

CYPE(6)-17-22 - Paper to note 10

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Ffion Williams

Member of the Welsh Youth Parliament

29 July 2022

Sexual harassment in schools and colleges

Dear Ffion,

I and the other members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee would like to tell you how impressed we were with your bravery and honesty when you were interviewed by ITV Wales about sexual harassment in schools.

You spoke about your own personal and distressing experiences of sexual harassment with confidence and you made your points clearly and convincingly. You should be proud of what you have done to improve awareness and understanding of peer on peer sexual harassment, which affects the lives of far too many children and young people across Wales.

As you know, Estyn found out that 61% of girls and 29% of boys in secondary schools have been sexually harassed by other pupils. From our work into peer on peer sexual harassment in schools and colleges, we think this is probably an underestimate. We also found out that peer on peer sexual harassment has a massive impact on young people, and that schools and colleges aren't doing enough to prevent it happening and to support people who have experienced it.

Our final report for the Welsh Government and Members of the Senedd makes 24 recommendations, which we hope will help to stop sexual harassment in schools and colleges. We also created a short video version of our report, which is aimed at young people aged 11 to 18. The video report summarises our key findings.

Our work into this important issue is not over. Here are some important dates coming up:

- **Late summer/early autumn 2022:** the Welsh Government will formally respond to our report. In their response they will say whether they accept or reject our recommendations.

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- **Early autumn:** there will be a debate on our report in the Senedd. I will open the debate to talk about the Committee's work. Any Member of the Senedd can speak if they want. Then a Welsh Government Minister will respond to us all. This is a really important part of a Committee inquiry.

I would like to invite you to attend that Senedd debate in the autumn. I would also be more than happy to meet with you and any other interested youth parliamentarians before the debate to talk more about this important issue.

I would also like to extend to you an open invitation to come along to a meeting of our Committee to talk to us about peer on peer sexual harassment and what more we can do to help the Welsh Government, schools and colleges deal with it better.

If you would like to get in touch, you can email me via the committee clerks at any time at SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales.

Once again, thank you for standing up for yourself and your peers across the country. You have helped Wales to move closer to stopping peer on peer sexual harassment in schools and colleges.

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.