Christina McKelvie MSP
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH991SP

1st February 2017

Dear Convener,

Bullying and Harassment of Children and Young People in Schools

I am writing to you as the Convener of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee with regards to the work you are undertaking on Bullying and Harassment of Children and Young People in Schools as well as the work on the Anti-Bullying Strategy currently being drafted by the Scottish Government. I noted with interest that David Torrance MSP mentioned the work that Scouts Scotland have undertaken on bullying and we would be happy to meet with you or come to the committee to discuss this.

You may or may not be aware but Scouts Scotland is the largest co-educational youth movement in Scotland. For over a century we have been delivering non-formal education to young people. In Scouting a young person is someone from aged 6 to 25.

We know that bullying can occur in all walks of life, Scouts Scotland's policy on bulling is:
"It is the responsibility of all adults in Scouting to help develop a caring and supportive atmosphere, where bullying in any form is unacceptable".

In Scouting we aim to create a positive and respectful environment where we value and celebrate our differences. This makes it difficult for bullying to occur. However, we know that at some time we will all have experienced bullying, either as a target or an observer. That's why we believe that it is important that all adults and young people understand the role they play in addressing and preventing bullying. In order to help to tackle this we have developed materials to understand what bullying is and how we can help to prevent it. These materials are designed for different age groups and understandings. We are also working with SAMH as part of our A Million Hands Partnership around their campaign RespectMe.
Scouts Scotland would be happy to share our resources with the committee and also answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Katie Docherty
Chief Executive
Scouts Scotland