Cyberbullying Survey

Report of the Divisional Director, Education

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Summary:
Following a report on Cyberbullying presented in September, the Committee requested a survey be organised to gauge the extent of cyberbullying in the Borough. This report strives to give an analysis of the key points from the survey results.

Recommendation
The Committee is asked to note the report.

Reason
This Briefing has relevance to the Council’s priority to:

- Ensure every child is valued so that they can succeed.

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 The survey was sent to all school headteachers and the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Board (BDSCB) with a request to distribute to children and young people for completion.

1.2 There were 694 responses to the survey with the following breakdown by age and educational establishment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 or younger</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 11</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 14</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 or older</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School type</th>
<th>Number of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FE or college</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Male | 50%

Female | 50%
1.3 Accessing the internet at home and / or at school has the highest frequency, with 93% and 76% of the respondents respectively accessing the internet in these ways.

1.4 Desktop PC or laptop is still the most frequent way young people access the internet (71% of respondents), but this is closely followed by access via mobile phone (57%) and netbook or tablet (42%). The percentage of over 12 year olds accessing the internet via a mobile phone rises to 77%.

1.5 When asked whether there were parental controls on devices they use, 28% replied yes, 32% replied no, with the remaining not sure whether such controls were in place.

1.6 62% of respondents said their parents had rules about using the internet; the percentage is slightly higher for the 14 year olds and under.

1.7 Young people still participate in a range of online activities, with playing games online being the most popular (73% of respondents). This is followed by watching TV (57%), accessing websites such as YouTube (53%) and research for school work (52%).

1.8 Of the 11 years and under age group, 17% use social networking such as Facebook and Twitter. This percentage increases to 60% for 12 to 14 year olds and 86% for 15 years old and over.

2. Information relating to cyberbullying

2.1 When asked whether they know how to keep themselves safe online, 93% replied yes. There were less of the younger age group (7 and under), but the percentage is consistent for the 8 to 17 age groups. Only 86% of the 18 and older age group know how to keep themselves safe – but there were only 14 respondents.

2.2 The majority of respondents got advice on keeping safe from school (86%) and / or parents (75%).

2.3 81% have never experienced cyberbullying, with 3% being cyberbullied at present, and 16% having been cyberbullied in the past.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>7 or younger</th>
<th>8 to 11</th>
<th>12 to 14</th>
<th>15 to 17</th>
<th>18 or above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes – current</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes – in past</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 The cyberbullying occurs in a range of different ways including texting, social networking and chatrooms. Most of the respondents reported the cyberbullying happened once or twice, but 17 of the total respondents said the bullying was happening several times a day.
2.5 The majority of respondents were being bullied by people they knew (8% of the total respondents) with 7% saying it was by strangers.

2.6 The majority of the respondents who have experienced cyberbullying have told someone about the issue. This is mainly to parents or carers.

2.7 However, 11% of those who have been cyberbullied have not told anyone. Reasons for this include the following:
   “I didn't feel the need to tell anyone, it was only one time and it wasn't that bad.”
   “Because I just ignored it, it didn’t really bother me.”
   “Because I want to solve my own problems.”
   “Because if I told my parents they would stop me from going on the computer and if I told my friends then they would over react and maybe would call the police.”
   “I did not tell anyone because I thought I would be in trouble.”
   “I do not know.”
   “Because no one actually cares.”
   “Because I’m scared he will find me.”

2.7 9% of respondents would not know how to help someone if they were being cyberbullied.

3. Future Actions

3.1 Work with BDSCB and schools to continue delivering key messages relating to cyberbullying to young people:
   • that there are people and agencies they can report issues too – they should not have to suffer alone.
   • ways to try and prevent cyberbullying

3.2 Check on youth website what advice is given when trying to help a friend being cyberbullied.

3.3 Send report to schools and BDSCB to highlight further actions.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1  Cyberbullying survey results