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| <b>Service:</b> | Education Welfare | <b>Name:</b> | Alasdair Whitelaw |
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| Appendix Heading | Education Welfare Service |
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**Brief Description of Service:**

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) works with schools, parents/carers and their children who are experiencing difficulties in attending school. Core statutory work is carried out for all schools. It currently also operates as a Traded Service which is bought back by schools for direct casework and register checks. The service works in partnership with the Early Help teams, Educational Psychology, Wellbeing & School Support Service.

The service is undergoing restructuring to align itself with the new [Working together to improve school attendance guidance](#) which is due to become statutory from September 2023.

**Data Outputs:**

Statutory duties to provide for all schools

- Prosecution for non-school attendance in the Magistrates Court Under Section 44 = 1 (this came to court and was Adjourned due to pregnancy of mother until March 2023. The prosecution will be withdrawn January '23 as attendance has improved significantly)
- Processing Fixed Penalty Notices for children who have had unauthorised absences of 10 sessions (5 school days) or more.

| 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23      |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| 165     | 197     | 203     | 232     | 253     | 121     | 43      | 185     | 78 (to date) |

- Tracking of Children Missing from Education

| CME Data 2021/2022                                  |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | Sep       | Oct       | Nov       | Dec       | Jan       | Feb       | Mar       | Apr       | May       | Jun       | Jul       | Aug       |
| Actively Open on last day of month                  | 12        | 18        | 21        | 18        | 21        | 13        | 16        | 19        | 17        | 9         | 7         | 7         |
| Total new   | 38        | 13        | 12        | 2         | 5         | 10        | 7         | 3         | 10        | 9         | 4         | 0         |
| Total closed  | 26        | 7         | 9         | 5         | 2         | 10        | 7         | 3         | 10        | 9         | 4         | 0         |
| <b>Overall CME open to RBWM (cumulative figure)</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>63</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>70</b> | <b>72</b> | <b>82</b> | <b>88</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>97</b> | <b>99</b> | <b>99</b> |

- Monitoring of Elective Home Education

| EHE Data 2021/2022            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                               | Sep        | Oct        | Nov        | Dec        | Jan        | Feb        | Mar        | Apr        | May        | Jun        | Jul        | Aug        |
| New Referrals                 | 19         | 6          | 9          | 7          | 24         | 8          | 7          | 9          | 12         | 11         | 20         | 0          |
| Returned to school            | 6          | 11         | 9          | 7          | 8          | 2          | 1          | 0          | 24         | 8          | 10         | 0          |
| <b>Total No of EHE pupils</b> | <b>181</b> | <b>176</b> | <b>180</b> | <b>180</b> | <b>198</b> | <b>204</b> | <b>209</b> | <b>218</b> | <b>206</b> | <b>207</b> | <b>218</b> | <b>218</b> |

#### Traded Services.

- Currently the service employs 4 Education Welfare Officers (EWOs) which have the equivalence of 3.25 full time members of staff.
- 48 schools currently buy back various packages/hours of support through the Education Welfare Service.

#### Impact:

- Prosecution will be withdrawn as a direct result of support from the Education Welfare Service and The SEMH intervention Service which provided 1:1 specialist support in school for Autumn Term 2022 and relationship building with parents.
- The Fixed Penalty Notices are effective in deterring some parents from taking term time holidays (it is the Head Teacher's individual decision to authorise absence for holidays). In certain circumstances the penalty notice can enable parents to support a child back to school who is refusing.
- 2 members of staff actively track Children Missing Education and work effectively to identify causal effect and reengage and reintegrate back into education.
- The dedicated Elective Home Education Coordinator works to identify new EHE children, discuss impacts and requirements with parents, monitors home education delivery and supports both family and child.
- The Traded Service aspects of the service will cease from September 2023.

#### Next Steps:

- Current Attendance Guidance becomes Statutory in September 2022.
- EWS can no longer be a Traded Service to cover Statutory duties in all Maintained, Academies, Special and Independent school (88 settings) which include.
  - Allocated Education Welfare Officer to offer dedicated support and contact.
  - Education Welfare Officer to conduct an Attendance Support Meeting every full term (3 times a year) to
  - Signposting professional support to impact positively on families whose children have attendance issues.
  - All legal aspects of attendance (Fixed Penalty Notices, Parenting Contracts, Education Supervision Orders and Attendance Prosecutions).
  - Attendance training.
- Network meetings are being held termly with guest speakers, new information and opportunities for strategic thinking.
- ESW Manager is attending Independent Network meeting to establish contact and discuss guidance to ensure statutory duties are met by September 2023.
- Expression of Interest for new traded aspects to be sought from schools and if appetite exists a new SLA will be written, and recruitment will take place to deliver buyback service for September '23.