

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
19th October 2017**

REPORT AUTHOR: Portfolio Holder for Education

SUBJECT: County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

Question

What assessment has the Cabinet made of Stonewall Cymru's 2017 School Report?

Answer

Stonewall's annual report is 10 years old this year and it has had a significant impact. The report notes that the number of schools recording that homophobic bullying is wrong has nearly trebled and homophobic remarks are far less likely to be heard over that period.

The report offers advice to schools on policies and procedures to prevent homophobic bullying and language, including online abuse. Key advice includes showing clear leadership, creating an inclusive learning environment for all pupils, equipping staff and celebrating diversity.

We need to continue to support schools through our model anti-bullying policies and related activities. Youth services and schools provide direct support for learners and we need to continue to provide them with good information on how best to support young people and families.

In Powys the 2016 Education Equality Index ranked the County 28 out of 50 authorities in Britain that took part, scoring 87 out of 140 marks. It is still the case that almost half of LGBT learners nationally experience bullying. There is more for all of us to do to ensure that every young person can grow up happy, healthy and supported to reach their full potential.