

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 FEBRUARY 2009

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOLS IN EAST AYRSHIRE 2007/08

Report by Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Governance and Scrutiny Committee Members of the exclusion of pupils from school in East Ayrshire during session 2007-2008.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. On an annual basis the Scottish Government publishes a statistical report, "Exclusion from Schools 2007-2008". Information relates to local authority and mainstream grant aided schools only. Unless otherwise stated this report refers to cases of exclusion rather than the number of pupils excluded. Some pupils are excluded more than once.
- 2.2. This Governance and Scrutiny paper summarises the findings of the Scottish Government report in relation to East Ayrshire

3. OVERALL EXCLUSIONS IN EAST AYRSHIRE SCHOOLS

- 3.1 During 2007/08 there were **860 exclusions** from schools in East Ayrshire, a decrease of 29 per cent from 2006/07. The decrease is reported at the same time as a 10 per cent decrease nationally.

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Clackmannanshire	432	444	536	542
Falkirk	1167	889	907	679
North Ayrshire	1,840	2,146	2,072	1782
North Lanarkshire	3,421	3,425	3,892	3031
West Lothian	1,283	1,763	1,924	1735

East Ayrshire	1,330	1,339	1,211	860
Scotland	41,974	42,990	44,197	39717

- 3.2 When compared against local authorities with similar socio-economic profiles, East Ayrshire has the third lowest number of exclusions.

- 3.3 The exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils in East Ayrshire is lower than four of the five comparator authorities and is now below the national average.

	Number	Rate
Clackmannanshire	542	78
Falkirk	679	33
North Ayrshire	1782	92
North Lanarkshire	3031	61
West Lothian	1735	67

East Ayrshire	860	51
Scotland	39717	57

- 3.4 In East Ayrshire, 487 different **pupils** (2.8 per cent of pupils) were excluded during the year. This is in line with the 2.9 per cent reported nationally.
- 3.5 Two local authorities within the East Ayrshire comparator family have removed pupils from the school register; North Lanarkshire and West Lothian
- 3.6 Overall, **male** pupils accounted for 81.9 per cent of all exclusions in East Ayrshire. The proportion has decreased from 85.9 per cent in 1998/1999.

4. EXCLUSIONS IN EAST AYRSHIRE PRIMARYSCHOOLS

- 4.1 There were 173 exclusions from East Ayrshire **primary** schools, 20.1 per cent of the total, and equivalent to 19 exclusions per 1,000 pupils.

	Primary 2006/07	
	Number	Rate
Clackmannanshire	72	18
Falkirk	85	7
North Ayrshire	170	16
North Lanarkshire	451	17
West Lothian	356	24

	Primary 2007/08	
	Number	Rate
Clackmannanshire	54	14
Falkirk	97	8
North Ayrshire	166	16
North Lanarkshire	376	14
West Lothian	240	17

East Ayrshire	148	16
Scotland	6018	16

East Ayrshire	173	19
Scotland	5616	15

- 4.2 This is the highest exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils in the comparator group and is above the national average.

5. EXCLUSIONS IN EAST AYRSHIRE SECONDARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

- 5.1 There were 668 exclusions from East Ayrshire **secondary** schools, 77.6 per cent of the total, and equivalent to 86 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. The number of exclusions in secondary schools has decreased by 36.6 per cent from exclusions in 2006/07 and 48.1 per cent from exclusions in 2003/04.

	Secondary 2006/07			Secondary 2007/08	
	Number	Rate		Number	Rate
Clackmannanshire	463	154	Clackmannanshire	488	163
Falkirk	801	87	Falkirk	576	63
North Ayrshire	1,895	211	North Ayrshire	1613	184
North Lanarkshire	3,165	145	North Lanarkshire	2470	114
West Lothian	1,519	139	West Lothian	1440	130
East Ayrshire	1,053	133	East Ayrshire	668	86
Scotland	37566	120	Scotland	32905	106

- 5.2 The rate per 1,000 pupils in East Ayrshire, when compared against the comparator family, is the second lowest and considerably lower than the national average.
- 5.3 There were 19 exclusions from East Ayrshire **special** schools, 2.2 per cent of the total, and equivalent to 104 exclusions per 1,000 pupils.

6. COMMENTARY – SPECIFIC

- 6.1 As in previous years exclusion rates were highest during the Christmas to Easter term, with week 25 and week 30 being the highest weeks of the year.
- 6.2 66.5 per cent of all temporary exclusions in East Ayrshire lasted one week or less. This compares to 91.8 per cent nationally.
- 6.3 Of the 487 pupils excluded, 64.2 per cent were excluded on one occasion only during the year (59.3 per cent nationally) and 18.8 per cent were excluded twice during the year (18.7 per cent nationally).
- 6.4 Reasons for exclusion showed that 24.5 per cent involved verbal abuse of members of staff (26.3 per cent nationally) 19.8 per cent involved general or persistent disobedience (32.6 per cent nationally) and 16.9 per cent involved physical assault (18.0 per cent nationally).

7. COMMENTARY – GENERAL

The following points were published as part of the statistical bulletin but cannot be broken down to local authority level.

- Pupils from minority ethnic groups generally had a lower exclusion rate than white-UK pupils, but with rates varying widely across the different ethnic groups. Black Caribbean pupils had the highest rates of exclusion, with Asian-Chinese the lowest.
- Pupils with English as an additional language had considerably lower rates of exclusion than other pupils, with an exclusion rate of about half that of other pupils.
- Among pupils with additional support needs, exclusions were generally more common in mainstream classes than in special schools. Pupils in special classes within mainstream schools had the lowest exclusion rate. Pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties had the highest rates of exclusion.
- Pupils registered for free school meals, pupils with additional support needs, and pupils looked after by the local authority all had higher exclusion rates than other pupils.

8 POLICY/LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Nil.

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report is linked to the following Community Planning Indicators:

- Promoting Community Learning
- Improving Opportunities
- Improving Community Safety

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Nil.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 It is recommended that Members:

- invite the Executive Director to continue to report annually on exclusions; and
- otherwise note the contents of the report.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members wishing further information should contact Kenneth McKinlay, Principal
Quality Improvement Tel 01563 555650

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools