

Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	16 March 2009
Report By:	Acting Director of Education	Report No:	EDUC/22/10/CL
Contact Officer:	Colin Laird	Contact No:	01475 712824
Subject:	Exclusions from Schools 2008/09		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to members on Inverclyde's performance in the area of exclusions from school.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Scottish Government issued its annual statistical publications on exclusion from schools on 26 January 2010.
- 2.2 Nationally during 2008/09 cases of exclusion from local authorities fell by 15% to 33,917 cases. This is the second consecutive year in which a drop has been achieved. Over 99% of exclusions nationally were temporary.
- 2.3 About 18,100 different pupils nationally were excluded during 2008/09. Males account for 78% of the exclusions. The overwhelming percentage of exclusions came from secondary schools (circa 80%). Exclusion rates in areas of deprivation are generally higher than in the least deprived areas.
- 2.4 Inverclyde's improving performance in this area of behaviour management is highlighted in section 4 of this report.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that members note the improving trend in reducing the number of exclusions from Inverclyde schools.

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The cases of exclusion in Inverclyde schools fell by 17.97% between 2007/08 and 2008/09 from 957 to 785 (73 per 1,000 pupils). This is the lowest figure recorded in the last seven sessions.
- 4.2 All exclusions in Inverclyde were of a temporary nature.
- 4.3 Of the 785 exclusions 123 happened in the primary sector. The rate of 22 per 1,000 pupils showed no change from 2007/08.
- 4.4 The secondary exclusions decreased from 157 to 125 per 1,000 pupils from 2007/08.
- 4.5 Only 41 exclusions were registered in special schools.
- 4.6 In terms of our comparator authorities North Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire had a higher rate of exclusion in secondary schools than Inverclyde.
- 4.7 Inverclyde schools have participated in a number of very helpful projects and programmes, such as restorative practices, 'Cool in School', solution-focused schools and the Motivated School could be considered a major factor in delivering the reduction. On occasion early interviews with pupils identified as concerning, may be helping to reduce future exclusion.
- 4.8 The commonest reasons for exclusions were (in numerical order – highest first) – general or persistent disobedience; verbal abuse of staff; physical assault (no weapon involved); insolent or offensive behaviour and fighting.
- 4.9 It is worth noting also that in 5 authorities exclusions actually increased between 2007/08 and 2008/09.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The pleasing trends in the Scottish Government publication will be shared with head teachers and other professionals.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial
None
- 6.2 Legal
None
- 6.3 Human Resources
None
- 6.4 Equalities
None

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 It is hoped that the use of the initiatives mentioned in 4.7 coupled to a proactive approach to dealing with issues flagged up by head teachers is producing a positive outcome for many children.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Statistics Publication Notice: Exclusions from Schools

Scottish Government
26 January 2010