

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1</b>	Meeting:	<b>Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub Panel</b>
<b>2</b>	Date:	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b>
<b>3</b>	Title:	Percentage of Looked After Children who have been looked after continuously for 12 months who have missed 25 days or more of schooling for any reason - update
<b>4</b>	Directorate:	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

### **5 Summary**

The Get Real Team (GRT) was set up to raise the attainment, achievement and aspirations of Young People in care in Rotherham, mainly via short term intervention work. It monitors and supports attendance at school across all key stages.

### **6 Recommendations**

That the contents of the report are noted

### **7 Proposals and Details**

By 25-02-2009, out of 216 young people of school age looked after by Rotherham 8.79% have reached 25 days or more missing from school. (19 students in total) compared to 12.06% (24 students) at the same time in 2008.

Breaking this down by placement type:

- Six young people are placed with parents,
- Two are with relatives/friends,
- Five are placed within a Rotherham children's home,
- Three placed in an out of authority residential home,
- One is presently placed in a secure placement, having been in a Rotherham residential home.
- One is placed in an out of authority foster placement.
- One is placed out of authority for adoption.
  
- Six of this group have a statement of special educational needs. Eight are on school action plus and one is on school action.

In terms of schooling seven are year 11, six are year 10, four are year 9, two are in year 8 and one in reception.

Out of this cohort of 19 young people the Get Real Team are working with fifteen individuals. providing teaching, mentoring support or Connexions support or a mixture of these.

The attendance of three young people has been affected by part-time timetabling. Time without provision is marked as authorised absence.

Three of the cohort have had a period of exclusion ranging from 2 days to 22 days. This level of exclusion is a significant improvement on previous years.

Multi agency training on PEPS is being provided to Social Workers, Designated Teachers, Carers and other relevant parties.

Training for Designated Governors is being offered.

Improvement in the number of in date PEPS

## **8 Finance**

The budget is secure

## **9 Risks and Uncertainties**

The Get Real Team is unable to provide intervention for LAC placed out of authority. The completion of Personal Education Plans is the responsibility of the child's social worker and is overseen by locality managers.

Refusal to attend school of persistent non attendees is an ongoing issue.

The effectiveness of schools in recording attendance varies.

Designated teachers lack the authority to implement effective interventions for LAC.

Timetables for LAC are not flexible enough to meet needs.

Young people on part-time timetables have insufficient provision.

## **10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

This report has been compiled with reference to Every Child Matters and Section 52 of the Children's Act 2004

## **11 Background Papers and Consultation**

Reports form Get Real Team members.

Get Real Team attendance database.

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