

Looked After Children

Improving Attainment for Looked After Pupils Inverclyde Council

Contact for Enquiries

Roslyn Friel
Principal Teacher Corporate
Parenting
01475 711155

Summary & Background

The driver was to ensure that all LAC pupils achieved a minimum of SCQF Level 3 in English and Maths by the end of S4.

The initiative has now run over 2 academic sessions.

Intended Outcomes

The main outcome was for the LAC pupils to attain a minimum of SCQF Level 3 in English and Maths by the end of S4. To achieve this outcome it was a secondary outcome to improve attendance and re-engage pupils who were not attending school or who had very low attendance.

Key Activities

Contacted all secondary school Head Teachers providing them with a pro-forma to detail the S4 LAC pupils in their school and requesting details on attendance and likely attainment. This was issued in October.

Matched information against information from Social Work Swift system to ensure accuracy.

For all pupils where there was a concern re attainment one of the LAC team liased with the relevant guidance staff/social work/parent/carer and established support for the pupils.

The Principal Teacher also liased with all external providers to ensure that the attainment of those pupils being educated out with the authority was closely monitored and any concerns addressed swiftly.

Results

At the end of the first year of this initiative it was evident that without the intervention and support of the LAC teachers over 50% of the pupils would not have achieved their English and Maths qualifications. Due to the success of this initiative last session it is now embedded in our practice and we are near completion of the collation of the data for this academic session.

How do you know it worked?

Some schools not returning the original pro-forma

Inaccurate information from guidance staff on what units had already been achieved

Schools not informing us when a pupil originally on track in October/November requires support.

Overcoming the barriers that the pupils who are not attending school have to re-engaging with their education

Learning

The LAC teachers have found this a very rewarding initiative, as there are tangible results for the support provided. It has been a steep learning curve to be able to support pupils with the new NAT 3 and NAT 4 courses however this initiative is now embedded into our practice.

The advice I would give to support those pupils who are not attending is be tenacious and don't give up on them. Establish relationships with their parent/carer; phone them; find somewhere out with school to work with them (in our case the LAC teachers' base); pick them up; drop them off and be flexible with the length of the support sessions to keep them engaged.

As a team we have learned that it can be very difficult to get accurate information from schools and that we need to ensure that the information we are given is up-to-date.

Next Steps

The initiative to support S4 LAC pupils will continue. We will build on our success by establishing procedures to overcome the obstacles detailed above.

The team are currently analysing PIPS scores for LAC pupils and will provide targeted support to those who require additional support with their Maths or Reading.

Additional Information

There are individual pupil case studies available that provide pupil background; the support they received; the outcome of the support and the next steps for the individual pupil.