

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Annual Report on School Attendance, Access and Exclusions</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>15 October 2012</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Jo Lyons - Lead Commissioner, Learning and Partnership</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Maggie Baker</b>	<b>Tel: 293760</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Maggie.baker@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides information including data on school attendance, access to education and exclusions for all children and young people in Brighton & Hove

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 This report is for information only

#### 3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

#### Attendance:

- 3.1 With effect from April 2012, the role of the local authority changed in relation to school attendance. The Access to Education Team are responsible for fulfilling the local authorities statutory duties. This includes taking legal proceedings against parents who fail to ensure their children attend school regularly, issuing fixed penalty notices on behalf of schools and in line with Brighton & Hove Council Code of Conduct, ensuring, as far as possible, that no child is missing from education, ensuring children in employment and those taking part in entertainment do so within current legislation and local bye laws, monitoring those children who are educated at home and those too sick too attend school. This would include those children who are flexi schooled. This team also ensure that schools comply with all current legislation and guidance in relation to access and attendance. The team also offer support, training and guidance to all schools to ensure they have the knowledge, policy, procedures and systems in place to support children and young people to access education and attend regularly.
- 3.2 All schools now have responsibility for recording, monitoring and addressing non-attendance. Secondary schools, including our 2 Academies, have employed their own staff who work directly with pupils, parents, carers and other agencies to support young people to attend school regularly. The local authority has provided these staff with appropriate training and resources to undertake this work and will continue to provide advice and guidance on all matters relating to school attendance.
- 3.3 Primary schools are working in with the local authority to put in place appropriate strategies to continue to build on the good attendance level in our primary schools. Primary schools are working together to employ a number of home to school liaison officers to work with children and their families ensuring regular school attendance at primary level which will set good patterns of attendance before transition to secondary school.
- 3.4 Our aim is to continue to support schools to build on the improvements made in families to get the best outcome for those children. We will continue to consult with all schools to ensure work undertaken is consistent and that appropriate strategies and interventions are put in place to improve attendance.
- 3.5 This team monitor the use of reduced timetables in schools in line with the guidance to schools provided in 2009. Whilst it is recognised that there may be occasions when it is in the best interests of the pupil to have a reduced timetable, this must be agreed by those professionals working with the pupil and should be reviewed regularly to ensure progress to full time attendance at school. Reduced timetables must not result in the pupil not having full time access to educational provision and the Access to Education team will work with schools to ensure this is in place.

3.6 The data below shows that both overall and persistent absence at primary level in Brighton & Hove continues to be below the national average. At secondary level we continue to have higher levels of absence for both overall and persistent absence compared to the national average. Nationally Latest figures show that while 184,000 pupils miss 20 per cent of lessons, more than 430,000 pupils miss 15 per cent of lessons a year – the equivalent of having a month off school a year.

Persistent absence is a serious problem for pupils. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these pupils at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career. There is also clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement:

- Of pupils who miss more than 50 per cent of school, only three per cent manage to achieve five A\* to Cs including English and maths.
- Of pupils who miss between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of school, only 35 per cent manage to achieve five A\* to C GCSEs including English and maths.
- Of pupils who miss less than five per cent of school, 73 per cent achieve five A\* to Cs including English and maths.

Overall Absence Data:

Primary	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
National	5.18%	5.35%	5.3%	5.2%	5%
South East	4.97%	5.09%	5.06%	5%	4.8%
Brighton & Hove	5.37%	5.33%	5.31%	5.2%	4.4%

Secondary	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
National	7.86%	7.27%	7.32%	6.8%	6.5%
South East	7.82%	7.28%	7.26%	6.9%	6.6%
Brighton & Hove	8.72%	7.75%	7.47%	7.7%	7.1%

Persistent Absence Data (based on old definition of 20% for 09/10 and new definition of 20% for 10/11)

Primary	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
National	1.8%	2.4%	1.5%	1.4%	3.9%
South East	1.5%	2.1%	1.4%	1.3%	3.3%
Brighton & Hove	1.6%	1.7%	1.1%	1.1%	3.4%

Secondary	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
National	6.7%	6.4%	4.9%	4.2%	8.4%
South East	6.4%	6.3%	4.9%	4.3%	8.4%
Brighton & Hove	8.3%	7.1%	5%	5.9%	9.8%

### Education Other Than at School (EOTAS)

- 3.7 The EOTAS service within the Access to Education team works with pupils too ill to attend school to ensure they are still able to access education. This is done through the provision of home tuition provided by tutors. The provision is closely monitored to ensure only eligible pupils are receiving tuition and is reviewed every half term with parent, pupil, school and any relevant health professional able to attend. Where possible the tutor and the school work together to reintegrate the pupil using part time attendance with tuition moving into the school to enable the pupil to again access education.

The Hospital Teaching Service based at the Royal Alexander Children's Hospital (RACH) which provides access to education for all pupils in hospital is also part of the EOTAS service. The costs for pupils from outside Brighton and Hove for whom education is provided are recouped through the hospital recoupment system.

The service also has the responsibility for monitoring the provision of those children educated at home by their parents under current legislation and guidance. This includes working closely with colleagues in social care to ensure safeguarding of these young people.

- 3.8 The service has recently been subject to an Internal Audit where it was graded as Substantial Assurance. We will continue to review our policies and strategies to ensure that all children who are either home educated or too sick to attend school receive appropriate educational provision

3.9 Please see table below for information on numbers of pupils the service has worked with this year:

<b>(Last year's figures in brackets)</b>	<b>Total number of children &amp; young people</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>SEN (known)</b>
<b>Elective home education</b>	236(275)	123(140)	113(135)	6(9)
<b>Home Tuition (inc. School Aged mothers)</b>	41 (37)	17 (18)	24 (19)	4 (4)
<b>Hospital Teaching Service</b>	329 (322)	N/K	N/K	N/K

The pupils receiving home tuition are all on roll at school. Below is the table for results information (*information for 2012 not available until new term starts as obtained from school*)

<b>(Last year's figures in brackets)</b>	<b>No of pupils</b>
<b>Number taking GCSE's</b>	<b>9 (12)</b>
<b>Number achieving A*-G grades</b>	<b>9 (12)</b>
<b>5 A*- C Including Maths &amp; English</b>	<b>1 – 11% (2- 17%)</b>
<b>5 A*-C grades</b>	<b>2 – 22% (2- 17%)</b>
<b>Number of pupils achieving A*-C Grades</b>	<b>8 – 88% (9- 75%)</b>
<b>Total number of A*-C GCSE</b>	<b>19 (25)</b>
<b>Number taking other exams</b>	
<b>ALAN tests</b>	<b>Level 1: 2            Level 2: 1</b>

### **Children Missing Education**

3.10 The Children Missing Education (CME) Strategy was written in 2007 to ensure that, as far as possible, no child will be missing from education. We currently have appropriate procedures in place to ensure that once we are aware of a child not in education, we act swiftly to resolve the matter working with colleagues across the council including social care, health, and housing

- 3.11 Referrals are received from a number of sources including our schools.

Once a referral is received, a number of checks are undertaken to establish the whereabouts of the family and the child's current educational provision.

During the academic year 2011/12, we received 175 referrals for children missing education. Of these we have resolved 112 cases. The remaining 63 are ongoing.

- 3.12 Further work will be undertaken in this area next term including working with schools to ensure they understand their legal responsibility to inform the local authority when a child leaves the school. We will also review the current CME Strategy and amend as appropriate in consultation with stakeholders. We currently have access to a number of data bases which provide us with information when trying to locate a child. We hope to be able to have access to the Electoral Register

### **Children in Employment and Entertainment**

- 3.13 The Access to Education team fulfil the local authorities legal responsibility in relation to children in employment and those taking part in entertainment in line with current legislation including Brighton & Hove Bye Laws
- 3.14 We undertake the necessary checks for children wanting to undertake paid work out of school hours and ensure that all health and safety and safeguarding checks are undertaken whilst ensuring that any work undertaken will not have a negative impact on the child's education. In the last year we have issued 298 child employment licences.
- 3.15 Those children who take part in shows, television commercials, modelling etc need to have a chaperone and the local authority is required to undertake the necessary checks on those individuals wanting to act as a chaperone. We will also check that the performance the child is involved in is appropriate. This may require the Child Employment Officer visiting venues. In the last year we have issued 72 chaperone licences.

### **Exclusions**

- 3.16 There have been significant reductions in the number of permanent exclusions in the city over the past 5 years. The permanent exclusion statistics for Brighton and Hove schools remain below the national average and in comparison to statistical neighbours. Where there was an increase in numbers for 2010-11, this can largely be attributed to a significant shift in government policy. At this point Head Teachers and governing bodies were given absolute autonomy in deciding whether or not to permanently exclude a child or young person
- 3.17 Despite the change in policy, the fact that exclusions in secondary have significantly reduced and have remained consistent in primary is a testament to the partnership working between the LA and its schools. It also demonstrates an

ongoing commitment to ensure that permanent exclusion is kept to an absolute minimum;

- 3.18 The fixed term exclusion statistics are relatively high. This is in many cases the result of the policy within Brighton and Hove to ensure that unofficial exclusion, whereby a child or young person is sent home to 'cool off' for periods of time, is eliminated. This has been rigorously implemented in the city because of the need to comply with DfE statutory guidelines, and to be explicit about safeguarding responsibilities for children and young people. There is at least anecdotal evidence, that this is not the case in other authorities where the practice still exists.
- 3.19 Fixed term exclusion is also used to allow time for longer term solutions to be negotiated and arranged to avoid the need for permanent exclusions;
- 3.20 Reducing the numbers of fixed term exclusions is an absolute priority because of the obvious correlation between days lost to learning and future achievement and attainment for children and young people. Specific strategies to address this will be the focus of both the primary and secondary Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships for the forthcoming academic year. It is already anticipated that there will be a reduction in fixed term exclusion in the secondary phase because of the introduction of initiatives, such as the use of restorative justice in schools and the use of an alternative school day;
- 3.21 The creation of The Connected Hub for disaffected Year 11 students, and the reconfiguration of the Brighton and Hove PRU under local authority control, represent exciting initiatives for the future to potentially further reduce exclusion and to secure high quality provision for the vulnerable cohort of BESD children and young people in the city. The two initiatives will consolidate the positive relationships and partnership working between the LA and the city's schools.

### Secondary Exclusion Figures:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Permanent Exclusions</b>	15	5	3	6	12	6
<b>Fixed Term Exclusions</b>	1858	1732	1940	2011	1756	TBC

### Primary Exclusion Figures:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12

<b>Permanent Exclusions</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Fixed Term Exclusions</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>TBC</b>

**4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

Consultation with schools, parents and young people forms an integral part of access, attendance and exclusions work in the city on an ongoing basis. As this paper is for information only there are no specific implications to report.

**5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no additional finance implications for this area. The additional Home to School Liaison Officers for primary schools will be funded by schools.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams*

*Date: 10/09/2012*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Underpinning this document is the Council's legal obligation to secure appropriate full time efficient education for every child resident in its area and the parent's legal obligation to ensure that his/her child receives an appropriate education by regular full time attendance at school or otherwise

*Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston*

*Date: 18/09/2012*

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Regular and punctual attendance at school and access to appropriate education provision, will significantly improve the ability for children in Brighton & Hove to reach their full potential. If children do not attend school regularly or engage in appropriate education, the welfare and protection of these children will be at risk.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 All policies, procedures and systems will be reviewed regularly giving consideration to any new or updated legislation and guidance

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Ensuring children and young people are fully engaged in education and attending school will support the reduction in crime by young people.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The council's Strategic Leadership Team identifies and assesses Strategic Risks affecting the outcome of the Council's objectives, this is reviewed every six months. In the Strategic Risk Register which was reviewed in May 2012, two of those Strategic Risks are impacted by the activity and potential outcomes outlined in this report. They are:
- Strategic Risk SR5 – City wide Employability;
  - Strategic Risk SR6 – Safeguarding Vulnerable Members of our Community.

Public Health Implications:

Regular and punctual attendance at school and access to appropriate education provision significantly improves the ability for children in Brighton & Hove to reach their full potential. Where children do not attend school regularly or engage in appropriate education, their welfare and safety will be at risk. We believe that meeting these targets is of paramount importance for securing children and young people's health and well being.

- 5.7

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

There are no specific proposals submitted in this paper. The ongoing work on access, attendance and exclusions supports the council's priorities to:

- Tackle inequality by ensuring equity of access to education;
- Create a sustainable city by allowing children and young people to fulfil their academic and educational potential.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

NOT APPLICABLE

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

NOT APPLICABLE

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. None

**Documents in Members' Rooms**

1. None

**Background Documents**

1. None