

<b>Item No.</b> 8.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 10 December 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Bullying - School and Council Policy to Support Vulnerable Children and to Reduce Poor and Abusive Peer Relations (Education, Children's Services and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee)	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Overview and Scrutiny Committee	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet notes the recommendations of the review of bullying - school and council policy to support vulnerable children and to reduce poor and abusive peer relations, and that the relevant cabinet members bring back a report to cabinet, in order to respond to the overview and scrutiny committee, within eight weeks.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Attached is the final report arising from the scrutiny review of bullying - school and council policy to support vulnerable children and to reduce poor and abusive peer relations.
3. The education, children's services and leisure scrutiny sub-committee resolved at its meeting on 10 July 2012 to conduct a review into bullying, considering both school and council policy to support vulnerable children and to reduce poor and abusive peer relations. The sub-committee continued its recent focus on the role of parents and families in supporting young people and resolved to look particularly at young people who are more likely to experience bullying because of social exclusion or disadvantage: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) pupils, children in care and girls at risk of gang involvement. Two themes emerged as the review progressed: cyber-bullying and young people at risk of involvement in gangs/serious offending.
4. The overview and scrutiny committee considered the sub-committee's report at its meeting on 11 November 2013. The committee welcomed the report and the valuable work of the sub-committee.

## EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The sub-committee's recommendations are listed below.
  1. That cabinet considers nominating the cabinet member for children and young people to take overall responsibility for implementing the council's work to address bullying.
  2. That cabinet considers nominating a named senior officer to lead on

delivery of this work.

3. That information be cascaded to schools on the work of Kidscape and the Cybersmile Foundation on tackling bullying and cyber-bullying.
4. That training be promoted that brings together teachers, young people and their families to enhance communication and knowledge in relation to online media and cyber-bullying.
5. That initiatives such as Kindness Weeks and cyber-bullying awareness days be encouraged, which promote the values of care and kindness. Initiatives such as these can also help develop emotional intelligence and an awareness of what constitutes acceptable behaviour online.
6. That the use of role play in schools be encouraged in order to develop emotional literacy.
7. That schemes be promoted that support bullied children to build self-esteem and develop assertiveness skills.
8. That counselling services such as Place2Be be supported.
9. That school children be empowered to raise issues and the box scheme and other schemes be extended so that children, young people and the public can raise concerns easily, particularly about school bus routes.
10. That placing wardens and transport police on problematic bus routes, such as the 381, be considered.
11. That training to teachers be promoted on bullying and involvement with gangs/serious offending so that they are more able to work effectively with young people at risk. That it be ensured that the training is done by people who are credible and knowledgeable.
12. That a forum be provided for teachers to share concerns and information on young people involved, or at risk of involvement, with gangs/serious offending.
13. That encouragement and support be provided for schools to develop Gang Prevention Strategies.
14. That groups such as Safe 'N' Sound, Empowering People for Excellence and Citysafe be invited to join the Safer Schools Steering Group.
15. That more accessible information be provided on local LGBT networks for young people and consideration be given to developing a network for Southwark young people, possibly with the support of Southwark's LGBT forum.
16. That Speakerbox, the Looked After Children Panel, the Children Safeguarding Board and the Corporate Parenting Panel be consulted on anti-bullying work with children receiving care.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda 11 November 2013	Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Peter Roberts 020 7525 4350
<b>Link</b> <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&amp;MId=4592&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&amp;MId=4592&amp;Ver=4</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Report of the Education, Children's Services & Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
<b>Report Author</b>	Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	19 November 2013	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Chief Officers	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	19 November 2013	