

CYPE(6)-09-22 - Paper to note 7

At the meeting on the 24 March, the headteacher unions agreed to provide a written response to the questions that were unasked.

Response from NAHT received on 6 April:

- To what extent is a lack of appropriate education, awareness and understanding a factor in some young people's unhealthy attitudes towards issues associated with relationships and sexuality?

There could always be more of this and all opportunities to raise awareness etc will improve things. However, I'm not sure that this is the main contributory factor in regard to unhealthy attitudes. As we said in the evidence it's far more to do with societal attitudes. Schools are just a mirror for the wider community

- How might the teaching of Relationships and Sexuality Education under the new Curriculum for Wales help both prevent young people sexually harassing others and protect those who might experience it?

This is important. As part of the preparation for CfW schools will be considering how they deliver the four purposes. RSE will be key to this and will provide time within the curriculum for these issues to be discussed. It will be important that high-quality RSE resources are developed and shared. There have been some good examples of this in the past, e.g "the good drug dealer" resource that raises awareness about substance misuse. However, I'd still say that although formal RSE delivery is important it's all the informal conversations that take place as part of good quality pastoral care that probably makes more of a difference. Also as we said in evidence, good quality pastoral care is expensive!

- How well placed are schools to deliver RSE in line with the statutory RSE Code from this September in primary schools and roll it out in secondary schools from September 2023? Are school staff receiving enough professional learning in this regard?

I think schools are going to be in a position to deliver RSE and there is awareness in primary and secondary schools of what needs to be done. But I think we need to note that this is yet another area of provision that we are preparing to implement alongside ALN, CfW etc. I'd be concerned that we don't maximise the opportunity with RSE because there's so much going on. I'd also say schools need more professional learning, It seems there's some work being undertaken by consortia but my RSE lead says because of the pandemic not has happened lately.

- The Children's Commissioner emphasised the importance of having an RSE lead in each school and for this to be in place by this September. What proportion of schools would you estimate have a designated RSE lead in place by now?