AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	**Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
Date of Committee	**8 June 2011**
Report Title	**Scrutiny of Bullying**

Summary

An update on the implementation of recommendations from "Scrutiny of Bullying: Report of the County Youth Panel" was provided in December 2009.

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the progress that has been made since that time.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]

No

Background papers

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN: Details to be specified

Other Committees	☐	……………………………………………………..
Local Member(s)	☐	……………………………………………………..

Other Elected Members	☒	CYP&F O&S Chair & Vice-Chair
		    Cllr June Tandy
		    Cllr John Ross
		
		CYP&F O&S Spokespersons
		    Cllr Peter Balaam
		    Cllr Carolyn Robbins

Cabinet Member	☒	For information: Cllr Heather Timms
Other Cabinet Members consulted	☐	…………………………………………………..
Chief Executive	☐	…………………………………………………..
Legal	☒	Fay Ford *"no comments"*
Finance	☐	…………………………………………………..
Other Strategic Directors	☐	…………………………………………………..
District Councils	☐	…………………………………………………..
Health Authority	☐	…………………………………………………..
Police	☐	…………………………………………………..
Other Bodies/Individuals	☒	Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

FINAL DECISION   **NO**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS: Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee	☐	…………………………………………………..
To Council	☐	…………………………………………………..
To Cabinet	☐	…………………………………………………..
To an O & S Committee	☐	…………………………………………………..
To an Area Committee	☐	…………………………………………………..
Further Consultation	☐	……………………………………………………

Warwickshire County Council

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 June 2011

Scrutiny of Bullying
– an update on work over the last 12 months

Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the progress that has been made through the work of the Anti-Bullying Coordinator and support the recommendation for a sub-regional approach in the future.

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1. Introduction

1.1 An update on the implementation of recommendations from "Scrutiny of Bullying: Report of the County Youth Panel" was provided in December 2009. A list of the recommendations is included in **Appendix A**.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the progress that has been made since that time.

2. The Context

2.1 Evidence for this report has been sourced from the following:

- The Every Child Matters Survey
- VOX - The County Youth Panel
- Workshops with Year 7 pupils
- Cyber Bullying survey
- Family Information Service (FIS)
- Sub-regional activity
- Children's Trust Area Partnership activity

2.2 This report is based upon the original recommendations of young people as voiced in their report to the Scrutiny Review of 2007, and subsequent discussions with the County Youth Panel.

3. The Content

3.1 **Every Child Matters Survey**
The survey is conducted every year and continues to provide useful information about the views of children and young people with regard to bullying. The survey is available to pupils aged 10 to 18 years; 4214 pupils responded in 2010. The outcomes are analysed each year and a 3 year summary analysis is

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provided in **Appendix B**. The findings from the children and young people who completed the survey would indicate that:

- there is a reduction in the number of pupils being bullied;
- there is an increase in pupil's confidence about how their school deals with bullying;
- the number of pupils who feel that bullying is 'a big problem' in their school is reducing;
- the perception is that the main reason for bullying continuing is linked to an individual's appearance;
- verbal abuse is reported in this survey to be the most common form of bullying.

3.1.1   There are likely to be many reasons for the progress, including the work of professionals in schools and other settings, the impact of young people's contribution in helping to develop effective policies, the impact of the Safer Schools initiative and the further roll out of the Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning programme (SEAL) in schools. **Appendix C** provides a briefing from the survey.

3.2   **VOX – The County Youth Panel**
Rachel Evans, County Anti-Bullying Coordinator, maintained good links with VOX whilst she was still in post. The funding for this post will not continue and a key challenge for the future will be to ensure that there is a way for VOX to contribute to the planning and shaping of anti-bullying work with schools.

3.2.1   Bullying continues to be a key concern for young people. The VOX panel have had competing priorities and although their work did not focus on bullying last year, it remains an important area to address.

3.2.2   In the future, to maintain a service, we would recommend strengthening links between the Brokerage and Outreach worker from the Family Information Service (FIS) and the County Youth Panel, VOX.

3.2.3   For the future, we would recommend that the link with VOX is maintained via the FIS brokerage and outreach worker, who will be developing her role to encompass limited work with young people and their families.

3.3   **Workshops with Year 7 pupils**
A number of pilot workshops have been completed with Year 7 pupils in schools across the county. The programme was called 'Being Different, Belonging Together', and provided an opportunity for young people to express views, hear and consider alternative views and form their own conclusions. The work was established in-house on a minimal budget, supported by a small grant from the Integrated Youth Support Service for materials and resources.

3.3.1   The programme was extremely successful in challenging discrimination, and it was recommended for roll out across the county.

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3.3.2 Building upon this work, the county Equalities and Diversity Coordinator has delivered diversity workshops to over 60 primary schools, and will offer it to secondary schools across the county.

3.4 **Cyber Bullying**

A survey of young people's attitudes to cyber bullying was undertaken and concluded in December 2009. Key findings were:

- 23% of young people reported that they had been cyber bullied, and girls were nearly twice as likely to have experienced this form of bullying than boys;
- the biggest issue across all ages is having nasty messages posted online;
- 20% of young people said they didn't know why they had been targeted, belying the common belief that this kind of bullying is mainly about falling out between friends;
- 50% of those targeted had told an adult;
- boys were much less likely to report than girls, and young people see the support of adults as vital;
- children as young as 8 had experienced this type of bullying.

3.4.1 As a result of the survey, leaflets and online information were adapted to meet the needs of children and young people aged 8 -11 years, and information for older young people & parents/carers was reviewed and updated.

3.4.2 In 2010, a further survey of adult awareness of cyber bullying issues was undertaken, in partnership with the Warwickshire Observatory. 232 responses were received from adults working and living with young people across the county.

3.4.3 The survey revealed that, although most adults know what cyber bullying is and have a reasonable understanding of the technology involved, half the respondents did not know where to get help should they need it, and most would welcome further information, awareness raising and/or training.

3.4.4 Respondents indicated that their preferred format for receiving information was in written form on-line, but responses also indicated that schools would be a good place to run training sessions on this subject.

3.4.5 In September 2010, a pilot project 'Stop Cyber Bullying' was commissioned following positive reviews in Coventry, to work with Harris School in Rugby and its feeder primaries. Year 7 pupils were supported to produce a play, for a target audience of primary children, which included helpful advice on getting help and blocking unwanted messages. The production toured across the county and a total of 350 pupils watched the performances which were followed by question and answer sessions. It was common to find that children as young as Year 3 or 4 were accessing social networking sites.

3.4.6 Parents were invited to the performances, although take up was low.

3.4.7 Text2Talk was introduced as a police-led initiative but results show that it has had limited use. Funding will not be available to continue this in its current form,

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but the FIS may be able to identify a way of including this facility alongside the parent helpline.

3.4.8 Information and guidance for children, young people and their families continues to be available from the FIS and One Stop Shops. This includes examples of cyber bullying and Top Tips on dealing with and preventing cyber bullying.

3.5 **Family Information Service (FIS) helpline**
The FIS bullying helpline for parents has been now been running for over a year, and is publicised through the Warwickshire website. The number of calls to the helpline varies, but increases have been seen in response to Anti-Bullying week and other publicity. On average 8 -12 calls are received a month and there were 90 calls during the 12 month period January to December 2010.

3.5.1 A parents' leaflet on bullying, including cyber bullying, is routinely sent to callers and has met with a positive response.

3.5.2 From Easter 2011, the FIS will be able to offer some outreach support for complex cases.

3.6 **Place Based Budgeting (formerly Total Place)**
Over the last year, Warwickshire has provided the lead on the Anti-Bullying strand of a Place Based Budgeting pilot, which has seen colleagues in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire come together to devise sub-regional processes to support anti-bullying work.

3.6.1 Work has included:

- mapping of training across the region;
- the development of a sub regional communication strategy including leaflets and publicity materials;
- planning for a regional conference, should funds be available.

3.6.2 With all local authorities facing significant savings targets, cuts to services and shortage of resources, this approach to anti-bullying work is extremely useful, and we are currently exploring how it can be sustained and developed. A report on the impact of Place Based Budgeting is included on the work plan for CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee later this year.

3.7 **Stratford Children's Trust Project**
Stratford Children's Trust Area Partnership has established an Anti-Bullying Sub Group. With the help of the Anti-Bullying Coordinator, the Group successfully bid for £8,000 to support the development of anti-bullying work in schools in the area between 2008 and 2010. Local schools and youth groups were invited to apply to the Area Partnership for small sums to help them develop Anti-Bullying initiatives. Among the projects supported were:

- peer mentoring training for young people in Stratford High School and Kineton High School – 14 young people were trained as cyber-peer mentors this year;

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- provision of a 'safe space' before school for vulnerable pupils in each of the schools;
- anti-bullying workshops and awareness raising.

3.7.1 At the close of the project, results from the Every Child Matters and Tell Us Surveys for the area showed that incidence of reported bullying had significantly decreased for both 11-16 and 16-18 age groups.

4.   Future Provision

4.1   There has been a significant reduction in resource to directly support this area of work across partner agencies including the Children, Young People & Families Directorate, Warwickshire Police and Connexions which presents challenges for the continuation of coordinated anti-bullying work. The post of Anti-Bullying Coordinator has provided a focus and energy to this work, but in the absence of this it is important to find an alternative way of working together to sustain the considerable progress that has been made to date.

4.2   The funding for the Safer Schools Partnership, which has placed Police Community Support Officers in 11 Warwickshire Schools, will cease at the end of this academic year. Most schools will be unable to continue to fund PCSOs themselves due to budget pressures.

4.3   The Schools White Paper places great importance on effective responses to bullying, and Ofsted will continue to require evidence that pupils feel safe in school, and that school policies are fit for purpose, well coordinated and devised with the input of pupils themselves.

4.4   There is a need to continue to make available to schools and other settings a range of options including good practice advice, support to parents and carers, and publicity materials to signpost children and young people to local and national helplines and websites.

4.5   It is our intention to further develop our sub-regional practice, working together to produce an 'offer' of training & resources, which will deliver cost effective and readily available solutions for schools and settings to access.

4.6   Finally, members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have become familiar over time with the work of our County Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Rachel Evans, and may have been aware of Rachel's illness over the last 8 months. Sadly, Rachel died at the end of March 2011, and it feels right to pay tribute in this report to the dedication, vision and commitment with which she has led Warwickshire's strategic planning for anti-bullying over the past 4 years.

Report Author: Viv Sales
Head of Service: Elizabeth Featherstone
Strategic Director: Marion Davis
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Heather Timms

24 May 2011

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Appendix A: Overview & Scrutiny Report on Bullying – update on recommendations

Recommendation	Update December 2009	Update March 2011
Every Child Matters Survey to be utilised as the main survey of children & young people's perceptions & attitudes towards bullying, to enable trend data to be established, and effectiveness of Warwickshire Anti-Bullying Strategy to be reviewed. Review questions to ensure they are appropriate & cover all facets of bullying	• Questions were amended in 2009 in line with suggestions from young people • Following 2009 survey, a field study into racist bullying was undertaken ***See main report for further details*** • Survey also revealed need for further information on cyber bullying	• ECM Survey results continue to be analysed on annual basis • Survey of young people's experience & attitudes to cyber bullying concluded December 2009. • Further consultation completed in August 2010 on adult understanding of cyber bullying ***See main report for details*** • 2011 survey currently with schools
The County Youth Panel (VOX) to be invited to make nomination to join the Warwickshire AB Partnership, to represent the views of young people	• VOX have been invited to nominate a representative but have not yet done so • Instead, the AB Coordinator has liaised with them regularly, and has consulted on development of strategy • A further mechanism for ensuring the voice of young people is represented on the Steering group has been established, with schools taking turns to host and bring young people to the meetings	• VOX decided not to make bullying a priority for their attention in 2010, but the open invitation continues • The AB Coordinator continued to liaise with VOX on a regular basis until July 2010, when illness prevented her from continuing with her work • The funding for a strategic coordinator has since been lost, and this has prevented further work with VOX
The work programme of Warwickshire AB Partnership to be made widely available to young people , and young people to be involved in monitoring effectiveness	• Strategic Plans available on website • VOX consulted on review of plan	• VOX consulted on review of 2009/10 plan
The AB Partnership to produce a step by step guide for schools on establishing an effective anti-bullying policy, which should be a complementary document to the AB Strategy, be developed in consultation with young	• Detailed government guidance has been supplemented by a comprehensive good practice guide for schools and other professionals, due to be published in January 2010	• Good practice guide published and widely distributed

people & reflect issues highlighted by VOX review	• Consultation undertaken with young people, parents & partner agencies to produce this guide	
Consideration to be given to establishing a minimum standard for teacher, support staff & youth worker training in relation to bullying	• We have no power to impose a standard, however there is a training requirement included in the quality standard (se below) • Training framework in development	• Training mapping exercise was completed in September 2010 • Further work now ongoing to establish a sub-regional training offer
The Text2Talk Service should receive continuous publicity & adequate resources made available for this. Young people should be involved in developing a publicity campaign for the service. The AB partnership to give consideration as to how the impact of Text" Talk can be evaluated	• Following competitions in 2008 to design posters and info cards, and an abseil event in 2009 to further publicise, Text2Talk continues to be publicised at every opportunity • A clear correlation between publicity & increased uptake for the service has been identified. However, there are a greater number of other ways now for young people to report bullying, and review of service due when funding runs out in 2010	• The Text2Talk service has continued, but with decreased resources, and for this reason there has been no recent publicity effort (although we continue to distribute Text2Talk cards and posters) • The loss of the Warwickshire AB Coordinator post has meant that we are unable to play an active role on the Text2Talk Group currently, although alternatives are currently being explored
Ban da Bully Scheme (Polesworth International Language College, now Polesworth Academy) to be promoted as an example of good practice	• Polesworth was shortlisted for an international award, but unfortunately just missed out. However, the scheme continues to be promoted as an example of good practice	• No change
Strategic Director CYPF submit a report to OSC detailing the availability of youth workers in schools in Warwickshire	• Youth workers regularly involved in work in schools and often pick up bullying concerns. Youth Service are active partners in multi-agency project delivering workshops to Year 7 pupils, aiming to explore issues around	• Year 7 workshops have not continued due to lack of resources • Cuts to Youth Services likely to impact on their ability to support schools, but full impact not yet known • Safer Schools initiative also

	bullying & discrimination, community cohesion • Safer Schools Partnership running in 12 secondary schools, all 12 PCSO's have received AB training,as have Safer Neighbourhood PCSO's	threatened by funding cuts, but there is a commitment to continue to deliver training to PCSO's in AB awareness
Framework developed as part of review to be provided to schools as a resource to enable self-evaluation of AB policies	• This has been promoted as a tool for agencies to use towards the quality standard	• No change
An AB kite mark for schools & youth centres should be developed, in consultation with young people The kite mark should include: • Meaningful involvement of pupils, school councils, etc, in development of school policies • Dedicated teachers & governors appointed to take the lead/be responsible for the effectiveness of AB policies and practices • Anti-bullying to be built into curriculum, whole school approaches • Links with other appropriate agencies to ensure consistent approach taken with both victims & perpetrators, when bullying takes place outside school • School councils to report annually to governing bodies on effectiveness of school policy; policy regularly reviewed • Effective challenging of bystander role • Posters & leaflets promoting &	• 10 schools & settings working towards the quality standard as 'early adopters'. Intention to roll out further in 2010	• Roll out has been suspended due to lack of central resource, & the fact that pilot schools struggled to remain engaged in the face of other pressures. However, the Healthy Schools Framework continues to have anti-bullying within their evaluation framework

explaining school policy • Awareness raising process for staff, pupils & parents, with regular staff and class discussions, etc • Address all facets of bullying including cyber bullying, homophobic bullying, out of school bullying & bullying where teachers are victim/perpetrators		
Examples of good practice & contact details of schools in Warwickshire who have well-developed initiatives, to be contained in strategy review	• Information continues to be available on web-site and we-learn platform, which can be regularly updated	• Ongoing

Strategic Director CYPF to submit a further report in 6 months outlining the progress made regarding the implementation of a measuring system and its impact	• Research took place in 2009 to establish what systems secondary schools are using and what their requirements are
	• 'Speak Out Now' reporting system being piloted via the we-learn platform with one secondary school
	• Statutory duty on schools to record & monitor bullying due next year, but further guidance awaited from DCSF re legal requirements. AB coordinator involved in LA/DCSF group on this issue
		• DCSF suggested that LA's hold fire on recommending systems to schools, pending a recommendation from them on appropriate systems to use
		• Change of government meant this did not happen
		• Emphasis moving away from a statutory duty to a voluntary one – but Schools White Paper & new Ofsted framework emphasises the role of Ofsted to establish:
		  o Whether pupils feel safe in school
		  o What evidence is available re levels of bullying & how it is dealt with
		  o The views of pupils & parents on this issue

ECM Survey responses to questions about bullying: 2007 - 2010

The wording of some questions has changed in 2009 which has made direct comparisons with previous years difficult. In addition, responses in 2009 have been analysed in different age groups compared to previous years so only the overall totals can be compared. The notes in the right hand column provide further information about these issues.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	Notes
Bullying is a big problem in school	17.0%	15.0%	14.0%	13.3%	The wording of this question has remained the same
School deals with bullying 'very well', 'quite well' (2007/8) and OK (2009)	62.4%	64.7%	87.3%	87.2%	The choice of answers for this question changed in 2009; the figures here reflect responses that can be deemed 'positive' for each year ('very well/quite well/OK')
Would know where to go for help if being bullied: • Yes • No	69.3% 13.5%	70.9% 14.2%	56.8% 9.6%	56.0% 9.3%	This question and the possible answers have stayed the same so the results are a little confusing - fewer pupils said they do know where to get help in 2009 but there is also a reduction in those who don't know.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	Notes
Have been bullied in school in the last 12 months ('often/a few times' – 2007/8; 'yes' - 2009 **In 2010 the question reworded as follows:** Have you been bullied in School?	24.0%	22.5%	15.1%	12.8%	In 2007/8 pupils were able to choose 'never/once/a few times/often' as answers to these questions. In 2009 they could choose 'no/not really/yes'. Responses of 'once' in earlier years have been excluded from the statistics as definitions of bullying include an element of persistence i.e. happens more than once.
Have been bullied out of school in the last 12 months ('often/a few times' – 2007/8; yes – 2009) **In 2010 this question was reworded as follows:** Have you been bullied out of School?	14.5%	13.3%	7.2%	5.5%	For the 2010 survey the questions was reworded following consultation with the ECM stakeholder group
Reasons for bullying: • Appearance • Family	46.7% 13.9%	44.7% 12.8%	30.1% 4.7%	28.4% 4.2%	In 2007/8 pupils were able to tick as many responses to this question as they wished. In

	2007	2008	2009	2010	Notes
• Race/Religion • Gender/Sexuality • Disability • Where you live • Other • Don't know	12.0% 10.4% 6.9% 8.5% 50.9% n/a	11.9% 9.9% 4.8% 6.8% 33.7% 32.3%	3.8% 2.9% 2.1% 1.3% 27.9% 27.1%	5.1% 2.6% 2.3% 0.7% 31.2% 25.6%	2009 they were asked to tick the main reason they felt they were bullied We do not know what pupils include in 'other'.
Main type of bullying • Physical attack • Verbal abuse • Being left out of things • Internet, text or phone • Something else			21.4% 50.0% 10.6% 3.0% 15.0%	19.7% 48.2% 10.7% 2.8% 18.6%	2009 is the first year that this question was asked
Missed school due to bullying	6.8%	5.0%	0.9%	n/a	This question was removed from the 2010 survey following consultation with the ECM stakeholder group.

**Every Child Matters Briefing Paper
2010 Survey**

The information presented in this briefing is based on the results of the 2010 Every Child Matters (ECM) Survey, the 4th year the survey has been conducted. The survey is conducted using a partnership approach, with schools as core partners. Its purpose is to gather data to support the school self-evaluation process, to inform planning and priority setting for schools and other partners and to contribute to the Needs Analysis and Children and Young People's Plan. The survey is open to all pupils in school years 5 to 13, and encourages schools and partners to listen to the voice of children and young people.

Schools were invited to take part in the survey between April and June 2010; a total of 4,214 completed responses were received. Of the schools that took part in the survey, 24 in total, 16 were primary / junior schools and seven were secondary schools; the one remaining school is classified as a Teaching and Learning Centre. Analysis shows that those responding to the survey were a good representation of the school population in Warwickshire.
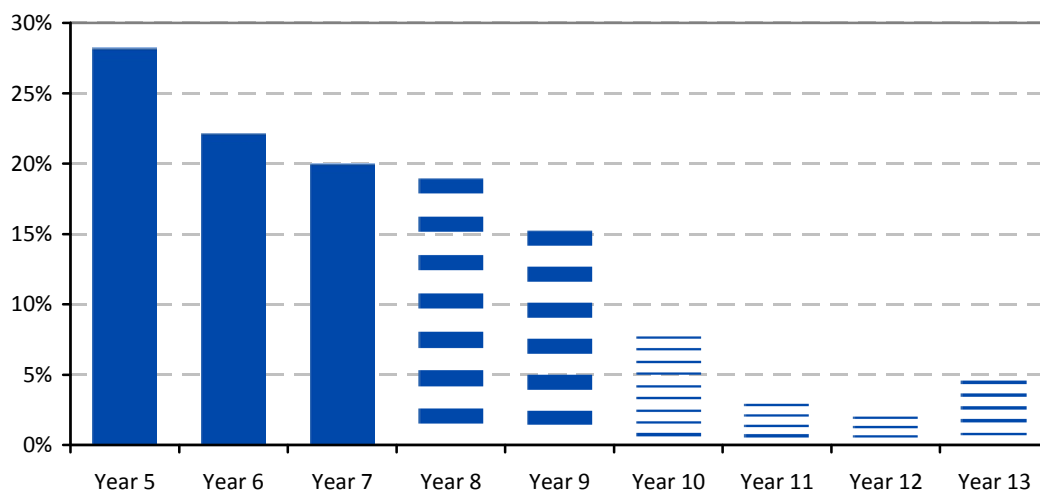
1.   Key Messages

- Approximately two-thirds of young people (64%) believe that their school is 'very good' or 'quite good' overall. Similar proportions thought that their life at school is 'very enjoyable' or 'fairly enjoyable' (67%) and feel that they are doing 'very well' or 'fairly well' at school (70%).

- Generally, young people have a good awareness of a number of issues that are likely to affect them. For example, 70% or primary school children know how to eat healthily, and 77% know how to get on well with friends and other people. At secondary school 83% of young people know why they should exercise and keep fit, and 76% know how their body will change and the importance of looking after themselves. Sixth form pupils also had high levels of awareness, although the survey did highlight that only 46% of sixth form students know how to manage their money.

- Overall, nearly three-quarters of respondents (74%) feel 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' at school. The survey found that less than 2% of pupils feel 'very unsafe' or 'fairly unsafe' at home – whilst this sounds like a small number, it equated to 57 pupils. Further analysis showed that this sub-group were spilt across all year groups and genders.

- Just over one in ten respondents (11%) believe that bullying is a problem in their school. This was a very positive result compared to previous years; the

corresponding figures in 2007, 2008 and 2009 were 17%, 15% and 15% respectively.

- Slightly more boys reported that they had been bullied compared to girls (20% compared to 14%), but it was when the data was analysed by year group that more significant findings were witnessed, the graph on page 2 summarises the key findings.

Figure 1: Percentage of young people stating they have been bullied at school in the last 12 months

Nearly one in ten respondents (9%) reported that they would not know where to go if they were bullied.