

Positive Destinations

Risk Matrix to Identify Children At Risk

West Dunbartonshire Council

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After identifying that West Dunbartonshire was a hot spot for young people not in education, employment or training, the Council developed a risk matrix that has helped to identify pupils at risk. The implementation of the risk matrix has seen a drop in pupils in the area going on to negative destinations.

Background

West Dunbartonshire was one of the early developers of the risk matrix before it was taken on by Scottish Government and developed further. In 2008, NEET (not in education, employment or training) statistics identified West Dunbartonshire as a hot spot. The Council had to look at ways of improving their performance. The Council developed a risk matrix to target pupils that would be in need of extra support.

Key Activities

The council developed a risk matrix that would identify pupils at risk by categorising them. Some of the categories were:

- Disengaging from learning
- Looked after
- Young carer
- English is their second language

This would then give the staff an idea of pupils that are most at risk in a red, amber, green analysis. Once these pupils have been identified through the matrix, staff will have a better understanding of who needs the most support and where to focus resources.

Benefit and Impact

The difference has been significant. The matrix allows them to track the pupils in need of the most support and ensure that they receive the targeted support and at the right time for the pupil.

This approach had a positive impact as it identified early on the children who were most at risk. This meant that they were offered support earlier and through the early intervention there would be more chance of a positive outcome.

Since NEET identified West Dunbartonshire as a hot spot in 2008,

the number of pupils entering negative destinations has dropped. In 2008 the percentage of pupils entering negative destinations was 17.5% with the figure in 2016/17 dropping to 7.8%, a 10% improvement.

Learning

Before the risk matrix, the council and schools had no way of identifying the pupils that were most at risk. West Dunbartonshire have used the matrix to understand where support and resources should be focused.