

SUBJECT: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY ATTENDANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

MEETING: PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 10TH MARCH 2026

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To inform members of the attendance of pupils in Monmouthshire from September 2024 – July 2025.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Performance Scrutiny Committee receives the report and scrutinise the contents.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Local Authority (LA) places a strong emphasis on regular school attendance, positive behaviour, and wellbeing. Attendance is a key priority in the Community and Corporate Plan 'Learning Place.'
- 3.2 The Education Welfare Services uses a holistic approach to improve and secure good levels of attendance. This includes a wide range of support and intervention and a tiered approach to support and intervention, depending on need and levels of attendance.
- 3.3 The Education Welfare Service works effectively with schools to manage referral and provide support to pupils, families, and school staff. The service comprises of 5.6 full time equivalent Education Welfare Officers (EWOs), four full time Family Liaison Officers and one full time Elective Home Education Officer. Staffing is funded through a combination of core budget (42%) and grant funding (58%). All clusters have a named EWO, to enable them to support families with children in both the secondary and cluster primary schools effectively.
- 3.4 The LA monitors school attendance regularly. Half-termly data reports are collated and shared with all headteachers.
- 3.5 Welsh Government publish the attendance of pupils in maintained schools on a fortnightly basis. The publication of All Wales Core data sets for attendance in each school resumed in the academic year 2022-23 following a pause due the global pandemic.
- 3.6 Over a three-year period, attendance in Monmouthshire has been consistently amongst the highest in Wales and for most of the time, has been the highest.

- 3.7 Participation in Welsh Government focus groups, has supported and enhanced the development of strategies and interventions to improve attendance and inform the LA Engagement and Attendance Policy.
4. **REASONS:**
- 4.1 To enable Members to scrutinize the full report attached as Appendix 1, providing feedback and making recommendations as appropriate.
5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**
- Not required for a performance report
6. **EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**
- Not required for a performance report.
7. **OPTIONS APPRAISAL**
- Not required for a performance report.
8. **EVALUATION CRITERIA**
- Not required.
9. **CONSULTEES:**
- Strategic Director Children, learning, skills, and economy
CLSE DMT
Cabinet Member for Education
10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**
- All Wales Attendance Framework
 - Statutory guidance to help prevent children and young people from missing education
 - Belonging, Engaging and Participating Guidance
 - Monmouthshire Attendance and Engagement Policy
 - Monmouthshire Attendance Handbook
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