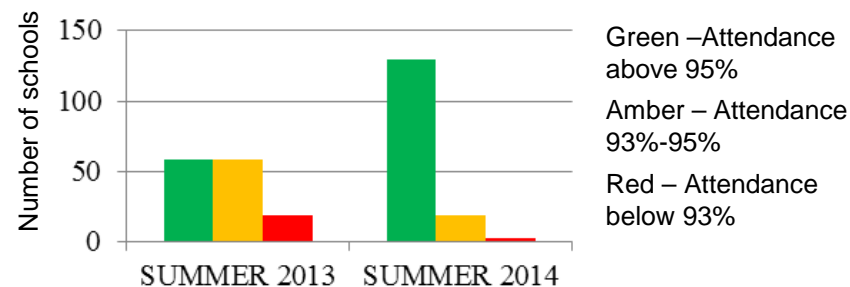




Cheshire West and Chester Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Education welfare works with schools, pupils, and their parents/carers to improve school attendance. Education Welfare Officers hold regular liaison meetings with attendance leads in schools, in which individual pupils attendance is reviewed and where pupils with attendance concerns are identified and actions are agreed. Welfare Officers support schools in their policies and strategies to address absence. Cases that fail to improve are considered for referral to Education Welfare. Following referral, Welfare Officers liaise between the family and school and assist the pupil in their return to regular attendance at school, often working with other agencies via Team Around the Family, Children in Need or Child Protection Plans.

Absence in Cheshire West and Chester schools



In 2012/13 there were 20 court parental prosecutions for a child's regular absence from school.

There has been an increase in the number of schools successfully improving pupil absence between Summer term 2013 and Summer term 2014.

Employers of young people, from age 13 to the end of compulsory school, are required to have youth employment licences for the young people they employ. For 2013/14 Employment licences were issued for 214 children and 1768 children were licensed to perform in entertainment.

2011/12	Primary – Percentage of sessions missed	Secondary - Percentage of sessions missed	Total percent	Persistent absence (15% or more absence)
Cheshire West and Chester	4.2	6.1	5.1	5.2
England	4.4	5.9	5.1	5.2
2012/13	Primary - Percentage of sessions missed	Secondary - Percentage of sessions missed	Total	Persistent absence (15% or more absence)
Cheshire West and Chester	4.6	6.1	5.3	4.9
England	4.7	5.8	4.9	4.6

Cheshire West and Chester saw an increase in the percentage of pupils who were absent from 2011/12 (5.1% of sessions missed) to 2012/13 (5.3% of sessions missed). This is higher than the England average of 4.85% of sessions missed. The change is due to an increase of pupil absence at primary school which increased from 4.2% of sessions missed to 4.6% of sessions missed. Whole year data is not yet available for 2013/14. However, data for the autumn/spring term 2013/14 indicates a significant reduction in pupil absence from autumn/spring term 2012/13 from 5.6% of sessions missed to 4.32% of sessions missed.

Persistent absence is a 15% absence or more for the year. Persistent pupil absence decreased in Cheshire West and Chester from 5.2% in 2011/12 to 4.9% in 2012/13. However, it is above the England average of 4.6% absences.

Evidence of what works

- Education Welfare Officers based in each locality to work with schools, pupils and their parents/carers to improve school attendance.
- Education Welfare Officers holding regular liaison meetings with attendance leads in schools.
- A multi-agency approach to identify needs and agree an action plan.

Rationale: Education welfare works with schools, pupils and their parents/carers to improve school attendance. Regular absences from school can affect future attainment levels, general well being, increase the chances of being involved in anti-social behaviour and being NEET.