

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 16 July 2013

Decision No: (CAB 13/14 10649)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SUBJECT:	* IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE POLICY
AUTHOR:	Dr Julia Katherine

THE DECISION

To approve the revised School Attendance Policy, attached at Appendix 1 in the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. School attendance is a high priority for both the Council and schools. Whilst attendance has improved, our absence rates are consistently above the national rates and those of our statistical neighbours; although a considerable amount of excellent work has been done. Our aspiration for 2014 is to achieve an attendance rate of 94.9%.
2. Attendance is a critical factor in ensuring improved attainment and future life outcomes. It is central to social inclusion and has a major impact on a child's future life opportunities; equipping them to make good choices as young adults and citizens for themselves and for their communities. It is recognised that attending school regularly can be a protective factor for children; contributing to keeping them safe from harm and reducing their engagement in risky behaviours, anti-social behaviour and juvenile crime.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

School attendance in Southampton, although improving, remains consistently behind the national rates and those of our statistical neighbours. The alternative to adopting this new City-wide attendance policy would be to continue with current approaches which are likely to result in a failure to achieve our target of 94.9% attendance for 2014.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 16 July 2013

Decision Maker:
The Cabinet for Children's Services

Proper Officer:
Judy Cordell

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*