



North  
Tyneside  
Council

# Attendance Strategy update Family Friendly sub-committee

August 2023

# What we'll cover

- Context
- Process and identified priorities
- Overview of attendance data
- Attendance Strategy – Key features
- Attendance Strategy – Core values
- Attendance Strategy – Roles and responsibilities
- Next steps

# Context

1. **White Paper** – March 2022
2. **Working together to improve school attendance**, DfE guidance focusses on managing attendance by:
  - Preventing patterns of absence from developing by promoting good attendance
  - Intervening early by using data to spot patterns of absence before they become persistent and working with families to remove the barriers to attendance
  - Targeting support for persistent and severe absentees with all local partners working together to reengage pupils.
3. **Attendance in North Tyneside Schools**: Increase in EBSNA, term time holidays

# Process



# Identified Priorities

Absence priorities for North Tyneside identified by working group:

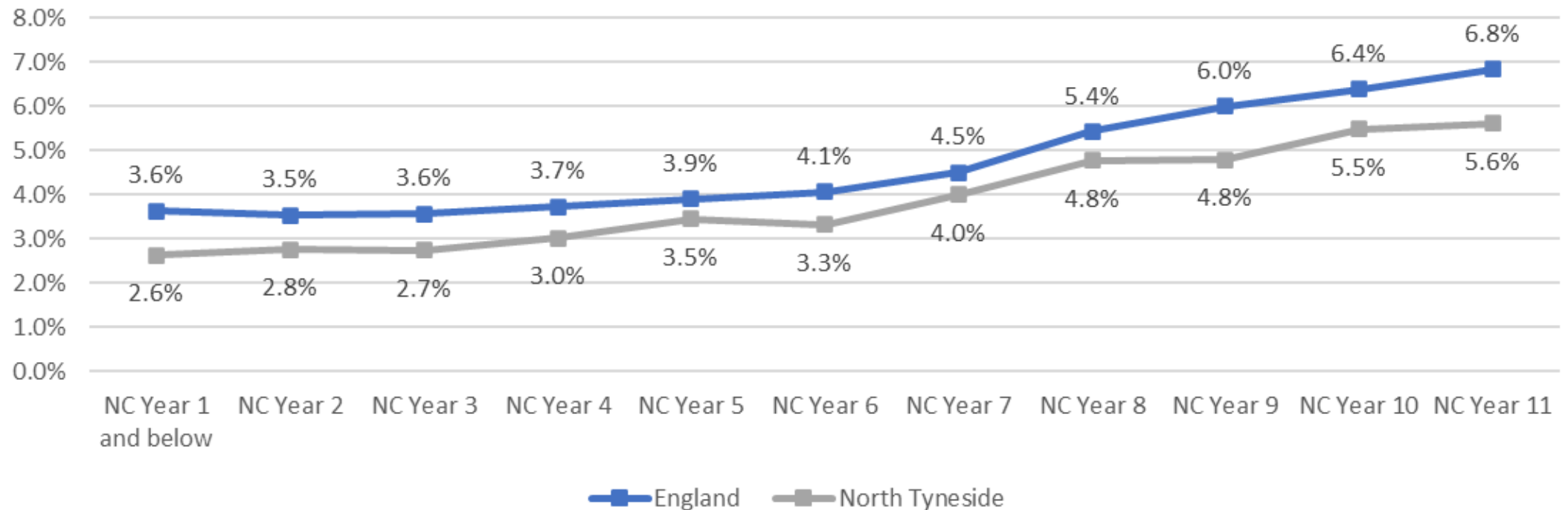
- *Transition, First to Middle primary secondary*
- *EHE*
- *EBSNA*
- *Term time holidays*
- *Suspension and Exclusion*
- *Pressure on school placement*

# Overall Absence

## Transition Overall Absence 2020-21

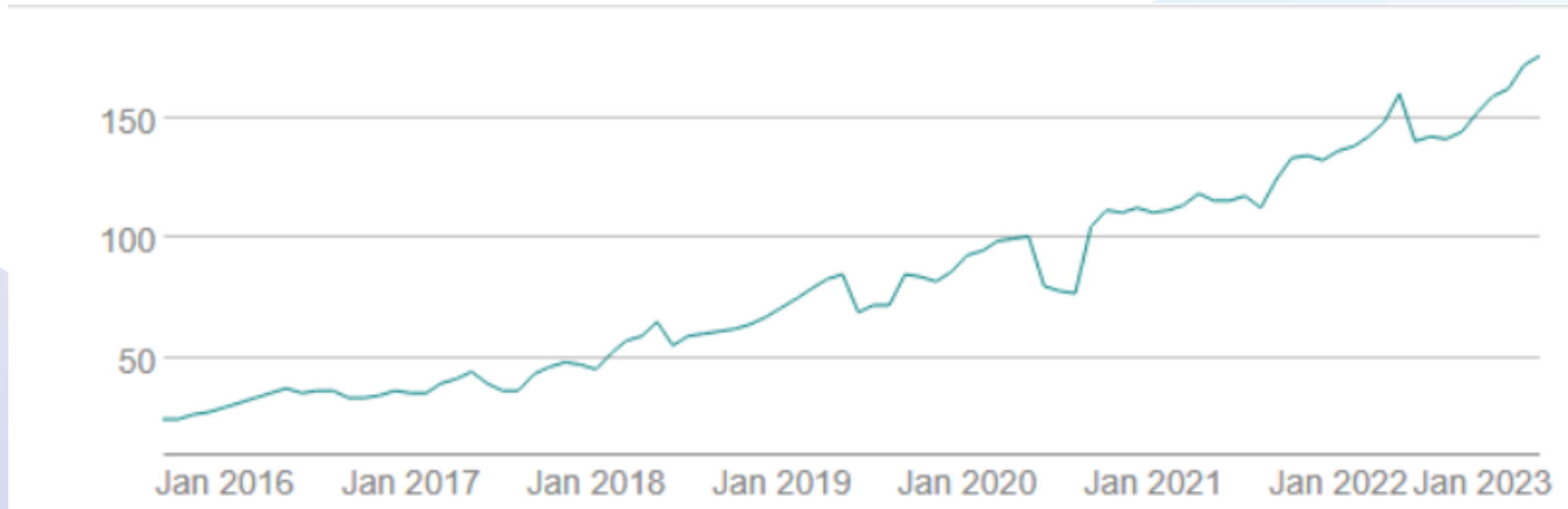
	NC Year 1 and below	NC Year 2	NC Year 3	NC Year 4	NC Year 5	NC Year 6	NC Year 7	NC Year 8	NC Year 9	NC Year 10	NC Year 11
England	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%	3.9%	4.1%	4.5%	5.4%	6.0%	6.4%	6.8%
North Tyneside	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	3.0%	3.5%	3.3%	4.0%	4.8%	4.8%	5.5%	5.6%

Overall Absence by year group 2020-21



# EHE – number of EHE pupils by year

The number of EHE pupils in North Tyneside continues to rise steadily. Once seasonal variation is accounted for the EHE cohort increases by about 2 per month.



# Term time holidays

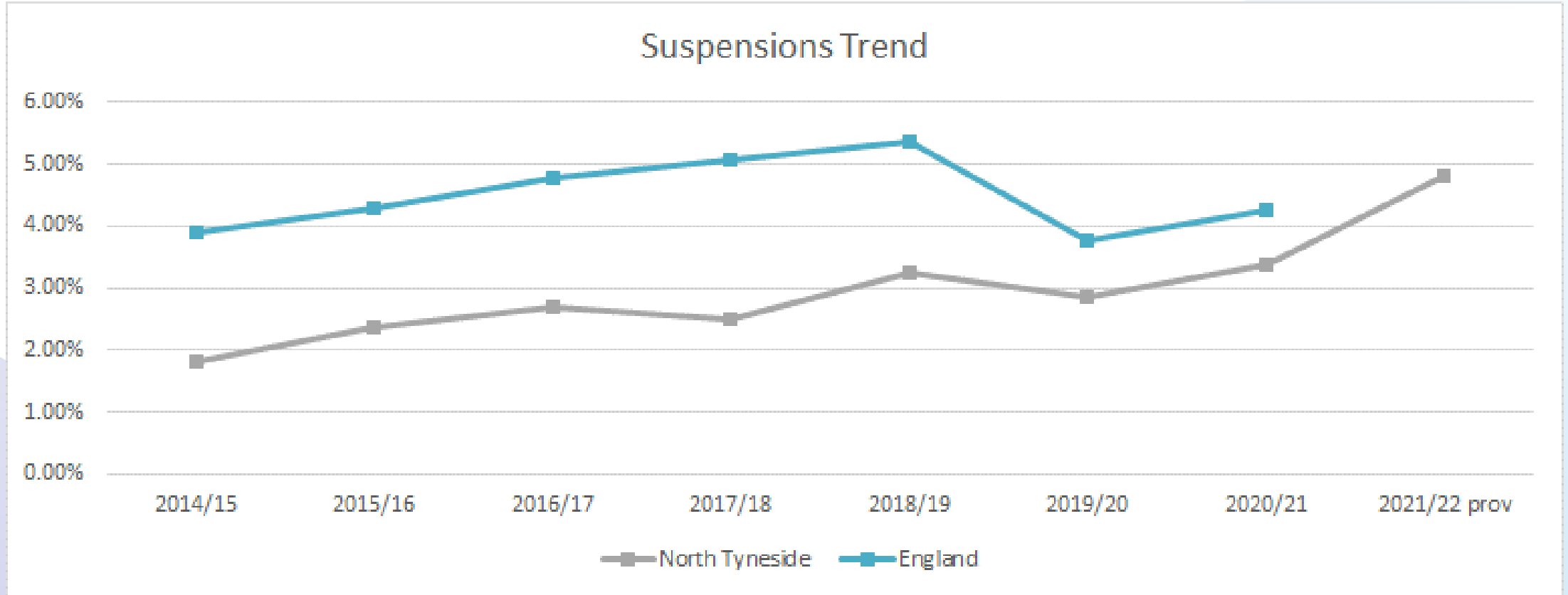
## Term time holidays

North Tyneside LA All Phases	Half Terms 1-6		est	Half Terms 1-6	
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Overall Absence</b>	4.76%	4.52%	6.12%	<b>3.81%</b>	7.10%
<b>Authorised Absence</b>	3.32%	3.09%	4.89%	<b>2.88%</b>	5.34%
<b>Unauthorised Absence</b>	1.44%	1.43%	1.23%	0.93%	1.77%
Illness code	2.68%	2.48%	2.75%	1.99%	4.60%
Medical Appointments	0.27%	<b>0.24%</b>	0.21%	<b>0.16%</b>	<b>0.24%</b>
Religious Observance	<b>0.01%</b>	<b>0.01%</b>	0.00%	<b>0.01%</b>	<b>0.01%</b>
Study Leave	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	0.00%	0.01%	<b>0.01%</b>
Traveller Absence	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	0.00%	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Authorised Holidays	0.07%	0.07%	0.00%	<b>0.01%</b>	0.05%
Excluded codes	<b>0.05%</b>	0.07%	0.07%	0.06%	0.09%
Authorised "other"	<b>0.24%</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	1.84%	<b>0.63%</b>	<b>0.34%</b>
Unauthorised Holidays	0.66%	0.65%	0.35%	0.14%	0.54%
Unauthorised Late (After close of register)	<b>0.02%</b>	<b>0.02%</b>	0.02%	<b>0.02%</b>	<b>0.04%</b>
Unauthorised Other	0.66%	0.69%	0.80%	0.73%	1.14%
Unauthorised "Not yet known"	0.10%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%
<b>Persistent Absence</b>	10.62%	9.92%	19.13%	<b>9.29%</b>	20.53%
<b>Severe Persistent Absence</b>	0.58%	<b>0.54%</b>	0.69%	<b>0.77%</b>	<b>1.19%</b>
<b>All Absences inc X</b>			19.72%	21.20%	<b>7.70%</b>
<b>Colour Code</b>	<b>Top Quintile</b>	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	<b>Bottom</b>

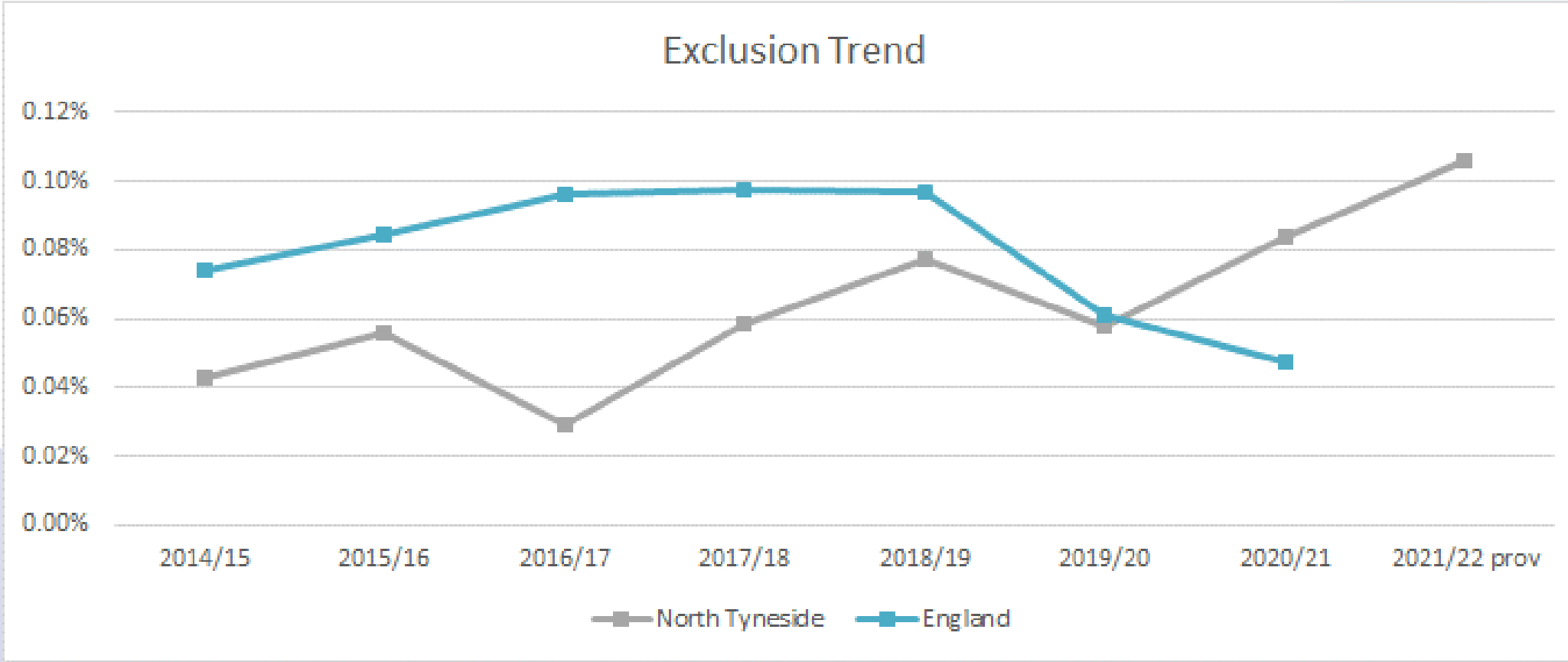
- An analysis of all LA codes across all schools (5 years shown here) consistently shows Unauthorised holidays to be amongst the highest compared to all other LAs. Excepting only 2020/21 when pandemic considerations largely applied.



# School Suspensions



# School Exclusions



# Attendance Strategy – Key features

To deliver our vision of *“Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all can access a high-class education with a culture of inclusion and achievement”*, we need children and young people to engage with the learning process.

**Attend today, achieve tomorrow. Missing school? Missing out.**



Attendance is everyone's business



Clarity of roles and responsibilities



Effective school attendance improvement and management



Communication plan



Action plan



Links related policies



Develop our approach to EBSNA

# Attendance Strategy – Core Values

- Attendance is **everyone's business**
- A **strengths based whole family approach** which will draw on the Signs of Safety Framework to support consistency across services and settings
- A **caring and family friendly** approach which is ambitious for families to thrive and feel secure
- **Inclusion** is at the heart of everything we do
- A **culture of belonging** is central to success
- **Collaborative multi-disciplinary working** focused on improving attendance and minimising the number of children missing education
- Supporting our families to **remove out of school barriers**
- A **clear vision**, informed by rigorous data analysis, to inform our priorities
- Children are **safer in education**
- The Family Network, **work together to achieve full attendance**
- **Every child is in education every day**
- Supports are in place to **remove barriers to attendance**
- **Roles and responsibilities are clear** in terms of delivering the strategy

# Effective school governance

**PREVENTION** of poor attendance through good whole school attendance management

**ALL PUPILS** Developing good attendance patterns through effective whole school approach to attendance (including leadership, ethos and systems and processes)

**PUPILS AT RISK OF POOR ATTENDANCE** Using attendance and absence data rigorously to support pupils with increasing levels of absence, arriving at school late or taking leave in term time without permission before it becomes a regular pattern

**EARLY INTERVENTION** to reduce absence before it becomes habitual

**PUPILS WITH POOR ATTENDANCE** Intervening as early as possible and agreeing an action plan for pupils with high levels of absence and those demonstrating growing disengagement with school

**TARGETED** reengagement of persistent and severely absent pupils

**PERSISTENT AND SEVERELY ABSENT PUPILS** Put additional targeted support in place, where necessary working with partners, and agree a joint approach with local authorities for all severely absent pupils

# Attendance Strategy Roles and responsibilities

## Local Authority

- Will fulfil their statutory responsibility (section 19 of the Education Act)
- Has responsibility to ensure that parents fulfil their legal responsibility to send their child to school
- Strategic use of attendance data
- A clear communication framework
- With Schools, work alongside the Locality model
- Communication with partners
- School attendance support team
- Legal intervention

## Schools

Schools have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This is a statutory duty under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to
- Use National absence codes published in September 2006
- Have a whole school attendance policy

## All Trustees and Governors

- Take an active role in attendance improvement
- Set high expectations of the school's leadership
- Ensure high aspirations are maintained for all pupils but that processes
- Ensure school staff receive training on attendance
- For schools struggling with attendance, work with the leadership to agree a comprehensive attendance action plan
- Understand the Prevention and Early Help offer for their Locality

## Parents

Parents /carers are responsible for making sure that:

- their children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education that is suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs the child may have
- Should engage with professional networks when barriers to attendance arise

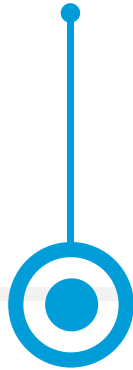
## Pupils

- Should attend and stay in school
- Should have a strong voice in the process to improve attendance

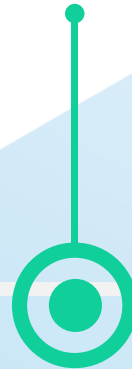
# Key next steps...

Key activities planned include...

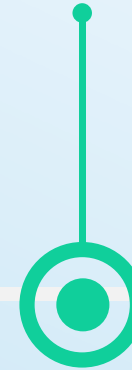
Consultation  
ongoing with Head  
Teachers



Establish attendance  
delivery group and  
strategic group



Implementation and  
monitoring of  
attendance policy



Updates to policy  
following  
consultation



Cabinet approval



North  
Tyneside  
Council