

CYPE(6)-17-22 - Paper to note 9

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

David Price

Interim Chief Executive, CollegesWales

27 July 2022

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

Dear David,

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. Some of them, if accepted by the Welsh Government, will have direct implications for colleges in Wales. They include:

- a national sexual harassment awareness campaign, targeted at learners and their families;
- that the forthcoming review into peer on peer sexual harassment in colleges considers how effectively colleges collect, categorise and analyse sexual harassment data to identify trends and develop college-based interventions; and
- changes to Estyn's inspection framework to focus on how colleges report and respond to incidents of sexual harassment.

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
SeneddPlant@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddPlant
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
SeneddChildren@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddChildren
0300 200 6565



I would be grateful if you could bring the written report to the attention of college leaders:

<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

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.