

Mapping barriers to school attendance

Practical advice to Stage 1 of the 3 Stage
Approach

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New DfE guidance document

From September 2022

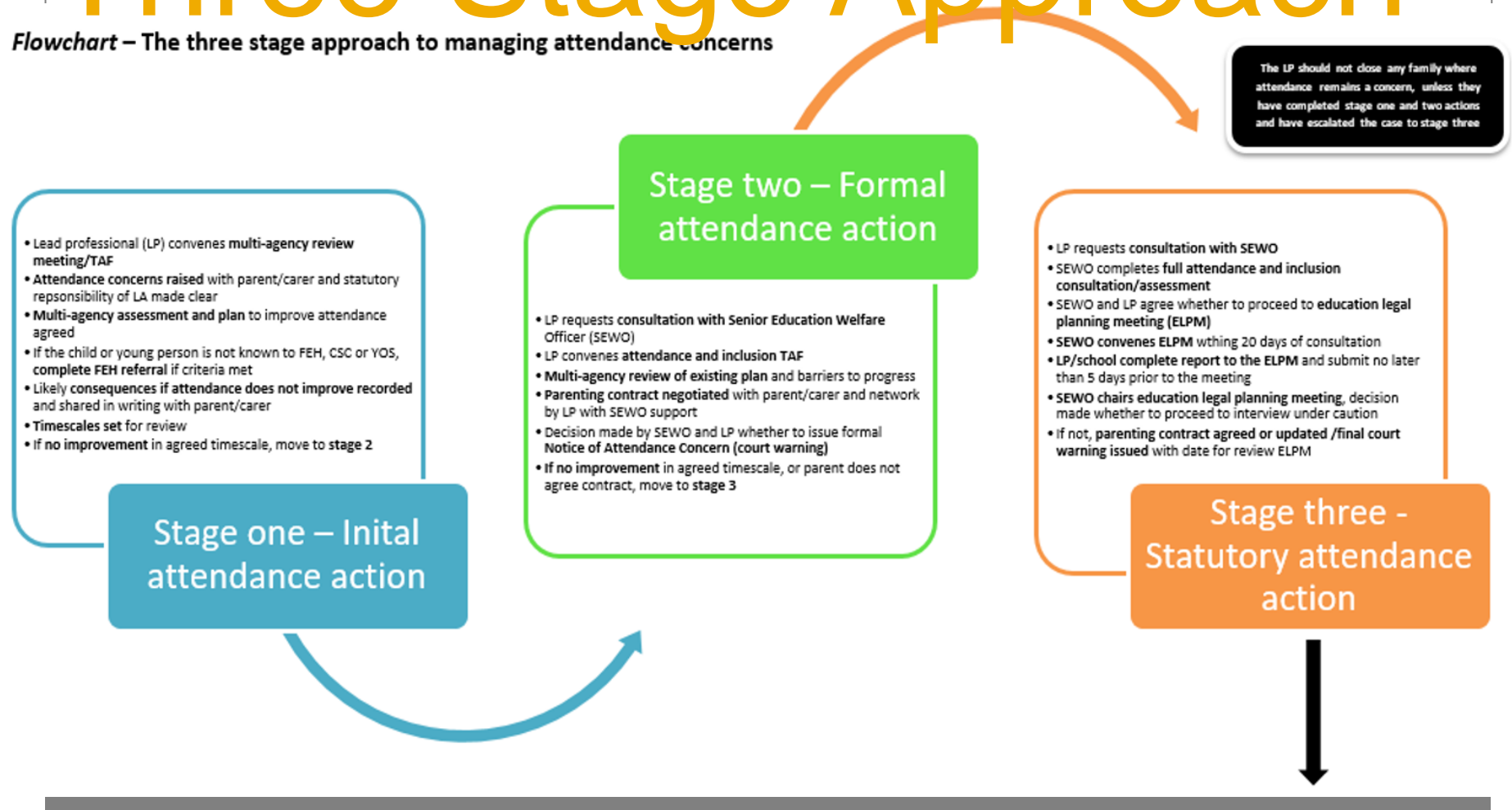
Working Together to Improve School Attendance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

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Three Stage Approach

Flowchart – The three stage approach to managing attendance concerns



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Stage one - Initial attendance action

- Identification of the likely reasons for poor attendance.
- A record evidencing that concerns regarding attendance have been raised with the parent/carer.
- Evidence that a TAF has been convened with the family, other professionals including health, SEN and other agencies where appropriate.



Stage one - Initial attendance action

- The target for improvement which will be monitored and reviewed.
- Actions to be taken by family, school and professionals to improve attendance.
- The consequences if attendance does not improve, including the possibility of prosecution where a parent/carer is deemed culpable for persistent non-attendance.



Case Study

- Tom's attendance is 42% (year to date)
- Tom attendance is deemed Severe Absence
- Tom has not been at school for the last four days
- The daily text system has had no response.
- Due to safeguarding concerns DSL attends the home.



Attendance Grid

Welcome Bugs Map

Tom
 School School Year 11 Class 11T UPN
 Date of Birth 24 July 2008 Age 15 and 6 months Sex Male
 SEN Support

Attendance Breakdown / Contacts

Attendance Summary

42.7
%
Attendance School Year So Far

Worsening
30-Day Trend

Past Week
All Marks

T	F	M	T	W
U	O	N	N	U
L	O	-	N	-

Week Commencing	Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
29 Jan 2024	N	-	N	N	N	-	-	-	-	-
22 Jan 2024	L	\	L	\	O	O	U	L	O	O
15 Jan 2024	U	\	O	O	L	\	/	\	L	\
8 Jan 2024	U	\	O	O	U	\	O	L	L	\
1 Jan 2024	#	#	#	#	#	#	L	\	I	I
25 Dec 2023	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
18 Dec 2023	O	O	O	O	N	N	O	O	#	#
11 Dec 2023	O	O	L	\	U	\	L	\	I	I
4 Dec 2023	U	\	L	\	/	\	/	\	/	\
27 Nov 2023	O	O	U	L	L	\	/	\	L	\
20 Nov 2023	O	\	U	\	U	\	O	O	L	\
13 Nov 2023	I	\	U	\	O	O	U	L	U	\



Home visit

- Tom's attendance is 42% (year to date)



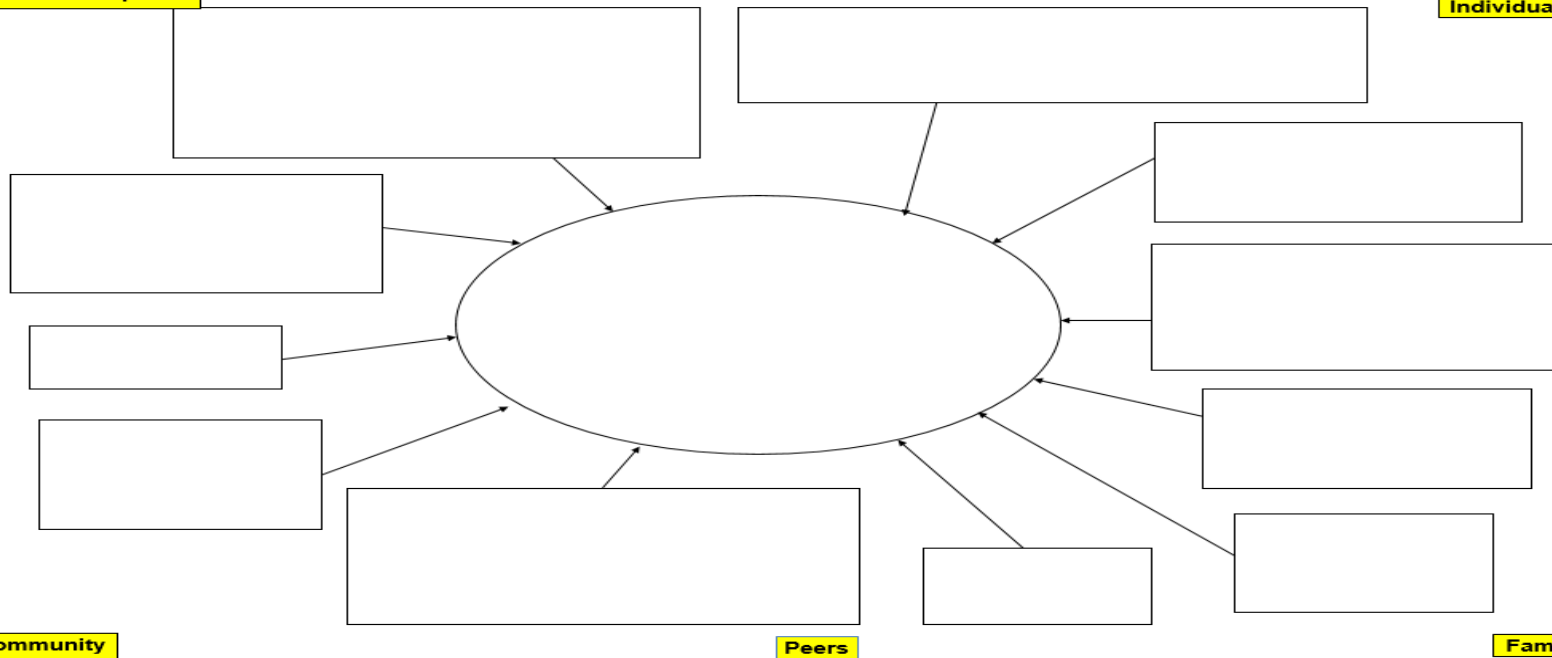
Mapping

Mapping

Pick a recent example when that goal wasn't met, and write it in the middle circle.
(Just put what someone did, that everyone agrees they did, don't put what they thought or felt or what happened next.)

School/Occupation

Individual



Community

Peers

Family

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How to map

Mapping in refers to the process of identifying factors that lead to, or allow, attendance problems (or other problems) to occur

These factors or barriers are always things that directly prevent attendance, rather than broader themes running through their life and interactions

Before mapping you need to agree a clear goal...



How to map

Avoid putting a hypothesis in the middle (e.g., Tom finds it difficult to focus in class), since this will already include an explanation and limit your possibilities

people will find it easier to reflect on a specific example, rather than a general expression of a problem, for example:

Tom did not get out of bed for school ✓

Tom's school attendance is a concern X



We want to...

Agree these with parent and Tom which factors are most powerfully impacting on attendance

Agree which of these we can realistically do something about

Agree who can do what to make a positive difference to these factors



We want to avoid...

Assuming we know what is driving the attendance problem

Doing the thing we always do when presented with attendance problems like these

Imposing our views and solutions on families (note this is **not** the same as agreeing there is not a problem)



Over to you!

Try and create a map from what you have heard.

Think about the 5 areas.

Identify which three factors most impact Tom's attendance.

You need the family to agree with the factors identified.

TAF and Plan

Arrange a meeting with family and stakeholders

Discuss the map and the main areas

Gather the opinion of all.

Create a plan of purposeful actions to address.

Allow time to review the actions.

If attendance does not improve, contact EIT!

EIT Surgery

- Education Inclusion Team (EIT) offers a weekly attendance surgery offering consultation for students who are persistent.
- Consultation can be arranged to meet with a SEWO by emailing earlyhelp@southwark.gov.uk
- The inclusion framework is available in our online education inclusion handbook
<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/childcare-and-parenting/children-s-social-care/family-early-help-feh/education-inclusion-handbook> .

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