

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

15th January 2015

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION -
A. THOMAS**

SECTION B – MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

School Attendance

Purpose of Report:

Members have requested that data and information be presented to them on levels of school attendance, comparison with like schools and the development of procedures to raise attendance.

List of Background Papers

Performance Improvement Plan – Becoming Excellent, Being Excellent 2013-2015
Estyn Report - Neath Port Talbot June 2008
Estyn Report – Neath Port Talbot November 2010
Partnership Agreement for Promoting School Attendance
Penalty Notices for Irregular Attendance at School

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Members have previously received reports which have outlined the procedures being followed by ELLLS to raise attendance levels and the implementation of Penalty Notices for regular non-attendance at school.

Previous reports outlined the authority's priority in raising levels of pupil attendance as a major priority within the Performance Improvement Plan, Becoming Excellent, Being Excellent 2013-2015. Strategic Theme 4 links with CYPP Priority 2: *Support children and young people to fulfil their potential: Improve attendance in both Primary and Secondary sectors with particular focus on Primary and Additional Learning Needs (FP4)*. The attendance targets for the authority are:

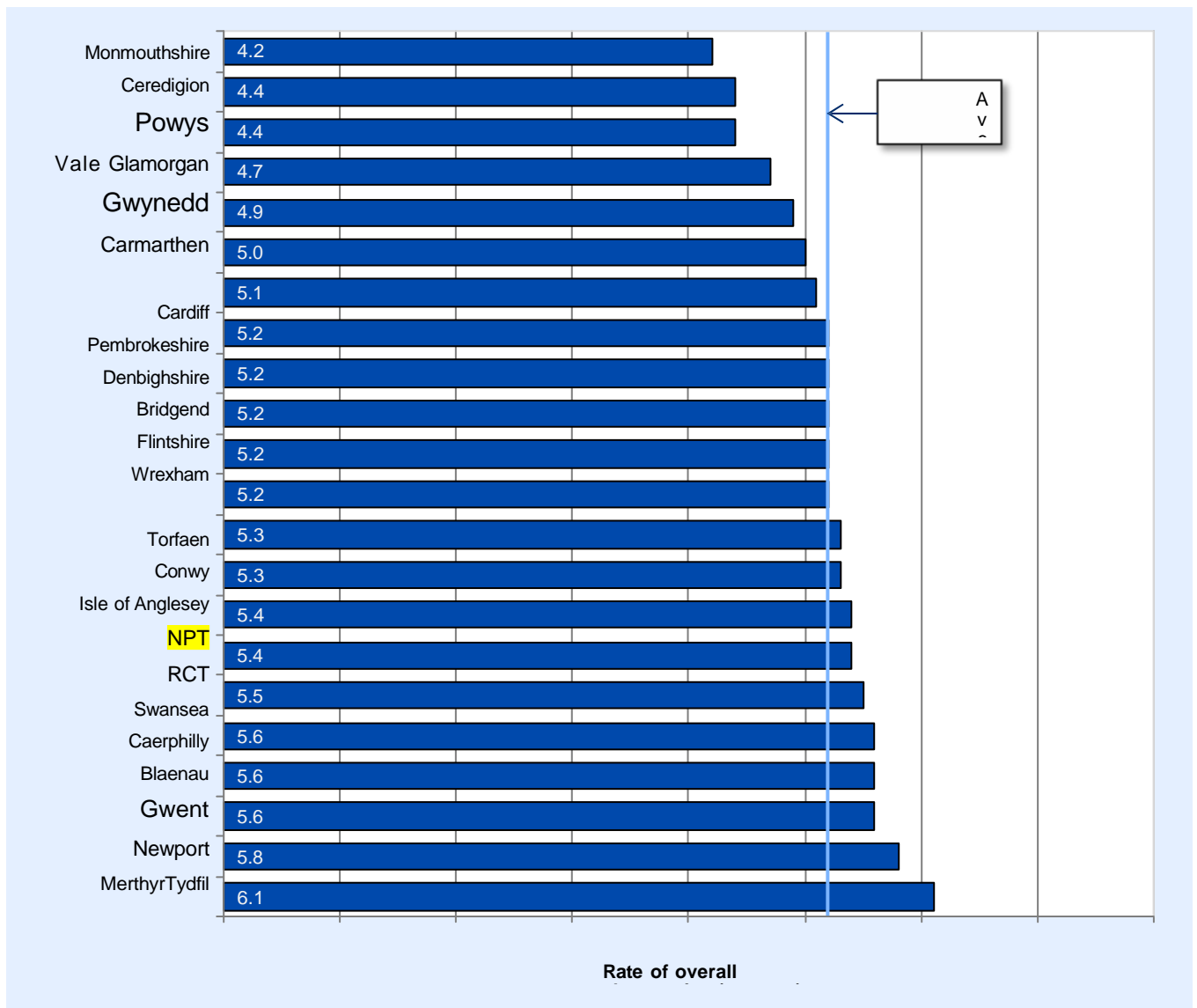
- increasing pupil attendance in the primary sector to at least 94.25% by the end of July 2015 (2012 -93%) and those on FSM to 92.5% by the end of July 2015 (2012 – 91.1%).
- increasing pupil attendance in the secondary sector to at least 93.5% by the end of July 2015 (2012 – 92%) and those on FSM to at least 90% by the end of July 2015 (2012 – 88.3%)

All Wales Primary School Attendance was released on December 3rd 2014. NPT's 2013-14 attendance was 94.6%, slightly below the 94.8% Wales average. NPT improved by 1.6% on the previous year compared with a 1.1% improvement across Wales. Our ranking against other LA improved from joint last in 2012/13 to 16th in 2013/14. The target set for July 2015 was surpassed by 0.35%.

The attendance data for Primary aged pupils on FSM for 2013-14 was 93.01%, an increase of 1.9% from 2012, surpassing the target for July 2015 by 0.5%. The attendance of pupils not on FSM for 2013-14 was 95.12%

The table overleaf shows the overall absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained primary and special schools, by local authority, 2013/14

Overall absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained primary and special schools, by local authority, 2013/14



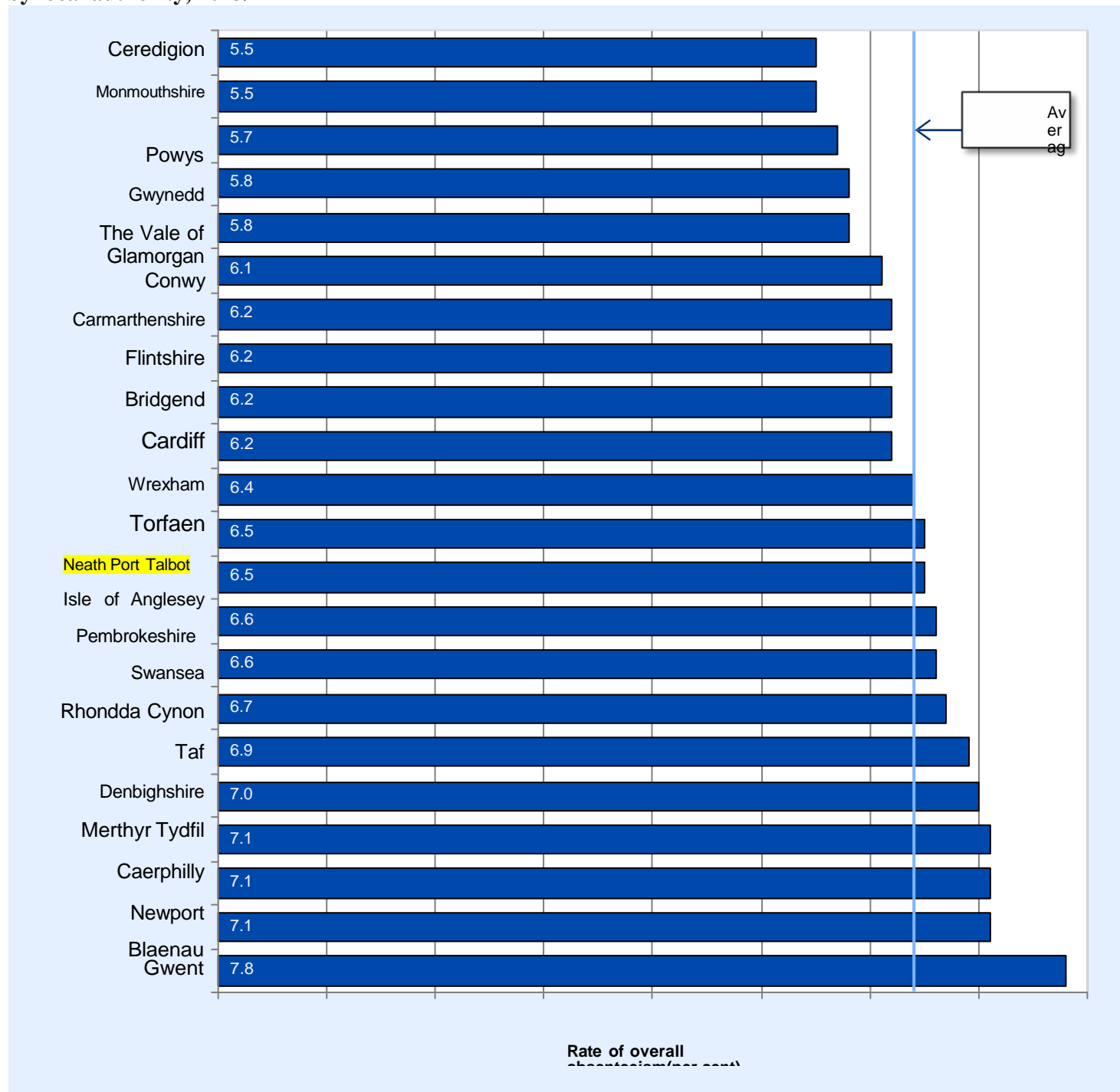
In terms of benchmarking NPT schools made a significant improvement in 2013/14 with 26% of schools in quartile 1, 29% in quartile 2, 23% in quartile 3, and 15% in quartile 4. The table below illustrates the improvements made.

Primary	1st Quartile		2nd Quartile		3rd Quartile		4th Quartile	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2009/10	9	13%	11	15%	22	31%	29	41%
2010/11	10	14%	12	17%	21	30%	28	39%
2011/12	6	9%	17	25%	19	28%	26	38%
2012/13	10	15%	11	16%	17	25%	30	44%
2013/14	17	26%	19	29%	15	23%	15	23%

The All Wales secondary attendance figures were released in September 2014.

NPT's 2013-14 attendance was 93.5% an improvement of 0.9% on the previous year (92.6%). The all Wales average is 93.6% (from 92.6%) with NPT ranking moving from 12th to 13th. NPT's attendance increased by 0.9% but did not match the national increase of 1%.

Overall absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained secondary and special schools, by local authority, 2013/14



The attendance data for secondary aged pupils on FSM for 2013-14 was 89.94% an increase of 1.6% since 2012. In order to meet the target for July 2015 of 90% a further increase of 0.06% is needed. The attendance of pupils not on FSM for 2013-14 was 94.48%

Primary School attendance figures to the end of November 2014 show that the attendance for the Sept/Nov 2014 period was 95.22%, slightly up (0.06%) on the 95.16% during the same period in 2013. Attendance in November was 94.73%, slightly down on the 94.82% in November 2013.

31 primary schools are currently up on the same period in 2013/14, 33 are down and 2 are the same.

Secondary school attendance figures to the end of November 2014 show that the attendance for the Sept/Nov 2014 period was 93.93%, slightly down (0.01%) on the 93.94% during the same period in 2013. Attendance in November was 93.23%, down by 0.11% on the 93.34% in 2013/14.

7 secondary schools are currently up on the same period in 2013/14 and 4 are down.

The authority works closely with schools, in accordance with its' Partnership Agreement to address non-attendance whilst simultaneously working with our consortium partners in ERW to ensure consistency.

The authority is implementing its Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices – Irregular Attendance at school as from January 1st 2015. The authority's IT service has designed appropriate software and a member of staff has been employed to undertake the day to day administration of the system. Penalty Notice leaflets for parents have been designed and translated to be distributed early in the Spring term.

Following the report considered by the Scrutiny Committee held on the 18th September 2014, officers investigated the possibility of implementing the recommendation for the viability of payment plan to be included proposed by Members at the meeting and found it to be impracticable due to timescales set by Welsh Government and increased cost of staff time.

On occasions there are occasions when poor attendance has to be dealt with through the legal system available to us. In these cases the authority will take out prosecution against parents. During the academic year 2013-14 there were 17 cases of prosecution, 1 primary and 16 secondary. One case was withdrawn due to family circumstances. The table overleaf shows that all cases were won by the authority and the penalty imposed by the court.

PROSECUTION DATA – 2013 – 2014

Name	U/A Abs-Academic year Sec/pri %	Parents name	Ewo Year group	Date Case heard	Suspended Prison Sentence/ Custodial	Single Parent Married Parent/School	Community Order/ Supervision /conditional Discharge	Section 1 or 1A	Fine	Victim Surcharge	Costs Awarded	Total fine
[REDACTED]	69.5	[REDACTED]		12.5.14		Single Sandfields		1		Withdrawn 12.5.14		
[REDACTED]	54	[REDACTED]	11	10.3.14		Single DWR		1	110	20	80	210
[REDACTED]	51	[REDACTED]	10	10.3.14		Single DWR		1	75	20	80	175
[REDACTED]	25	[REDACTED]	11	10.3.14		Single DWR		1	35	20	80	135
[REDACTED]	15.22	[REDACTED]		7.4.14	Sandfields	Married only mum prosecuted	Conditional Discharge	1A		15	100	115
[REDACTED]	65	[REDACTED]	10	14.4.14		Single Sandfields		1	110	20	100	230
[REDACTED]	67	[REDACTED]	9	12.5.14		Single Cwmtawe		1	75	20	50	145
[REDACTED]	55	[REDACTED]	8	12.4.14		Single Sandfields		1	75	20	50	145
[REDACTED]	45	[REDACTED]	10	12.5.14		Married		1	75	20	50	145
[REDACTED]	45	[REDACTED]	10	12.5.14		Married		1	75	20	50	145

Name	U/A Abs-Academic year Sec/pri %	Parents name	Ewo Year group	Date Case heard	Suspended Prison Sentence/ Custodial	Single Parent Married Parent/School	Community Order/ Supervision /conditional Discharge	Section 1 or 1A	Fine	Victim Surcharge	Costs Awarded	Total fine
[REDACTED]	54	[REDACTED]	7	12.5.14		Married Sandfields		1	75	20	50	145
[REDACTED]	54	[REDACTED]	7	12.5.14		Married Sandfields		1	75	20	50	145
[REDACTED]	60	[REDACTED]	9	12.5.14	Sandfields	Married mum only		1	75	20	50	145
[REDACTED]	68	[REDACTED]	10	23.6.14	Cefn Saeson	Dad		1	100	20	60	180
[REDACTED]	69	[REDACTED]	10	23.6.14	Cefn Saeson	Mum		1	100	20	60	180
[REDACTED]	35	[REDACTED]	10	16.9.14	Cymer Afan	Mum		1	105	15	100	220
[REDACTED]	35	[REDACTED]	10	16.9.14	Cymer Afan	Dad		1	105	15	100	220
[REDACTED]	45	[REDACTED]	5	7.10.14	Groes Primary	Mum		1	400	40	100	540
Total									1,665	345	1,210	3,220