

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda Item 33

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Equality and Anti-Bullying Work in Schools		
Date of Meeting:	12 November 2012		
Report of:	Jo Lyons – Lead Commissioner, Learning & Partnership		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of bullying data (Safe and Well School Survey) for 2011 and racist and religiously motivated incident data for 2010-11. The change in national and local policy related to the reporting of racist and religiously motivated incidents will be outlined along with the new local authority request for schools to return their bullying data by type. Support for schools to fulfil requirements under the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act will also be detailed.
- 1.2 This report provides information including bullying and prejudice incident data as it relates to children and young people in Brighton & Hove schools.
- 1.3 This report briefly outlines support for schools to meet fulfil the Public Sector Equality Duty under the 2010 Equality Act.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 This report is for information only

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 There have been two main ways that the local authority collects and monitors bullying data from schools.
 - 3.1.1 Racist and Religiously Motivated Incident (RRMI) monitoring
Since 2004 schools have been required by law to record all racist incidents and report them to the Local Authority. In Brighton & Hove data related to bullying (general), homophobic bullying and bullying to do with disability was also collected. From September 2010, the Schools' Information System (SIMS) has been used by schools to record and report Racist and Religiously Motivated Incidents and a report from this system sent into the local authority. This change

in system coincided with a change in government approach which removed the requirement to return racist and religiously motivated incident data. A decision was made to continue collecting racist and religiously motivated incident data whilst the local authority reviewed its position on schools reporting and that in the short-term bullying data would be monitored via the Safe and Well School Survey.

3.1.2 The Safe and Well School Survey (SAWSS) is a survey of pupils aged between 8 and 16 focused on their feelings about their school and learning, their views on anti-bullying measures in their school and experiences of bullying. It has been carried out by schools in the city for the past 9 years with support from the Healthy Schools Advisory Service and the Learning and Partnership Unit of the City Council. In 2010 the survey was extended to ask a wider range questions about health and wellbeing and included an ethnicity monitoring question. Schools receive a report on their data and the city wide summary data to inform the review and development of whole school practice and the development of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum. At a city wide level the data is used to support schools and commission services.

3.2 Summary of Brighton & Hove Racist and Religiously Motivated Incident (RRMI) trend data and data for September 2010 to July 2011

School Year	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Special Schools	Total RRMI recorded
2005/6				145
2006/7	144	82	19	245
2007/8	136	81	14	231
2008/9	117	117	19	253
2009/10	145	152	10	307
2010/11	112	140	2	255

As can be seen from this data, there appears to have been a reduction in racist and religiously motivated incidents reported by schools to the LA. However, 7 schools in the spring term and 10 schools in the summer term failed to send in any return despite being reminded by the team.

This was the first year schools were required to use SIMS; their electronic register system to record incidents. This change ensured that ethnicity groups are in line with the school census and has supported schools in their use of SIMS to record and monitor incidents. However, the data sent to the local authority data has been of variable quality and at times has inconsistent. This indicates difficulties with the new recording system and a reduction in school compliance. In addition, this reduction in school compliance may be as a result of the removal of the statutory duty to record racist and religiously motivated incidents and the changed relationship between the local authority and schools.

3.3 Safe and Well School Survey Trend Data Secondary (2011 sample 6846):

Year	I enjoy coming to school	My school is good at dealing with bullying	Been bullied this term
2005			26%
2006	71%	55%	25%
2007	74%	63%	26%
2008	79%	67%	22%
2009	79%	69%	15%
2010	76%	64%	17%
2011	76%	63%	16%

What was the bullying about?	2009	2010	2011
Ability	29%	23%	15%
Appearance	59%	69%	49%
Class or family background	23%	17%	13%
Disability or special need	10%	11%	8%
Gender	9%	7%	6%
Race or ethnic origin	9%	14%	9%
Religion	6%	6%	6%
Sexual orientation of you or family member	17%	23%	12%

3.4 Safe and Well School Survey Data Primary (2011 sample 5097):

Year	I enjoy coming to school	My school is good at dealing with bullying	Been bullied this term
2005			33%
2006	85%	79%	28%
2007	87%	84%	27%
2008	88%	86%	22%
2009	89%	85%	23%
2010	87%	84%	24%
2011	89%	85%	21%

What was the bullying about?	2009	2010	2011
Ability	24%	15%	15%
Appearance	28%	26%	25%
Class or family background	9%	10%	8%
Disability or special need	5%	5%	5%
Gender	10%	12%	13%
Race or ethnic origin	4%	5%	4%
Religion	6%	3%	5%
Sexual orientation (of you or family member)	7%	16%	15%

- 3.5 Boys and girls across all phases are equally likely to report they have been bullied to do with gender.
- 3.6 School sign up to the Safe and Well School Survey is excellent and this survey provides a rich data source for a range of commissioners interested in the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Brighton & Hove.

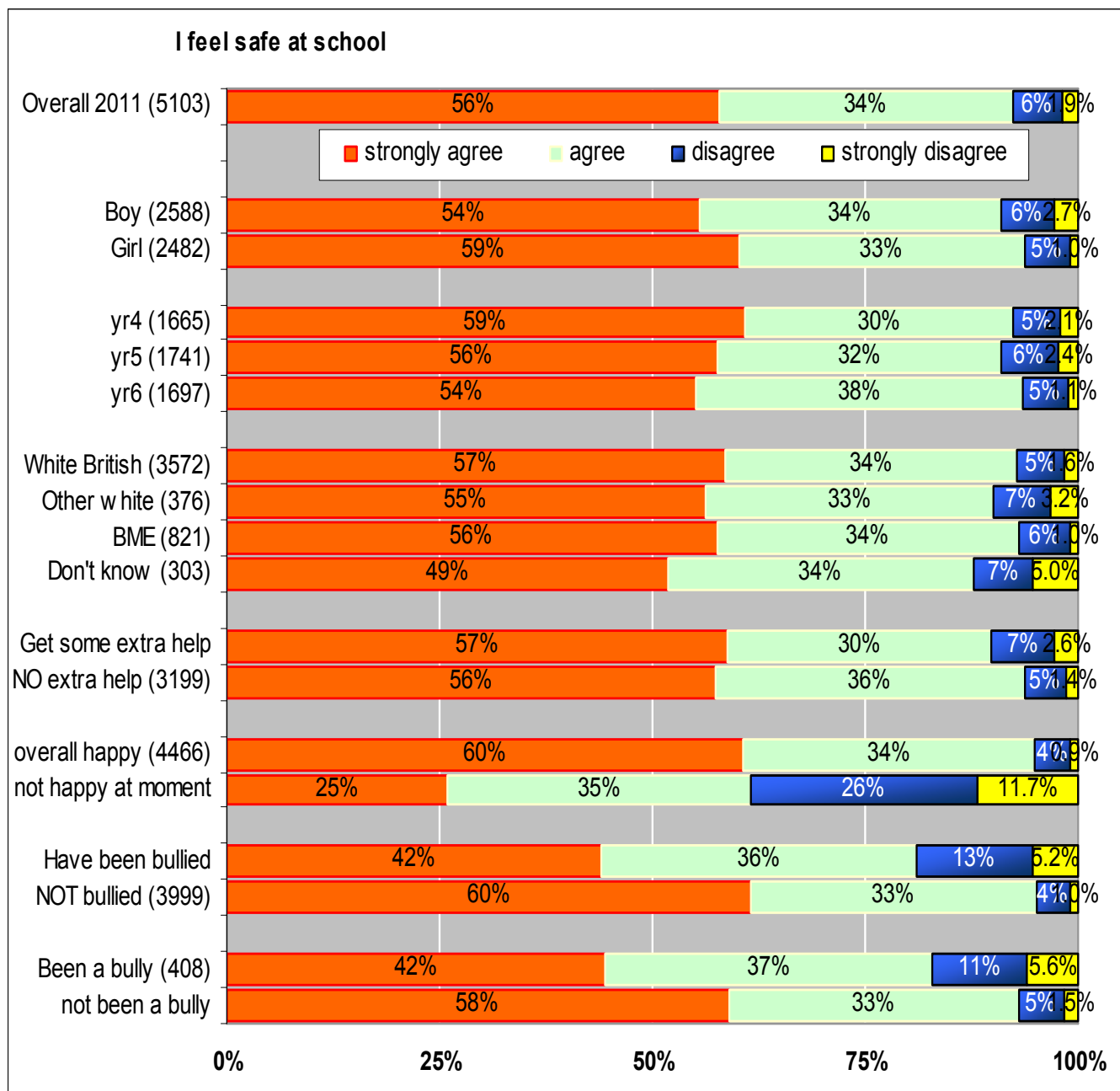
This data shows a 10% reduction for secondary schools and 9% reduction in primary schools in the numbers of pupils reporting they had been bullied this term. Schools are provided with reports for their own school to compare with the city wide data and schools with 5% more than the city average reporting bullying are offered support.

There has been some increase in pupils reporting 'my school is good at dealing with bullying', but there is still work to do to improve this and to improve pupil perceptions of how good the school is at dealing with bullying.

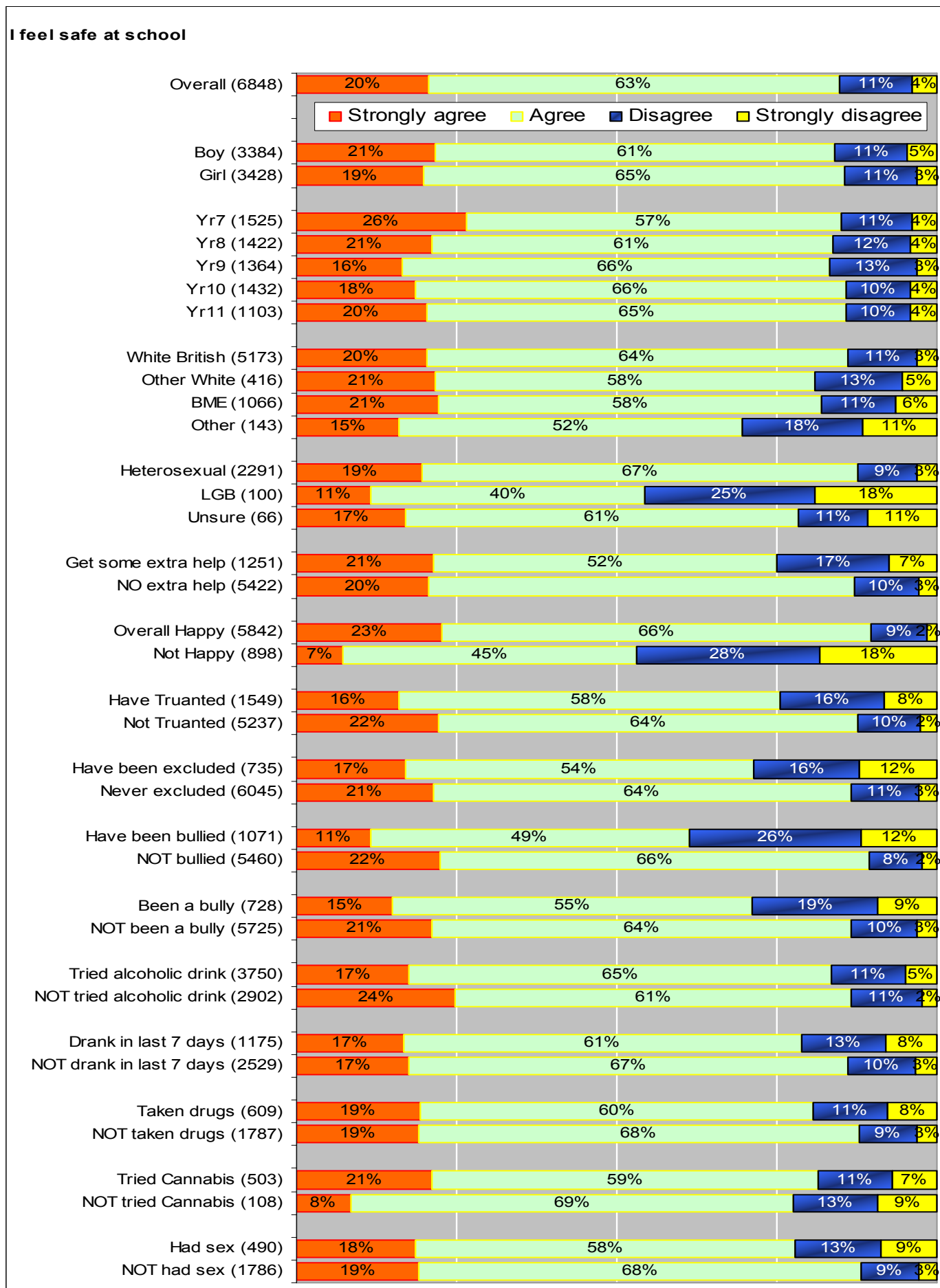
In the last year demographic data has been available and this has been invaluable in supporting secondary schools to identify vulnerable groups. Primary schools get some demographic data returned to them on request.

- 3.6 Example demographic data 2011

Primary



Secondary



3.7.1 Reporting to the local authority 2012 onwards

There were three compelling reasons for revisiting the local authority requirement for schools to return their racist and religiously motivated incident data. Firstly, there is no longer a statutory requirement for schools to make returns of bullying and prejudiced based incident data to the local authority and secondly some schools appear to not want to comply with the local request to make returns and many make nil returns. Thirdly, to be in line with the Equality Act and effective monitoring and safeguarding the scope of data collection needs to be extended to all protected characteristics. A decision was therefore made by Councillors Sue Shanks and Phelim MaCafferty following consultation as outlined below to ask schools to return their bullying data by type. This will ensure that schools do record bullying by type (as required by Ofsted) and that monitoring across the protected groups can take place at a City Wide level. This data set will also be compared with the Safe and Well School Survey.

A guidance document *Brighton & Hove Schools' Bullying and Prejudice Based Incident Guidance* has been written and disseminated to schools along with training to ensure effective recording across all schools.

3.8 Support for schools in meeting the requirements of the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act

Schools have been provided with a range of support materials including an Exemplar Equality Policy and workshops to help them to understand the statutory requirements. To date 31% of schools have published equality information and objectives on their school websites. Further schools may have chosen to publish information in other ways.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

4.1 The following groups were consulted and involved in the change of local authority policy related to the reporting of racist and religiously motivated incidents: Racial Harassment Forum, LGBT Community Safety Forum, Disability Hate Incident Forum, Equality and Anti-Bullying Strategy Group, Primary Head teachers and Secondary Deputy Heads through the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership. In addition practitioners from a range of schools were involved in the development of the reporting and recording guidance and the exemplar materials to support schools in fulfilling their duties under the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act.

4.2 The Racial Harassment Forum expressed concern that schools were no longer being asked to return information on hate / prejudice based incidents. The other two equality forums did not express this concern. Local authority best practice recommends that schools do record bullying and prejudiced based incident data by type and will continue to support schools to do this internally.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Safe and Well School Survey currently costs to £10,000 per annum to deliver and analyse and in addition time from the Partnership Adviser: Health and Wellbeing and School Partnerships Co-ordinator to administer the survey. The 2012 survey is being part-funded by the Commissioner for Teenage Pregnancy and Substance Misuse and part-funded by Public Health.

Finance Officer Consulted: Paul Brinkhurst

Date: 09/10/2012

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Although there is no statutory requirement for schools to record and report incidents of racist bullying it is still widely regarded to be good practice. Its importance and value has been reinforced by the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and the new Ofsted framework introduced in 2012 which makes it clear the schools are expected to keep detailed records of not only racist incidents but also of prejudice-related incidents. This expectation is underpinned by section 149 of the Equality Act, the public sector Equality Duty. This section requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 17/10/2012

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Equality Impact Assessment questions were asked during the process and in fact the extension of the return and the advice to include all protected groups means that this change is far more in keeping with the 2010 Equality Act. Consultation with equality groups has also been far-reaching. However, it has been argued by members of the Racial Harassment Forum that this reduction in data required related to racist and religiously motivated incidents may mean that the area of racist and religiously motivated incidents would be taken less seriously.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no specific sustainability implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The guidance document should support improvements in the recording and therefore monitoring of bullying and prejudice based incidents and potentially lead to earlier and more effective interventions to challenge perpetrators. In addition the guidance launches a Risk Assessment process which provides a direct link to schools using Neighbourhood Schools Officers to support victims of prejudiced based incidents.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Under strategic risk two, cuts to public funding could mean less support for schools to develop anti-bullying and equality practice.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 The Safe and Well School Survey includes data on a range of health and wellbeing issues (as well as bullying) and therefore supports schools, commissioners, Public Health, the Learning and Partnership Team and other partners to understand the health and wellbeing of children and young people and to plan interventions to support vulnerable children and young people. At a school level, the data from the survey is used to 'Plan for Change' under the city wide Healthy Settings Programme.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The effective monitoring of bullying and prejudice based incident data supports schools to provide a safe, healthy environment for learning as set out in the corporate plan.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The option of asking schools to return all bullying and prejudiced based incident data by type via SIMS was explored. SIMS is the local authority recommended method for schools to record this data. However, the experience of using SIMS to return racist and religiously motivated incidents has resulted; as described before, in inaccurate and inconsistent data. Instead, the preferred model is for schools to choose a method of recording which best suits their setting and their needs and to return bullying by type as an extract from their recording was therefore identified as the best way forward.
- 6.2 Extending the Safe and Well School Survey to include colleges and 6th Forms is currently being explored.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 This report is for information only.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None
- 2.

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None
- 2.

Background Documents

1. None

