

Primary Attendance Network Meeting

Monday, 11 November 2024
9.00-12.00

The meeting was hosted by Fliss Falconer and included various speakers such as Laura Berry and representatives from the Youth Justice Team, Sarah Penny and Becky Gazzard. The key points discussed in the meeting are as follows:

1. **Introduction and Housekeeping:** Fliss Falconer started the meeting by explaining the recording process, encouraging participation, and emphasizing confidentiality.
2. **Agenda Overview:** The agenda included a welcome, a look at the Education Inclusion Team, data cohort comparisons by Laura Berry, a presentation by the Youth Justice Team, a break with a two-minute silence, a Support First Network workshop, a Q&A session with Charlotte Claridge on information management systems, and an update on the Improving Attendance in Gloucestershire Project.
3. **Attendance Data and Penalty Notices:** Laura Berry presented data on penalty notices issued, overall absence rates, and persistent absence rates. She highlighted the importance of understanding the differences in absence rates among various cohorts, such as those with special educational needs (SEN) and those eligible for free school meals.
4. **Youth Justice Team Presentation:** Sarah Penny and Becky Gazzard discussed the role of the Youth Justice Service, the Child First approach, and the lived experiences of children in the justice system. They emphasized the importance of collaboration between schools and the Youth Justice Service to support children at risk of offending.
5. **Support First Network Workshop:** Participants were divided into breakout rooms to discuss a fictional case study of a student named Alex, whose attendance was declining. They were asked to consider what support could be provided using the "From First Signs to Legal Intervention" document.
6. **Information Management Systems Q&A:** Charlotte Claridge answered questions about using information management systems like Sims and

Bromcom to track attendance and generate reports. She provided guidance on how to use these systems effectively and offered to follow up with specific schools for further support.

7. **Improving Attendance in Gloucestershire Project:** Fliss Falconer provided an update on the project led by Andrea Jordan, which aims to improve school attendance through a coordinated multi-agency approach. The project includes developing a communication strategy, publishing an attendance strategy, and focusing on pupils who are severely or persistently absent.
8. **Feedback and Evaluation:** Participants were encouraged to provide feedback on the session using a QR code or a direct link to an evaluation form.

The meeting emphasized the importance of collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and supportive interventions to improve school attendance and support vulnerable students.