

Havering Attendance, Behaviour and Traveller Support Service

We aim to support schools to manage the most challenging pupils with the human resources that they currently have, hence ensuring good value for money and crucially increase the confidence of our staff.

Introduction

The Attendance, Behaviour and Traveller Support Team provides for a central bank of knowledge and support to be available to primary and secondary school across Havering. Our team works to support a range of school staff, including members of SMT, SENCOs, teachers and support staff. We also work closely with parents/carers, undertaking home visits where appropriate, with the aim of reducing barriers to good attendance/school engagement and reminding parents of their legal responsibilities where necessary.

A key part of our role and one which we believe sets us apart from other approaches, is our joint work with other key professionals in Health and Social Care. This year the team has forged working partnership with the Early Help Service. This work has enabled us to advocate for a more holistic and education focussed approach to supporting pupils at risk of school disengagement and to support schools where thresholds for early help/social care intervention are not being met.

The focus of our work over the past year has been:

- Supporting schools to improve attendance, particularly persistent absence
- Support and challenge of parents/carers where there are attendance and/or behavioural concerns, developing targeted interventions for pupils at wave 2, 3 and 4 thresholds.
- Linking with other key inclusion and wider council services to improve attendance and behaviour, including SEN, the AP Commissioner, Early Help and CAMHS services, as well as supporting pastoral support networks
- Further roll out of the Restorative Approaches training
- Support for schools in policy writing (such as Flexi School Guidance)
- Supporting staff with Staff Discussion Groups and working with key primary school leaders in particular through the Head programme.

The Attendance and Behaviour Team would like to request that Schools Funding Forum give a mandate for them to continue support for schools to help bring about further positive change, and to build on existing work to support a much needed multi agency approach with our most vulnerable pupils.

Our Core Offer to LA Maintained Schools. THIS OFFER IS AVAILABLE TO ACADEMIES VIA HES.**Behaviour Support**

Support for up to four individual children per primary school per academic year (this may vary depending on the current need in the school) at risk of disengagement/exclusion depending on the Waves threshold. In the last academic year, the service actively supported 233 students who are struggling in the classroom, disengaged from learning or undertaking a school

transition move through the IYFAP process. The support offered works on a step up and down mechanism where our students at most risk of disengagement receive between 2-5 sessions per week of in school support overseen by a senior officer in the team.

School professionals can also be supported through our comprehensive professional development training programme (listed below). Schools are entitled to choose a one-day training per year as part of the core offer, we have also greatly appreciated in this academic year schools sharing trainings across sites as some trainings such as Team Teach have been in very high demand.

We recognise that school and life transitions are trigger points for stress, we offer a transition service via our Transition Coordinator to support pupils, through group work and 1-1 support if we anticipate that attendance at secondary school will be potentially overwhelming.

Attendance Support:

It is important to note that school attendance is coming under increasing scrutiny, with the persistent absence (PA) rate now defined as below 90% as opposed to 85%. We offer EVERY school an experienced named officer/s who will work flexibly with schools and visit regularly to monitor attendance, advise and work with schools and families to improve attendance.

The package of support provided to schools in the de-delegated arrangements includes bi-weekly or monthly visits to your school by a named officer to oversee patterns of non-attendance. This includes early intervention when patterns of poor attendance arise and multi-agency working to support the family and improve outcomes. In-school training is provided for school staff on attendance matters on SIMS plus templates, monitored late gate, presentations at new intake meetings, staff meetings and school assemblies. In addition:

- Advice and guidance when a parent wants to educate their child at home.
- Provision of advice and guidance on child protection issues.
- Regular support from a linked Attendance and Behaviour Support Officer (including absence cover when linked officer is unavailable due to ill health, etc.)
- Advice and guidance on promoting early intervention for pupils with poor attendance.
- Guidance on strategies for managing pupil absence.
- Detailed casework with pupils with low attendance that will reach the threshold for legal intervention, if required.
- Outreach work with pupils and families, including home visits and attendance at multi-agency meetings and case conferences for pupils causing serious concern.
- Meetings at school with staff and parents.
- Cross border liaison in relation to out-borough pupils.
- Pre- Ofsted 'health check'

The above support is in addition to the statutory service provided to EVERY Havering school as follows:

- **Guidance for children on child protection plans and children missing from education**
- **Issuing and full administration of Fixed Penalty Notices including holiday fines**
- **Presentation of cases in court that meet the legal threshold for prosecution**

Primary schools have particularly appreciated our updated attendance leaflets for parents and the new fridge magnets and parents 'THINK TWICE' medical advice booklet.

Dedicated telephone service

To cover any kind of query related to attendance, behaviour, traveller support or exclusion we offer a dedicated Mon-Fri 9am-5pm duty telephone system for EVERY school in Havering, where a member of our team will be here to answer any questions and provide you with a quick

and timely follow-up. Our telephone service is also located in the MASH team so that we are able to share and support your safeguarding and welfare concerns.

Dedicated Traveller Education Support

We have a wealth of experience of dealing with traveller families. With the dedicated support of our specialist Traveller Education Support Officer and our knowledge of the traveller community we aim to improve the attendance, educational outcomes and school engagement of all pupils from a traveller background. We maintain close and regular contact with parents. We visit families living on privately owned sites, fairgrounds and circuses as well as those in private and council accommodation, by building trust and confidence. This has led to an increase in school attendance, and a wider participation in the life and activities in Havering schools.

Our commitment:

- Support positive relationship building between Traveller families and schools
- Liaise with other agencies within the Borough to improve the quality of services available to traveller families.
- Provide intensive support packages and initial integration support for pupils who demonstrate great need.
- Share information with other agencies, schools, out of borough authorities by developing systems and protocols where necessary, and develop and maintain effective joint working relationships.
- School presentations, parent meetings and trainings according to need.

Training/CPD offer to all schools and Academies on a BUYBACK offer.

The core training offer is flexible in terms of venue, full-day/half day and twilight options. **LA maintained schools** are entitled to **one whole day** training inclusive, selected from the list below. We offer a wide training menu to schools depending on the needs of the school in consultation and partnership with the Head teacher. We will deliver training packages that will improve the implementation of policy into practice and enhance the confidence of school staff. These packages are approved and recommended by the DfE, NICE and OFSTED. We can train whole school staff teams or smaller targeted groups of staff; teachers, NQT's, TAs and SMSAs.

Trainings available to you are:

- Positive Classroom Behaviour Management for teachers, including NQT's and support staff support via CPD programme to assist teaching staff in developing understanding of the motivations behind children's challenging behaviour. Key stage 1-4
- NQT Behaviour Classroom Management Key Stage 1-2
- Positive Lunchtimes! – a specific half day training for SMSAs in-line with the new OFSTED framework Key stage 1-2
- Accredited 1 and 2 day Team Teach Training: de-escalation and positive handling Key stage 1-4 (with staff groups of more than 24 staff at any one time there may be a minimal extra cost for extra tutors for this course only in line with accreditation specifications)
- Restorative Approaches –a whole school approach to behaviour management. We are able to offer whole school or part school training across key stages 1-4. (Please note this training requires more than one training day commitment and some parts of the training require additional purchase).
- Problem solving and circle time. Programmes/workshops that promote better social skills and related to the PSHE curriculum using the 'Dina Dinosaur' programme, building capacity and developing a school culture. Key stage 1-2
- Engaging Traveller Families Workshop Key stage 1-4
- Teacher and staff reflective problem solving sessions Key stage 1-4
- Training for Governors and schools on the attendance legal framework Key stage 1-4

Our training packages are well researched and received, providing enormous value when compared to the price charged by private providers for similar training programme for example if a whole school one day Team Teach Positive Handling Training was booked through Team Teach Ltd would cost in excess of £2,600!. We train over 1700 staff each year.

Step-Up Service for Key Stage1-2

The local authority currently has a statutory duty to provide alternative full time education for all pupils who are permanently excluded and have reached the need for a Wave 3/4 intervention (Appendix 1). The Primary Inclusions Gateway acts as a conduit and decision making forum in relation to primary aged pupils who are at risk of permanent exclusion or who have been permanently excluded from their mainstream school. Pupils with challenging behaviour are offered in-class support and intensive transition support into another mainstream school/specialist provision is proposed. We also provides two School Support Family Practitioners that are allocated to the whole family, undertake an Outcome Star Assessment to improve family relationships and provide a safeguarding lead. The development of the RJ Mitchel classroom and developing partnerships with Havering schools that have nurture provisions is a flexible and agile placement for children aged between five and eleven years and their families whom are being identified as at risk of possible exclusion. Students also have access to CAMHs and SALT assessments (Appendix 3). A school based counselling service is also offered for pupils where appropriate, for quality assurance this service is supervised by our own in-house clinical team 1-1 and group-work is offered.

Why continue with us?

As well as always taking a professional and flexible approach, you'll find us friendly and welcoming too. We pride ourselves on our customer service and we value excellent communication with all our customers.

Our service is backed by educational and therapeutic specialists who work with you to achieve and maintain student well-being and direct access into a multi-disciplinary service of excellence. For quality assurance all of our staff members are suitably qualified and highly skilled within their job role. All staff attends regular training and our case work is closely supervised by senior staff members.

We also keep schools informed and staff trained on new and emerging initiatives to help promote and maintain good attendance and behaviour in school; we provide guidance that is both purposeful and practical.

As a comparison an example of a costed buyback package for an individual average sized Havering primary school would be:

Attendance package: £3,868

Behaviour PSP Support for four students £2,600 (without additional in-class support\)

Transition support per child £650.00

1 day INSET training £500

Total **£7,618** average per school.