

Children and Young People Select Committee			
Title	Lewisham Attendance and Exclusions	Item No	6
Contributors	Ruth Griffiths, Service Manager – Access Inclusion and Participation		
Class	Part 1	Date	8 th June 2016

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 As part of its work programme the Committee has requested a report on Lewisham's current attendance and exclusion performance indicators and outcomes. Officers anticipate producing this report annually as part of accountability and performance monitoring.
- 1.2 This report sets out the context, legal framework and position in relation to attendance and exclusions in Lewisham. It also provides an analysis of Lewisham performance indicators and the actions that the local authority and Lewisham education providers are taking to effect progress.
- 1.3 This report should be read in conjunction with the Lewisham Alternative Provision Review Report which outlines in detail the actions we are taking to improve attendance and reduce exclusions.

2. Recommendations

The Select Committee is asked to note the content of the report and monitor the actions and progress on an annual basis:

- Implement a programme to improve levels of attendance of children and young people in Lewisham and attending Lewisham Alternative Provision.
- Implement a programme to reduce the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions from Lewisham secondary schools.
- Increase the number of children and young people who are re-integrated back in to Lewisham Schools.

3. Summary

- Total **school absence** (authorised and unauthorised) across all schools in Lewisham for 2014/15 was **4.5%**. Lewisham was ranked 48th and in the second quartile.
- Total **absence from primary** schools (unauthorised and authorised) in Lewisham for 2014/15 was **3.90%**. Lewisham primary schools were in the top quartile and ranked 36th nationally.
- Total **absence from secondary** schools (authorised and unauthorised) in Lewisham for 2014/15 was **5.3%**, in line with England but worse than its statistical neighbours.
- Total **persistent absence** from all schools in Lewisham for 2014/15 was **4.10%**. This puts Lewisham as rank 115 and in the bottom quartile.

- Lewisham overall **fixed term exclusions** at **3.72%** were worse than its statistical neighbours (**3.55%**), London (**2.9% and rank at 28**) and England averages (**3.5%**) for 2014/15.
- Lewisham **secondary fixed term exclusions** were at **7.9%** for 2014/15, worse than its statistical neighbours (**7.45%**), London (**5.94% and rank at 28**) and England averages **6.2%**).
- The **primary fixed term exclusions** have reduced to **0.91%** and were better than statistical neighbours (**0.97%**) and England averages (**1.02%**), but worse than London (**0.68% and rank at 26**) for 2014/15.
- Lewisham overall **permanent exclusions** were at **0.13%** and worse than its statistical neighbours (**0.07%**), London (**0.07%**) and England averages (**0.06%**) for 2014/15.
- **Primary permanent exclusions** have remained at 0% since 2008.
- However **secondary permanent exclusions** were at **0.38%**, worse than statistical neighbours (**0.16%**), London (**0.15%**) and England averages (**0.13%**) for 2014/15.

4. Policy context

4.1 The Lewisham's Children and Young People's Plan 2015 – 2018: Together with families, we will improve the lives and life chance of the children and young people in Lewisham.

Six specific areas have been prioritised to raise the attainment and achievement of secondary age pupils and young people. These are providing sufficient school places, improving achievement at school, attendance at school, engagement post-16, attainment post-16 and LAC attainment. All six priority areas, like the plan's main outcome areas, are underpinned by the SEND Strategy to deliver outstanding and inclusive improvement.

AA3: Improving and maintaining attendance and engagement in school at all key stages, including at transition points.

- To increase attendance at primary and secondary schools from our performance in all measures which are below the London average in 2015, to be in line with the London average by 2018.
- To reduce exclusions at secondary schools from our performance which are well below the England average in 2015 to be in line with the London average by 2018.

5. The legal framework for the attendance and exclusions (fixed and permanent)

5.1 What are the legal requirements on local authorities in relation to school attendance?

Details on the legislative requirements are set out in **Appendix 1** but they can be summarised as:

The government expects schools and local authorities to:

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence;
- Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled;
- Act early to address patterns of absence;
- Encourage parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly; and
- Ensure all pupils are punctual to their lessons.

5.2 What are the legal requirements on local authorities in relation to pupil exclusion?

Details on the legislative requirements are set out in **Appendix 2** but they can be summarised as:

- The legislation governs the exclusion of pupils from: maintained schools; Academy schools / Free Schools; Alternative Provision Academies / Free Schools; and pupil referral units in England.
- The legislation provides statutory guidance to head teachers; governing bodies; local authorities; Academy Trusts; independent review panel members; independent review panel clerks; and special educational needs experts must have regard when carrying out their functions in relation to exclusions.

6. Background

Attendance - national context – pupil absence in schools in England 2014/15

6.1 Context of how data is sourced

Pupil-level attendance data for primary, secondary and pupil referral units is collected once each term via the Department for Education (DfE) School Census data collection return and published in a Statistical First Release (SFR). Full-year attendance data for special schools is collected once annually at the Autumn School Census¹.

6.2 The **national** pupil absence data outlined below is published in the DfE Statistical First Release (SFR) in March 2016 and gives annual attendance data for 2014/2015.

- The **overall absence** rate across state-funded primary, secondary and special schools has increased slightly from **4.5%** in 2013/2014 to **4.6%** in 2014/15.
- Overall **absence rates** have followed a generally downward trend since 2006/2007 when the overall absence rate was **6.5%**.
- The **overall absence** rate in **primary** schools increased from **3.9%** to **4%** between 2013/14 and 2014/15.
- Overall absence in secondary schools increased from **5.2%** to **5.3%**
- Overall absence in special schools the rate increased from **9%** to **9.4%**.
- The total number of days missed across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools due to overall absence has risen from 52.0 million in 2013/2014 to 54.5 million in 2014/15. This reflects both the slight increase in overall absence and the higher total number of pupil enrolments in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14.

(Further details on national absence data is in Appendix 3)

7. The Lewisham Context – Pupil Absence

7.1 Absence in Primary Schools (see Table A, Appendix 4)

Total absence from primary schools (unauthorised and authorised) for 2014/15 in Lewisham was **3.90%**. Lewisham primary schools were in the top quartile and ranked 36th nationally. Lewisham's total absence has increased slightly since 2014 by **0.20%** but is still better than England, London and its statistical neighbours.

7.2 Absence in Secondary Schools (see Table B, Appendix 4)

¹ The data collected through the School Census is one-term retrospective; that is, the recording period relates to the preceding academic school term.

Total absence from secondary schools (authorised and unauthorised) for 2014/15 in Lewisham was **5.3%**. Lewisham secondary schools were in the second quartile and ranked 76th nationally. Lewisham's total absence has increased slightly since 2014 by **0.30%**, but in line with England though worse than all statistical neighbours apart from Enfield. Overall there has been a positive trend since 2008 and attendance has improved (similar with primary).

7.3 Absence in all Lewisham Schools

Total school absence (authorised and unauthorised) across all schools in Lewisham for 2014/15 was **4.5%**. Lewisham was ranked 48th and were in the second quartile. Total absence has increased from 2014 and is worse than London and England averages.

7.4 Persistent Absence in all Lewisham Schools

Total Persistent Absence from all schools in Lewisham is **4.10% (Table D)** for 2014/15. This puts Lewisham as rank 115 and in the bottom quartile. Only one statistical neighbour fares worse. This is worse than London and England averages. The secondary Persistent Absence rate in Lewisham is **6.10%**, worse than London and England averages (**Table E**). The Primary Persistent Absence rate in Lewisham is **2.50%** and worse than London and England averages (**Table F**).

7.5 Summary of main findings from Lewisham data 2014/2015

- **11.2%** of primary phase pupil overall absence is coded as having “no reason yet” compared to **1.4%** nationally.
- Illness is under-represented as a reason code (**58.7%** in Lewisham compared to **68.3%** nationally).
- At secondary phase, illness was recorded as the reason for absence for **45.9%** of missed sessions compared to **60.9%** nationally.
- Lewisham has a higher proportionate overall absence for “other authorised” (**9.0%** to **5.9%**) “no reason yet” (**8.9%** to **2.0%**) and “other authorised” (**22%** to **17%**).
- Schools at primary and secondary phase record up to **51%** of absence sessions as “other unauthorised” (the national average is **17%**).
- Three in four persistent absentees reside in super-output areas in the bottom three deciles for deprivation nationally (source IDACI 2015) i.e. the most deprived areas.
- Seven in 10 persistent absentees were eligible for free school meals at some point in the last six years (the figure is **42%** cross-phase for overall absence).
- At secondary phase White British students in Lewisham have almost double the level of persistent absence as White British students nationally (**11.3%** v **6.0%**).
- Mixed White and Black Caribbean students have high persistent absence relative to the national average for this group (**10.8%** v **8.3%**).
- One in five secondary school persistent absentees were also excluded from school in autumn and spring term 2014/15.
- One in four (**27%**) sessions missed by secondary school persistent absentees were due to illness compared to 55% of sessions for students beneath the persistent absence threshold.
- Half of secondary school persistent absentees were in Year 10 or 11.

7.6 Pupil absence at the Lewisham PRU was worse than national for 2014/15. The First Statistical Release 2014-2015 shows overall absence at **36%** which is worse national at **31.5%** and London at **27.4%**. The PRU has worked successfully to improve attendance subsequent to the data release.
(Terminology and factors affecting attendance can be found in Appendix 5)

8. Lewisham's model of attendance intervention

8.1 **Statutory local authority attendance, enforcement and safeguarding for all Lewisham local authority maintained schools and academies**

This work is funded from General Fund and includes tracking and preventing Children Missing Education, enforcing and licensing Child Employment and Performance, the administration of Penalty Notices and the investigation and implementation of statutory attendance enforcement. It also includes a register check at each school on an annual basis.

8.2 **The Attendance Welfare and Inclusion Service – support to schools**

Currently the Service supports Lewisham schools through a Service Level Agreement and Traded Service where schools purchase attendance support depending upon the needs of their school. The Lewisham Model of Attendance Intervention has been devised to deliver attendance support to schools.



Lewisham's Model of attendance intervention support to schools is replicated in this three stage single framework. This enables the local authority to provide a service to schools and academies to help support our vulnerable children and improve overall attendance, achievement and attainment. In 2015/16 66 Lewisham schools have purchased Service Level Agreement attendance support from the Attendance Welfare and Inclusion Service.

8.3 **Lewisham's model of attendance intervention: Traded service to local schools and academies**

When a school purchases the service an Attendance Welfare Officer is appointed to identify how the school can effectively to address attendance and punctuality concerns. An action plan would then be agreed and reviewed on a termly basis to meet the needs of the school during the academic year.

Stage 1 – (universal): early intervention and whole school support strategies.

Stage 2 - (targeted): early attendance support for individual pupils and families - attendance level is between 80% and 90% over a 12 week period.

Stage 3 – (specialist): legal intervention (statutory functions – no charge).

8.4 **Network meetings primary and secondary Attendance Leads**

These meetings with school attendance staff are coordinated and led by the Attendance Welfare and Inclusion Service and are held every term (six times a year). There are Terms of Reference for both secondary and primary. These meetings are very well attended and valued. This year the meetings have covered:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lewisham Model of Staged Attendance Intervention▪ Legal Processes and Penalty Notices▪ Updating guidance and protocols▪ Children Missing Education▪ Attendance Audits▪ Review of Service Level Agreement▪ Children affected by Parental Imprisonment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Managing school attendance▪ Registration and Absence management▪ Temporary Housing▪ Opportunities to ask questions and raise concerns▪ Networking
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8.5 **Attendance audits – all schools**

All schools in Lewisham have been offered an attendance audit. This was undertaken in December 2015 to ensure that schools were complying with legal requirements and statutory advice on keeping admission registers and the attendance register. This has been carried out in all Secondary Schools. The Primary audits are being completed in the summer term 2016.

8.6 The feedback has been positive and schools have found the audit process helpful and supportive. Action plans have been devised following the audits and these will be reviewed with the school and further support offered if necessary. Overall there is evidence of very good practice in schools in a number of areas. The audits have also picked up common areas for improvement.

- Induction programmes for Year 7 and visits to primary schools are helpful to ensure a positive and smooth transition.
- Good practice in closing of registers and monitoring lateness.
- Evidence of a good understanding of processes.
- Efforts made to track children at risk of missing education.
- Implementation of revised processes and systems following more detailed analysis of attendance data.
- Evidence of robust first day calling systems.
- In year admissions – induction meetings.
- Medical absences are high and a challenge for some schools.
- Information about the pupil was varied with some gaps.
- Live register not always used for evacuation procedures.
- Some excluded pupils not recorded accurately.
- Use of DfE codes not always accurately used in particular for pupils educated off site.
- Some schools do not undertake a regular enough analysis of vulnerable groups in relation to attendance and take action.

8.7 Revised and additional guidance for schools

All schools in Lewisham have been issued with revised guidance for a number of areas:

- Attendance Guidance and Procedures for Schools.
- Lewisham Penalty Notice Code of Conduct.
- Children Missing Education Policy and Off Rolling Guidance for Education Providers.

8.8 Children Missing Education (CME)

The Attendance Welfare and Inclusion Service is responsible for the local authority's statutory work in relation to Children Missing Education. Meeting legislative guidance, the team has systems to enable us to establish the identities of children of statutory school age in our borough, as far as it is possible to do so, who are not registered pupils at a school, and are not receiving "suitable education" otherwise than at a school. The team has **robust procedures** and **policies** in place to enable us to meet our duty in relation to these children; has a named person to whom schools and other agencies can make referrals; undertakes regular reviews and evaluates our processes to ensure that these continue to be fit for purpose in identifying and dealing with CME in Lewisham.

8.9 The Department for Education (DfE) defines CME as:

"a child of compulsory school age who is not on a school roll, nor being educated otherwise (e.g. privately or in alternative provision) and who has been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time (usually four weeks or more)".

8.10 Lewisham CME Headlines (data collected locally)

- Referrals 14/15 – 422.
- Referrals 15/16 – 265 (part year).
- Autumn term being the highest term for referrals.
- 70% of referrals from the local authority.
- Highest referral category is those who have stopped attending school – 30%; 25% next highest referral – new to Lewisham.
- Same number of referrals for females as for males.
- 20% of referrals were for year 1 pupils - over half of these failed to start primary at primary transfer stage.
- Over 50% of year 7 referrals were for pupils who failed to start school at secondary transfer.

8.11 Lewisham CME Outcomes

- 90% of children have a positive outcome in that local authority gains proof of their location and steps are taken to ensure that they access education.
- 50% of pupils are placed on a school role either in Lewisham or out of the Borough.
- For 5% there is an indication that they have moved abroad (such as notes on Council Tax system, or verbal account from extended family member) although no written proof.
- The local authority has been unable to locate 5% of pupils referred despite implementing our checks – database, discussion with other agencies, home visit and letters.

8.12 Key actions

Implement a programme to improve levels of attendance of children and young people in Lewisham and attending Lewisham Alternative Provision.

8.13 What is already happening to improve attendance in Lewisham (since September 2015)

- There is an established Children Missing Education Monitoring Board.
- Termly Primary and Secondary Network Leads Meetings taking place - discussing a variety of topics.
- The local authority hosted the Attendance Conference, February 2016 to consider strategies to improve attendance within Lewisham schools and Alternative Provision settings.
- Secondary Register Audits have been completed
- Complex Cases Panel has been established to take a multi agency approach to the most challenging cases.
- Children Missing Education Lunchtime Briefings as part of the LSCB training programme.
- Revised Code of Conduct September 2015 to make it more user friendly and for schools to consider the use of a Penalty Notice or Warning as an early intervention school without having to make a formal request to the Service.
- Attendance Guidance and Procedures for Lewisham Schools - issued in July 2015.
- Revised Children Missing Education Policy and Off Rolling Guidance - issued in July 2015.
- Attendance Guidance and Procedures for Lewisham Schools - issued summer 2015.
- Attendance at Abbey Manor College has increased by 11.1% since 2014/15 and 20% in comparison to the same point in 2013/14. Also persistent absence has reduced from 25 pupils to eight in since the beginning of the academic year (2015/16). This is a significant improvement.

8.14 Further actions already planned for 2016/17

- Primary register audits (this term, some already completed).
- Follow up on actions from the Attendance Conference and developing a Lewisham Framework.
- Extend the best practice of the Virtual School and the use of Welfare Call to monitor attendance as our looked after children mainly have better attendance than their peers.
- Devise and implement a Lewisham Coding Guidance document that also can be applied to children and young people who are educated in Alternative Provision.
- Embed and implement the Lewisham Staged Model of Attendance Intervention so that schools are clearer about pathways.
- Deliver a training programme for Attendance Leads in Lewisham.
- Ensure that schools are fully aware of their statutory responsibilities in respect of monitoring the attendance of children who are on their roll but are in Alternative Provision.
- Implement the role of the Safeguarding in Education Coordinator in the CYP department to ensure that the local authority's obligations regarding safeguarding in education and alternative provision settings are being fulfilled and risk is reduced.
- Learn about good practice within other local authorities.

9. Exclusions (fixed and permanent) and reintegration

9.1 What are exclusions? The definitions

There are two types of exclusion – fixed period (suspended) and permanent (expelled). Lewisham schools are responsible for providing high-quality education provision for all children on their roll. Where it is necessary to exclude a child or young person for a fixed period, schools should set and benchmark work for the first five school days.

A fixed period exclusion is where a child or young person is temporarily removed from school. If the exclusion is longer than five school days, the school is responsible for arranging full-time education from the sixth school day onwards. The child can only be removed for up to 45 school days in one academic year.

Schools also have the authority to direct children and young people to off-site provisions for reasons of behaviour, or to provide alternative education to meet specific needs. The placement must be kept under evaluation and involve parents/carers and the children and young people in the assessment of his/her educational needs.

9.2 Fixed term exclusions and how does Lewisham compare?

- Lewisham overall fixed term exclusions at **3.72%** were worse than its statistical neighbours (**3.55%**), London (**2.9% and rank at 28**) and England averages (**3.5%**) for 2014/15.
- In particular secondary fixed term exclusions were at **7.9%** for 2014/15, which were worse than its statistical neighbours (**7.45%**), London (**5.94% and rank at 28**) and England averages **6.2%**).
- The primary fixed term exclusions have reduced and were at **0.91%**, better than its statistical neighbours (**0.97%**) and England averages (**1.02%**), **but below** London (**0.68% and rank at 26**) for 2014/15. **(See Appendix 4: Tables G,H & I).**

9.3 Permanent Exclusions and how does Lewisham compare?

Permanent exclusion means that a pupil is expelled. The local authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for all permanently excluded pupils. This means that the local authority must arrange full-time education from the sixth school day onwards. In Lewisham Abbey Manor College generally provides an alternative education for children and young people who are permanently excluded.

9.4 During the school academic year 2014/15 62 pupils were excluded from Lewisham schools and so far in 2015/16 it is currently 77 pupils. Pupils were excluded for a variety of reasons, such as carrying offensive weapons, disruptive and violent behaviour and bringing banned substances on to school premises.

9.5 Lewisham overall permanent exclusions:

- Were at **0.13%** were worse than its statistical neighbours (**0.07%**), London (**0.07%**) and England averages (**0.06%**) for 2014/15.
- Primary permanent exclusions have remained at 0% since 2008.
- However secondary permanent exclusions were at **0.38%**, which were worse than its statistical neighbours (**0.16%**), London (**0.15%**) and England averages (**0.13%**) for 2014/15. **(See Appendix 4: Tables J,K & L).**

9.6 Exclusions by gender

Generally more boys are more likely to be excluded than girls; this is consistent over time.

Gender	Exclusion 2014/15	Exclusion 2013/14	Exclusion 2012/13	Exclusion 2011/12
Male	50	45	32	22
Female	12	17	9	8
Total	62	62	41	30

9.7 Exclusion by year group

Most of the exclusions for 2014/15 came from Year 9 pupils and this seems to be a consistent with previous years.

Year group	Exclusion 2014/15	Exclusion 2013/14	Exclusion 2012/13	Exclusion 2011/12
Year 5	0	0	1	1
Year 7	10	8	5	2
Year 8	10	12	8	8
Year 9	17	21	11	5
Year 10	13	12	10	11
Year 11	12	9	6	3
Total	62	62	41	30

9.8 Exclusion by ethnicity

The majority of exclusions affect Black British/Black Caribbean pupils, Black African. There is an increase in the number of White British pupils excluded last academic year compared with previous years.

Ethnicity	Exclusion 2014/15	Exclusion 2013/14	Exclusion 2012/13	Exclusion 2011/12
Any other Black background	1	4	0	4
Any other Ethnicity given	1	0	0	1
Any other Mixed background	2	0	0	4
Any other white background	0	0	13	2
Black African	8	17	3	4
Black British/Black Caribbean	20	19	12	8
Information not available	3	3	3	2
Mixed White/Black African		3	3	0
Mixed White/Black Caribbean	8	4	3	0
Not Known	0	1	0	0
Pakistani	0	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	0	0
White British	15	11	4	5

9.9 Exclusion reasons

The main reason for exclusion continues to be is “**Persistent Disruptive Behaviour**” 21 pupils were excluded for this reason last year:

9.9.1 **Persistent Disruptive Behaviour**

Most of these pupils will have ASD/ADHD/Behavioural difficulties/Additional needs that have not met the threshold for an EHC Plan/statement. Schools are resourced to support students with Additional Needs but whilst schools offer support they for one reason or another find that they can no longer manage the child in the school. These pupils in KS3 often have gone on to access education at Abbey Manor College - John Evelyn where the smaller class sizes and building make this a more suitable environment for their learning, however there is an increasing pressure on these placements.

9.9.2 **Weapon/Knife Crime***

In 2014/15 Lewisham had a total of **14** Exclusions for Weapon/Knife Crime.

- **Eight** specifically mention exclusions for pupils bringing a knife into school.
- **Six** Exclusions for pupils bringing a weapon into school, where it has not been described as a knife but as an object to cause damage if used as a weapon.

Exclusion 2014/15	Exclusion 2013/14	Exclusion 2012/13	Exclusion 2011/12
14	16*	7*	5*
* Possible weapon knife crime previously recorded as Other.			

9.10 **Children Looked After (CLA) and low rates of exclusions**

The term 'Looked After' was introduced by the Children Act 1989 and refers to children and young people:

- under the age of 18
- who live apart from their parents or family
- who are supervised by a social worker from the local council children’s services department.

Presently, there are just under 500 Children Looked After registered within Lewisham. In order to support these Children Looked After, a Virtual School (VS) model has been adopted by Lewisham. The Virtual School is an organisational tool to enable effective coordination of educational services for Children Looked After at a strategic and operational level. The Virtual School does not exist in real terms as a building, and children do not attend; they remain the responsibility of the school at which they are enrolled. The Virtual School in Lewisham is specifically geared up to avoid exclusions and support attendance at school. Welfare Call contacts every school that has a Children Looked After on roll every day to ascertain if they are in school. The Virtual School also contacts Alternative Provision where appropriate. The ‘Welfare Call’ data is managed in real time by a specialist attendance officer.

The following information relating to exclusion rates places Children Looked After and the Virtual School in a very favourable position:

- Educated in Alternative Provision – 4.6%

- Temporary exclusions – 33 pupils: a total of 174 days (3 pupils at 7 days)
- Permanent exclusions – 0%
- Children missing in education – 0%

This low exclusion rate has been achieved by the Virtual School ensuring that the local authority is immediately aware of any fixed-term exclusion. The local authority is then able to instantly intervene and support the school in managing the behaviour and thus avoid further permanent exclusions. This support may include accessing immediate or temporary Alternative Provision where appropriate at day one after a six day fixed term exclusion.

9.11 **Alternative education and exclusion**

A school must tell parents/carers about any alternative education they or the local authority arrange. It is then the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure their child attends. The information provided to help parents comply with the legislation indicates they should: *'... contact the school (for fixed period exclusions) or the local council (for permanent exclusions) if they haven't arranged anything after five days, or if you have a complaint about the education²'.*

our current data does not show any complaints received from parents/carers about children and young people who have had fixed-term exclusions and have not had provision after five days.

- 9.12 Information gathered by local authority officers attending Governor Discipline Committee meetings highlighted that not all schools are sending work home for excluded pupils. Parents/carers have also raised this as an issue. Additionally, parents/carers voiced concerns about a lack of information received following exclusion and the time taken to be contacted by Abbey Manor College. Measures have since been taken by the local authority to address these concerns.

10. **Key actions to reduce exclusions**

- 10.1 Last year officers in Lewisham took action to understand the reasons for high levels of exclusions (particularly in secondary schools). Between October 2015 and April 2016, the London Borough of Lewisham Children and Young People Directorate engaged an external educational consultant to work with local authority officers and collaborate with key stakeholders to undertake a review of the existing strategy, structures and systems for Alternative Provision at all Key Stages.

This involved a series of information and data-gathering activities, including an in-depth review of Abbey Manor College (along with the Hospital School and Medical Programme that Abbey Manor College manages), New Woodlands School and its behaviour Outreach Team.

² Draft Policy and Protocols for Pupils Out of School FAP Lewisham Borough

The Alternative Provision Review evaluated and interpreted a wide range of performance indicators and analysed data from the main agencies and services that support children and young people in Alternative Provision settings.

10.2 This review has identified ten key findings and ten key recommendations for action. All are relevant to this report, but the first three actions are particularly pertinent:

- Key Action 1: Implement a programme to reduce the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions from Lewisham secondary schools.
- Key Action 2: Implement a programme to increase the number of children and young people who are re-integrated back in to Lewisham Schools.
- Key Action 3: Implement a programme to improve levels of attendance of children and young people attending Lewisham Alternative Provision.

10.3 Further details about these key actions include and what the local authority is already doing to reduce exclusions can be found in section 7 of the Lewisham Alternative Provision Review: 'Ensuring the best and most inclusive provision for every learner' Report also scheduled for discussion at CYP Select Committee on 8 June 2016.

11. Financial implications

11.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

11.2 The cost of the attendance and welfare service is met by schools through a traded service with a contribution of £359k from the Council's general fund for statutory work of this service.

11.3 The remaining costs are met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

12. Legal implications

12.1 There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report.

13. Crime and Disorder Implications

13.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

14. Environmental Implication

14.1 There are no environmental implications.

For further information please contact Ruth Griffiths, Service Manager – Access, Inclusion and Participation on 020 8314 3499

Appendix 1: Legislation in relation to school attendance

These requirements are contained in:

- The Education Act 1996 - sections 434(1)(3)(4)&(6) and 458(4)&(5)
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

Education Act 1996 - Parental Duty (S.7): *“The parent of every child of compulsory school age³ shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, and any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence. The term ‘parent’ includes those who have parental responsibility for, or care of, a child.”*

Under Section 576 - Parents/Carers: The term parent refers to either one/both parents or the child’s carer. **S.576** defines parent to include:

- All natural parents whether they are married or not.
- Any person who although not a natural parent has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person whom although not a natural parent ‘has care’ of a child or young person.

Under section 444 - prosecution for irregular Attendance: If a pupil fails to attend school regularly, the local authority can prosecute a parent unless the parent can prove that one of the statutory defences apply.

Under sections 437- 443 - School Attendance Order: The local authority must serve a School Attendance Order on the parent of a child who fails to prove the child is receiving suitable education where the local authority believes that the child should attend school. Failure to comply with a School Attendance Order is an offence unless the parent can prove that the child is receiving suitable education outside of school.

Children Act 1989 - Education Supervision Order (Section 36): An Education Supervision Order makes the local authority responsible for educating a child of compulsory school age. Local authorities may apply for an Education Supervision Order instead of, or as well as, prosecuting parents for poor attendance.

Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006: These regulations govern the creation and administration of the admission and attendance registers. They contain details relating to:

- Putting pupils on the admission and attendance register on the expected/agreed date the pupil should start.

³ Compulsory school age is defined as the start of the term commencing on or after a child’s fifth birthday, until the last Friday in June in the school year that they reach their sixteenth birthday.

- The information that must be obtained and recorded about a pupil and their parents/carers.
- When schools should take the register and recording of absence/attendance.
- The criteria that permits a school to remove a registered pupil from their roll.
- The circumstances in which a school must notify the local authority of nonattendance or the removal of a pupil from roll.
- The preservation of registers.

Under the Education and Inspections Act 2008 (Sections 103, 104 and 105): Any parent of any pupil found in a public place whilst excluded from school in the first 5 days of any exclusion may be issued with a Penalty Notice or be prosecuted. The Lewisham Council Code of Conduct on the issuing of Penalty Notices sets out the arrangements for implementing this in Lewisham.

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003: Section 19 relates to the making of Parenting Contracts for **exclusion from school** or **poor attendance**. Section 20 refers to the use of Parenting Orders in relation to exclusion from school or poor attendance. Section 23 refers to the use of Penalty Notices for poor attendance (see Lewisham's Penalty Notice Code of Conduct (Attendance)).

Under Children and Young Persons Act 1993: This deals with child employment and child health and safety. Any employer of a child of compulsory school age must ensure that they have a work permit which legally entitles them to work. An employer may be prosecuted for employing children and young people illegally (see Lewisham's Child Employment details etc).

Under the Children (Performance) Regulations 1968 and Child and Young Person's Act 1963: The licensing for children employed in entertainment and the licensing of Chaperones. All children from birth until they cease to be of compulsory school age must be licensed to performance. The law states the hours children may work and when they may do this.

Government Guidance: The recently issued by the Department for Education (DfE) revised statutory guidance on School Attendance Departmental advice for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities. October 2014 gives education providers clear guidance about their responsibility in regards to school attendance. It says:

"pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

The government expects:

- *Schools and local authorities to:*
- *Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence;*
- *Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled; and,*
- *act early to address patterns of absence.*
- *Parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.*

- *All pupils to be punctual to their lessons”*

“If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly at a school at which they are registered or at a place where alternative provision is provided for them the parents may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the local authority. Only Local authorities can prosecute parents and they must fund all associated costs. Local authorities should consider the Attorney General’s Guidelines for Crown Prosecutors in all prosecution cases. Local authorities must conduct all investigations in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984.....”⁴

Appendix 2: Legislation in relation to exclusions (fixed and permanent)

⁴ Advice on School Attendance, Department for Education, March 2013, p17

The principal legislation for exclusions is:

- The Education Act 2002, as amended by the Education Act 2011;
- The School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012;
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006; and
- The Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) (England) Regulations 2007.

The decision to exclude a pupil must be lawful, reasonable and fair. Schools have a statutory duty not to discriminate against pupils on the basis of protected characteristics, such as disability or race. Schools should give particular consideration to the fair treatment of pupils from groups who are vulnerable to exclusion.

Only the Headteacher of a school can exclude a pupil and this must be on disciplinary grounds. A pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods (up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year), or permanently. A fixed period exclusion does not have to be for a continuous period. In exceptional cases, usually where further evidence has come to light, a fixed period exclusion may be extended or converted to a permanent exclusion.

Schools should have a strategy for reintegrating pupils that return to school following a fixed period exclusion, and for managing their future behaviour.

All children have a right to an education. Schools should take reasonable steps to set and mark work for pupils during the first five school days of exclusion, and alternative provision must be arranged from the sixth day. There are obvious benefits in arranging alternative provision to begin as soon as possible after exclusion.

Where parents (or excluded pupil, if aged 18 or over) dispute the decision of a governing body not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil, they can ask for this decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel. Where there is an allegation of discrimination (under the Equality Act 2010) in relation to a fixed-period or permanent exclusion, parents can also make a claim to the First-tier Tribunal (for disability discrimination) or a County Court (for other forms of discrimination).

An independent review panel does not have the power to direct a governing body to reinstate an excluded pupil. However, where a panel decides that a governing body's decision is flawed when considered in the light of the principles applicable on an application for judicial review, it can direct a governing body to reconsider its decision. If the governing body does not subsequently offer to reinstate a pupil, the panel will be expected to order that the school makes an additional payment of £4,000. This payment will go to the local authority towards the costs of providing alternative provision.

Whether or not a school recognises that a pupil has special educational needs (SEN), all parents (or pupils if aged 18 or over) have the right to request the presence of a SEN expert at an independent review panel. The SEN expert's role is to provide impartial advice to the

panel about how SEN could be relevant to the exclusion; for example, whether the school acted reasonably in relation to its legal duties when excluding the pupil.

Reason for increase

Increase in overall absence is driven by an increase in illness, whilst levels of absence of other reasons are relatively unchanged. Absence due to illness has increased from **2.6%** in 2013/14 to **2.8%** in 2014/15. Illness remains the most common reason for absence accounting for **60.1%** of all absences and heavily influences overall absence rates.

Persistent absence

Pupils are identified as persistent absentees by comparing the number of overall absence session they have against a standard threshold of 15% (old threshold) of possible sessions, equating to 56 or more sessions across the full academic year and 46 or more sessions across the full academic year for pupils aged 15.

The percentage of pupils are persistently absent has increased slightly and the percentage across state-funded primary and secondary schools has increased from **3.6%** in 2013/14 to **3.7%** in 2014/15. Persistent absence rates have followed a general downward trend since 2010/11.

From the beginning of academic year 2015/16 the DfE reduced the persistent absence threshold from **15%** to **10%**. Therefore a pupil is considered to have persistent absence if their attendance falls below **90%**.

The percentage of pupil enrolments who are persistent absentees has increased slightly. For primary schools, secondary schools and special schools the percentage of pupils who are persistently absentees has increased from **3.6%** in 2013/14 to **3.7%** in 2014/15.

Persistent absentees accounted for around a fifth of all absence. In 2014/15 persistent absentees accounted for **20.2%** of all absence compared to **19.9%** in 2013/14. Longer term, that has been a decreased in the proportion of absence that persistent absentees account for – down from **26.6%** in 2010/2011.

Absence rates for persistent absentees are considerably higher than for all pupils. The overall absence rate for persistent absentees across all schools was **25.9%** over five times higher than the rate for all pupils. This is a slight decrease from 2013/14 when the overall absence rate for persistent absentees was **26%**.

Reasons for persistent absence

Illness (not medical or dental appointments) accounted for **60.1%** of all absence compared to **57.9%** in 2013/14. **2.8%** of all possible sessions were missed through illness compared to **2.6%** in 2013/14.

In 2014.15 82.7% of pupil enrolments had missed at least one session due to illness, an increase from 80.6% in 2013/14.

Term time leave (family holidays authorised and unauthorised) accounted for **7.5%** of all absences in 2014/15 compared to **8.5%** in 2013/14. The percentage of all possible

sessions missed due to all term time leave decreased slightly from **0.4%** to **0.3%** between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Distribution of absence

- Nearly half of pupils were absent for five days or fewer.
- 48.8% of pupil enrolments across state-funded primary, secondary and special schools had five or fewer days of absence in 2014/15 down from 50.6% in 2013/14.
- 4.4% of pupil enrolments had more than 25 days of absence in 2014/15. These pupils enrolments accounted for 22.6% of days missed.
- Pupils in primary school miss fewer days on average. Per pupil enrolment the average total absence in primary schools was 7.2 days. This compares to 16.3 days in special schools and 9.2 in secondary schools.

Absence by pupil characteristics

The findings have been broadly consistent across recent years, with slight changes in rates reflecting changes in overall absence rates.

Absence levels for FSM pupils are higher than the national average. The overall absence rates for pupils who are known to eligible for and claiming free school meals was **7%** compared to **4.1%** for non FSM pupils. The percentage of FSM eligible pupils that were persistent absentees was **8.9%** compared to **2.7%** of pupil enrolments that were not eligible for FSM.

Absence rates are highest in Year 11. Pupils in national curriculum Year 11 have the highest overall absence rates at **6.2%**. Pupils in national curriculum Year Groups 3,4 and 6 have the lowest overall absence rates at **3.9%**.

Absence levels for SEN pupils are higher than the national average. Pupils with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) and pupils with an education health care plan (EHCP) had an overall absence rate of **7.7%** compared to **4.2%** for those with no identified SEN.

The percentage of pupils with a statement of SEN or an EHCP that are persistent absentees is at **11.6%** four times higher than the percentage for pupils with no identified SEN. Due to SEN reforms, figures for 2014/15 are not directly comparable to earlier years.

Absence rates for Traveller of Irish Heritage and Gypsy/Roma pupils⁵ are higher than any other pupil ethnic group. The highest overall absence rates were seen for this group of pupils who had rates of **18.1%** and **13.2%** respectively. Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils had the largest decrease in overall absence rates since the same period last year compared to other ethnic groups of **1.1%** points.

Overall absence rates for pupils of a Chinese and Black African ethnicity were substantially lower than the national average of **4.6%** at **2.6%** and **2.9%** respectively.

⁵ Note the number of Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils is much lower than in other ethnic groups.

A similar pattern is seen in persistent absence rates, Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils have the highest rate at 35.2% and Chinese pupils have the lowest at **0.7%**.

Overall absence rates in the most deprived areas are higher than in the least deprived areas. The rate of overall absence for pupils living in the most deprived areas **5.6%** was **1.6%** time higher than for pupils living in the least deprived areas **3.5%**. The persistent absence rates for pupils living in the most deprived areas (**5.8%**) is over three times higher than the percentage for pupils living in the least deprived areas (**1.7%**).

Overall absence rates for pupil referral units in 2014/15 was **31.5%**, down from **31.9%** in 2013/14. The percentage of enrolments in pupil referral units who are persistent absentees was **38.3%** in 2014/15 down from **37.6%** in 2013/14.

Excluded pupils should be enabled and encouraged to participate at all stages of the exclusion process, taking into account their age and understanding.

An independent review panel does not have the power to direct a governing body to reinstate an excluded pupil. However, where a panel decides that a governing body's decision is flawed when considered in the light of the principles applicable on an application for judicial review, it can direct a governing body to reconsider its decision. If the governing body does not subsequently offer to reinstate a pupil, the panel will be expected to order that the school makes an additional payment of £4,000. This payment will go to the local authority towards the costs of providing alternative provision.

Appendix 4:

Table A shows Lewisham Absence in Primary Schools

Lewisham - Statistical Neighbour View											
Change Authority		Topic				Indicator					
Total absence from Primary Schools - authorised and unauthorised - (inc State funded Schools only from 2011)											
Statistical Neighbours		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
203	Greenwich	6.73	5.74	5.69	5.26	4.97	4.80	4.10	4.10	3.60	3.80
209	Lewisham	6.01	4.95	5.34	5.28	5.04	4.80	4.20	4.10	3.70	3.90
208	Lambeth	6.40	5.76	6.03	5.65	5.15	5.00	4.10	4.30	3.80	3.90
210	Southwark	6.21	5.41	5.73	5.50	5.36	5.30	4.50	4.50	3.70	3.90
204	Hackney	6.45	5.64	5.66	5.37	5.26	5.20	4.30	4.30	3.90	4.00
304	Brent	6.29	5.75	6.28	5.99	5.76	5.40	4.50	4.40	3.90	4.00
306	Croydon	6.46	5.89	5.87	5.70	5.69	5.00	4.40	4.50	3.80	4.10
320	Waltham Forest	6.21	5.33	5.73	5.54	5.50	5.30	4.40	4.50	4.00	4.10
309	Haringey	6.62	5.66	5.85	5.76	5.62	5.50	4.60	4.80	4.30	4.20
206	Islington	7.25	6.28	6.25	6.10	5.62	5.60	4.70	4.90	4.10	4.30
308	Enfield	6.20	5.27	5.51	5.43	5.24	5.10	4.40	4.60	4.50	4.50
Statistical Neighbours		6.48	5.67	5.86	5.63	5.42	5.22	4.40	4.49	3.96	4.08
970	England	5.76	5.18	5.26	5.30	5.21	5.00	4.40	4.70	3.90	4.00

Change Authority	Change from previous year	National Rank	Quartile Banding
209 Lewisham	0.20	36	A
996 London	0.20		
970 England	0.10		

The averages presented here are simple averages for the authorities listed (excluding the LA selected). They provide a simple comparator of the performance indicators without placing too much emphasis on any one Local Authority. Where data does not exist for an LA it is excluded from the mean calculation.

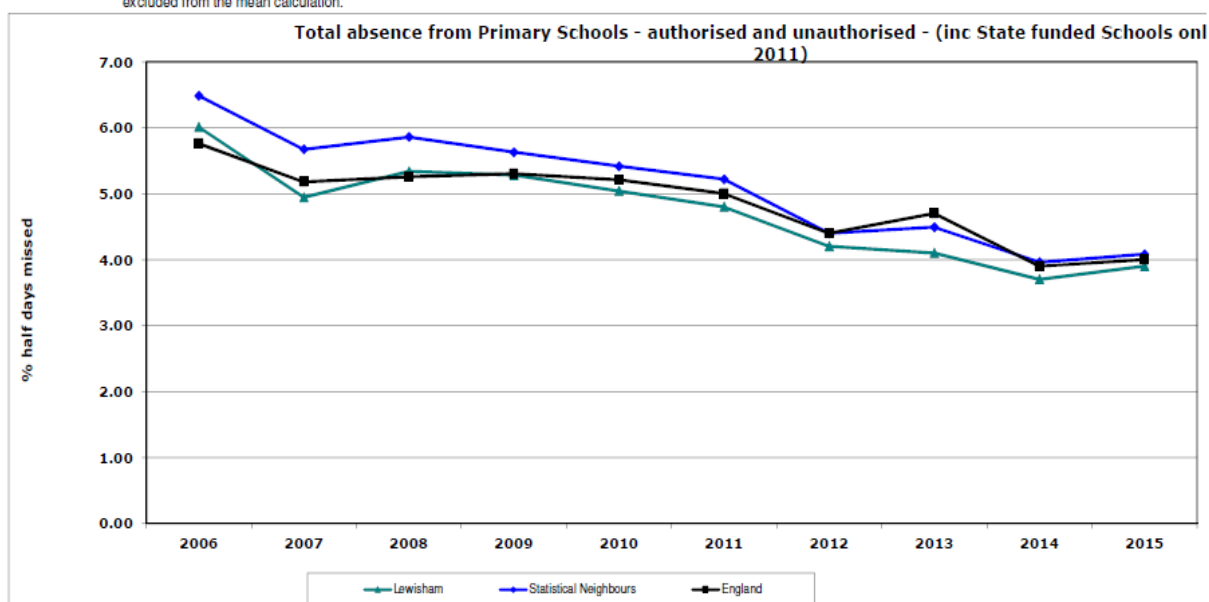


Table B shows Lewisham Absence in Secondary Schools

Lewisham - Statistical Neighbour View											
Change Authority	Topic	Indicator									
Total absence from Secondary Schools - authorised and unauthorised (inc. State Funded Schools only from 2010)											
Statistical Neighbours		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
204	Hackney	7.06	7.27	6.84	7.33	6.07	5.90	5.10	4.90	4.60	4.40
210	Southwark	9.16	8.90	7.07	6.46	6.45	6.10	5.30	5.10	4.30	4.40
208	Lambeth	6.95	7.46	6.91	6.96	6.39	6.10	5.40	4.90	4.60	4.70
306	Croydon	8.55	8.61	8.06	7.24	6.61	6.00	5.30	5.10	4.80	4.90
304	Brent	7.47	7.46	6.76	6.80	6.64	6.20	5.30	5.60	5.20	4.90
320	Waltham Forest	7.74	6.96	6.95	7.00	6.39	6.30	5.60	5.30	4.80	5.00
206	Islington	9.08	9.49	8.21	7.51	6.77	6.40	5.60	5.40	4.80	5.00
203	Greenwich	9.48	9.33	7.55	7.32	6.76	6.50	5.40	5.20	4.80	5.10
309	Haringey	8.88	7.71	7.34	7.34	7.01	6.50	5.40	5.30	4.90	5.20
209	Lewisham	8.39	8.44	7.70	7.49	6.78	6.50	5.50	5.30	5.00	5.30
308	Enfield	7.46	7.26	7.15	7.15	6.58	6.50	5.70	5.70	5.20	5.40
Statistical Neighbours		8.18	8.05	7.28	7.11	6.57	6.25	5.41	5.25	4.80	4.90
970	England	8.24	7.86	7.33	7.21	6.88	6.50	5.90	5.90	5.20	5.30

209	Lewisham	Trend	Change from previous year	National Rank	Quartile Banding
988	London	▲	0.30	76	B
970	England	▲	0.10		

The averages presented here are simple averages for the authorities listed (excluding the LA selected). They provide a simple comparator of the performance indicators without placing too much emphasis on any one Local Authority. Where data does not exist for an LA it is excluded from the mean calculation.

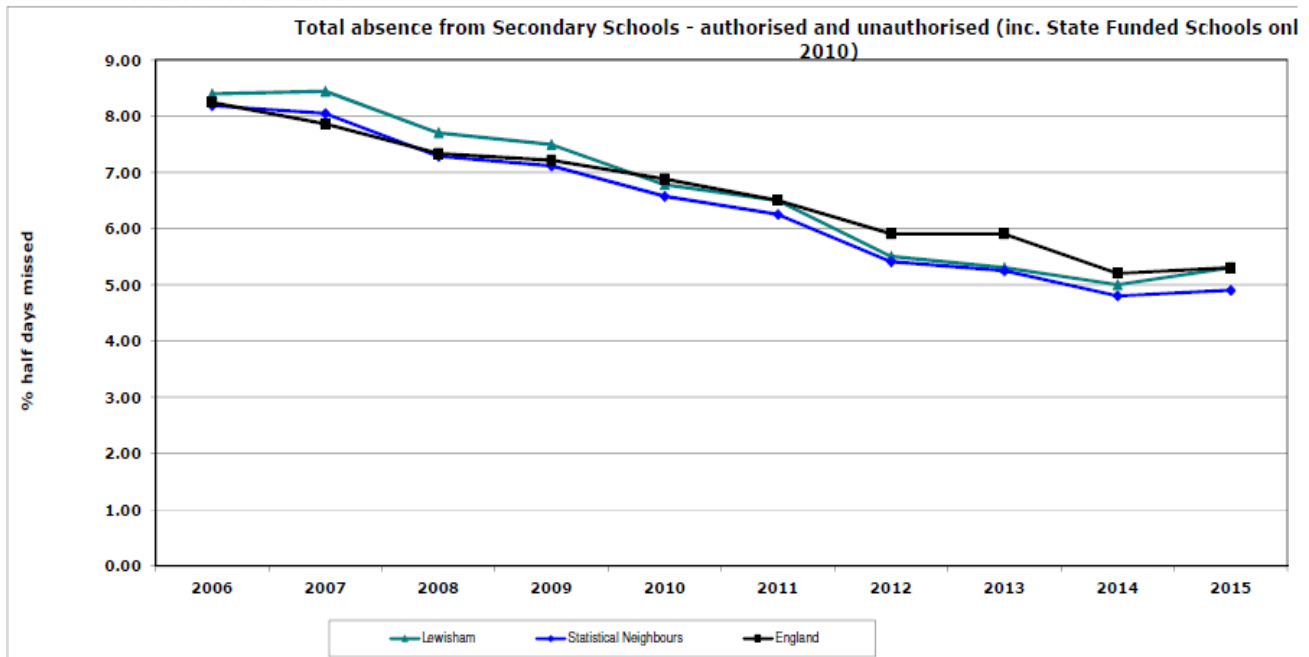


Table D: Persistent Absence in Lewisham Schools

Lewisham - Statistical Neighbour View

Change Authority Topic Indicator

State Funded Total persistent absence rates (New definition)

Statistical Neighbours		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
204	Hackney	5.80	4.30	3.40	3.00	2.90
304	Brent	5.70	4.20	3.70	3.10	3.10
210	Southwark	6.50	5.30	4.30	2.90	3.20
203	Greenwich	5.70	4.10	3.40	2.90	3.30
208	Lambeth	5.70	4.70	3.90	3.20	3.40
306	Croydon	5.60	4.40	3.90	3.10	3.40
320	Waltham Forest	6.00	4.80	3.70	3.10	3.40
206	Islington	6.90	5.60	4.70	3.10	3.40
309	Haringey	6.20	4.60	4.10	3.20	3.70
209	Lewisham	6.20	5.20	4.00	3.60	4.10
308	Enfield	6.10	5.10	4.70	3.90	4.20
Statistical Neighbours		6.02	4.71	3.98	3.15	3.40
970	England	6.10	5.20	4.60	3.60	3.70

Change Authority	Topic	Trend	Change from previous year	National Rank	Quartile Banding
209	Lewisham	▲	0.50	115	D
966	London	▲	0.20		
970	England	▲	0.10		

The averages presented here are simple averages for the authorities listed (excluding the LA selected). They provide a simple comparator of the performance indicators without placing too much emphasis on any one Local Authority. Where data does not exist for an LA it is excluded from the mean calculation.

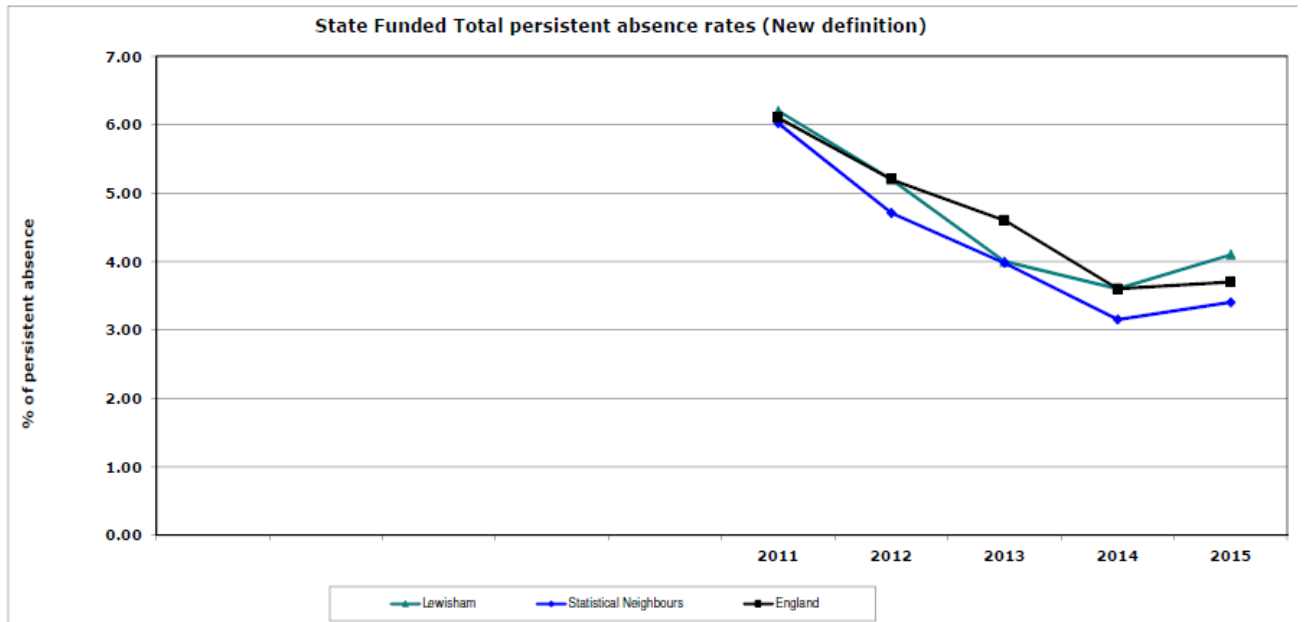


Table E shows Persistent Absence in Lewisham Secondary Schools

Lewisham - Statistical Neighbour View										
Change Authority	Topic	Indicator								
State Funded Secondary persistent absence rates (New definition)										
Statistical Neighbours										
		-	-	-	-	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
204	Hackney	-	-	-	-	7.80	5.60	4.50	4.10	3.70
210	Southwark	-	-	-	-	8.20	6.90	5.60	3.70	4.20
320	Waltham Forest	-	-	-	-	7.50	6.20	4.90	4.00	4.30
304	Brent	-	-	-	-	7.20	5.60	5.40	4.40	4.30
206	Islington	-	-	-	-	8.50	7.10	5.80	3.80	4.30
306	Croydon	-	-	-	-	6.90	5.90	5.00	4.60	4.40
208	Lambeth	-	-	-	-	7.40	6.80	5.20	4.10	4.60
203	Greenwich	-	-	-	-	8.90	6.00	5.10	4.40	5.20
309	Haringey	-	-	-	-	8.30	6.30	5.20	4.50	5.60
308	Enfield	-	-	-	-	8.30	6.90	6.30	5.10	5.60
209	Lewisham	-	-	-	-	9.00	7.30	5.60	5.40	6.10
Statistical Neighbours						7.90	6.33	5.30	4.27	4.62
970	England	-	-	-	-	8.40	7.40	6.50	5.30	5.40

	Trend	Change from previous year	National Rank	Quartile Banding
209 Lewisham	▲	0.70	116	D
986 London	◆	0.20		
970 England	▲	0.10		

The averages presented here are simple averages for the authorities listed (excluding the LA selected). They provide a simple comparator of the performance indicators without placing too much emphasis on any one Local Authority. Where data does not exist for an LA it is excluded from the mean calculation.

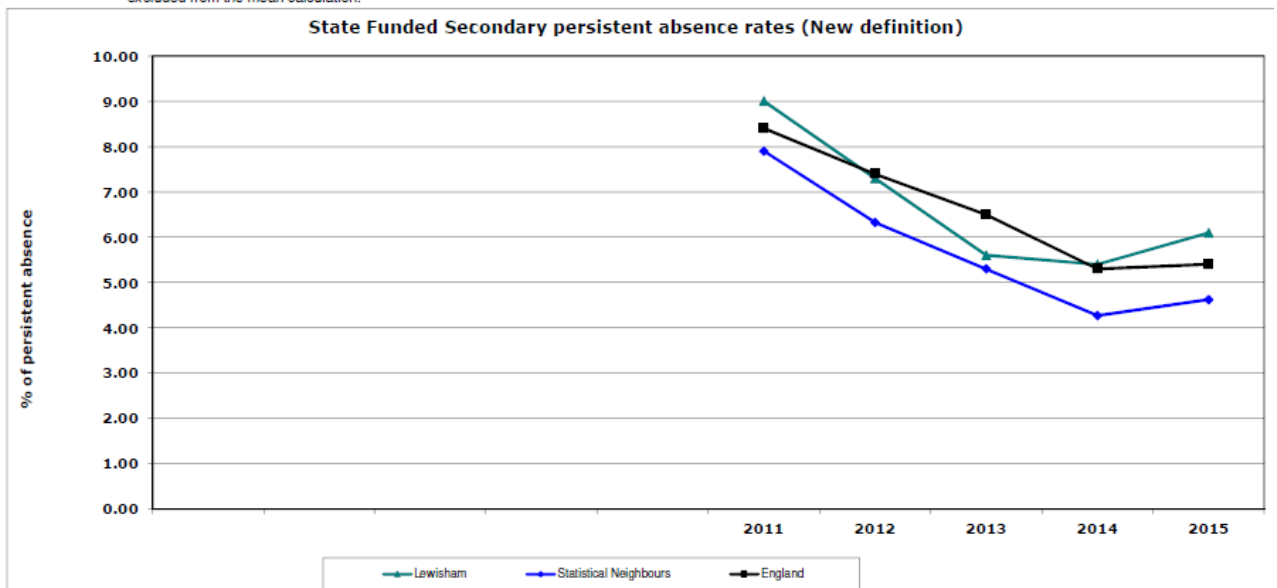


Table F shows Persistent Absence in Lewisham Primary Schools

Lewisham - Statistical Neighbour View										
Change Authority		Topic				Indicator				
State Funded Primary persistent absence rates (New definition)										
Statistical Neighbours										
						2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
203	Greenwich	-	-	-	-	3.30	2.60	2.20	1.80	1.80
304	Brent	-	-	-	-	4.40	3.10	2.40	1.90	2.00
204	Hackney	-	-	-	-	4.40	3.20	2.40	2.10	2.20
208	Lambeth	-	-	-	-	4.30	3.10	2.80	2.20	2.30
320	Waltham Forest	-	-	-	-	4.40	3.20	2.50	2.00	2.30
306	Croydon	-	-	-	-	4.20	3.10	2.90	2.00	2.40
309	Haringey	-	-	-	-	4.60	3.30	3.20	2.20	2.40
210	Southwark	-	-	-	-	5.00	3.90	3.20	2.00	2.40
209	Lewisham	-	-	-	-	3.70	3.30	2.50	2.10	2.50
206	Islington	-	-	-	-	5.40	4.10	3.70	2.30	2.50
308	Enfield	-	-	-	-	4.10	3.50	3.40	2.80	3.10
	Statistical Neighbours	-	-	-	-	4.41	3.31	2.87	2.13	2.34
970	England	-	-	-	-	3.90	3.10	2.70	1.90	2.10

209	Lewisham	Trend	Change from previous year	National Rank	Quantile Banding
966	London	▲	0.40	115	D
970	England	▲	0.20		

The averages presented here are simple averages for the authorities listed (excluding the LA selected). They provide a simple comparator of the performance indicators without placing too much emphasis on any one Local Authority. Where data does not exist for an LA it is excluded from the mean calculation.

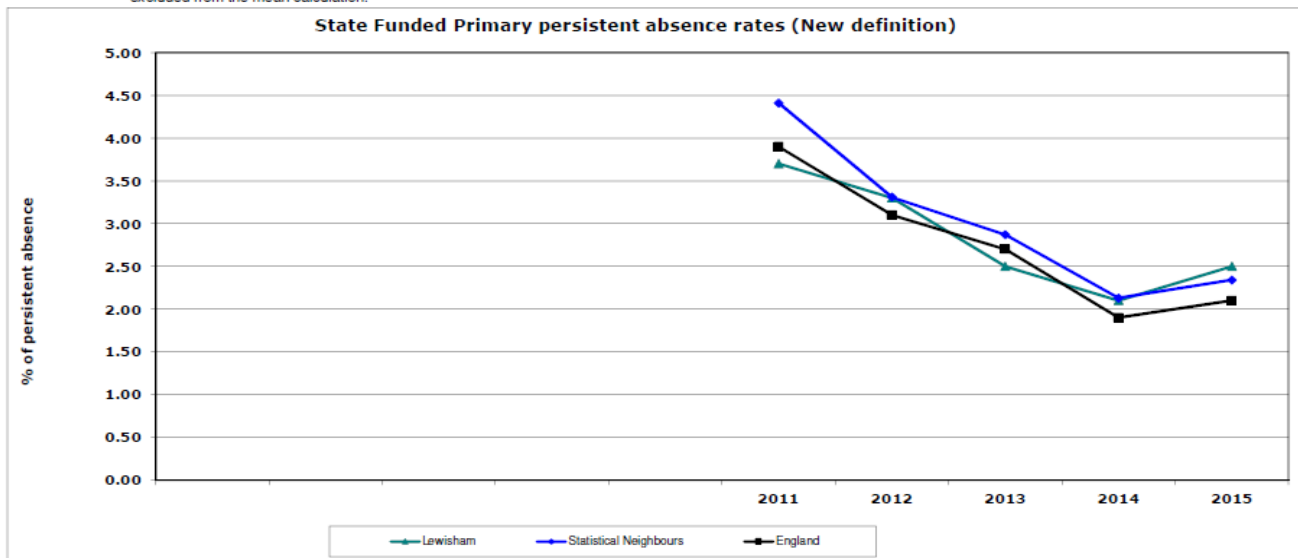


Table G shows % Total Fixed term exclusions

	% Total Fixed term exclusions							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lewisham	3.53	3.67	3.51	3.73	3.26	3.31	3.72	-
Stat. Neighbour	5.08	5.15	5.17	5.08	4.35	3.91	3.55	-
Stat. Neighbour Rank	3	2	2	1	1	3	8	-
London	4.49	4.34	4.05	4.02	3.57	3.13	2.91	-
London Rank	9	10	14	16	15	20	28	-
England	5.14	4.89	4.46	4.34	4.05	3.52	3.50	-
England Rank	25	30	43	58	42	71	101	-

Table H shows % Secondary Fixed Period Exclusions

	% Secondary Fixed Period Exclusions							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lewisham	6.10	5.48	7.35	8.27	6.85	7.07	7.90	-
Stat. Neighbour	10.13	10.62	11.30	11.30	9.62	8.49	7.45	-
Stat. Neighbour Rank	2	1	3	2	1	3	7	-
London	8.74	8.67	8.31	8.36	7.49	6.45	5.94	-
London Rank	7	3	15	16	14	19	28	-
England	9.78	9.26	8.59	8.40	7.85	6.75	6.62	-
England Rank	19	15	60	79	59	90	115	-

Table I shows % Primary Fixed Period Exclusions

	% Primary Fixed Period Exclusions							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lewisham	1.59	1.56	1.08	0.90	1.07	1.06	0.91	-
Stat. Neighbour	1.41	1.22	1.18	1.11	0.95	0.90	0.97	-
Stat. Neighbour Rank	8	9	6	4	8	7	7	-
London	1.02	0.88	0.81	0.75	0.70	0.66	0.68	-
London Rank	27	29	26	21	28	28	26	-
England	1.06	0.97	0.91	0.91	0.90	0.88	1.02	-
England Rank	124	131	115	89	114	116	79	-

Table J shows % Total Permanent Exclusions

	% Total Permanent Exclusions							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lewisham	0.06	0.10	0.11	0.16	0.09	0.10	0.13	-
Stat. Neighbour	0.14	0.11	0.11	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	-
Stat. Neighbour Rank	3	4	5	10	6	7	10	-
London	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	-
London Rank	28	20	9	1	9	3	1	-
England	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06	-
England Rank	29	76	100	133	97	107	132	-

Table K shows % Secondary Permanent Exclusions

	% Secondary Permanent Exclusions							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lewisham	0.18	0.21	0.28	0.42	0.24	0.29	0.38	-
Stat. Neighbour	0.31	0.24	0.25	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.16	-
Stat. Neighbour Rank	3	6	8	10	7	10	10	-
London	0.28	0.23	0.22	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.15	-
London Rank	8	17	24	31	26	31	28	-
England	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.13	-
England Rank	64	87	118	130	117	129	131	-

Table L shows % Primary Permanent Exclusions

	% Primary Permanent Exclusions							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Lewisham	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Stat. Neighbour	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	-
Stat. Neighbour Rank	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-
London	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-
London Rank	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-
England	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	-
England Rank	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-

Appendix 5: Absence terminology and factors

Differentiation of absence terminology

The national codes enable schools to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way which complies with the regulations. The data helps schools, local authorities and the Government to gain a greater understanding of the level of, and the reasons for absence.

Authorised absence

The school has either given approval in advance for a pupil to be away as justification for absence:

- Leave of absence authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances.
- Excluded by not alternative provision made.
- Holiday authorised by the school (in exceptional circumstances and discretionary).
- Illness (not medical or dental appointments).
- Medical or dental appointments.
- Religious observance.
- Study leave.
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (travelling for occupational purposes).

Unauthorised absence

The school is not satisfied with the reasons given for the absence:

- Holiday not authorised by the school.
- Reason for absence not yet provided
- Absent from school without authorisation.
- Arrived in school after registration closed.

Factors affecting children and young people's attendance:

- At risk of harm and neglect and live in complex and chaotic homes
- Known to the Youth Justice System
- Moving in and out of the borough
- Families who actively seek to avoid contact with professionals
- Periods of homelessness or temporary housing
- Trafficked and/or exploited children
- Children who have experienced domestic abuse
- Children who are at risk of female genital mutilation
- Children with disabilities or medical conditions
- Children who are young carers
- Children who are at risk of forced marriage
- Children who are at risk of peer on peer abuse
- Children who are at risk of radicalisation
- Children who are bullied and victims of crime
- Children involved in the gang culture and antisocial behaviour and drug and substance misuse
- Children at risk of exclusion