## Tackling Low School Attendance through Collaboration

The Primary Early Intervention Team around the School (ETAS)



# Schools at the heart of early intervention



Southwark Council

## An Overview of the ETAS

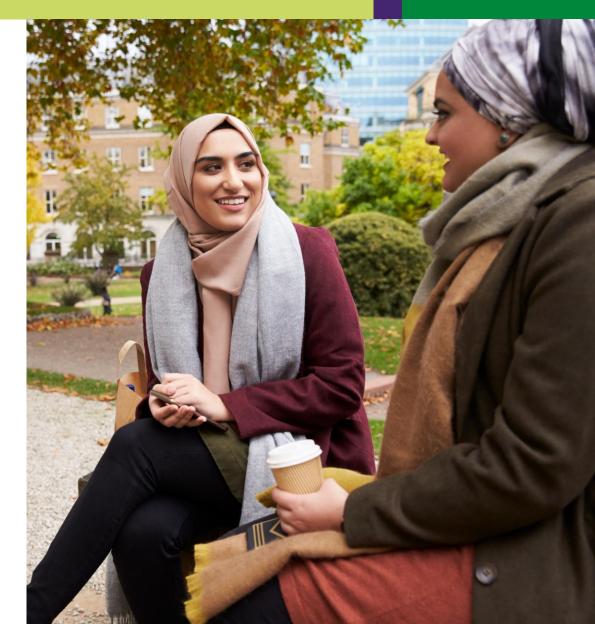
#### The Primary Early Intervention Team Around the School

- Part of the system of Help and Support for families
- Designed to place schools at the centre of effective early intervention
- The goal is to bring out the best in every child by addressing the root causes of low attendance early
- Working together to Identify, Encourage and Respond
- Identify early signs of difficulties, social/emotional, behavioral, academic, or family related.
- Encourage parents/carers to seek support in managing challenges impacting school attendance
- Respond with empathy and collaborate effectively to reach practical solutions
- Respectful challenge and focus on improving outcomes
- Children at risk of becoming persistently absent
- Children already persistently or severely absent

# The Under 11 Locality Service

#### A Team of Experienced and Qualified Professionals

- The TAS consists of muti disciplinary professionals with expertise in education, social work, mental health and family support
- TAS can provide advice, consultation and support to address issues and causes of low school attendance
- Brings together professionals and key services with school representatives to explore children's needs in a roundtable conversation
- Adopts a problem-solving approach to joint working strategies that address the specific challenges families face in order to support better attendance, inclusion and better outcomes for vulnerable families.



## Annual and Termly Targeted Support Meetings

#### A statutory requirement for schools

- Persistent absence rates below 90%
- Severe absence rate below 50%
- Schools must take more concerted action when children's attendance falls below these levels.
- Frequency of meetings
- Schools with absence rates higher than the minimum threshold must hold termly meetings
- Schools meeting the minimum threshold must hold
  an annual meeting



# Preparing for the TAS

#### Steps to ensure a productive meeting

- Analyse the latest data and highlight the top 12 for discussion
- Share this with your TAS Lead before the meeting if at all possible
- Provide the dates for each meeting to your TAS Lead in advance
- Ensure the school representatives who will attend is also confirmed
- Discuss the expertise needed to consider whole school and or community factors and let your TAS lead know
- Before, or after a TAS meeting you can contact your TAS Lead to discuss a child and family in between TAS meetings directly or send a request via email.



## How will Targeted Support Meetings work ?

### How will targeted support meetings work in primary schools?

- A Team around the school (TAS) approach
- The meeting will function as a team around school review of the most vulnerable children and families
- Schools should prepare a detailed review of children with persistent or severe absence focusing on the top 12 as well as those with vulnerability needs.
- Key factors to consider
- Understanding the underlying cause of low attendance both in school and at home
- Identifying assessment, help or resources that may be required for the child and their family's needs
- Exploring risk, and help and support options
- Agreeing actions and monitoring progress regularly



# **Final Thoughts**

#### **Attendance and Outcomes**

- Collaboration to work towards effective solutions
- Address persistent and severe absence as a priority
- Schedule your annual or termly meeting based on your attendance rates ad vulnerable families in need of help
- Engage with your TAS Lead to support your work and help families address the causes of low attendance and other difficulties and challenges
- Together we can improve school attendance for every child and family



## **Key Contacts**

