

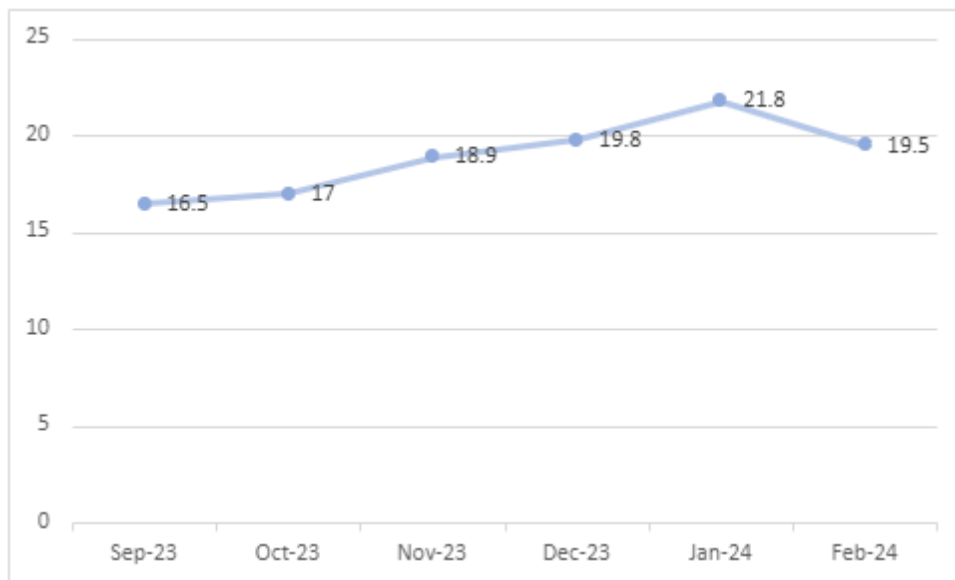
## Briefing Paper: Update on Persistent Absenteeism in Hillingdon

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On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 the rate of persistent absenteeism in Hillingdon was 19.5% for the academic year. This compares favourably to the national average of 20.6% for the same period.

The chart below shows the rate of persistent absenteeism in the borough across the year.



*Data: Department for Education 1 Mar 2024*

With the exception of February where there has been a slight decrease, the rate of persistent absenteeism was growing by 1% on average month on month. If this trend were to continue, Hillingdon's rate of persistent absenteeism could reach 26-28% by the end of the academic year. Although this is lower than last year's rate of 33.9%, it highlights there is more work to be done to bring this number down even further.

Further preliminary data analysis has revealed:

- There is little difference in the rate of persistent absenteeism between the genders; the average rate for girls is 19.4% and boys 19.5%.
- The rate of persistent absenteeism is highest in our special school settings (38%). The average rate in secondary schools is 22.5% and in primary schools is 16.2%.
- The rate of persistent absenteeism in our vulnerable cohorts was:
  - All children with SEND: 28.4%
  - Children on an EHCP: 33%
  - Children in receipt of Free School Meals: 31.3%
  - Looked After Children: 27.1%
  - Children in Need: 59.6%
  - Children on a Child Protection Plan: 40%

## **Progress to date**

Since the last update was provided to the Committee, the Attendance Support team have made progress in the following areas:

- A revised borough-wide protocol has been published on the use of penalty notices.
- Training on Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) has been undertaken by all team members and has been offered to key colleagues in all Hillingdon schools.
- Four members of the Attendance Support team are undertaking training via the Virtual School in how to work with children who have suffered complex trauma.
- Three attendance hubs have so far been held involving schools in the West Drayton, Hillingdon and Ruislip areas, with a further hub planned for Hayes before the end of the Spring term.
- Commissioned a deep-dive analysis into attendance and absence for all children with a social worker being undertaken by the Virtual School Project Manager.
- Recruitment is underway for an Education Project Manager (12-month role) to support with accelerating progress in attendance.
- Planning for fortnightly virtual clinics is underway with a plan to launch in the summer term.