

Operations Support Group for the Recording and Monitoring of Bullying Incidents - Phase 3

17 December 2019

- From an Edinburgh perspective, I think there are significant benefits to this module and it will actually reduce workload for PSLs, DHTs and HTs: we will not be required to duplicate recording (one bit of Seemis speaks to another bit!) and there will be no need for the collation of an annual report by individual schools.
- There is an established system in place for identifying, recording and monitoring bullying and racist incidents in Edinburgh and the staff involved in this are, in the main, skilled and experienced. It will not impact on non-promoted staff. The CEC policy will be checked to ensure it is compliant – I do not anticipate any difficulty with this. It was clear, from discussions at the meeting in December, that our current system, albeit paper based, is a well-established, highly sophisticated system rooted in Equality legislation.
- Common language will be used nationally, using the data from the Business Intelligence Report (BIR), to respond to FOIs. This will also reduce workload and is, I think, to be welcomed.
- The aim is for Phase 3 to be operational by 3/6/19. Education Scotland will ask for data from the BIR from that date onwards in inspections. Prior to this date we need, in Edinburgh, to agree user access and what the best format is for the report.

There is a current *Racist Incident Screen* on Seemis which can be used in addition to this new module. This is being used very successfully by East Renfrewshire (although West Lothian seem to have encountered problems). This screen can record racist incidents which are not directed at an individual and could, I believe, be a hugely valuable tool. For example – racist graffiti in a toilet can be formally recorded even if the perpetrator or victim are not known.

East Renfrewshire have found the entire system very useful and manageable. It is worth noting that: there is one person at the Centre in East Ren who manages this and has the overview; the entire system was set up centrally in East Ren; they have a very clear and consistent policy and procedures for using the module; they have increased their bandwidth for all schools to facilitate the use of the new module; and they also have the proxy downloader.

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