

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Board

14 January, 2016

Report of the Head of Transformation – Andrew Thomas

Matter for information

Wards Affected:

All

PUPIL ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with information and data in relation to Neath Port Talbot pupil attendance for the Autumn Term 2015/16 and comparative data across Wales for the academic year 2014/15.

Background

2. Members have previously received reports outlining procedures the local authority and schools have followed in order to increase pupil attendance and ensure there remains a high priority focus in this area.
3. This report provides Members with details of the latest available data up to and including November, 2015. December data will not be validated and available until mid-January.

Attendance Data

4. Attendance across both the primary and secondary sectors increased compared with the same period last year. The primary sector increased by 0.17% during this time with the secondary sector increasing by 0.01%.
5. Pupil attendance across the primary sector for the period of available data is 95.25%. Attendance across the secondary sector for the same period is 93.65%.
6. Attendance percentages during the available data period of Autumn 2015/16 in the primary sector range from 94.41% to 97.15%. In the secondary sector attendance ranges from 92.40% to 95.21%.

The Position Across Wales

7. Members will be aware that pupil attendance is currently a priority and the focus of attention of all local authorities across Wales. In relation to the whole academic year 2014/15 Neath Port Talbot's position in relation to primary attendance was ranked 13; an improvement from ranked place 16 for the previous 2013/14 academic year. This places Neath Port Talbot primary schools in its best ranked position across Wales for the past 10 years. Over this time there has been an improvement from an average percentage of attendance of 92/93% to just short of 95% for the last academic year.
8. Within the secondary sector whilst attendance has also risen by a similar uplift of around 3% over this 10 year period from an average of 90/91% to 93.5% last academic year, the secondary sector ranking position has slipped to 15th place for 2014/15 academic year from 13th from the previous 2013/14 year. Whilst reflecting upon this, Members should take reassurance that Neath Port Talbot secondary schools have consistently increased their pupil attendance rates year-on-year for the past six consecutive.

Continuing Improvement

9. There continues to be an emphasis at both local authority and school level on the priority of increasing pupil attendance. The majority of governing bodies now routinely and regularly discuss attendance at their termly meetings providing the school leadership with challenge where needed. The Education Welfare Service assists schools by

working with individual pupils and families at an early stage where attendance becomes a concern.

10. Members will continue to be provided with regular reports on attendance and the work being undertaken and during the spring term. In addition an update report on the introduction of fixed penalty notices will also be provided to Members.

Financial Impact

11. There is no financial impact associated with this proposal.

Equality Impact Assessment

12. Having considered the Council's screening assessment guidance produced to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 it has been determined that this report does not require an equalities impact assessment.

Workforce Impacts

13. There are no workforce or staffing issues directly associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

14. There is no legal impact associated with this report.

Risk Management

15. Members have previously determined that they wish to include the monitoring of pupil attendance as a regular activity within their on-going work programme. Such scrutiny maintains a high-level focus on attendance amongst schools within the County Borough whilst comparing internal pupil attendance with that of other Authorities across Wales.

Consultation

16. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

17. That Members note the contents of this report.

Implementation of Decision

18. Not Applicable

Appendices

19. None.

List of Background Papers

20. None.

Officer Contact

21. John Burge, Principal Schools Governance Officer

Tel: 763599

Email: j.burge@npt.gov.uk