

# MAXIMISING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2024– HALF TERM (4)

Written by The Attendance Specialist Team for Schools

Welcome back, we hope you had a restful Break.

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This bulletin is a brief update. Previous issues of the bulletin can be found on Essex Schools Info Link (ESI). Please remember to check ESI for supporting forms and documents you may find useful.

## DfE Attendance Data:

The latest DfE pilot data release is available. Data published on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 indicates an ongoing trend of Essex attendance data being in line with National for both Primary and Secondary settings and better than National in Essex Special Schools. To view the data in more detail please click [here](#).

The DfE will be holding a webinar session: ‘**Monitor your school attendance for schools, trusts and LA’s**’ on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, you can sign up [here](#).

## Working Collaboratively with External Support Agencies:

Collaborative working is fundamental in supporting families to overcome barriers or challenges that may be preventing regular school attendance. [The Working Together to Improve School attendance guidance](#) highlights throughout, the importance of a joint approach to maximising attendance outcomes and ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to learn and thrive. Please see the [summary table](#) for further information.

Therefore, where additional support agencies are in place it is key to share expectations, expertise and discuss possible solutions to remove barriers. Where agencies such as Family Solutions are working with families it is key to involve the designated worker.

Family solutions take into consideration the circumstances known to be true for the CYP and their family and can give greater context as to what may be happening for the young person and how this may be having an impact on school attendance and behaviour. This allows room for greater discussion and informed decision making when considering next steps and interventions. It is important to maintain regular dialogue with the allocated FS worker and take into consideration any suggested solutions and/or interventions when putting in place an action plan. Where unable to contact the designated FS worker, it is important to note each Family Solutions team have an allocated duty line, where Family Workers are available to take your call and advise as appropriate. Please speak with your allocated FS Team for further details.

## Attendance Resources:



The DfE have launched a National Attendance campaign and tool kit for schools titled 'moment's matter, attendance counts' which aims to raise awareness of the importance of regular attendance for children's academic and social development, as well as the potential consequences of missing school. The tool kit includes a range of resources, webinars and exemplar case studies and can be found [here](#). The tool kit also provides additional information regarding [school attendance Hubs](#).

Additional attendance resources can be found via the Attendance Specialist Team, these can be further used within school and shared with parents to highlight key messages and expectations in relation to school attendance.

### **The Education Hub:**

The DfE have also launched a site for parents, pupils, education professionals and media to capture all you need to know about the education system. The latest blog includes some key factors the DfE are putting in place to support mental health in schools, for additional information please see [here](#)

### **Attendance Compliance Update:**

Please be advised that the referral form that schools use to make referrals into the Attendance Compliance Team has been updated to require **all referrers to share a copy of the latest school report/progress report for the pupil concerned**. The inclusion of this information, as part of the referral paperwork, should help to provide evidence about how the reported attendance/absence levels are believed to be impacting on the pupil's attainment.

**This additional requirement will not apply to referrals for penalty notices in cases where a holiday has been taken during term time.**

### **Attendance Specialist Team Training Workshops:**

All workshop sessions will continue to be held ONLINE via Teams and are free for schools. Sessions can be booked via [Education Essex Online Booking System](#). This link will take you to instructions on how to register an account for your school. If you already have an account, please click 'Register/Log In' to be able to browse full details and book your space.

If you would like any support with creating an account or booking on training, please contact the Workforce Development team by emailing [WorkforceDevelopment@esex.gov.uk](mailto:WorkforceDevelopment@esex.gov.uk) or calling 03330 139 891.

### **Upcoming Training:**

**Attendance Essentials- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 1-2:30pm**

**Transition Planning Workshop-Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 1-2:30pm**

**How to make a successful referral for Legal Intervention- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 11-12:30pm**

### **Attendance Specialist Team update:**



Essex County Council

The Attendance Specialist are pleased to introduce two new Specialists to the Team, Emily Marks (North East Essex) and Joanne Pavlou (West Essex). Team contact details can be found below.

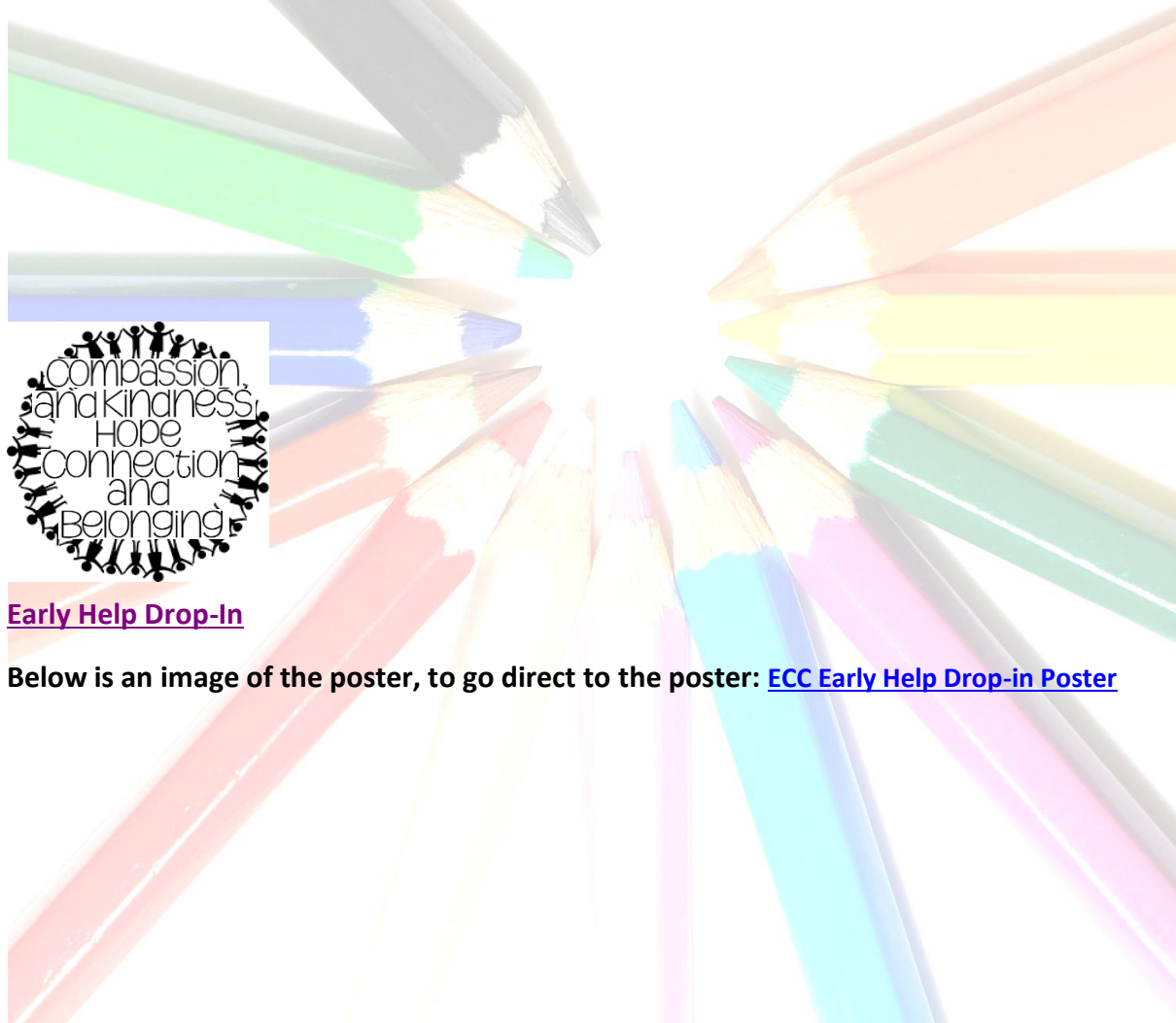
### Team Contacts:

**North East Team** (incl. Clacton, Colchester, Harwich)  
neattendanceteam@essex.gov.uk / 0333 032 2968, option 1

**Mid Team** (incl. Chelmsford, Braintree, Maldon) midattendanceteam@essex.gov.uk / 0333 032 2968 option 2

**South Team** (incl. Brentwood, Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford)  
southattendanceteam@essex.gov.uk / 0333 032 2968, option 3

**West Team** (incl. Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford)  
westattendanceteam@essex.gov.uk / 0333 032 2968, option 4



### Early Help Drop-In

Below is an image of the poster, to go direct to the poster: [ECC Early Help Drop-in Poster](#)



## EARLY HELP DROP-IN SESSIONS



### 4 quadrant specific weekly drop-in sessions

These sessions are designed to give partners across Essex who work with children, young people & families the chance to: discuss anonymised cases, gain peer support, be signposted to advice & help to answer general questions



These sessions will be facilitated by one of the 4 Partnership Delivery Leads, who will be regularly supported by our panel of subject experts including:

**Children & Families Hub / Family Solutions / ECFWS / EWMHS Team Around the Family Support Officer (TAFSO) / Health Liaison Officer/ Senior Attendance Specialists and others**

**North Essex drop-in session - Tues 15:00-16:00pm** Click [Here](#) to Join  
Email [Lee Bailey](mailto:Lee.Bailey@essex.gov.uk) Partnership Delivery Lead (North) [Lee.Bailey@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Bailey@essex.gov.uk) for more details

**Mid Essex drop-in session - Wed 12:00-13:00pm** Click [Here](#) to Join  
Email [Paul Mitchell](mailto:Paul.Mitchell@essex.gov.uk) Partnership Delivery Lead (Mid) [Paul.Mitchell@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Mitchell@essex.gov.uk) for more details

**South Essex drop-in session - Wed 12:30-13:30pm** Click [Here](#) to Join  
Email [Harriet Pickering](mailto:Harriet.Pickering@essex.gov.uk) Partnership Delivery Lead (South) [Harriet.Pickering@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Harriet.Pickering@essex.gov.uk) for more details

**West Essex drop-in session - Thurs 12:00-13:00pm** Click [Here](#) to Join  
Email [Fiona Bailey](mailto:Fiona.Bailey@essex.gov.uk) Partnership Delivery Lead (West) [Fiona.Bailey@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.Bailey@essex.gov.uk) for more details

**PLEASE NOTE** - These sessions **DO NOT** replace work undertaken by the Children & Families Hub as outlined in [Effective Support for Children & Families in Essex](#)



**Leads for Partnership Delivery**

**North, Mid,  
South, West**

