

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	10 July 2019
Title of Report:	Bullying/Attendance
Lead Member:	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Jo Siney
Contact Email:	Jo.siney@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AB.JS.190619/1
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

Persistent Absenteeism and Bullying – The Education and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested information about the links between persistent pupil absence and bullying in Plymouth. The paper aims to consider the data that we can currently access in relation to this line of enquiry and makes recommendations as to how we may be able to develop this line of enquiry.

Recommendations and Reasons

Persistent Absenteeism and Bullying – recommendation for the Committee to consider its content in order to make a decision as to how it wishes to proceed in relation to this line of enquiry.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The Persistent Absenteeism and Bullying is a report only.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

These reports support 'A Growing City'. It helps to make sure children and young people benefit from regular education in order to achieve; develop the necessary skills to be productive citizens who can make a sustained contribution to both the society and economy of the city. It will also help to reduce inequalities within the city.

The work reflects our values of co-operation between partners and the recognition that as a society, we are responsible for each other.

The report supports 'A Caring Plymouth – Focus on prevention and early intervention'. The document provides an overview of the support offered to young people where school attendance is a concern in order to take timely steps to resolve and make sure the appropriate support is in place.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None for the purpose of the Bullying and Persistent Absenteeism report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The Persistent Absenteeism and Bullying report is a report only.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Child Poverty: Regular attendance at school provides a routine for parent/carers which allows them to take paid employment and reduce the impact of child poverty. It improves children's potential for future employment, education and training.

Community Safety: (due regard to preventing crime and disorder): Poor school attendance and bullying increases the risk of child exploitation and anti social behavior. It is important to safeguard children who are vulnerable by ensuring children are seen and supported by professionals and families to reduce this risk.

Health and Safety (any health and safety implications): Regular attendance at school provides oversight and monitoring that identifies when a child is at risk, or vulnerable and in need of support. This identification enables support to be arranged in a timely way.

Risk Management (to identify any risk management issues): The management of children missing education and concerns arising regarding successful inclusion in school enable both action to be taken to safeguarding the individual child, and take steps to reduce the impact of this for other children. Close working with school and other partners is important to achieve this outcome effectively.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
		<i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Judith Harwood											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 26/06/2019											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Jon Taylor (approved verbally) Date approved: 21/06/2019											