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Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Our ref: Relationships and Behaviour in Schools - Update

Dear Sue,

In advance of the third summit on relationships and behaviour in schools, which I will lead tomorrow, I wish to provide the Committee with a summary of progress so far, and to ensure that the Committee is aware of planned next steps in advance.

The Committee is aware that in May this year I committed to undertaking a series of engagement events and summits on the issue of relationships and behaviour in schools. In June this year I established and met with the Headteachers Taskforce, in order to hear directly from school leaders their experiences and views on this important issue. In September and October, I held Summit 1 and 2 which focussed on monitoring and recording of incidents and relationships and behaviour policy, respectively. I also met with school staff as part of the Scottish Learning Festival, for a focussed discussion on relationships and behaviour from their perspective.

Tomorrow, the 28th of November, will see the publication of the Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research and the third Relationships and Behaviour in Schools Summit. The third summit draws together the evidence provided in the previous summits, engagement events and the Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research. The focus of the summit is to begin to discuss the necessary next steps in light of the established evidence. It is also my intention to engage with young people on this matter before the end of the year and with local authorities in the new year.

Following the publication of the Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research, the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools will begin their consideration of the findings of the research and provide advice to me on proposed next steps.

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I confirm that it is also my intention to provide an update to Parliament on Wednesday 29th of November, in similar terms to the information that I have set out to the Committee today.

I hope that this information is helpful to the Committee.

JENNY GILRUTH

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