

Agenda Item 12e

Council Meeting of: 13 October 2021
LD Horton/Ashmore

AGENDA ITEM 12 (e) - Cyber Bullying

Amendment

After the fourth paragraph ending "...and quality of life due to cyberbullying and misinformation."

Add:

Locally, the council commends:

- The creative "Trolls" campaign developed through the Portsmouth Childrens Safeguarding Partnership which helps children and young people to understand cyber bullying for what it is and to respond appropriately, seeking support from adults in their lives. This award-winning campaign was the brainchild of a PCC officer; it started several years ago and this Summer saw the latest trolls products (including books and videos), being rolled out across the whole of Hampshire with support from HCC, SCC and the Isle of Wight.
- The investment in the Training of Cyber Ambassadors in all secondary schools in the city. This is a scheme developed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and follows a peer-led approach by skilling-up a small number of students on key online safety issues. These informed students then pass on their learning and offer helpful support to their peers promoting good digital citizenship and civility.
- The Extensive information for children and parents on the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership website about how to stay safe on-line and how to report cyberbullying
- The Portsmouth Education Partnership toolkit on reducing bullying including cyber bullying originally produced in 2018
- Planned workshop in Autumn for schools and colleges on peer sexual abuse in schools and colleges following the report which Ofsted published last month
- Anti-Bullying Conferences 2018 and 2019
- Support for parents regarding bullying of SEND children via the Local Offer website
- Embedding Restorative Practice as 'the way we work in Portsmouth' with more and more schools being trained and embracing this way of behaving and being.

Amend the fifth paragraph to read:

"Council calls on the administration to continue this positive work and to support schools and other partners in promoting positivity and courtesy online..."

Add a final paragraph as below:

"The council considers that despite the progress made in recognising cyber-bullying, that such examples as the racist cyber-bullying of the England football players following the Euro 2021 Final, indicates that there needs to be a collective commitment to extend and expand local commitment whilst calling for national legislative powers."

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Suzy Horton

Signed _____

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Dave Ashmore

Signed _____

Therefore, the amended motion to read:

The council notes and commends the progress made in increasing the awareness of cyberbullying, the negative and detrimental mental health implications that can occur as a result, as well as the embedding within the school curriculum and within the community.

The council supports the further accountability demanded upon social media companies by the government online safety bill and commends the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioners new programme designed to help secondary pupils stay safe online.

However, more legislative measures must be encouraged and brought forward in order to deter cyberbullying and protect against instances such as hate crime and the negative impact on mental health. The wide-scale ability to share non-factual information on social media about individuals, young people and local businesses is abhorrent. Social media firms should be further held to account.

Therefore, the council requests that the Chief Executive and all leaders of political groups write to the Secretary of State and Ministers for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as well as the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner to further lobby and investigate increased legislative measures to mitigate the possible decline in any individual's mental health (including businesses) and quality of life due to cyberbullying and misinformation.

Locally, the council commends:

- The creative "Trolls" campaign developed through the Portsmouth Childrens Safeguarding Partnership which helps children and young people to understand cyber bullying for what it is and to respond appropriately, seeking support from adults in their lives. This award-winning campaign was the brainchild of a PCC officer; it started several years ago and this Summer saw the latest trolls products (including books and videos), being rolled out across the whole of Hampshire with support from HCC, SCC and the Isle of Wight.
- The investment in the Training of Cyber Ambassadors in all secondary schools in the city. This is a scheme develop by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and follows a peer-led approach by skilling-up a small number of students on key online safety issues. These informed students then pass on their learning and offer helpful support to their peers promoting good digital citizenship and civility.

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- Embedding Restorative Practice as ‘the way we work in Portsmouth’ with more and more schools being trained and embracing this way of behaving and being.

Council calls on the administration to continue this positive work and to support schools and other partners in promoting positivity and courtesy online in Portsmouth. Council also places on record its thanks to city MP’s Stephen Morgan and The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt for their work in Parliament around tackling cyber-bullying.

The council considers that despite the progress made in recognising cyber-bullying, that such examples as the racist cyber-bullying of the England football players following the Euro 2021 Final, indicates that there needs to be a collective commitment to extend and expand local commitment whilst calling for national legislative powers.