

**REPORT:** Children & Young People Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 7 September 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Children and Young People

**SUBJECT:** Race Equality – Racist Incident Reporting – Schools

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT**

1.1 The Board received a report in September 2001 which detailed how the Local Authority (LA) and its schools would meet the requirements arising from the Macpherson Report (the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry). It was agreed that a progress report would be received each year. This is the fifth of such reports.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT: the report be noted.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 During the Autumn Term 2001, as recommended by this Board, the Governing Bodies of all Halton School adopted a model policy prepared by the LA entitled '*Promoting Anti-Racist Practices*' which included the requirement to record, investigate, act on and report racist incidents.

3.2 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 subsequently placed a specific duty on schools and local authorities to draw up race Equality Policies from May 2002. The specific duties for schools are to:

- prepare and maintain a written statement of its policy for promoting race equality;
- assess and monitor the impact of all school policies on pupils, staff and parents of different racial groups, including the impact on attainment levels of pupils; and
- create and implement strategies to prevent and address racism, including recording and reporting all racist incidents.

3.3 At the beginning of June 2002 all schools were sent a pack by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) entitled 'The Duty to Promote Race Equality'. This pack contained a statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality and a Guide for Schools on how to meet their duty under the Code. Schools were recommended to undertake a review of the

model policy 'Promoting Anti-Racist Practices' using this pack and the previously published good practice guide 'Learning for All: Racial equality Standards for Schools'.

### 3.4 REPORTED RACIST INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS

- 3.4.1 Schools are required to ensure racist incidents are reported to the Governing Body and to the Authority. The Authority has recommended to schools that reporting to governors is undertaken via Head Teachers' termly reports as a Part 2, confidential item.
- 3.4.2 Racist incidents in school have been reported to the Authority since the introduction of this requirement. They are recorded by a nominated officer in the Directorate who monitors the information and the action taken in response by Head Teachers. To date, appropriate action has been taken.
- 3.4.3 The nominated officer ensures that this information is included in the data submitted by the Council for the two Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) on this subject. BVPI 174 - the number of racist incidents reported to the Council and BVPI 175 - the number of those reported that have been acted on.
- 3.4.4 The following is the data submitted for the BVPI report period April 2006 to March 2007 and a summary of some details of incidents.

|          |   |    |
|----------|---|----|
| BVPI 174 | - | 36 |
| BVPI 175 | - | 36 |

#### Number of Schools

15 Schools reported 36 incidents:

9 Primary  
6 Secondary  
0 Special

#### Categories of Incidents (Victim/Perpetrator)

|              |              |      |
|--------------|--------------|------|
| Victim:      | Perpetrator: |      |
| Public       | Pupil        | = 1  |
| None         | Pupil        | = 3  |
| Pupil        | Pupil        | = 26 |
| Pupil        | Pupils       | = 2  |
| Staff member | Pupil        | = 4  |

### 4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy guidance for schools was revised in 2006 to ensure that all members of the school community experience equitable treatment in relation to race.

## **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

To ensure that all members of the school community enjoy equality of access to learning opportunities within the 5 key outcomes and that statutory requirements are met.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

All children and staff are having an equitable experience and treatment in relation to their race.

### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

All young people have improved life chances and are not disadvantaged because of their race.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

Equally opportunity for all pupils and staff.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

Children and young people do well whatever their needs, wherever they live and whatever their race leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

Children and young people do well whatever their needs, wherever they live and whatever their race leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

Failure to promote and monitor race equality will prevent the LA and schools meeting statutory requirements.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

To promote policies, practice and procedures in schools which ensure that:

- there is positive representation of racial and cultural diversity

- all members of the school community who do experience discrimination know how to receive support to have their concerns dealt with.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

| <b>Document</b>                         | <b>Place of Inspection</b>                 | <b>Contact Officer</b> |
|---|--|------------------------|
| The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 | Education and Social Inclusion Directorate | Ann McIntyre           |