

**Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director for Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Attendance Strategy ('Every Day Matters')</b>

**Summary:**

To bring to the attention of the scrutiny committee the outcomes of the recent review of school attendance and to present the 'Every Day Matters' Attendance Strategy as agreed by Children's Directorate Management Team in September 2012.

**Actions Required:**

To note the report and ask questions as required.

**1. Background**

Children's Services undertook a review of school attendance in May 2012 to identify the areas for development to further increase attendance at school; this followed a national review by Charlie Taylor, the Government's expert adviser on behaviour.

**2. Conclusion**

Children in Lincolnshire attend school as often as their peers nationally. Like the national picture less absence is seen in our primary schools when compared to our secondary schools, although absence in both is decreasing and the gap between them is shrinking.

In Lincolnshire the proportion of the absence that is unauthorised is much less in both the primary and the secondary phases of education, which means therefore that much of the absence is authorised by the school.

Lincolnshire authorises more family holiday than nationally, although the total absence due to family holidays is broadly the same.

In Lincolnshire there is a greater incidence of persistent absence (PA) in our primary schools than that seen nationally. Persistent absence is defined as 15% or more absence from school in a school term.

The 'Every Day Matters' attendance strategy addresses the identified areas for further improvement and was endorsed in September 2012.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

There were no negative impacts of the strategy identified that require mitigation.

### **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	'Every Day Matters' an Attendance Strategy - September 2012

### **5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by John O'Connor, who can be contacted on 01522 553213 or [john.o'connor@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.o'connor@lincolnshire.gov.uk).