

Family Friendly Sub-Committee

Framework to support contribution to policy decision making

When scrutinising and contributing to the decision making process by examining key policy issues and making reports and recommendations members of the committee should consider the following framework questions.

- Are we family friendly?
- Have we listened?
- Have we cared?
- Is it inclusive?
- Is it value for money?
- How does this link to policy?
- How has Cabinet policy direction been incorporated?

Framework template

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|---|----------------------------|
| Policy Name | Attendance Strategy |
| Policy version/date | September 2023 |
| Policy author | Lisa Cook |
| Key updates, including reasons | |
| <p>On 6 May 2022, the Department for Education released new non-statutory guidance (which is likely to become statutory no sooner than September 2023). “Working together to improve school attendance” will help schools, trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance and improve consistency of support.</p> <p>To do this, the guidance focusses on managing attendance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>To deliver our vision of “<i>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</i>”, we need children and young people to engage with the learning process. This requires excellent attendance.</p> <p>The Attendance Strategy sets out how North Tyneside will deliver this ambition, including roles and responsibilities. Attend today, achieve tomorrow. Missing school? Missing out.</p> | |

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| <p>Effective school attendance improvement and management – Prevention of poor attendance through good whole attendance management. Early intervention to reduce absence before it comes habitual. Targeted re-engagement of persistent and severely absent pupils.</p> |
| <p>Are we family friendly?</p> |
| <p>The Attendance Strategy has the following core values which demonstrate how we are family friendly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• Supporting our families to remove out of school barriers |
| <p>Have we listened?</p> |
| <p>To develop and shape the Attendance Strategy we are working with colleagues across the Local Authority and Northumbria Health Care Trust. We have also consulted with and had support from the Department for Education.</p> <p>Comments and feedback have been provided by Headteachers following a Headteacher collaboration meeting, a group of Headteachers are feeding back with comments on the draft and young people are being consulted via the Youth Forum</p> |
| <p>Have we cared?</p> |
| <p>Attendance is everyone’s business and is at the heart of keeping our children and young people safe and able to access education. The strategy sets out a caring and family friendly approach which is ambitious for families to thrive and feel secure. The impact of non attendance on our community can be significant and we have a protective duty of care to consider and how we positively engage children and young people in playing a positive role in their community</p> <p>The strategy clearly defines the role of LA, Schools, Parents/ Carers and young people in attendance.</p> |
| <p>Is it inclusive?</p> |
| <p>The Attendance Strategy supports all children. One of the core values is Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. Our vision is 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.</p> |
| <p>Is it value for money?</p> |
| <p>The attendance approach in North Tyneside has positively impacted on overall absence. There has been a lower than national absence rate for every school phase, for over ten years. North Tyneside is also consistently in the top quartile of regional absence over the same period, giving us good foundations on which to build.</p> |

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We have an established School Attendance Support team to fulfil statutory obligations. Each school will have a named officer to support with queries and advice. The named officer will build positive relationships with each school, including with the Attendance Champion on the school's Leadership Team. The team will work with schools to build effective data sharing opportunities with different partners as part of the overall data sharing and governance arrangements in the local partnership to ensure a joined-up approach and work closely with local mental health services, school level senior mental health leads, the local School Nursing Service, the Local Authority's special educational needs and disabilities team(s), and Connect Mental Health Support Team. The statutory guidance has not yet been passed through parliament, this strategy includes the increased duties for the Local Authority. The Local Authority will be required to deliver the extra duties with no additional funding from Central Government.

How does this link to policy?

Our North Tyneside Plan and Children and Young People's Plan set out the vision for North Tyneside. The North Tyneside Ambition for Education gives us a clear purpose and delivers on these plans.

"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."

How has Cabinet policy direction been incorporated?

Additional committee questions/feedback