

Education Committee, 5 February 2019

Report of SAGBRABIS, 19 December 2018

Due to the demands of Parliamentary business, the DFM was not able to attend. The meeting was therefore chaired by a civil servant, Laura Meikle.

- Discussion took place on what areas should be covered by the next Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research (publication in 2020). It was agreed that as well quantitative data qualitative research should also be done. The issue of who completed the survey was raised again (the unions believe selection at school level may be occurring to provide a certain picture which may not reflect the reality). I asked if special schools and behaviour units could be included. I will be on the Advisory Group as before.
- *Included, Engaged and Involved, Part 1*. An update on progress was provided.
- Recording and Monitoring of Bullying Incidents – an update was provided. I suggested some kind of evaluation before session 2020-21 when the formal one would take place would be a good idea. FOIs have already been received in relation to current numbers.
- Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education Teaching Guidance is to be updated. A Review Group is to be set up (EIS, SSTA and NAS/UWT on it). It is not clear if this will be a group that oversees progress etc or if it is doing the practical work of actual re-writing)*. There was discussion about whether wider work on tackling sexual harassment should be included in this work. The outcome of the discussion was unclear. (I said it should be separate as it needed urgent attention. I was backed by NAS/UWT)
- Restraint and Seclusion Report (*No Safe Place*) – it was acknowledged there was advice in *Included, Engaged and Involved, Part 2*. However, if local authorities were not following it by having agreed policies which included definitions, guidance on practice, and recording incidents of either type there was a need to ensure all of these changed in line with the recommendations. Local authorities were to be visited to see if they required support. SAGRABIS members would comment on the draft response to the Commissioner before the end of January. I questioned the wording in recommendation 21 which is 'Local authorities should provide training to staff on a proportionate basis, with only those who have been assessed as needing training [on restraint] receiving it' (I

questioned the 'assessed' as it suggests a top-down approach/requirement, rather than it being voluntary for teachers).

- Respectme – provided an update on their work.
- Education Scotland have new staff in post. A group is being set up to look at training for Learning Assistants. Seamus from the SSTA made much of the need for teachers to be involved as staff worked in partnership. Given SSTA got a place on the Group I asked for one for the EIS – for someone with a primary background. This was agreed.
- I had put on the agenda 'Support for pupils with ASN including consideration of the appropriateness of the physical environment 'and 'Training for staff in relation to the autistic spectrum disorder. ' I was supported in what I said by others present.

*if it is to re-write then a Guidance teacher would need to be sought; if overseeing SK is happy to do

SK 26.1.19