

Out of school, out of sight? Ensuring children out of school get a good education

LGSCO Key Questions (July 2022)	Executive / Service response (September 2022)								
<p>How many children are there in your council's area not attending school, or not attending full-time?</p>	<p>As at the end of term 2021/22, the following pupils are not attending school: EHE numbers 204 CME numbers 173 Medical numbers:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="999 440 1832 644"> <tr> <td>New referral</td> <td align="right">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Open - Active LA (CMP)</td> <td align="right">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Open - Monitoring (school)</td> <td align="right">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Awaiting more information before decision to open</td> <td align="right">4</td> </tr> </table>	New referral	1	Open - Active LA (CMP)	12	Open - Monitoring (school)	20	Awaiting more information before decision to open	4
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<p>Is there easily accessible information on your council's website for parents who are worried about their child's education or attendance?</p>	<p>Information is available on the Council's website but it is split over several pages and a revamp is programmed as part of the new school attendance service. Education Welfare Service (tameside.gov.uk) Tameside Virtual School Overview</p> <p>The School Attendance Support Service Steering Group have identified the need to develop a local offer for school attendance to address the need for better coordination of information.</p>								
<p>How does your council identify children who are not attending school, or not attending full-time?</p>	<p>As we understand it, there is currently no statutory reason to collect information on part time timetables but information is collected on a daily basis through DfE attendance information and B2B. B2B is an automated system that exchanges information between the Council's pupil database and school databases. Not all schools participate as there is no statutory requirement to do so and this is a gap.</p> <p>The Education Welfare Service carry out register audits with most schools on a bi-annual basis which highlights the use of part time timetables and schools are given advice on this by the Service. The new School Attendance Support Service will be required to have termly meetings with all schools where pupils with severe absence (less than 50%) have an individual plan.</p>								

	<p>Parents often contact the Education Welfare Service directly and self refer. The Education Welfare Service will contact the school and discuss the issue and offer advice about meeting individual needs. They may refer to the Children with Medical Needs Panel for support. A self referral may also trigger a discussion about prosecution for non attendance.</p> <p>Schools refer Children Missing Education to the Education Welfare Service and a robust process is followed to track the children as described Children Missing Education and Children with Medical Conditions in Tameside</p> <p>Schools also refer parents who have made a decision to electively home educate their children and follow a robust process as described process Education at Home (tameside.gov.uk)</p> <p>Other agencies also refer children to the Education Welfare Service for example, health providers, Social Workers, School Nurses, Early Help, CAMHS.</p>
<p>Does your council have strong links at all levels between different services, such as attendance, education welfare, and special educational needs, to ensure children missing education are identified and their needs are met?</p>	<p>As described above, the Education Welfare Service does have strong links with agencies in the borough but this is an area of focus for the future through the School Attendance Support Service steering group.</p> <p>Children with medical conditions are discussed at a multi agency panel to ensure a rounded conversation about meeting individual pupil needs and includes the Designated Medical Officer; Educational Psychology, SEN;</p> <p>Children Missing Education and Electively Home Educated service works well with multi agency response with schools;</p> <p>The Education Welfare Service facilitates school cluster based Attendance Groups that meet termly with schools and Early Help. There are also neighbourhood Attendance Groups that are multi agency and more strategic.</p> <p>Provision to meet individual needs of children with medical needs is case managed by the Education Welfare Service in conjunction with schools. The focus is on reintegration and/or meeting individual needs (ie through an SEN assessment)</p>

	<p>Colleagues from Education Welfare act as representatives on Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership.</p> <p>The Education Welfare Service are involved in individual case audits for children with a social worker on a monthly basis to ensure there is no drift and delay in meeting needs and Children's Social Care Teams are aware of the individual issues where children are on a pathway as described above. The outcomes of these audits are reported to performance and standards.</p>
<p>Does your council have strong links with schools, including academies and other schools which are independent of the council, and clear processes for referring cases for support?</p>	<p>There are clear, well understood and well used processes for referring into children with medical conditions; children missing education and those wanting to electively home educate. Headteacher guidance is updated and issued to all schools on a regular basis. The guidance is also issued to independent schools in the borough. Information on referral processes and pathways are shared through the Attendance Groups.</p>
<p>If your council has agreements with other organisations to fulfil its statutory duties to arrange alternative education, how are these arrangements managed? How does the council ensure the quality of the service?</p>	<p>Alternative provision for children who are excluded is commissioned through Tameside Pupil Referral Service who recently had a 'Good' Ofsted judgement.</p> <p>The Headteacher guidance which is issued to all schools includes a section on commissioning alternative provision and what information to consider before commissioning AP.</p>
<p>Does your council document its decisions in individual cases, including decisions not to provide alternative education?</p>	<p>The children with medical needs process and panel decisions are documented and recorded on individual case files. This may include where the children with medical needs panel decision is to initiate prosecution pathway.</p>
<p>How does your council tailor its offer of alternative education to meet the needs of the individual pupil?</p>	<p>Case study for children with medical conditions</p> <p>The Education Welfare Service work in conjunction with schools as they know where children are up to in their learning. Provision is often secured through schools to ensure the link with school is not lost. The aim of interventions is always for it to be short term out of school provision with a view to reintegration back into full time learning.</p>

What has the council learnt from complaints about its service for children missing education? How have complaints led to service improvements?

The establishing of the children with medical needs multi agency panel to discuss and review cases. The involvement of the Educational Psychology Service in children with medical need. Review of the policy children with medical needs policy.

LGO complaints [20 006 754 - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#)