

EE19. PUPIL ATTENDANCE IN FALKIRK COUNCIL SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing detailed information on attendance rates and patterns in primary and secondary schools in Falkirk and providing a reference point for future attendance reporting.

The Education Executive agreed, on 28 April 2015 (ref EE5), to remove Attendance Panels from the attendance circular and staged process.

Information was provided on attendance rates and trends over the last 10 years across both primary and secondary sectors and how these compare with national averages, where available. During this period, attendance of pupils in Falkirk Council schools was marginally higher than the national average.

The report also set out details of attendance rates by year stage over the last school session, which highlighted that the majority of pupils with low attendance (70% or less) and those with very low attendance (50% or less) are from the secondary sector. Additional detailed analysis of pupil attendance rates and factors affecting non-attendance was detailed in the appendix to the report.

The actions identified by Children's Services, to monitor and improve the attendance rates of Falkirk Council pupils, were summarised in the report.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to request the Director of Children's Services to report annually on attendance rates across the four bands detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the report and that the information contained within the report be used as a benchmark for future reports on attendance;**
- (2) that the actions identified in paragraph 2.10 of the report be implemented, and**
- (3) that a further report be presented to the Education Executive detailing the revised guidance issued to schools to improve attendance rates prior to the end of 2015.**