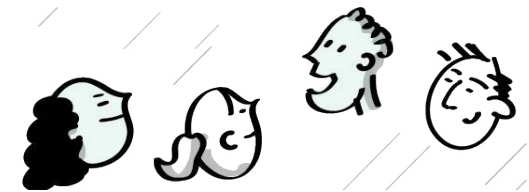**Education Scotland**
Foghlam Alba

ATTENDANCE

There is a system-wide concern about reduced levels of attendance, particularly since the pandemic. National statistics provide evidence that there is a poverty-related gap in attendance. This report which is the result of a deep dive led by Education Scotland, aims to provide understanding of, the issues that impact on attendance and how as a system we might support improvement in attendance.

FINDINGS

ENGAGEMENT is as important as **ATTENDANCE** ✓

All absence impacts on LEARNING

PARTNERSHIP: Schools, families, partners, third-sector; to ensure support and effective communication and secure presence.

Groups more vulnerable to NON-ATTENDANCE ✕
Poverty
ASN
Young carers
Exclusion
Anxiety
Secondary-aged pupils
Gypsy travellers

SCHOOL

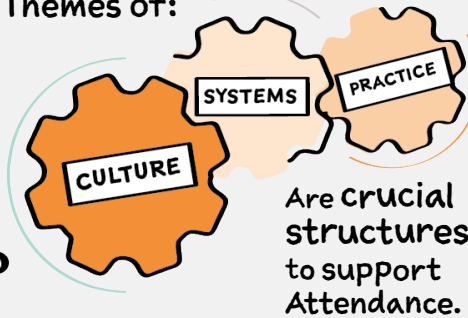Support should take place at the EARLY STAGES. Lengthier cases are complex to solve.

All local authorities in Scotland have included attendance as a Scottish Attainment Challenge stretch aim for the next three years.
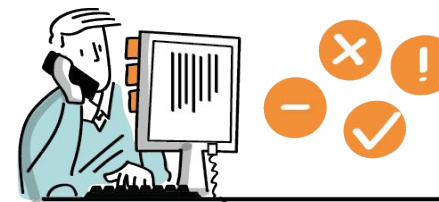
Absence can be caused by: **individual, peer, family or school factors.** (or a combination of these)

Themes of:
CULTURE **SYSTEMS** **PRACTICE**
Are **crucial structures** to support Attendance.

Significant variations across Scotland in how DATA around attendance is used.

ACTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Local authorities should carefully monitor their strategic and implementation plans for improving attendance or develop a plan where one is not in place.

2. Put children and young people's views at the centre of refreshed approaches.

3. ES, working with stakeholders and partners should provide bespoke support for areas where improving levels of attendance remains a challenge.

4. Approaches to effective tracking and monitoring attendance should be collated and shared.

5. ES and SG should collaborate with the wider system to bring coherence to the work on improving attendance.