

**Children, Young People and Education Committee**  
**Request for information on Pupil attendance & training for school governors**  
**Response from: Carmarthenshire County Council**

**Attendance**

Attendance data for all schools is monitored on a weekly basis and is shared with all headteachers through a weekly Business Letter from the Head of Education Services.

Low attendance is identified by the School Safeguarding and Attendance Team. This team continues to raise awareness of the regularly updated Welsh Government guidance with all schools in order to promote consistent and accurate recording of pupil absence. This is done via regular bulletins to headteachers and through direct contact with the schools. The data team also reviews the registration data and draws any identified coding issues to the attention of the School Safeguarding and Attendance Team so that they can be addressed with the school. Each school has a named, linked social worker from the team who they can contact for advice, support and guidance regarding any concerns about engagement, attendance or the welfare of a learner. Schools are aware that any such concerns need to be followed up immediately by them. During periods of school closure, the team continues to maintain contact with schools and follows up on any learners who had not maintained regular contact with schools. The School Safeguarding and Attendance Team also utilises a duty system where there is always a social worker on duty to respond to any queries or referrals from schools. The service also offers schools advisory meetings whereby their attendance data can be reviewed, and any pupils with high levels of unauthorised absence/ persistent absence can be discussed. The social worker will work with the school to review the bespoke plans in place for these pupils and advise on next steps. This often prompts schools to make direct referrals to the team. Following referral, the team will implement a support plan to help re-engage the learner and address any wider support needs. The School Safeguarding and Attendance Team sits within the same service area as Team Around the Family and the Young Carers Service so a multi-agency approach is promoted in order to meet the needs of these learners and their families.

Last academic year, the School Safeguarding and Attendance Team had 457 referrals. There was, on average, an increase of 10.82% in pupil attendance from the point of referral to the six-week review.

## **Governors**

Estyn processes are weaved into numerous training opportunities for Governors throughout the academic year. For example, officers will discuss monitoring, safeguarding, data usage as well as the Estyn inspection process. Any information reading opportunities for Governors to train as lay inspectors would be shared with Governors through our well established communication channels.