

## **Appendix 3 – Attendance Case Studies 2,3 4**

### **Case Study 2: (Secondary School – LA maintained)**

This school is a secondary school with 716 pupils on school roll with 502 (70%) pupils identified as EAL. The school is supported by the Attendance Service with weekly visits to undertake data and school attendance meetings. During the previous academic year, data analysis revealed that Year 11 had the biggest impact on the attendance particularly in the post-Christmas period during the second term. As a result, the Attendance Service worked with the school on a targeted drive to focus on Year 11 pupils. The following actions and outcomes were achieved:

- There are 128 students in Year 11 in 2015/16. 65 had attendance of 95%+ in the previous academic year.
- At the start of the current academic year in September 2015, 61 targeted letters were sent to pupils with attendance under 95% in the previous year (Year 10)
- Of the 61 target students, 42 (69%) have improved their attendance in comparison to the previous year.
- 14 students had attendance of less than 90% in 2014-15. Of these, 3 (21%) students failed to improve and 7 (50%) students achieved over 90% in the current academic year.
- The Overall school attendance for the whole school in 2014/15 was 94.6%, currently the school is on course to achieve a slightly improved outcome for the year of at least 95%.
- As a result of the targeted work, there has been a positive impact on the PA figures in comparison to last year during the same period. The overall PA rate at the end of term 5 during 2014/15 stood at 17.3%. During the current academic year, end of term 5 PA rate stands at 12.9% - an improvement of 4.4%.

### **Case Study 3: (Primary – LA maintained)**

This primary school currently has a total of 283 pupils on roll. There is a significant population of pupils from the traveller community at the school and, given the community traditions, it provides a major challenge to school attendance. The Attendance Service provides support to the school through regular fortnightly visits to analyse attendance data and hold attendance meetings with parents. The Attendance Service also provided a training programme for the Attendance lead to put in place processes to challenge poor attendance and promote good attendance.

It is noted that given the attendance pattern of pupils from GRT community, it is having a significant impact on the attendance figures for the school. Currently, the overall attendance for the whole school stands at 95.6% and if we remove the GRT pupils from the data, the attendance goes up slightly to 96.4%- a difference of 0.8%.

The real extent of challenge with GRT pupils' attendance is highlighted in the analysis of figures for Persistent Absentees (PA). There are 47 pupils under 90% which equates to PA level of 16.6%. However, out of these 47 pupils, 25 are GRT pupils and when they are excluded from the data as above, the PA level drops to 7.8 - a difference of 8.8%.

It is clear that this school has a unique challenge to its attendance outcomes with the significant GRT population. The Attendance Service has been working extensively with the school, LA GRT officer and the families to try and address this issue. However, it remains a major challenge and one which perhaps needs a more strategic approach.

#### **Case Study 4: (Primary School – LA Maintained)**

This school has an overall absence rate of 6.6%. The PA rate at 90% is 18.7% and at 85% it is 6.0% which is similar to the previous academic year.

The figure that is really interesting/concerning is that until May 2016, the school had lost 834 sessions to unauthorised leave of absence. This is a real challenge to this particular school as an overwhelming majority of the pupils are identified as EAL and the families, despite the PNs, are choosing to go abroad for a variety of reasons.

The school and Attendance Service drew parents' attention to this in the latest school newsletter but it remains to be seen what impact this will have.