council, Westgate House, Westgate,  
Halifax, HX1 1PS  
Tel: (01422) 393250

Email: [scrutiny@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@calderdale.gov.uk)  
<http://www.calderdale.gov.uk>