



## CASE STUDY

<p><b>1. Title:</b> Reviewing school anti-bullying policies</p>
<p><b>2. Area:</b> Gloucestershire Local Safeguarding Children's Board</p>
<p><b>3. What was the issue?</b> Section 175 of the <b>EDUCATION ACT 2002</b> puts a duty on local education authorities, maintained (state) schools, and further education institutions, including sixth form colleges, to exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. One of the primary roles of the LSCB identified in <b>Working Together March 2010</b> is ensuring that work to protect children is properly co-ordinated, effective, closely monitored and evaluated and to submit their annual report to the Children's Trust. Their scope also includes <b>supporting services to prevent and respond effectively to bullying</b>. 50% of Glos. secondary schools have achieved or are working towards an AB accreditation and 100% have reviewed their policies. Currently the LA AB Lead is supporting primary clusters of schools to work collaboratively on reviewing their AB Policies using the ABA tool. The challenge is how do we sustain the systematic monitoring of the accreditation and policy reviews in all schools and children's services post March 2011?</p> <p>In <b>Working Together March 2010</b> it states that the regulations make clear that the <i>LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.</i><sup>3.46</sup> <i>These further activities should be discussed and agreed as part of wider Children's Trust planning and the preparation of the Children and Young People's Plan.</i> <sup>3.47</sup> <i>For example, the LSCB could agree to take the lead within the Children's Trust partnership on work to tackle bullying, or could lead an initiative on domestic violence.</i></p>
<p><b>4. What action was taken?</b> The issue was discussed at the AB multi-agency partnership where the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) proposed that the annual review of schools AB policies be embedded in the Annual Review of Safeguarding Policies that schools submit to the LSCB. We would need to construct 4 key statements that schools could assess themselves against on a scale of 1(Outstanding) to 4 (In need of long-term support) The AB Lead and ABA Regional Adviser drafted the following statements :</p> <p><b>Statement One:</b> The School/organisation has an effective Anti-Bullying Policy (in line with Gloucestershire County Council and Safeguarding Board guidelines) that is owned, understood and implemented by all sections of the school and the wider community. This Policy is reviewed annually by the key stake holders, approved by the Governing Body and available to the wider public on the School's/organisation web site.</p> <p><b>Statement Two:</b> The school/centre has an Anti-Bullying Policy (in line with Gloucestershire County Council and Safeguarding Board guidelines) that is owned and understood by the School and the</p>

wider community. This Policy is not reviewed annually by the Governing Body but a hard copy is available on request.

**Statement Three:**

The School/centre has an Anti-Bullying Policy but it is out of date and the wider school community was not involved in writing it or aware of its contents.

**Statement Four:**

The School/centre does not have an Anti-Bullying Policy.

Encouraging schools and organisations to have much more visible and accessible policies is a key criteria for approval by the LSCB.

The statements are being piloted this year and will be reviewed in August 2011.

**5. What impact has this had (so far)?** The LSCB feels much more confident that the schools have established a more accurate base-line in 2010 of the quality of their AB policies with the 4 statements providing on-going prompts for the school and LA . One primary Head-Teacher was able to present to an OFSTED Focus meeting clear documented evidence of her schools systemic approach to the AB policy review through the LSCB review and AB prompts. The LADO is gathering intelligence that is submitted through the LSCB Annual report to the Children's Trust ensuring clear lines of reporting and accountability. By encouraging access to AB Policies on-line the LADO and AB Lead are also able to sample policies throughout the year to ensure the quality and accessibility of the information and relate to incident data and pupil/parent perception surveys .

**6. How did the above action help to embed anti-bullying work in your area?**

The review process is encouraging a more open, transparent process for sharing policy development and review. With the LSCB taking the lead it places greater responsibility on all services/organisations to scrutinise and review their AB policies and to raise the profile of AB work within safeguarding. The information included in the LSCB annual report to the Children's Trust ensures that all agencies in the partnership are being made more accountable for AB reviews in their own service area. e.g. social care.

Training; sharing good practice; common data management; children and young people's participation; can be embedded in the Annual Children's Plan. It reflects the principles of *Working Together*.

**7. Additional information (OPTIONAL):**

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