

Community Learning and Development

- Through a planned approach - CLD would work with young people who are non attenders, school phobics or other related issues.
- Drawing on a multi agency staff approach, through early intervention, CLD would engage with targeted pupils over a dedicated time. There are also programmes like XL which could be used.
- Dedicated Youth Work Room at the Community Centre which could be used to work with young people away from the school environment.

Health

The **School Health Team** would be notified as soon as possible (with parental consent) about any pupil with prolonged or recurrent absence from school for health reasons.

The school health team will then be in a position to liaise with the General Practitioner or Hospital colleagues looking after the pupil.

Where appropriate an appointment may be offered for the pupil and parent to meet with either School Nurse or Community Paediatrician to look into reasons for non attendance and to discuss the management of any medical condition.

School phobia and psychological and psychiatric illness can coexist with physical symptoms and comprehensive management may be required to prevent long-term adverse consequences.

Police

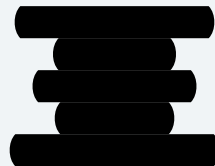
The police would work in a supporting role with other agencies with non attendance groups, constructive activities, providing good role models.

If Officers see pupils out with school when it is clear they should be in school, then dependant on age, and circumstance action would be taken to return them to school, or to their home address.

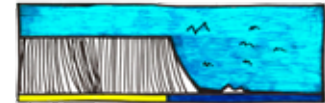
The Children's Services Network and its partners can work with the young person and their parents/carers on...

- attainment & learning
- encouraging positive behaviour
- keeping children safe
- non-attendance
- health
- bullying
- developing positive relationships
- misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
- anti-social behaviour and offending
- domestic violence
- internet dangers
- inappropriate sexual behaviour
- hyperactivity
- diet
- parenting workshops

For further information contact:
Your child's Guidance Teacher



Children's Services Network



Partners in Supporting our Children & Young People



Supporting School Attendance

Being a parent or caring for a child

... is the most rewarding job you will ever have. It is also the longest-lasting and, at times, the most difficult there is. Many parents look for help to support their children at times when this can get difficult...for a whole range of reasons. Attendance can be a particularly challenging issue.

Our Children's Service Network is there to support you and your child when needed.

A Parent is...

Being a mum or dad is about what you do more than what you are. Making the right decisions and doing the right things can be difficult. Sometimes it can seem impossible to do the right things as a mum or dad. Sometimes you will make a mistake – we all do.

Partnership

A child at school spends most of his/her day with teachers and school staff. We know that how well your child does at school will depend on us working well together with you and your child. This includes offering support when you feel you might need help.

Our Offer

We don't have all the answers to school attendance problems but working together can be a big part of helping your child do well.

What the School will do

Parents are asked to telephone the school as early as possible whenever a pupil is absent. A note is required on their return giving the reason for absence. Guidance staff regularly monitor attendance and discuss this with pupils as appropriate. They deal sensitively with pupil's needs and concerns and try to address any needs identified at an early stage, involving parents and other sources of expertise as appropriate.

Where they have concerns, they contact parents and invite them to meet to discuss this.

If we can't give direct help, we should be able to find help through our partner agencies such as Health, Community Learning & Development, Housing, Social Work, Police and others.

All schools now work with others to support children. In Aberdeenshire, we use a collaborative process called the Integrated Assessment Framework. (IAF).

You and your child will always be asked about what kind of support you think is needed.

Children & Families Social Work

Social Work is dedicated to working with children and families within their community. We recognise that families can have different issues and needs and these specific needs will be considered when you meet with the social work staff. The services offered are diverse and can include:

- Working in partnership with families to promote the upbringing of children by their families
- Advice and support to children and families who are experiencing difficulties
- Working in partnership with children, their families, other agencies and professionals to get the best possible services for their children
- Investigate and provide appropriate services to children who may be at risk of harm.

The type of support that social work can offer children and families is:

- Allocating a social worker who through regular contact will get to know the child and their family well and will be a source of advice and guidance on how to address any issues
- Direct work with children, either individually or in a group, aimed at addressing their individual needs

- Direct work with parents/carers, either individually or in a group, aimed at supporting them in their parenting role
- Attendance at, and contributing to, multi-agency meetings
- Advocating on behalf of child, and family
- Mobilising other resources on a child/family's behalf or linking them in to other agencies and services
- Provision of practical or financial support

Educational Psychology Services

- The main way in which an Educational Psychologist can become involved is through the 'consultation model', which is a collaborative process that involves those who know the situation best...including the pupil. Aberdeenshire has a staged assessment process. Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology Website has more details about the service in general as well as 'consultation' and staged assessment. <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parents/carers/eps/aboutus.asp>
- Educational Psychologists are involved in planning with and providing advice for schools and the education authority as well as other authority and non-authority agencies.
- Working with individual children and young people; using approaches such as 'person centred planning' and 'solution focussed approaches'.
- Working with partner agencies to make sure that there are systems in place to identify concerns at an early stage and to intervene effectively.
- At an authority level – looking at existing policies and procedures and advising the authority about potential changes and improvements.