

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Board**

30th June, 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.

### **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 May, 2016.

## **Attendance Data**

4. Attendance across both the primary and secondary sectors has seen a slight decrease compared with the same period last year. The primary sector has decreased by 0.20% during this time with the secondary sector decreasing by 0.09%.
5. Pupil attendance across the primary sector for the period of available data is 94.77%. 24 primary schools increased their attendance with 35 schools reporting a decrease. Attendance across the secondary sector for the same period is 93.57%. 7 secondary schools increased their attendance with 5 reporting a decrease. Disaggregated individual school data is provided in Appendix A to this report.
6. Analysis of the data confirms what was already known that the month of March is the principle contributor affecting attendance due to a higher than usual number of reported illness cases amongst pupils across both the primary and secondary sectors. For the month of March (2016) alone the primary sector was almost 2.5% lower compared to the same month the previous year (2015) and 2% down from the year prior to that (2014). Whilst in the secondary sector pupil attendance was 1.5% lower in March (2016) compared to the previous year (2015) and just over 1.0% lower than the year prior to that (2014).

## **Ensuring Improvement**

7. There continues to be an emphasis at both local authority and school level on the priority of increasing pupil attendance. At the recent termly meeting of Chair and Vice-chair of Governors with the Senior Management Team of the Education Directorate the Director of Education and Cabinet Member jointly renewed their plea to governors for pupil attendance to remain a focused priority of all schools and at individual governing body meetings.
8. The Education Welfare Service continues to work closely with both schools and parents to identify the cause of individual pupil absence with the aim of early intervention when and where needed. Individual pupil illnesses are monitored and challenged where there appears to be patterns of absence. Schools are encouraged to correctly code absences to allow for effective data tracking. Regular meetings are scheduled between Education Welfare Officers and key school staff to discuss individual pupil cases and provide advice, support and to determine appropriate course of actions. Education Welfare Officers will often attend at the home of the pupil to make enquiries as to the

reason for the absence from school in an effort to assist and facilitate an early return to school and discuss with parents various strategies to encourage and improve regular attendance.

9. Where these examples of strategies have been unsuccessful the Council has the available option of issuing parents with a fixed penalty notice or the commencement of prosecution via Court. For the current academic year to date the number of fixed penalty notices issued is 70 with 35 being issued over the course of the last academic year 2014/15. The number of cases that have been subject to Court action this academic year to date is 31 compared to 22 for the last academic year.
10. The current academic year has proved to be specifically challenging for the Education Welfare Service due to a number of staffing issues beyond the control of the service. In addition secondary school provision will fundamentally change within Neath Port Talbot in September 2016, with the closure of three secondary schools and the opening of Ysgol Bae Baglan. Consequently there is need to refocus, reprioritise and reshape the service. Work is currently underway in this area with an even greater focus being placed on raising pupil attendance.
11. Members will continue to be provided with regular reports on pupil attendance and the work being undertaken to improve the operation of the Education Welfare Service during the autumn term.

### **Financial Impact**

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

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

13. 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**

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

## **Legal Impacts**

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

## **Risk Management**

16. 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**

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

## **Recommendations**

18. That Members note the contents of this report.

## **Implementation of Decision**

19. Not applicable.

## **Appendices**

20. Appendix 1: List of schools with individual attendance rates.

## **List of Background Papers**

21. None.

## **Officer Contact**

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## APPENDIX A

| Primary Schools      | To<br>31/5/16 | To<br>31/5/15 | Difference |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Abbey Primary        | 95.13%        | 94.65%        | 0.49%      |
| Alderman Davies CIW  | 95.48%        | 95.01%        | 0.47%      |
| Alltwen Primary      | 95.28%        | 95.59%        | -0.30%     |
| Awel y Môr           | 93.95%        | 94.02%        | -0.06%     |
| Baglan Primary       | 93.96%        | 94.38%        | -0.43%     |
| Blaenbaglan Primary  | 95.43%        | 95.65%        | -0.22%     |
| Blaendulais Primary  | 94.82%        | 95.02%        | -0.21%     |
| Blaengwrach Primary  | 95.47%        | 95.46%        | 0.01%      |
| Blaenhonddan Primary | 95.45%        | 94.75%        | 0.70%      |
| Bryncoch CIW Primary | 95.36%        | 95.59%        | -0.23%     |
| Brynhyfyd Primary    | 93.75%        | 94.46%        | -0.70%     |
| Catwg Primary        | 95.33%        | 96.06%        | -0.73%     |
| Central Primary      | 94.20%        | 94.79%        | -0.59%     |
| Cilffriw Primary     | 94.84%        | 93.36%        | 1.48%      |
| Coed Hirwaun Primary | 96.29%        | 96.13%        | 0.16%      |
| Coedffranc Primary   | 94.65%        | 94.79%        | -0.14%     |
| Creunant Primary     | 95.06%        | 96.06%        | -0.99%     |
| Croeserw Primary     | 94.30%        | 94.53%        | -0.22%     |
| Crymlyn Primary      | 95.80%        | 95.42%        | 0.38%      |
| Crynalit Primary     | 95.22%        | 95.45%        | -0.23%     |
| Cwmafan Primary      | 93.97%        | 95.46%        | -1.49%     |
| Cwmnedd Primary      | 95.08%        | 95.25%        | -0.17%     |
| Cymer Afan Primary   | 93.95%        | 94.04%        | -0.09%     |
| Eastern Primary      | 93.70%        | 93.92%        | -0.23%     |
| Glyncorrwg Primary   | 95.51%        | 95.80%        | -0.30%     |
| Gnoll Primary        | 94.69%        | 94.55%        | 0.14%      |
| Godre'rgraig Primary | 94.88%        | 94.12%        | 0.76%      |
| Groes Primary        | 94.78%        | 94.53%        | 0.25%      |
| Llangiwig Primary    | 93.98%        | 94.01%        | -0.04%     |
| Llansawel Primary*   | 91.90%        | 94.91%        | -3.01%     |
| Maesmarchog Primary  | 94.76%        | 94.63%        | 0.13%      |
| Melin Infant         | 94.27%        | 94.01%        | 0.26%      |
| Melin Junior         | 94.61%        | 95.24%        | -0.63%     |
| Pen Afan Primary     | 94.23%        | 93.69%        | 0.54%      |
| Rhos Primary         | 95.11%        | 95.25%        | -0.14%     |
| Rhydyfro Primary     | 93.84%        | 94.22%        | -0.38%     |
| Sandfields Primary   | 93.23%        | 94.11%        | -0.88%     |
| St Joseph's Infant   | 95.67%        | 94.53%        | 1.14%      |
| St Joseph's Junior   | 95.90%        | 95.94%        | -0.05%     |
| St Joseph's Primary  | 95.48%        | 94.84%        | 0.64%      |
| St Therese's Primary | 95.05%        | 94.96%        | 0.09%      |
| Tairgwaith Primary   | 93.92%        | 95.63%        | -1.71%     |
| Tonnau Primary       | 95.18%        | 94.96%        | 0.21%      |
| Traethmelyn Primary  | 93.30%        | 94.78%        | -1.48%     |
| Tywyn Primary        | 94.39%        | 94.33%        | 0.06%      |
| Wauinceirch Primary  | 94.18%        | 93.80%        | 0.38%      |

|                      |        |        |        |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| YGG Blaendulais      | 95.54% | 95.21% | 0.33%  |
| YGG Castell-nedd     | 94.94% | 95.63% | -0.69% |
| YGG Cwmlllynfell     | 95.55% | 94.69% | 0.86%  |
| YGG Cwmnedd          | 94.95% | 94.92% | 0.03%  |
| YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen | 96.04% | 96.99% | -0.95% |
| YGG Pontardawe       | 95.05% | 95.27% | -0.22% |
| YGG Rhosafan         | 95.14% | 95.56% | -0.42% |
| YGG Trebannws        | 94.63% | 96.21% | -1.58% |
| YGG Tyle'r Ynn       | 95.21% | 95.52% | -0.30% |
| YGG Y Wern           | 95.32% | 95.23% | 0.09%  |
| Ynysfach Primary     | 94.86% | 95.55% | -0.69% |
| Ynysmaerdy Primary   | 95.41% | 95.08% | 0.33%  |
| Neath Port Talbot    | 94.77% | 94.97% | -0.20% |

\*Includes Traveller Unit

| Secondary Schools | To<br>31/5/16 | To<br>31/5/15 | Difference |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Cefn Saeson       | 94.56%        | 94.56%        | 0.00%      |
| Cwmtawe           | 94.34%        | 94.25%        | 0.09%      |
| Cwrt Sart         | 91.29%        | 92.64%        | -1.35%     |
| Cymer Afan        | 92.21%        | 91.50%        | 0.71%      |
| Dwr y Felin       | 93.99%        | 94.33%        | -0.34%     |
| Dyffryn School    | 93.74%        | 93.86%        | -0.12%     |
| Glan Afan         | 93.42%        | 93.13%        | 0.29%      |
| Llangatwg         | 92.83%        | 93.45%        | -0.62%     |
| Sandfields        | 91.98%        | 91.96%        | 0.02%      |
| St Joseph's RC    | 93.37%        | 92.65%        | 0.72%      |
| Ystalyfera        | 94.32%        | 94.27%        | 0.05%      |
| Neath Port Talbot | 93.57%        | 93.66%        | -0.08%     |