

PA49 ACEs Recovery Practitioner

Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Absenoldeb Disgyblion

Ymateb gan Ymarferydd Adfer ACEs

Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education
Committee

Pupil absence

Evidence from ACEs Recovery Practitioner

Record your views against the inquiry's terms of reference, which have been grouped into 5 themes.

1. Reasons

My team (Brighter Futures, from Faith in Families, Swansea) and myself have observed in the many school that we visit and the young people we support, a rise in absenteeism. I believe that the long period of time children and young people needed to isolate has caused a decrease in resiliency to daily responsibilities and stress. Children now find it harder to manage their fears and worries, which can impact their physical health, self-esteem and their abilities to cope. I believe such implications have led to higher rates of absenteeism and further and increase in referrals we receive from schools, asking us to support a large number of children and young people, to help support them in ways to cope and manage their mental health.

2. Risks and consequences

The Brighter Futures Team, and myself, believe that short term consequences of absenteeism relate to children learning that for their fears/worries to go away, they need to avoid the situation rather than facing it, which then provides no opportunity for resilience to build. This avoidance then can lead to long term implications, as the child may refuse to return to school entirely, or that they wish to change school. Missing school will then lead to reduced self-esteem, reduced value for education and a higher chance of the child being classified as NEET, when compulsory school finishes for them.

3. Impact

N/A

4. Effectiveness of policies

Many parents which myself and the Brighter Futures Team work with are very grateful and engaged with the support we provide to help children and young people manage their emotions, improve their attendance rates or even help them return back to school after a long period of absenteeism. I believe that the Government need to further value work of charities, such as ourselves, so we can maintain reaching such children and young people in question - to help them build skills of resiliency, to help them believe in themselves once more, and to help them return/apply themselves to education to better their opportunities for their futures.

The Brighter Futures Team has currently 6 members and we work with many children and families each year across Swansea. We aim to grow our services to support the entire of Swansea, as there is clearly a demand (evidenced by the increase in referrals and the growing number of schools

contacting us), but we need to secure further funding to meet the needs of our community, so we can gain more workers, access more resources and pay staff to work for longer hours.

5. Other

N/A