

Appendix A

Attendance Data – Headline Figures October 2015

Statistical First Release Data – Autumn Term 2014 and Spring Term 2015 combined

Primary

| | Absence Figures 2014-15 | | Changes on 2013-14 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | LCC | England | LCC | England |
| Overall absence (OA) | 3.6% | 4.0% | +0.2% | +0.1% |
| Persistent Absence (PA) | 2.1% | 2.7% | 0.0% | -0.1% |

Lancashire County Council figures outperform the England figures in each category. For OA there is a slight increase on both the national and Lancashire figures, which is driven by an increase in illness. For PA, there has been a slight decrease in national figures whilst Lancashire's figures are unchanged, but are still the lowest figures for primary PA in the North West.

Statistical Neighbours Rankings –

For OA, Lancashire County Council has stayed at rank = 1/11, the same ranking as in 2013-14

For PA, Lancashire County Council has risen to rank = 1/11, compared to rank 2/11 in 2013-14

Secondary

| | Absence Figures 2014-15 | | Changes on 2013-14 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | LCC | England | LCC | England |
| Overall absence (OA) | 4.9% | 5.2% | +0.3% | +0.1% |
| Persistent Absence (PA) | 5.0% | 5.5% | +0.2% | -0.3% |

Lancashire County Council figures outperform the England figures in each category. For OA there is a small increase in both national and local figures – again driven by an increase in illness and for PA Lancashire shows a small increase compared to a small decrease in the national figures.

Statistical Neighbours Rankings –

For OA, Lancashire County Council has fallen to rank 4/11, compared to rank 2/11 in 2013-14

For PA, Lancashire County Council has fallen to rank 6/11, compared to rank 2/11 in 2013-14

4 year olds

| | Absence Figures 2014-15 | | Changes on 2013-14 | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | LCC | England | LCC | England |
| Overall absence (OA) | 4.4% | 5.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Figures for Lancashire and England remain unchanged compared to 2013-14. Lancashire County Council figures again outperform the England figures, and along with Trafford are the lowest figures in the North West, and are the sixth best figures in the country.

Statistical Neighbour Rankings –

For OA, Lancashire County Council is at rank =1/11, the same ranking as in 2013-14.

Risks

From September 2015, the threshold for PA has moved from 15% absence to 10% absence, which will increase PA figures overall. In addition, the methodology for identifying PA pupils is changing, so that a pupil will be PA where attendance is lower than 90% at defined points in the school year (as collected in the school census), rather than as defined by a set number of absences. This will bring some pupils into the PA category that would not previously have been included. There will be particular implications for schools with high levels of mobility as the new PA methodology will class a pupil as PA if they missed 10% or more possible sessions during their period of enrolment, even if this periods is very short whereas previously they would only have become PA if that absence reached the defined number of sessions.

There is a particular issue for the 2015-16 academic year given the very different Easter holiday pattern with some schools closing on 25 March whereas others will not close until 8 April. Although the whole year figures will not be different, the PA data published in Raiseonline, the Ofsted performance data document, relates to the autumn and spring terms combined data, so some schools will be disproportionately affected in the first year under the new methodology.