



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5TH NOVEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: IMPROVING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress being made in improving attendance in schools within the Borough.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The information contained in the National Statistics First Release *Absenteeism from Secondary Schools in Wales, 2012/13*, published as SDR 149/2013 gives a national overview of secondary school attendance and absence rates - (to view data please refer to www.statswales.gov.uk) Primary School National release tables will be available January 2014.
- 2.2 During the academic year 2012/13 there was a slight increase in both primary and secondary school attendance in comparison with 2011/12. There remains evidence of a strong correlation between poor attendance and those children and young people eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) as indicated in the above Statistical release. Improving attendance remains a priority for the Local Authority (LA) and is a target in the Learning Education and Inclusion Service Improvement Plan (SIP)

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 This report links directly with the NEETS Strategy, Single Integrated Plan (SIP) the Inclusion Strategy and Learning Education and Inclusion (LEI) Service Improvement Plan.

4. THE REPORT

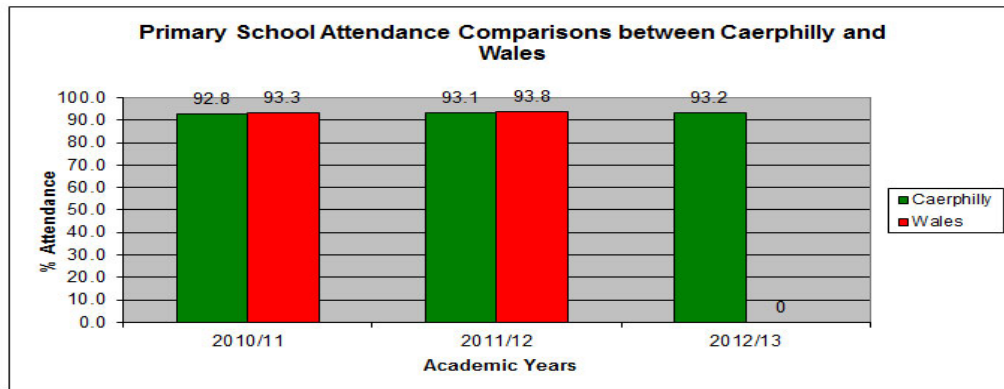
- 4.1.1 Attendance within primary schools in Caerphilly has continued to improve, albeit by a small percentage. Figure 1 provides an overview of the local data and indicates that for the academic year 2012/13, there was an overall LA improvement of 0.1%.

The national validated primary data is due January 2014.

Figure 1

Primary School 3 year attendance comparisons between CCBC and Wales			
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Caerphilly	92.8	93.1	93.2
Wales	93.3	93.8	TBC

LA Target 2010/2011 - 93.2%
LA Target 2012/2013 - 93.3%
LA Target 2013/2014 - 93.5%

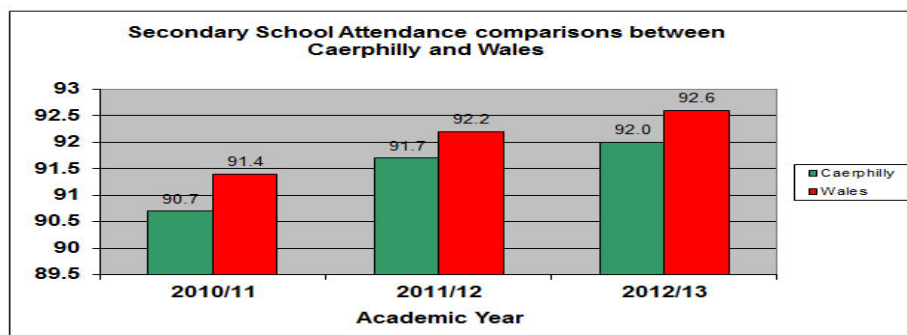


4.1.2 National and local data confirms that improvements in attendance within Caerphilly Secondary schools have been consistent over the past 4 years. The 2012/13 figure of 92%, records an overall 0.3% increase as indicated in figure 2 below.

Figure 2

Secondary School Attendance comparisons between CCBC and Wales			
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Caerphilly	90.7	91.7	92.0
Wales	91.4	92.2	92.6

Secondary LA Targets	11/12	91.7%
	12/13	92.0%
	13/14	92.3%



4.2 The Secondary school statistical release, reports that 18 out of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales are recorded as having improved secondary school attendance for 2012/13 compared with 21 the previous year. The data also indicates that the LA was ranked joint 19th with Carmarthenshire.

4.3 Local comparisons confirm that:

- 38 of the 75 primary schools show improved attendance from the previous year;
- 36 of the 75 primary schools matched or exceeded the LA attendance target of 92.3%;
- 9 of the 14 secondary schools show improved attendance from the previous year with the same number matching or exceeding the LA attendance target of 92%.

- 4.3.1 In Caerphilly there has been a review of the allocation of Education Welfare Officers and resources have been re-aligned to target support.
- 4.3.2 The Senior Education Welfare Officer now undertakes additional visits to target schools as indicated in Figure 4, to monitor progress and give support and guidance.

Figure 4

School	EAS Category - Attendance
Cwmglas Infants	Red
Glyngaer Primary	Red
Hendre Infants	Red
Llancaeath Junior	Red
Llanfabon Infants	Red
Maesycwmmmer Primary	Red
Nantyparc Primary	Red
Pentwynmawr	Red
Phillipstown Primary	Red
St. James' Primary	Red
Tynwydd Primary	Red
Derwendeg Primary	Red
Cwmfelinfach Primary	Yellow
Hengoed Primary	Yellow
Markham Primary	Yellow
Plasyfelin Primary	Yellow
Pontllanfraith Primary	Yellow
Tyn y wern Primary	Yellow
Y.G. Gilfach Fargoed	Yellow
Ystrad Mynach Primary	Yellow
Ysgol Y Lawnt	Yellow

- 4.3.3 Welsh Government (WG) funding has been made available to Consortia across Wales to improve school attendance across the regions. In South East Wales Professor Ken Reid is leading on an attendance project.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The LA is committed to ensuring that all children and young people gain maximum benefit from their education by regular attendance at school, regardless of the individual or family characteristics of those children and young people.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All responses are reflected in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are requested to note the content of the report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Improving attendance is a priority at both a national and local level.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 This report does not require the application of statutory powers.

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