



# Report to Cabinet Member for Achievement and Learning

Decision to be taken on or after 04/12/2007

Decision can normally be implemented at least 3 working days after decision has been signed.

**Cabinet Member Report No. AL08.07 revised version November 07**

*Please note : The Anti Bullying Strategy has been revised since it was first published as a 'decision to be taken' in May 2007.*

**Title:** Buckinghamshire Anti Bullying Strategy for Schools

**Date:** 26/11/2007

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**Electoral Divisions Affected:** All

**Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

Overview and Scrutiny for Children's Services

## Summary

It is now a statutory requirement that all schools must have an anti-bullying policy, which is reviewed regularly, and links to the schools behaviour and discipline policy. Schools also need to provide and report information about bullying incidents for inspection purposes. The Buckinghamshire Anti Bullying Strategy for Schools has been developed in consultation with partners and is now ready to be distributed as a valuable guide and action plan to support schools in tackling bullying behaviours.

## Recommendation

**That the Buckinghamshire Anti Bullying Strategy for Schools be agreed. To be reviewed every 2 years, or sooner if legislation demands.**

### A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

1. Buckinghamshire County Council will not tolerate bullying of any kind and expects schools to take action and work in partnership to ensure that all children and young people in Buckinghamshire's schools are safe from bullying.

2. Buckinghamshire County Council has developed an Anti-Bullying Strategy for Schools linking to Government guidance on creating safe schools, reducing prevalence and responding to bullying behaviours.
3. The strategy has been developed in consultation with local community partners. The strategy is underpinned by guiding principles, an agreed definition of bullying behaviours and six operational strands:
  - Encourage effective practice
  - Support effective school leadership and management
  - Engage children and young people
  - Promote effective partnerships with parents/carers and families as well as other agencies
  - Publicity and information
  - Performance Indicators
4. The Anti Bullying Strategy for Schools is necessary to provide an overall framework and direction for anti bullying work throughout the County. It will have a positive impact on schools ability to provide a safe environment for all children and young people, helping to enhance their life chances.
5. National Initiatives promote Anti Bullying. It is essential that the County Council is seen to promote safe environments.

**B. Other options available, and their pros and cons**

6. There are no alternative options at this time.

**C. Resource implications**

6. There is currently no separate budget set aside for anti bullying work, however the actions within the strategy can be carried out by officers in their current roles. Potential realignment of priorities and roles could give scope for further support.
7. Any costs incurred by schools in implementing the strategy will be met from their delegated budgets.

**D. Legal implications**

8. Section 61 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires the governing body of a maintained school to ensure that policies designed to promote good behaviour and discipline on the part of it's pupils are pursued at the school, and Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 states that a local education authority shall make arrangements for ensuring that the functions

conferred on them in their capacity as a local education authority are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

#### **E. Property implications**

9. There are no property implications.

#### **F. Other implications/issues**

10. Anti Bullying targets are contained in the Corporate Plan, the Local area Agreement and the Children and Young People's Plan. Actions to minimise bullying as a negative behaviour, support equality and diversity outcomes as well as being part of the preventative strategy for crime and disorder.

11. There is no risk to the County Council, other than potential legal challenge if we did nothing! By embedding actions into all our schools, the strategy becomes sustainable.

#### **G. Feedback from consultation and Local Member views**

12. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee for children's services have reviewed the Anti Bullying Strategy for Schools, and amendments were subsequently made. They have recently undertaken a review and produced recommendations which support the work of this strategy.

13. The strategy has been reviewed by many partners throughout its development, including consultation at a partnership conference involving 24 different partners.

14. It has been reviewed by the Primary Consultative Board, the Secondary Consultative Board and the Safeguarding Panel.

15. It has been available for all schools to comment on in the draft stages, and many revisions have been made in light of comments from all consultations.

#### **H. Communication issues**

16. The strategy will be circulated to all schools and other relevant services, and will be published on the Internet for schools, parents and other interested parties to access. This will be supplemented by guidance and advice.

17. The actions arising from the strategy will also involve regular publicity; for example, the promotion of an annual "Anti Bullying Week", articles in the schools bulletin etc.

#### **I. Progress Monitoring**

18. The following performance indicators are supported by the strategy:

- BCC Corporate Plan:

Support all schools in addressing bullying, 100% of OfSTED reports indicating effective practice where support has been given.

- Local Area Agreement:  
Medium Term Priority G  
% of schools inspected which are judged to have taken action to reduce anti-social behaviour, such as bullying and racism  
Medium Term Priority F  
Number of incidents of bullying and racist incidents reported by schools (indicator to be developed - may be expected to increase at first)
- Children and Young People's Plan:
  1. % of 11-15 year olds who state they have been bullied in the last 12 months. The target for 2006/07 is 60% of schools returning information on bullying incidents, increasing to 90% in 2008/09.
  2. % of 10-19 year olds admitting to bullying another pupil in the last 12 months, the target being 60% of schools returning this information in 2006/7, increasing to 100% by 2007/8.

## I. Review

19. The strategy will be reviewed every 2 years, or more often if legislation demands it, initiated by the Anti bullying Strategic Group in co-operation and consultation with others.

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## Background Papers

Some useful background websites include:

Bucks Grid for Learning – [www.bucksgfl.org.uk/antibullying](http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/antibullying)

Anti-Bullying Alliance – [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

Advice for children and young people - [www.parentscentre.co.uk/bullying](http://www.parentscentre.co.uk/bullying)

Beat bullying - [www.beatbullying.org.uk](http://www.beatbullying.org.uk)

Childline - <http://www.childline.org.uk/>

Department for Education and Skills –

[www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying)

[www.dfes.gov.uk/ibis/departement\\_policy/bullying.cfm](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/ibis/departement_policy/bullying.cfm)

[www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying)

National Healthy Schools Programme – [www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk](http://www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk)

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## ***Your questions and views***

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by*

5.00pm on 3 December 2007 This can be done by telephone (to 01296 383610), Fax (to 01296 382538), or e-mail to [cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk)

