

## CYPE(6)-17-22 - Paper to note 8

### Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

### Children, Young People and Education Committee

Local authority Directors of Education

Managing Directors of Regional Education Consortia

27 July 2022

### Everybody's Affected: the Children, Young People and Education's report into peer on peer sexual harassment among learners

Dear colleagues,

As you may be aware, on 13 July 2022 the Children, Young People and Education Committee published its [report](#) on the findings of our inquiry into peer on peer sexual harassment among primary-, secondary- and college-aged learners. Alongside the written report, we also published a short [summary video report](#), aimed at young people.

Our main findings were that peer on peer sexual harassment among learners is so common that it has been normalised. It begins in primary schools and continues into further education. The overwhelming majority of victims are girls, but other groups of learners are at risk too. We found that the impact of sexual harassment is so severe that not only does it affect their learning, but it affects their relationships, mental health, life prospects and can – in the most serious of cases – lead to self-harm and suicide. Although schools and colleges cannot be held entirely responsible for peer on peer sexual harassment, they have a key role in preventing it. Currently, they are struggling to do so.

Our report makes a total of 24 recommendations. Many of them, if accepted by the Welsh Government and Estyn, will have direct implications for the schools in your local authorities/regions. They include:

- a national sexual harassment awareness campaign, targeted at learners and their families;
- a review of sexual harassment in primary schools;
- ring-fenced funding to train school staff on how to identify and respond to cases of peer on peer sexual harassment; and

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- changes to Estyn's inspection framework to focus on how schools report and respond to incidents of sexual harassment.

I would be grateful if you could bring the written report to the attention of primary and secondary school leaders and chairs of governors in your area/region:

**<https://senedd.wales/media/pmdgeqio/cr-ld15251-e.pdf>**

I would also be grateful if you could share with them the link to our video report so that they can encourage young people to engage in our findings. The video is aimed at children aged between 11 and 18:

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv\\_GG2EBLHM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv_GG2EBLHM)**

The Welsh Government will respond to our report in autumn 2022. In their response they will confirm whether they accept or reject each of our recommendations. Once they have done so, there will be a Senedd debate on the report in Plenary.

If you have any concerns or would like further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.