

# Nottingham City Council

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Working Together to Improve School Attendance

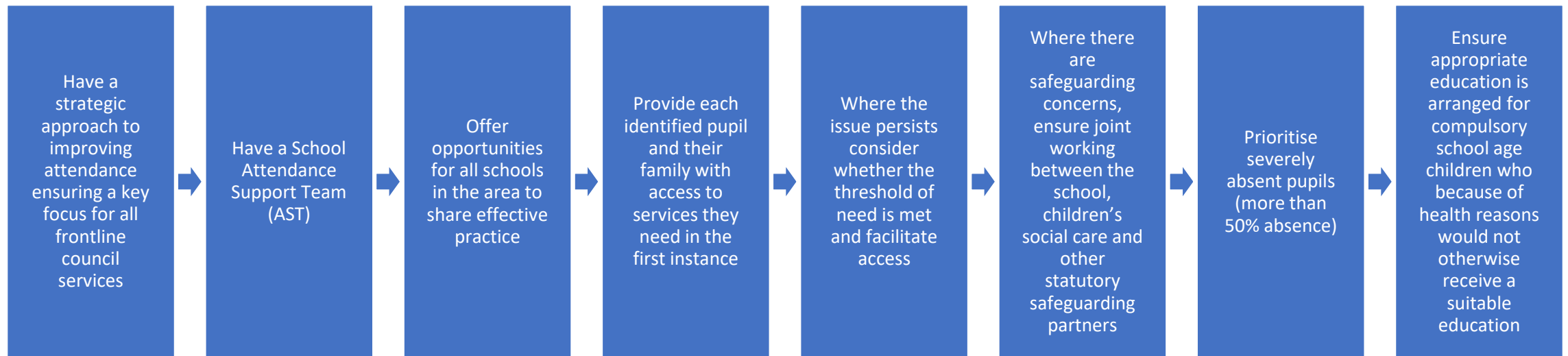
# Statutory Duties of the Local Authority

- Working together to improve school attendance guidance published in 2022 is to be statutory from the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024.
- Key guidance setting out how schools and local authorities must take a 'support-first' approach to help pupils and their families to tackle barriers to attendance
- The duty sets expectations between schools and local authorities to agree plans for the most at-risk absent children.
- It particularly emphasises the importance of support for pupils with SEND and mental ill health who often need more individual consideration due to wider barriers.
- It asks schools, local authorities and wider services to work together to support these pupils, encouraging early intervention and close working with families to address their individual needs.

# Working Together



# Expectations of the Local Authority



# Expectations of the Local Authority Continued

Ensure that all children's social care practitioners understand the importance of good attendance for their educational progress, their welfare and wider development and, understand their role in improving it

Work with the Virtual School Head to support children who are looked after and previously looked after

Work with the DfE Regions Group who will regularly monitor local authority efforts

Consider Ofsted a range of inspections and their assessment of the local authority's approach to improving school attendance

Ultimately, where a local authority has not met expectations or statutory duties the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman or the Secretary of State can consider a complaint

# The Education Welfare & EOTAS Service (The School Attendance Support Team)

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Communication and advice

Organise and chair  
Targeting Support Meetings

Multi-disciplinary support  
for families

Work jointly with school to  
provide formal support  
options e.g. attendance  
contracts and education  
supervision orders

Where support is not  
working, being engaged  
with or appropriate,  
enforce attendance through  
legal intervention

Track local attendance data  
to prioritise support and  
unblock area wide  
attendance barriers where  
they impact numerous  
schools

# Health Related Absence



THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF ABSENCE IN NOTTINGHAM CITY IS ILLNESS



DFE GUIDANCE 'ARRANGING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL BECAUSE OF HEALTH NEEDS'



NEW GUIDANCE HAS CLEAR EXPECTATIONS WHERE **ANY** PUPIL IS EXPERIENCING SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING ATTENDANCE. IT IS **NOT** ONLY FOR PUPILS WHO HAVE A DIAGNOSED MENTAL DISORDER, OR A DISABILITY OR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED.



THERE IS NO NEED TO **ROUTINELY** ASK FOR MEDICAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT AUTHORISING SCHOOL ABSENCE



SCHOOL SHOULD INFORM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WHERE A PUPIL IS ABSENT FOR 15 DAYS OR MORE



LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELEVANT SERVICES SUCH AS LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUPPORT

# Prosecution.....

- .....Is the last resort





# Data Sharing from Schools

All schools will be required to share daily attendance data

Data is shared via a Department for Education portal

Nationally 89% of schools are participating voluntarily

National comparison data is published monthly

Schools are able to compare their own data with other schools

The local authority can download their own data for deep-dive analysis

# Additional Statutory Amendments

- School registration codes will be amended to improve consistency
- Local authorities must submit termly data to the DfE on Children Missing Education (CME) and Elective Home Education (EHE)
- A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for absences

# The Ask.....

Local authority duties (not just the education division)

All key frontline council services to ensure improving attendance is considered in their policies and casework

Good working relationships and shared pathways between education, social care, health, police and other statutory and voluntary partners is key



Q & A