

**Report to:** Children and Young People's Panel / Cabinet

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 / 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007

**Subject:** Reporting of Racist Incidents Involving Children and Young People in Schools and Pilot Recording of Other Hate-Incidents and Bullying

**Report of:** Director of Children and Young People's Services

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**Purpose / summary:** To inform members of:

- ◆ the racist incidents involving children and young people recorded by schools during the Summer Term 2007, and
- ◆ the implementation of the Sentinel web-based recording system.

**Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:** Not applicable. Monitoring purposes only.

**Recommendation / decision:** That members are asked to:

- ◆ note the racist incidents involving children and young people that occurred during the Summer Term 2007;
- ◆ note the implementation of the Sentinel online system; and
- ◆ reaffirm their commitment to support schools in their work in dealing with racist incidents and all other hate-incidents and bullying involving pupils.

**Key Decision:** This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed

**Risks / Implications:**

Financial:	There are no direct financial implications
Staffing:	There are no direct staffing implications
Policy:	Comprehensive Equality Policy; Equality Scheme
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	See below
Wards affected:	All

**Property – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?**

No

**Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

**Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Director of Legal and Property Services confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution?	<b>Yes / No *</b>
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Has the Director of Finance and IT confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget?	<b>Yes / No *</b>
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Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	<b>No</b>
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\* delete which applicable

**For Cabinet reports only :**

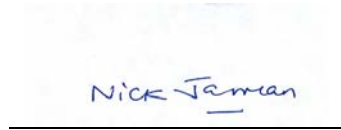
Categorisation of the report:	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	<b>X</b>

**Tracking/Process:**

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2007		20 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer



Nick Toman

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Date

August 2007

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## 1. Background

Schools are expected to make returns on all racist incidents involving children and young people. The individual establishments that report racist incidents most rigorously may be those that best acknowledge the importance of addressing racist behaviour, rather than those with the biggest problem. Significant work remains to be done to increase awareness of racism and Children and Young People's Services officers continue to encourage schools to record all incidents.

To avoid the possible identification of individual schools from this report, totals from primary, secondary and special schools in each township have now been aggregated.

## 2. Implementation of the Sentinel Recording System

The school procedure has recently been slightly amended to replace the previous fax-based system with the Sentinel online system from September 2007. This will be for all racist incidents involving children and young people in schools, with the further possibility of recording all bullying and hate-incidents other than racist incidents.

The Summer Term 2007 was a period of overlap between the old system and the pilot of the new system. This report therefore contains data aggregated from both Sentinel in pilot schools and faxes from other schools. The next report (covering the Autumn Term 2007) will be based on Sentinel data only.

## 3. Recent Support to Schools, and Actions by Schools, to Promote Race Equality and Community Cohesion

It is a current government concern that modern Britain needs more inter-cultural understanding and friendship to complement respect for diversity. So, from this month, school governing bodies come under a new duty to promote community cohesion. This arises from s.38 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and has clear links with the promotion of race equality and good relations between different ethnic groups. Schools have an important part to play in developing a sense of shared citizenship, rather than dwelling on difference. In brief, there is more that unites our citizens than divides us. Locally, two governor training sessions have been arranged at the Professional Development Centre.

One of the most high-profile initiatives to promote community cohesion is the Leigh Neighbours Project which has as a headline indicator the percentage of people who think people of different ethnic backgrounds get on well together there. Particularly encouraging examples of good practice are emerging from certain Leigh schools, and a Leigh Neighbours Film Project is now in the planning stage.

Other encouraging examples of work in schools include initiatives to link Wigan schools with schools outside the borough, or even outside the country.

An eye-catching series of four yellow anti-racist posters designed by Rafiki youth group members have been distributed to all schools.

Support continues for governing bodies to combine their equality policies under a single Equality Scheme. Action plans to promote race equality, disability equality and gender equality now fit under this overarching statement. These duties on schools arise from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Equality Act 2006. Governors and headteachers from over 100 schools have attended training on the Equality Scheme in general and the gender and disability duties in particular. Two locality clusters of schools have held Equality Scheme Writing Days, facilitated by the CYPS Equality and Diversity Officer with speakers from community groups.

Finally, three successful and well-attended one-day conferences have been held at Haigh Hall on Working with BME People in Wigan. The aim was to give a range of school and Council staff a better understanding of the cultures and backgrounds of established BME residents and migrants newer to the Wigan area, and the opportunity to explore how their services can support them, in particular to:

- 1) find out more about the nature of demographic change in Wigan, and implications for their organisation
- 2) look at legal implications for working with different groups, e.g. asylum seekers/refugees
- 3) gain a better understanding of the support networks available within the area
- 4) network with colleagues from other agencies and identify opportunities for joint working

Workshop A: Working with Different Cultures (led by BME Network)  
*Looking at how we advertise our services and make them more culturally appropriate*

Workshop B: Asylum Seekers and Refugees – What’s the Law? (led by SWAP)  
*Looking at the asylum process and different legal categories*

Workshop C: Meeting Language Needs (led by CYPS)  
*Looking at English as an Additional Language, translations and interpretation*

Workshop D: Diversity? ... in Wigan? (led by Wigan and Leigh United Against Racism)  
*Looking at racism, community cohesion and hate-incidents*  
There is now a waiting list for further events.

#### **4. Racist Incidents Involving Pupils Recorded for the Summer Term 2007**

Atherton	4
Bryn and Ashton	3
Golborne and Lowton	4
Hindley and Abram	4
Leigh	16
Orrell, Billinge and Winstanley	0
Standish, Aspull and Shevington	3
Tyldesley and Astley	6

Wigan North	3
Wigan South	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

## **5. Optional, Additional Use of Sentinel**

Sentinel also allows schools to record incidents of bullying other than racist incidents. This provides confidential access to useful self-evaluation data on Staying Safe and helps to eliminate harassment under the school Equality Scheme. It also anticipates forthcoming national guidance on improving the recording of bullying in schools.

Each incident is categorised as general bullying or as a hate-incident (e.g. racist or homophobic or related to disability) which offers possibilities for future work around this agenda. For this reason, schools are being encouraged to explore the use of Sentinel for incidents other than racist incidents, with the assurance that this data would not be collated or reported on at school level by the Local Authority.

## **6. Conclusions**

Members are asked to:

- ◆ note the racist incidents involving children and young people in schools that occurred during the Summer Term 2007;
- ◆ note the implementation of the Sentinel online system; and
- ◆ reaffirm their commitment to support schools in their work in dealing with racist incidents and all other hate-incidents and bullying involving pupils.

## APPENDIX

### Comparative Figures from Previous Three Terms

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Summer Term 2006

Ashton in Makerfield and Bryn	3
Atherton	4
Golborne and Lowton	0
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge and Bickershaw	8
Leigh	9
Orrell, Billinge and Winstanley	3
Shevington, Standish and Aspull	3
Tyldesley and Astley	2
Wigan North	7
Wigan South	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Autumn Term 2006

Ashton in Makerfield and Bryn	3
Atherton	13
Golborne and Lowton	3
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge and Bickershaw	3
Leigh	9
Orrell, Billinge and Winstanley	1
Shevington, Standish and Aspull	4
Tyldesley and Astley	10
Wigan North	8
Wigan South	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Spring Term 2007

Atherton	7
Bryn and Ashton	0
Golborne and Lowton	6
Hindley and Abram	5
Leigh	10
Orrell, Billinge and Winstanley	2
Standish, Aspull and Shevington	6
Tyldesley and Astley	3
Wigan North	6
Wigan South	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>