

Service:	Education Welfare	Name:	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 as per [Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance](#). It currently also operates as a Traded Service which is bought back by 33 schools for direct casework at 50% and register checks. The service works in partnership with the Early Help teams, Educational Psychology, Wellbeing & School Support Service.

Data Outputs:

Statutory duties to provided for all schools

- Prosecution for non-school attendance in the Magistrates Court Under Section 44 = 0
- 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	287

- Tracking of Children Missing from Education

CME Data 2022/2023												
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Actively Open on last day of month	7	7	23	21	11	17	15	18	26	14	24	24
Total new	11	3	17	6	3	5	9	4	11	19	9	0
Total closed	4	1	3	4	12	4	11	1	3	13	17	0
Overall CME open to RBWM (cumulative figure)	11	14	31	37	40	45	54	58	69	88	97	97

- Monitoring of Elective Home Education

EHE Data 2022/2023												
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
New Referrals	19	11	18	5	7	4	18	3	17	16	8	0
Returned to school	17	15	4	2	7	2	8*	2*	2	1	3*	0
Total No of EHE pupils	179	175	189	193	193	195	204	207	222	237	242	242

*(this figure includes 1 CME) Services.

- Currently the service employs 5 Education Welfare Officers (EWOs) which have the equivalence of 4.25 full time members of staff.

- 33 schools currently buy back various packages/hours of support through the Education Welfare Service.

Impact:

- Current Attendance Guidance is not statutory, but RBWM is fully compliant with the guidance and 100% of maintained and academy schools are submitting their attendance data to the DfE. We are the second borough in the country to do so. The DfE Attendance Advisor has no concerns with the Service across the borough and has informed the DfE as such.
- The Attendance Leads Network Meetings are fully established, recorded and attend by on average 68 attendees. There are 3 Network Meetings a year and presentations range from Ofsted, the DfE, Emotionally Related School Avoidance and many associated local services that can support schools with their attendance.
- The relational driven service means that early support is effective, and we have had no parents/carers undergo attendance prosecution in this academic year.
- 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 not accessing school.
- 2 members of staff actively track Children Missing Education (statutory work) and work effectively to identify causal effect, reengage and reintegrate back into education. This is effective but draws impact from other work/duties.
- 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 take up from schools was successful and has enabled the recruitment of an additional Education Welfare officer to add value to the core and traded work.

Next Steps:

- Continued compliance with Attendance Guidance and service to embed procedures and practices established under new working model.
- Evaluation of impact for Core and Traded offer across the service will be undertaken over the course of this academic year.
- The traded model is being scrutinised by neighbouring councils/boroughs for replication within their Local Authority.
- Continued participation in South East Attendance networks as developing the established working relationship with the DfE
- Staffing proposal written for the consideration of the Children Service Management Team for a substantive Children Missing Education Officer submitted.
- The service will capture data on FPN conversion rates to establish viability of employment of a dedicated part time FPN officer to escalate non-payment of fines.
- Consideration around Children Not in Education or Training will take place to ensure all compliance with statutory duties and additional capacity will be sought.