

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Lead Member for Education |
| Date: | 21 January 2015 |
| Title: | Hampshire Code of Conduct for the Issuing of Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absence from Schools |
| Reference: | 6347 |
| Report From: | Director of Children's Services |

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1. The decision:

- a) That the Executive Member agrees the lower thresholds for the issuing of penalty notices relating to the school attendance of children and young people.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Children and young people need to attend school in order to maximise their wellbeing. School attendance in Hampshire is good but the gap between Hampshire's figures and the national figures in primary schools is narrowing. Overall, in secondary schools, Hampshire's attendance figures are very slightly worse than the national figures. The evidence shows that the issuing of penalty notices, or the threat of issuing them, improves attendance. Hampshire has issued fewer penalty notices than is now common among local authorities and this has largely been because the number of days' absence that would trigger a penalty notice in Hampshire has been double that of other local authorities. The decision rectifies that position.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. The only other option considered was keeping things as they are. It was rejected because Hampshire needs the highest possible levels of school attendance and changing the thresholds for the issuing of penalty notices to those now common in other local authorities will reduce absence in Hampshire schools.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none.

5. **Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

6. **Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

7. **Statement from the Decision Maker:**

Approved by:

Date:

21 January 2015

**Executive Member for Education
Councillor Peter Edgar**