



Appendix A

Truancy Watch East has been operational since the 16th June 2008. The team is staffed by a Police Officer, Pc Graham Gregory and a Youth Services Officer from Education Leeds, Jacky Walker. The team is based out of Killingbeck Police Station and has use of a Police vehicle which contains the Truancy Watch East and partner logos. The Truancy team operate sweeps throughout Inner East Leeds with particular focus on the Gipton and Seacroft area and the following schools located within these areas: Primrose High, Parklands Girls, Corpus Christi, DYCA, Mount St Marys and John Smeaton. In addition to completing daily sweeps the team complete home visits, proactive work within schools, attend tasking meetings and assist in training sessions with PCSOs and NPTs.

The objectives of the team includes increasing school attendance, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour within the East of Leeds. When a young person is not attending school they are vulnerable and may be engaging in anti-social behaviour or criminal activities. In accordance with Truancy Watch guidelines any young person of school age seen by the Truancy Watch East team in school hours but not in school will be stopped and spoken to. Details will be taken, whether they are alone, with a friend, or, accompanied by an adult. Information that is taken will be held by the Attendance Strategy Team and Education Leeds and these details may be used in prosecution of parents/carers under 444 of the 1996 Education Act or in the case of a Penalty Notice.

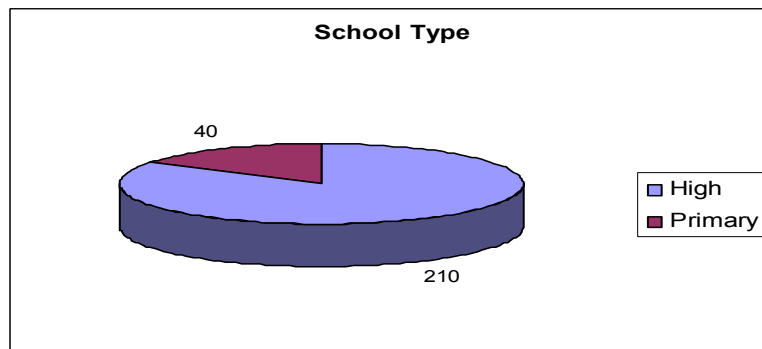
Young people who have been stopped by the team will, unless supplied with valid reason for been out of school, be escorted to a place of safety. (Current agreement is that the place of safety is the school that the child is on roll at). If a young child is visited at their home at the request of school, AIO or other agency worker the Truancy Watch East team may escort them to school.

Initially records of all stops made were held on an in-depth database accessible by designated staff within Education Leeds. This detailed numbers of students stopped, location, reason for been out of school, whether authorised or unauthorised, action taken and whether young person is known to the police. This database also allowed for recording of home visits made as a result of referrals from schools and AIOs. Since December 2008 the database has been amended and now

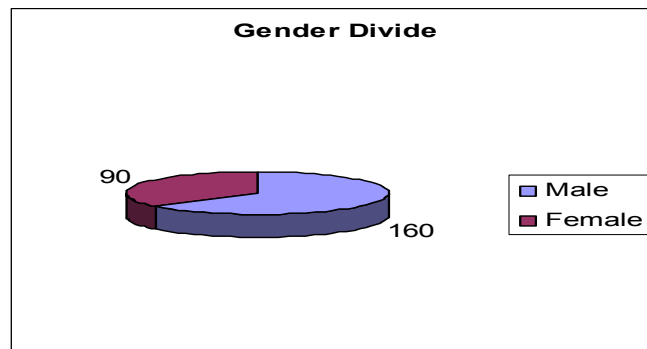
only records date of stop, name of stop, DOB, and school registered at. As an employee of Education Leeds, the Youth Services Officer inputs data from stops on to SYNERGY a database system that is held by Education Leeds.

Database statistics

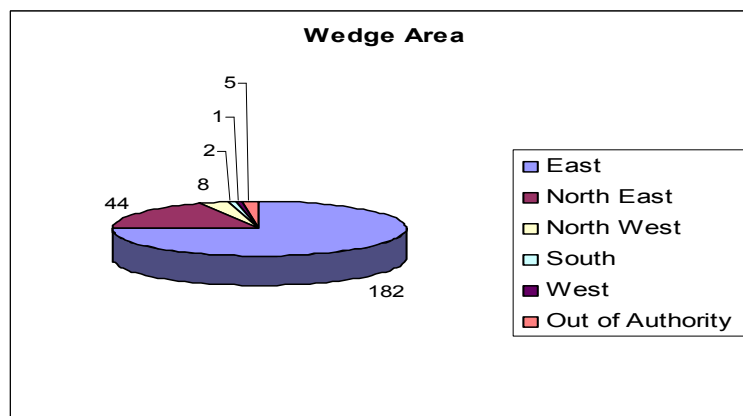
From the 16th of June 2008 to the 19th December 2008, 62 separate sweeps were undertaken by Truancy Watch East with a total of 250 stops. Out of these 250 stops 210 students were of high school age (84%) and 40 (16%) were of primary school age. From the total stops made by the team 15 students were stopped on more than one occasion.



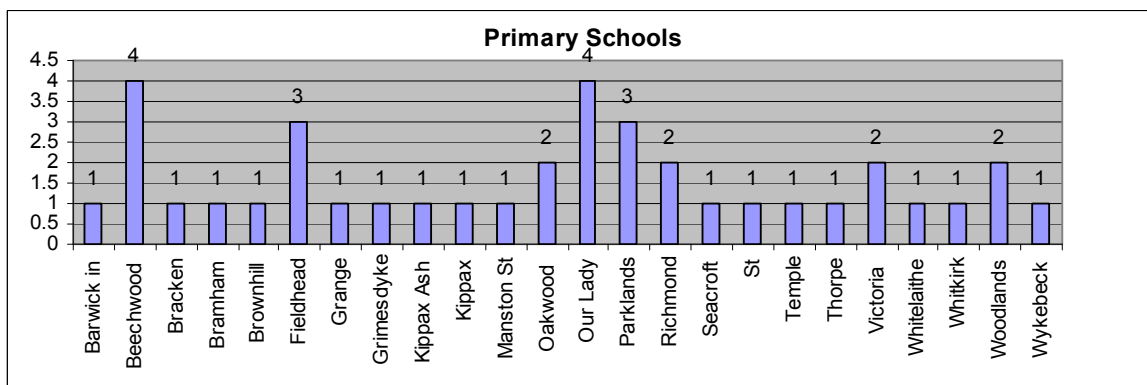
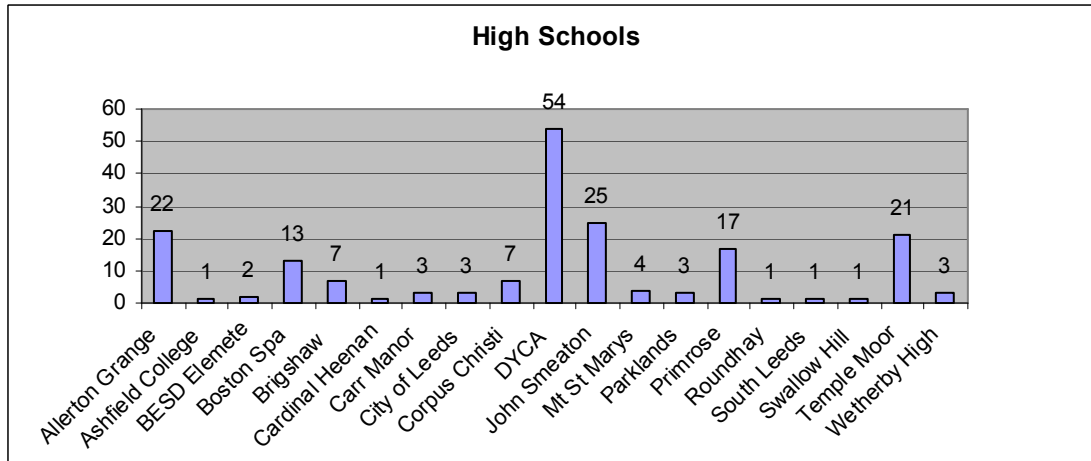
Figures from the database clearly show that there is a clear gender divide in the stops that have been made with significantly more males stopped than females, (160 males and 90 girls). These divide is similar to figures that are reported back annually for the Truancy Watch Leeds initiative.



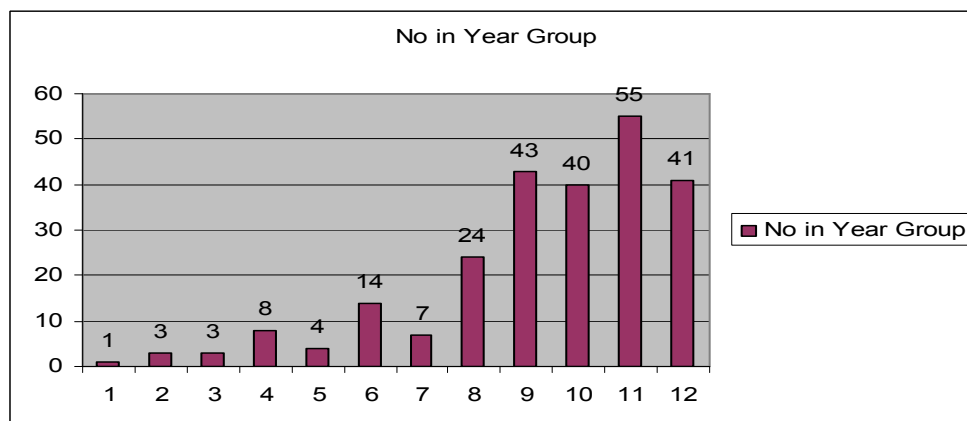
Out of the 250 stops made 182 were of children on roll at schools located within the East of the city, 44 were from North-East schools, 8 from North West, 2 from South, and 1 from West. It is to be expected that East would have the majority of stops as this is the area of focus.



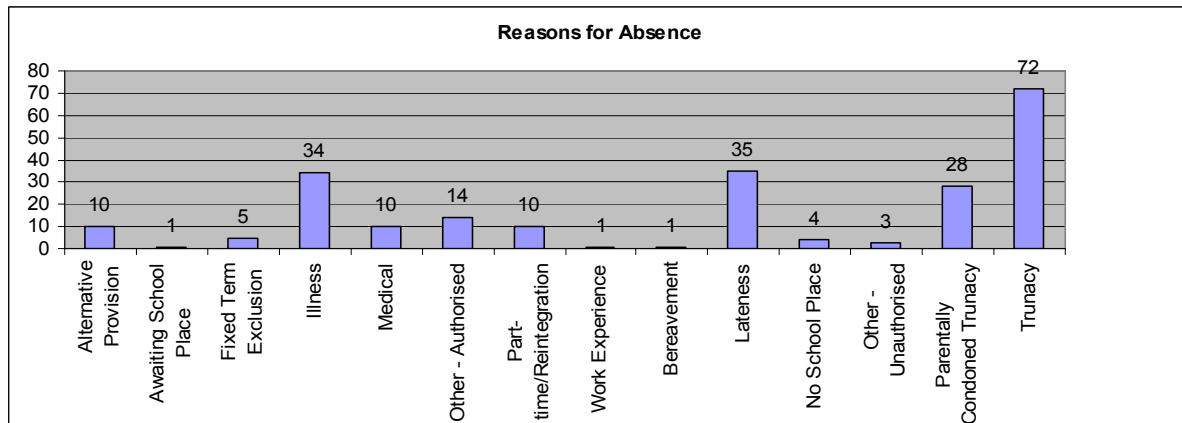
A range of high schools were represented in the stops made, with the largest number of students been on the school roll of the David Young Community Academy, Allerton Grange High, Temple Moor and John Smeaton Community College. Figures for primary school aged students indicate stops for a number of primary schools primarily located within the east of the city but also elsewhere.



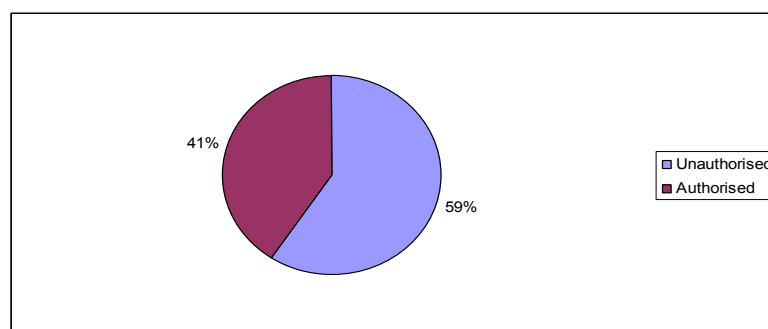
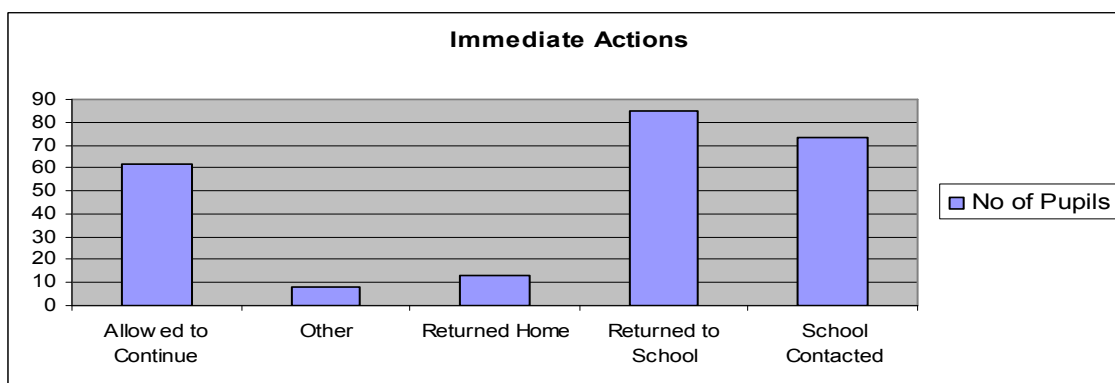
A mixture of age ranges were stopped covering all years of compulsory education. After analysis it is clear that the statistics vary on a half termly basis for predominately highest year group for stops. (1st half term figures showed year 8, 2nd half term year 10s). Overall figures for the date parameters of the project clearly show that students stopped are significantly placed within the KS4 year groups.



14 different reasons were given for being out of school, 9 authorised reasons and 5 unauthorised reasons. 100 of the pupils stopped admitted truancy; this included truancy condoned by parents. (DCSF guidance on registration codings is that there is no longer a difference between truancy and parentally condoned truancy). 34 pupils were absent from school due to illness. (These students who gave illness as reason for absence had been making their way home after authorisation sought from parents/guardians by the school). The following tables display this:



Immediate action taken with the students that were stopped included: allowed to continue; returned to school; returned home; school contacted and other. Overall breakdown of this shows authorised absence as 41.2% and unauthorised absence as 58.8%.



Out of the total stops made 84 were with friends, 74 were alone, 61 with parents, 23 with relatives, 2 with other and 6 stops had no record held.

Outputs & actions against Project Delivery Agreement

1. No of stops = 250

2. No of schools engaged: In total 43 schools have been involved with the project as a result of stops made. (19 High Schools and 24 Primaries). All 6 Target High schools have recently been visited by the Truancy Watch team and further work is to come as a result of this. Group work has taken place within Primrose High (Target High School) and Brigshaw Language College. This is looking at been further developed and rolled out to more High schools over the course of the 2008/09 academic year. Several Primary Schools located within the focus area have been visited by the team and assemblies and workshops have been completed with the aide of AIOs

3. No of sweeps carried out = 62

4/5. No of PNs for exclusions/non attendance = 0 There have been 15 students that have been stopped by the team on 2 or more occasions. Out of these students 10 of them have been confirmed as absent from school without authorisation. The current protocol for issuing of Penalty Notices for repeated stops on truancy sweeps is that a Penalty Notice warning letter will be issued after 2 repeated stops within a term. This is to be amended so that in the instance of repeated stops a Penalty Notice warning letter will be issued. If a pupil has been stopped on 2 occasions and there is evidence of least 10 unauthorised sessions in the previous 12 week period a School Attendance Panel will be held and Parenting Contract will be sought. A decision at this panel will be made in regards to whether a Penalty Notice is issue. (If parents fail to attend SAP they will automatically be issued PN).

6. No of Education Supervision Orders = 0

7. No of parenting contracts issued = As mentioned under section 4/5

8. No of Anti-Social behaviour contracts issued = 0

9. No of persistent absentee pupils = Half term 1 figures held by Education Leeds show this as:

Temple Moor - 94 (increase of 7 on same period last academic year – 87)

John Smeaton – 127 (increase on same period last year – 103)

Parklands Girls – 103 (decrease on same period last year – 98)

Mt St Mary's – 94 (increase on same period last year – 103)

Corpus Christi – information not held

DYCA – information not held.

Unable to compare half term 2 figures as 2008-09 figures are not available yet.

10. No of home visits = 16 home visits have been made to 12 separate pupils.

Out of the 250 stops that have been made 48 are students known to the Attendance Strategy Team and are receiving appropriate intervention. (These include students who have been recently prosecuted or in the process of prosecution with possibility of ESO, Parenting Order or Fines via Magistrates Court).

No of students stopped on sweeps not in Education = 5. These students stopped by the team have been referred to CME (Children Missing Education team) at Education Leeds.

Actions for next term

1. Presentations on dealing with Truancy to continue within target schools (both High and Primary).
2. Truancy Watch East to continue to conduct home visits at the request of schools, AIOs and other agencies. This is to be further developed in order to target PPA (Potential Persistent Absentees) from the 6 target high schools. Discussions have taken place with all Attendance Leaders and Truancy Watch East team and agreement has been made that schools will contact the team at least twice a week with a list of names of PPAs that have not been in school last week. The team will then visit these students and if reason for absence is unauthorised will return them to school.
3. Letters sent to parents/guardians after stops to be amended to include section regarding the use of Penalty Notices.
4. *Safer Schools Officers now in post in all of the targeted schools within the East. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss an action plan to incorporate joint up working between the Safer School officers and the Truancy Watch East Team. **Awaiting further info from Amanda Bradely***

Truancy Watch East was officially launched with a press release in September that was in both the Yorkshire Post and Weekly News East Leeds. In addition to this and to raise public awareness the team spent a day in the Crossgates Arndale Centre in November where they had a stand and actively spoke to children, parents and the public.

Truancy Watch East has played a positive and proactive role in working with schools and families and feedback has been received from various schools to support further work:

‘.....we have found the Truancy Team to have been of significant help not only in relation to their work with some of our regular truants but in terms of their proactive approach and helpful advice in relation to other issues surrounding problem students.....’

Alan Bolton.

Support for Learning Manager. DYCA. (4th September 2008)

‘.....Members of Truancy Team have supported us with many problems regarding pupil’s irregular school attendance by carrying out home visits. Without this support from the team on these cases these pupils would not have returned to full time education.....’

Ann Hartley.

School Attendance Officer. Corpus Christi Catholic College. (3rd September 2008)

‘.....I would like to express our schools appreciation for the work of the Truancy Watch team.....whilst only operating from 16th June they have already had an impact on our attendance.....’

Mrs. E. Bisson.

Headteacher (retired). Parklands Girls High School. (10th September 2008)

‘.....the fact that there is an officer in place is a deterrent to those young people who have considered truancy from school as the officers are very high profile and is always known when truants are brought back in.....the role of the team supports the work we do in school on attendance and provides an extension to the search outside the school site for truanting and vulnerable students.....’

Celia Goodson.

Assistant Head – Inclusion. Primrose High School. (4th September 2008)

Vicky Wade

Attendance Adviser (Truancy Watch)

Education Leeds

14.01.09