

REPORT TO FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN TRUANCY AND ABSENCES

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to discuss the contents of this report.

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 At the April Formartine Area Committee meeting, elected members requested further information about the percentage of half-day truancy and unexplained absences of looked after children. In particular they requested further explanation of the trends along with an updated narrative.
- 2.2 In Q3 2016/17 the Formartine percentage of half day truancy/unexplained absences of looked after children (LAC) continued to perform well within target. This was 0.9% compared to a target of 1.5%. This means that this indicator has green status. The Aberdeenshire-wide performance in relation to this indicator for Q3 has declined to 2.9% compared with a target of 1.5%.
- 2.3 In Formartine there are 51 looked after children. 27 pupils are in the primaries with 24 secondary pupils. The pupils who have truancy or unexplained absences attend Ellon and Meldrum Academies. The Looked After pupils at Turriff Academy have no truancy or unexplained absences. In the Formartine Area Primary Schools there are no truancy or unexplained absences in Q3 2016/17.
- 2.4 When looking directly at looked after children truancy/unexplained absences figures this relates to 6 pupils. All of these young people are supported by the multi-agency approach. All Formartine schools continue to work with services and partners to ensure that young people receive a good educational experience. LAC applies to those looked after children at home and those accommodated.
- 2.5 The definition of a short trend is calculated by comparing the value for the current period to the value immediately prior e.g. Q3 2016/17 compared with Q2 2016/17.

The definition of a long trend is: calculated by comparing the current value to the average of the previous three years (i.e. 12 quarters) prior e.g. Q3 2016/17 compared with the average of the 12 quarters Q3 2013/14 to Q2 2016/17. This long trend calculation is considered to factor out fluctuations such as seasonality.

- 2.6 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comment to make, and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section F.6.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to commenting on Looked After Children truancy and absences information in the Formartine Area.

4 Implications and Risk

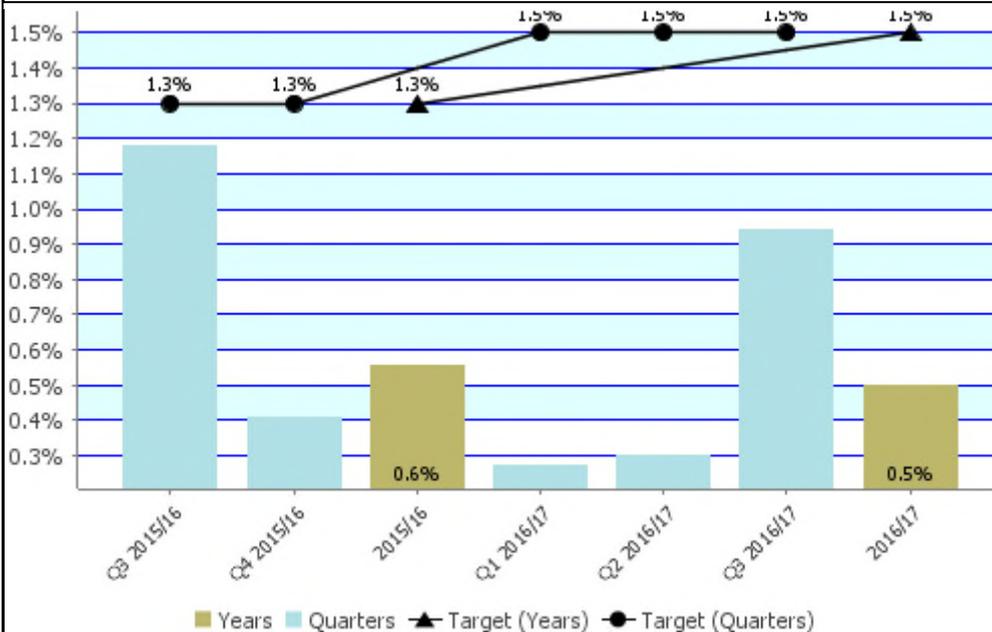
- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report is to inform committee on performance and there will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no specific staffing or financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 There have been no risks identified as relevant to this matter.

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Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by: Fiona Cruickshanks, Quality Improvement Officer
Date: 29 August 2017

Appendix 1: Extract.

Indicator		2.5a Formartine - Percentage of half day truancy/unexplained absences of LAC (Looked After Children)					Red T'hold	Amber T'hold
	Target	Status	Value	# possible half day attendances	Long Trend	Short Trend	1.9%	1.7%
Q3 2015/16	1.3%	✓	1.2%	4,756	↑	↓		
Q4 2015/16	1.3%	✓	0.4%	6,156	↑	↑		
Q1 2016/17	1.5%	✓	0.3%	5,466	↑	↑		
Q2 2016/17	1.5%	✓	0.3%	4,306	↑	↓		
Q3 2016/17	1.5%	✓	0.9%	4,680	↑	↓		



Truancy includes truancy and unexplained absences (as per Scottish Government definition of truancy).
 Q3 2016/17 Formartine breakdown of Looked After Children (LAC) Truancy/Unexplained absences: At Home 0.77%, Away From Home 0.17%.
 Number of LAC pupils in Formartine = 51 (27 primary, 24 secondary).
 The Q3 2016/17 Formartine figures are based on LAC truancy/unexplained absences recorded in two of the academies. Although the short trend arrow indicates a fall in performance (up 0.6% on Q2 2016/17), this is lower than for the same period last year (Q3 2015/16 = 1.2%), and the long trend indicates an improvement (down 0.4% when compared with the average of the previous three years). This measure remains "green" and continues to perform on target. Schools continue to work in partnership with other agencies to support children, young people and their families to minimise the time that looked after children are not in school and/or receiving an appropriate educational experience.