

Appendix 3 Consultation Feedback

July 2017

Request made at Secondary Heads Forum for Early Help Service to consider revisions to be made to The Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) Code of Conduct –

September 2017 – December 2017

Letter sent to all secondary, primary, special school head teachers and attendance leads outlining proposed changes and seeking views

Letter emailed to all RMBC School Governors and Academy Governor's outlining proposed changes and seeking views

PRU informed of proposed changes and seeking views

Letter sent to South Yorkshire Police outlining proposed changes and seeking views

Email established to collate feedback EarlyHelpConsultation@rotherham.gov.uk

All CYPS staff and Legal Services emailed letter outlining proposed changes and seeking views.

Early Help Manager's and Attendance Leads informed schools through visits of the proposed changes

January 2018 – March 2018 Formal Consultation under Regulation 15 of The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Regulations) 2007

As above letters, emails, meetings all sent and facilitated to inform of the changes – informally feedback was schools and Governing bodies all agreed with the changes and welcomed these.

3 email responses received from schools/academy trusts with feedback as below:

'1. We have recently received the revised code of conduct for fixed penalty notices.

After reading the documentation we are extremely supportive of the suggested changes and look forward to moving forward with it as soon as possible.

The greater autonomy offered to schools will be very helpful in challenging poor attendance.'
(Rawmarsh Trust)

2. 'After reviewing the Early Help material I would like to ask if any guidance relating to FPN referrals if parents/carers refuse to complete a Term Time Leave request form could be added.

I have found that to avoid fixed penalty notices parent/carers will not complete a form in the hope that they will not receive a fine despite being informed to do so.' (Kimberworth Primary)
– This request was built into the revisions as other schools had raised this and this practice was noted in visits to other Councils.

3. *'We have shared the document with our Governors/Head teacher and have made the following points. We do issue FPN's for leaves of absence more than 5 days and where the child's attendance is less than 90% over the last 3 terms.*

Points to consider:

- *How many schools are issuing Fixed Penalty Notices? This needs to be consistent. We met as a Learning Community a few years ago to agree the way forward but we are aware that some schools do not issue FPN's at all..*
- *It would be useful to know how the money is used.*
- *I do think it is a bit harsh to fine both parents in the same family – why not 1 fine per holiday. Some of our parents have got wise to this and only include one parent on the leave of absence form when clearly both are taking the child on holiday. There shouldn't be a distinction between the diversity of families – one fine per holiday would make it simpler all round.'* (Anston-Park)

Response -The Council can only issue a Code of Conduct to support consistency each Head Teacher decides on their attendance policy

The school have been informed of how the funds have been spent

The Fixed Penalty Notice guidelines are governed by Regulations in the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

No further responses were received

March 2018 – May 2018

In discussion with Legal Services the consultation period was extended for an additional 5 weeks to account for school holiday times.

No further responses received