



CASE STUDY

1. Title: Managing sexual behaviour and bullying related incidents in education settings

2. Area (Local Authority/School/Setting (if applicable) and Region):

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

3. What was the issue? [100 words max]

There was an increase in exclusions from secondary schools for sexual misconduct and an increase in the number of calls to the Safeguarding Lead for Education for support on concerns relating to sexualised behaviour. Schools found the issue complex and wanted clear and consistent direction. The publication of guidance from the then DCSF on Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying (SST) coincided with these concerns and we held a day of training for secondary schools and key agencies who expressed an interest. These included Deputy HTS and a range of professionals from Social Care, Exclusions Officer, Attendance Team, Regional Advisers from Behaviour and Attendance, Anti-Bullying Alliance and Government Office for London and Police Officers in Schools.

A small working part was established to take issues forward and initially to develop a protocol that schools could use. This was overseen by the Safeguarding Lead for Education and the Behaviour Adviser working on anti-bullying. Initially we considered writing a protocol that schools could use in Barking and Dagenham and perhaps more widely across London with other LA's that were expressing similar concerns through the Anti- Bullying Alliance.

Shortly after these plans, Barking and Dagenham was part of the successful London Safeguarding Board bid for a pilot Project to introduce the AIM Education Guidance for Identifying and Managing Sexually Harmful and Problematic Behaviour in Education Settings with AIM a leading charity in this field. When we received their excellent training manual and the training they provided we realized we did not need to develop protocols as the framework in Aim is excellent.

4. What action was taken? [100 words max]

As a result of regular meetings of the Anti-Bullying network and the central programme of CPD related to preventing and responding to bullying, a small working group was established to look at the issues for schools in managing the incidents and how and when to refer to other agencies.

As part of the pilot, AIM, led by Carol Carson, ran two days training, one for primary schools and one for secondary schools to introduce the AIM framework for identifying and managing healthy, problematic and harmful sexual behaviours. Agencies that supported the schools were invited to attend. Evaluations were very positive. The framework was excellent and training was cascaded to the rest of the borough schools and partner agencies by the Safeguarding Lead and the Behaviour Adviser.

A presentation was also delivered to the Primary and Secondary Heads forum.

5. What impact has this had (so far)? [100 words max]

- Schools now have a clear framework for identifying and managing sexual behaviours
- There is also an agreed understanding of when and how to **refer to** partner agencies.
- Further requests for training have come from other agencies e.g. Safer Schools Police Officers and the MALT (Multi-agency Locality Teams)
- The number of sexual misconduct related exclusions have decreased.
- We are working with a neighbouring Local Authority to support strategic development in managing sexual incidents.

6. How did the above action help to embed anti-bullying work in your area? [75 words max]

- Provided schools with a framework to identify and support sexual misconduct and bullying as well as normative, healthy sexual behaviours
- Developed and embedded multi agency working on a shared issue of concern
- Signposted schools to support available from other agencies for individuals and their families, through support plans
- Provided referral pathways for schools

7. Additional information (OPTIONAL):

Framework is based on AIM Education guidelines for identifying and managing sexually harmful and problematic behaviour in education settings by Education Leeds and Carol Carson Associates.

Contact details of author (OPTIONAL): [Name], [Email], [Phone]

Louise Bolton

Louise.Bolton@lbbd.gov.uk

0208 207 4845

