Social Cohesion Data 2006/07

Introduction

This year we have had the highest number of returns from schools for Racist and Bullying incidents (96%) with only four schools failing to return the data. This allows us, for the first time, to establish a more accurate baseline against which we can, collectively, start to measure the impact of strategies and initiatives in Derby schools. A significant minority of schools still submit nil returns and this is an area that we would like to do further analysis of later this term.

The data provided to the LA by schools is increasingly significant evidence for schools to include in their school inspection process in terms of provision for Every Child Matters, Care, Guidance and Support, Personal Development and Well-Being and Community Cohesion. This data is routinely shared with elected members, key officers and multi-agency partnerships such as the Police Crime and Disorder Team, Derby Racial Equality Council, Corporate Equalities Unit, the Hate-Crime Partnership within the Community Safety Partnership, the LA Anti-Bullying Strategy Group and the Safeguarding Children Board. Schools are not identified on an individual basis in this report.

The following data is based on school returns to the local authority relating to academic year 2006/07

Bullying Incidents

The latest statistics for 2006 – 2007 are summarised as follows:

Total Number of reported incidents: **2651** this represents a 36% increase on the previous year

Number of schools returning data: **101** (96%) an increase of 12% on the previous year

Number of nil returns (i.e. schools **12** (13%) a decrease from the previous year of 17%

The majority of recorded incidents were either name-calling or physical abuse (it is clear that this category covers a wide spectrum of behaviours and incidents, the majority being minor incidents in the school playground through to very rare serious incidents occasionally leading to the exclusion of a perpetrator). All schools will have received towards the end of last term **'Safe to Learn: embedding anti-bullying work in schools'** the new guidance from the Department of Children, Schools and Families, together with additional guidance on Homophobic and Cyber bullying. It is important that all schools move towards a shared understanding and definition of bullying which is given in this guidance, namely **"Bullying may be defined as behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally."**

Bullying Related Incidents		2006/07	
Name Calling		801	
Teasing		638	
Physical Abuse		838	
Personal Possessions stolen/damaged		86	
Abusive Text messages		51	
Forced to hand over money		33	
Forced to do something against their will		25	
Being ignored or left out		151	
Threatening		2	
Spitting		0	
Destroying property		0	
Intimidation/Forcing others to fight		7	
Verbal/Swearing		7	
Sexual		8	
Not specified		14	
Total number of reported incidents in primary schools	1943	Total number of reported incidents in secondary schools	708
Total No' of reported incidents		2651	

Reason given or identified as source of bullying:

Appearance	200
Gender	22
Disability	26
Religion	41
Race/Ethnic Origin	159
Sexuality	35
Age	1
Personality	8

Although the number of recorded incidents has increased over previous years it does not follow that more bullying behaviour is taking place in Derby Schools. The majority of schools in Derby now have a much broader and more sophisticated repertoire of strategies for preventing bullying and are more vigilant at identifying incidents and recording them appropriately. Young people themselves also feel more empowered to report bullying incidents, both on an individual basis and through the increasingly developed school, year and class councils that now operate in all of our schools. Over 50% of our schools have now achieved the new National Healthy School Standard which contains more robust standards with regard to the emotional health and well being of children and young people. Training continues to be made available to school staff and governors with regard to developing effective anti-bullying policy and practice in schools. The provision made available to our schools in this area was presented as a strength in our recent APA and JAR inspections. Schools who submitted no return, a nil return or where the data suggested a particularly high number of incidents have all been contacted or are in the

process of being contacted this term to establish their position and what we would expect in terms of best practice.

Racist Incidents

The latest statistics for 2006 – 2007 are summarised as follows:

Total number of recorded racist incidents: **640** a 28% increase on the previous year

Number of schools returning data: **101** (96%) an increase of 12% on the previous year and exceeding the national target of 90% returns

Number of nil returns (i.e. schools reporting no racist incidents in their schools all academic year): **23** (21%) a slight increase from the previous year of 18%

The majority of recorded incidents:(**52.5%**) were again attributed to derogatory name calling, a slight decrease from the previous year

A total of 640 incidents were recorded and they are broken down into specific categories in line with CRE recommendations

Physical assault	47	7.3%	Provocative behaviour	14	2.2%
Verbal abuse or threats	53	8.3%	Damage to the person's property	1	0.2%
Derogatory name calling	336	52.5%	Racist materials	3	0.5%
Ridicule of cultural differences	37	5.8%	Inappropriate form of address	62	9.7%
Refusal to co-operate	7	1.09%	Attempts to recruit to racist organisations	0	0%
Racist comments in lessons	53	8.3%	Miscellaneous eg graffiti	27	4.2%

Drug Related Incidents

Total number of recorded drug related incidents: **49** This is a significant decrease on the previous year due to a significant reduction of drug related litter found on school premises

Number of schools returning data: **76** (72%) Broadly in line with last year

Number of nil returns (schools): **63** (83%) Broadly in line with last year

The number of incidents (excluding) drug related litter, is relative to those recorded in the previous year.

Although the number of referrals remain low, schools continue to provide the appropriate support for the young people involved in drug related incidents through Young Addaction (12 referrals), as well as GP, Connexions, the police school staff and parental support.

In primary schools, the majority of incidents related to drug related litter, especially discarded syringes and these were focused in particular parts of the city. Two primary schools reported incidents that related to parents being under the influence of alcohol. In secondary schools, alcohol is, by some distance, the drug most commonly cited in any recorded incident, followed next by cannabis.

The figures reinforce the need for schools to develop and encourage drug education particularly in relation to the risks and effects of alcohol and cannabis and the safe disposal of drug related litter, especially discarded syringes. There needs to be clarity as to how schools manage drug related incidents with reference to parents on site under the influence of alcohol/drugs especially at primary level and a suggestion that schools need to heighten their awareness of the number of young people who might be vulnerable as a result of alcohol/drug using parents.

There is now an updated schools drug related incidents policy. This policy addresses procedures for effective management of drug related incidents in schools. A hard copy of this policy will be sent to all schools in the Spring term 2008 and will be available electronically from our website www.derby.gov.uk/primaryPSHE or from www.derby.gov.uk/secondaryPSHE

The Sentinel Incident reporting and management system: an opportunity to join a cutting edge pilot project

To support schools in their requirement to record racist and bullying incidents and to do so in a way that provides more sophisticated and useful data for both the school and the local authority we will be inviting a small number of schools to join a pilot, later this term, to test out a web based recording system that has proved to be very successful in schools and local authorities around the country. The programme, called Sentinel, has been produced by Vantage Technologies and allows schools to record and manage incidents electronically and for that information to be shared immediately with the local authority or any other partner that the school wishes to include in its share protocols. The data remains confidential on a school by school basis. The second facility of the software is its capacity to generate anonymous online surveys or questionnaires for internal use within a school community. This has been a particularly helpful tool for schools seeking the views of young people on issues, or indeed the views of staff.

We hope to disseminate best practice based on the pilot to all schools during academic year 2008/09 and roll out the facility to more schools at this point subject to capacity.

Further support for schools

If you require support or training please contact:

Rajesh Lall (256731) – challenging Racism
Graham Falgate (2563277) or Joanne Moore (256331) – challenging Bullying
Gary Britton (256326) or Michelle Slater (203102) – Drug related Incidents

All of the data for 2006/07 can be found on the following websites

www.derby.gov.uk/primaryPSHE **or** www.derby.gov/secondaryPSHE