

# Targeting Support Meetings

## Attendance Network Meeting

### April 2024

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Andrea Jordan – Education Inclusion Lead with responsibility for Attendance

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- The first TSMs in Gloucestershire were piloted in Summer 2023
- 55 schools in total have had at least one TSM – 26 primaries and 29 secondary schools
- From 19<sup>th</sup> August the visits are part of the new guidance [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#) (page 34-36) which will be made statute from that date

TSMs take place between the Inclusion Officer for the school and (\*as a minimum) the School's Senior Attendance Lead/Champion to:

- ❖ Build strong relationships and work collaboratively
- ❖ Identify, discuss, and agree action plans and joint approaches for severely absent pupils (where they do not already have a plan in place)
- ❖ Discuss and agree approaches for persistently absent where they have barriers to attendance that require a multi-agency response to overcome
- ❖ Agree which agency will act as lead practitioner, which will be the school in most cases, but can be a local authority or partner team where there are multiple needs are the most appropriate service
- ❖ Where schools seek it, conduct data analysis, including comparisons to other schools in the geographical area or identify areas to focus attendance efforts on

*\*Often the attendance officer/SENCo/pastoral lead/other members of SLT attend - varies between primary and secondary*



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## What next?

- By the end of the Summer term all secondary school visits should have taken place
- Following multi agency discussions some primary schools will be contacted during the summer term to arrange a TSM in the Autumn term
- By the end of the next academic year all schools in Gloucestershire should have had at least one TSM

DfE guidance recommends TSMs as follows (with school's agreement):

If below national average – three meetings a year

Above national average – once a year

‘Strong attendance’ – no formal meeting required – contact from IO

These meetings may be online or in person depending on what works best for all parties

## Questions

