

## Short Life Working Group on Recording and Monitoring Incidents of Bullying in Schools

**NOTE OF MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2017**  
**Victoria Quay, Edinburgh**

**In attendance:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Ian Rivers	University of Strathclyde	Chair.
Caroline Amos	Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)	
John Urquhart	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)	
Katie Rafferty	<i>respectme</i>	
Martyn Hayward	Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)	
Charlotte Harrison	National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)	
Sara McFarlane	Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC)	
Maggie Fallon	Education Scotland	
Kenneth Gilroy	Police Scotland	
Carol Young	Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER)	
John Edward	Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS)	
Maggie Nesbitt	Scottish Secondary Teachers Association (SSTA)	
Gordon Wardrope	Education Scotland Link Officer Network (Fife)	
Frank Thomson	Education Scotland Link Officer Network (South Lanarkshire)	
Phil Alcock	Scottish Government	
Carolyn Wales	Scottish Government	Secretary
Robert Downie	SEEMiS	
Patricia McCurrach	SEEMIS	

## **APOLOGIES**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Eileen Prior	SPTC	Represented by Sara McFarlane
Sonia Kordiak	EIS	
Lorraine Glass	respectme	Represented by Katie Rafferty
Jordan Daly	Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) Campaign	
Jim Thewliss	School Leaders Scotland (SLS)	
Cara Spence	LGBT Youth Scotland	
Sophie Bridger	Stonewall Scotland	
Gillian McCluskey	Scottish Council of the Deans of Education	
Maria Plant	Education Scotland Link Officer Network (Edinburgh)	

## **Correspondence only**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Susan Hunter	YouthLink Scotland	

### **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

1.1 IR welcomed attendees and thanked everyone for agreeing to take part in this short life working group on recording and monitoring incidents of bullying in schools.

1.2 IR provided a short overview of the aims of the group and confirmed that the Deputy First Minister wanted updated recording and monitoring systems to be implemented by the start of the new school year 2018/19. IR also confirmed that sub groups may be established to take forward specific areas of work.

### **2. 'Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Children and Young People'**

2.1 PA provided the group with detail on the background, purpose and timescales and invited comments on the draft Terms of Reference which was issued prior to the meeting. PA acknowledged the ambitious timescales for this work but also acknowledged that the new system must work for schools and help support children and young people without adding significantly to teacher workload.

2.2 PA also explained that a number of stakeholders wanted to see recording of bullying incidents on a statutory footing. PA confirmed that the Deputy First Minister had not ruled out this option but would like to see recording of bullying incidents implemented on a voluntary universal approach in the first instance. The Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools (SAGRABIS) and the National Approach Working Group supported this approach. IR commented that he has experience of legislation of recording and monitoring of bullying incidents and was clear that the statutory approach did not work.

2.3 The Group discussed the draft Terms of Reference proposed for the group. A number of revisions were discussed and it was agreed that a revised version would be circulated around the Group for approval through correspondence. This will include a reference to engaging with parents as part of the process.

2.4 The issue of using the first year of implementing the new approach (2018/19 Academic Year) as a pilot was discussed. It was agreed that this would be useful to allow any tweaks to the universal approach to ensure it met the needs of teachers and pupils.

### **AP01 – update the terms of reference and reissue to group (CW)**

### **3. SEEMiS presentation**

3.1 Colleagues from SEEMiS provided an overview of the system which is owned and operated by all 32 local authorities. Any changes to the system require approval by the SEEMiS Governance Board. IR suggested that a sub group should be established to take this work forward. CW will work closely with SEEMiS colleagues and sub group members and will share proposals with the wider group. SEEMiS colleagues agreed to share the existing guidance for schools that accompanies the Bullying and Equalities module.

3.2 The Group made a number of comments on SEEMiS:

- Can't print off a report by characteristic only by name (PM did highlight that this function may appear in the next generation model of SEEMiS)
- Is it possible to change the name of the module from Bullying and Equalities
- Could compulsory fields within the module be altered?
- Would it be possible to add in more than one descriptor for the nature of the incident?

3.3 GW provided an overview to the group of the recent work in Fife in introducing a mandatory approach to recording incidents of bullying and the SEEMiS system.

### **AP02 – issue the SEEMiS guidance with the working group**

### **AP03 – sub group to draft proposals for changes to SEEMiS and issued to working group**

### **4. Future meetings**

4.1 IR updated the group on future topics for discussion, frequency and location of meetings which it was agreed, would take place in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

4.2 CW confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be the 31 January 2018 in a central location in Edinburgh.

Scottish Government  
Dec 2017