

Education Committee, 5 February 2019

Report of Recording and Monitoring Incidents of Bullying in Schools;

10 December 2018

Twenty people from a range of organisations attended the meeting which was chaired by Ian Rivers.

RAMBIS is supposed to oversee the implementation of the SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module across Scottish schools. The implementation is to happen in 3 phases. By the end of the current session all schools and authorities should have a consistent approach for recording and monitoring incidents of bullying (between/among pupils).

During the course of the session amendments to the current SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module have been made in line with suggestions from the Group.

Caroline Amos (ADES) who chairs the Operational Support Groups gave her views on how matters were moving forward. She saw it all as positive. I indicated that despite it being clear in the documentation sent out, there still remained a disconnect in relation to that advice in some local authorities as the matter had not been discussed at all LNCTs, A commitment was given to highlight this aspect at future OSG meetings.

All involved in Phase 1 could have attended to give their feedback but only one authority did. A presentation was provided by Charlie Johnston and Alyson Wynne-Jones in respect of what has been done in East Renfrewshire. There the module has been in use for some time. It was stated that it was seen as a time saver. Unions and the LNCT were involved from the start. It enables schools to tackle bullying as it provides useful information. The number of incidents is decreasing. Nil responses from schools are challenged. There has been an investment in staff training. On the technical side the band width to schools had been increased.

Concerns were raised by others about ease of use not being possible in all authorities, particularly at busy times in the school day. (This may make consistency difficult)

Someone from Shetland had been due to attend to say what was happening there but they were not able to come at the last minute.

Respectme gave an update on its work with authorities - 8 have updated their anti-bullying policies; 6 are reviewing them; 8 need to update them.

SK 26.1.19