

Children Missing Education and Children Missing From Education Policy

February 2016

This policy will be reviewed April – July 2017

R Richards – Attendance and Prosecution Service Manager

Part 1 of this policy was written with the support of CME colleagues at Worcestershire County Council

Part 2 of this policy is a response to PUPILS MISSING OUT ON EDUCATION – OFSTED NOVEMBER 2013

This policy is endorsed by Sandwell CME / vulnerable children multi-agency partnership.

Contents

1 Introduction	3
2 Children at Particular Risk of Missing Education	4
3 Parents Responsibilities	5
4 Safeguarding	5
5 Responsibility of the Local Authority	5
6 Types of Referral.....	6
6.1 Referral - Where the Child's Whereabouts are Known	6
6.2 Referral - Where the Child's Whereabouts are Unknown	7
7 Other Duties and Powers of the Local Authority.....	7
8 Schools Responsibilities	8
9 Deletions from Admissions Register	8
10 Elective Home Education.....	8
11 Monitoring Arrangements.....	8
12 Contact Details	9

13 Appendices

Appendix A	Missing Operational Group Terms of Reference
Appendix B	Multi Agency Terms of Reference
Appendix C1	CME Flowchart (Lost / Missing)
Appendix C2	CME Flowchart (Not on ONE)
Appendix C3	CME Flowchart (Generic)
Appendix C4	Early Help Flowchart
Appendix D	Briefing to all local authority staff and partner agencies

PART ONE – Children Missing Education

1 Introduction

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a good education which will help them shape their own futures. Children missing education (CME) are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of abuse, and becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) later on in life.

These children are defined by the Department for Education as

‘all children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, nor being educated otherwise (e.g. privately or in an alternative provision) and who have been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time (usually four weeks or more)’

All local authorities have a duty to identify and return to full-time education those children who are missing education (or those at risk of becoming CME). The duty relates to children of **compulsory school age** who are not on a school admission register and not receiving a suitable education otherwise than at school, for example, at home.

Under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 a Local Authority may make arrangements for the provision of suitable alternative education for children who for a variety of reasons may not otherwise receive a suitable education.

This policy is intended to inform Local Authority staff, schools, head teachers, governing bodies and other agencies about how we minimise and prevent “Children Missing Education (CME)”. It relates primarily to children who are of statutory school age who do not currently have a school place or their provision is unknown. It should be read in conjunction with:

- The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006 Education Act 1996 (section 436A)
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20131216163513/http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/1751/pdfs/ukxi_20061751_en.pdf
- Statutory Guidance for local authorities in England to identify children missing education (DfE 2013)
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/e/OrderingDownload/Statutory-LA-Guide-09.doc>
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
<http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/documents/Working%20TogetherFINAL.pdf>
- The Local Authority’s Fair Access Protocol – See Appendices
- Ofsted Report Nov 2013 ‘Children missing out on education’
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/p/Pupils%20missing%20out%20on%20education.pdf>
- Sandwell School Admissions Code
http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/3547/admission_criteria_201314

- Statutory Guidance on the participation of young people in education, employment or training
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268972/participation_of_young_people_-_statutory_guidancev3.pdf
- Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1751/contents/made>

Key Principles

- The Local Authority will actively work in partnership with parents and other services to identify those children who are not in receipt of a suitable education.
See appendix A – Sandwell multi-agency partnership terms of reference
See appendix B – CME Flowchart (Domestic Violence Notifications)
See appendix C – CME Generic Flowchart
- SMBC acknowledges that it is a key responsibility of the Local Authority and its schools to promote the educational achievement of all children resident within Sandwell or attending its schools

2.0 Children at Particular Risk of Missing Education

2.1 Certain groups of children are more likely to be affected by the factors listed above and include:

- Pupils at risk of harm/neglect
- Children who have been the subject of a Child Protection Plan
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Gypsy, Roma and travelling families
- Children who have experienced domestic violence or other adverse family circumstances
- Children with special educational needs
- Children who have had attendance difficulties or cease to attend school
- Families of armed forces
- Missing children/runaways
- Children and young people supervised by the Youth Justice System

2.2 There are also certain points at which children are most at risk of becoming missing from education, and the most common reasons for this include:

- Children not registered by parents/carers at school when they achieve statutory school age
- Children not registered at school for the start of high school (Year 7)
- Frequent house moves, periods of homelessness or time spent in refuges
- Family breakdown
- Parents “withdrawing” children from school
- Schools off-rolling pupils without the correct checks and procedures being followed
- Exclusion (official and unofficial)

3.0 Parents Responsibilities

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child is receiving a suitable education either by regular school attendance.

- at a school (publicly funded or independent)
- educated otherwise (elective home education or any other form of alternative provision)

4.0 Safeguarding

The Children Act 2004 places a duty on all agencies to work together to promote the welfare of children and to share information appropriately. This principle underpins SMBC's policy on Children Missing Education, and there is an expectation that all agencies and professionals will work together to ensure that children are participating in education.

If you are concerned about a child's safety i.e.

- You have a serious concern about the safety of a child
- You think a child is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed
- You are worried that a child is living in circumstances where they are treated badly and not cared for properly.

You MUST contact MASH on: 0121 569 3100
access_team@sandwell.gscx.gov.uk

(MASH = multi agency safeguarding hub)

5.0 Responsibility of the Local Authority

The Local Authority has a named Children Missing Education Officer who has responsibility for carrying out the Local Authority duties in accordance with S436A.

The CME Officer maintains a list of Children Missing Education. SMBC employs officers whose responsibilities include the identification and support of children missing education.

These officers include:

Service Manager - Attendance & Prosecution Service

CME Officer - Attendance & Prosecution Service

Pupil Tracking Officer – Admissions Service

Outreach and Attendance Support Workers – Attendance & Prosecution Service

The Outreach and Attendance Support workers also work proactively with parents, internal and external professionals and other relevant bodies to identify those children not in receipt of a suitable education and to identify additional support to

assist in securing a suitable education for these children. This may include identifying and securing alternative education provision and/or referrals to:

- Early Help services
- Sandwell Children's Trust
- Connexions etc.
- Other local authorities

The Local Authority multi-disciplinary CME and Vulnerable Childrens' Group meets on a regular half-termly basis to review/share information about individual children and to identify any policy and procedural issues arising.

6.0 Types of Referral

There are two types of referral

1. Referral where the child's whereabouts are known.
2. Referral where the child's whereabouts are unknown.

The CME Officer will check Sandwell's "Safetynet" information database regarding every child identified as missing in education, to ascertain if there are any other professional involvement and whether there are / have been any other identified concerns.

A case is closed when the CME Officer has confirmation that the child is in receipt of a suitable education or, in cases where it has been confirmed, a child has moved out of the area. The CME Officer will refer to the CME Officer of that authority either by phone or secure email.

6.1 Referral where the child's whereabouts are known

If any agency is aware of a child missing in education they must contact the Attendance and Prosecution Service, see contact details on Page 8.

If a child is found to be residing in another authority, the details will be sent to the new authority's CME / Pupil Tracking Officer.

If a child is found to be residing within SMBC borders the child's details are placed on the CME database, and a home visit is undertaken by the Outreach and Attendance Support Workers to determine the child's needs (if any) from the information available on the referral form.

The Outreach and Attendance Support Workers / Admissions record every child who is not receiving a suitable education on the "ONE" system (education data base). The Outreach and Attendance Support Workers work with other key officers (e.g. Admissions, YOS) to ensure that the child is returned to a suitable form of education at the earliest opportunity. In cases where there is a lead named professional the Outreach and Attendance Support Workers will monitor the progress of the case and assist where necessary. Such cases will include where a child has a named social worker or a Statement of SEN.

6.2 Referral where the child's whereabouts are unknown

These types of referrals are normally children who are on a school roll, but have ceased to attend. On investigation by the school it has been found that the family has moved address without notifying the school of their destination.

Providing the school have completed the actions on the 'Removal from roll' checklist (which ensures that the school has undertaken reasonable enquiries as prescribed in the Pupil Registration Legislation) a referral will be accepted and the child's name placed on the CME register. The following action will be taken:

- Make enquiries with the Revenue and Benefits Service and other Sandwell partner agencies
- Contact other local authorities regarding whereabouts
- Check "Safeynet" Information database

If the local authority has not been able to locate the child upon completion of all reasonable enquiries the status will be changed to 'whereabouts unknown'.

7.0 Other Duties and Powers of the Local Authority

The local authority can use other duties and powers to support their work on CME. These include:

- Providing suitable full-time education to permanently excluded pupils from the sixth school day of exclusion
- Issuing School Attendance Orders (SAOs) to parents who the local authority believes are not securing a suitable education for their child
- Prosecuting parents that do not comply with an SAO
- Prosecuting or fining parents who fail to ensure their school-registered child's regular attendance
- Applying to court for an Education Supervision Order for a child
- Safeguarding duties, for example, visiting a family if they have concerns about a child's welfare and poor school attendance.

Where safeguarding concerns arise the appropriate safeguarding / child protection procedures will be adhered to.

8.0 Schools' Responsibilities

8.1 Schools, including Academies and Free Schools, must monitor pupils' attendance through the daily register. Schools must inform the Local Authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more.

8.2 They must also notify the authority if a pupil is deleted from the admission register in certain circumstances under the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. Schools also have safeguarding duties in respect of their pupils, and as part of this should investigate any unexplained absences.

8.3 Under the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, there is no requirement upon a school to admit a particular child to their school roll if they were not on the school roll previously.

9.0 Deletions from Admissions Register

There is statutory guidance governing when schools can delete children from their admissions register. These are outlined in Regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006.

10.0 Elective Home Education

10.1 Parents are not required by law to notify the local authority that they wish to home educate their child; however, where a child attends a school, they must notify the school in writing of their intention. The school must then notify the local authority immediately. It is good practice for schools to notify the local authority where a parent is considering this option so appropriate early advice can be sought.

10.2 When a school receives the notification in writing the school must delete the child's name from the admissions register. The only exception to this is where a child is subject to a school attendance order or the child has a statement of Special Educational Needs. In these cases consent from the local authority must be sought prior to de-registration.

10.3 If the child has a statement of SEN, schools should direct parents to the SEN Service for further guidance and advice plus they should notify the Attendance and Prosecution Service.

10.4 Non SEN cases where parents are considering EHE schools / academies should notify the Attendance and Prosecution Service at the earliest opportunity.

11.0 Monitoring Arrangements

From June 2013, Ofsted will implement new joint inspections for multi-agency arrangements for the protection of children which will include CME.

Statistical data regarding children missing education will be presented to strategic and operational groups for the purpose of operational development and the safeguarding of children missing education. Such groups will include:

- Attendance and Prosecution Service and Admissions Service
- School Fair Access Partnerships (Sharing Panels)
- Quality Standards Programme Executive
- Sandwell Safeguarding Children's Board, as requested

12.0 Contact Details

Children Missing Education Officer
Connor Education Centre
Connor Road
West Bromwich
West Midlands
B71 3DJ

Email:

attendance_service@sandwell.gov.uk (secure internally)

attendance_service@sandwell.gcsx.gov.uk (secure externally – between GCSX users e.g other local authorities)

Webxchange Account Name: T3335595

PART TWO - CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION

This should be read in conjunction with PUPILS MISSING OUT ON EDUCATION – OFSTED NOVEMBER 2013

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141124154759/http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupils-missing-out-education>

Sandwell Local Authority is committed to the following principles

- 1.1 All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational need they may have. Children missing from education (CMfE) are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of abuse, and becoming NEET later on in life.
- 1.2 The Local Authority will ensure robust procedures and policies are place to enable the LA to meet its duties in relation to these children, including the appointment of a named person to whom schools and other agencies can make referrals.
- 1.3 The Local Authority is committed to supporting / monitoring all children not accessing full-time education in the usual way, including those who are accessing alternative provision full time away from mainstream school, regardless of where they are on roll; and maintain good information about the achievement and safety of any child or young person not accessing education in the usual way.

The Local Authority has also responded to the recommendations raised in the **Ofsted 'Pupils missing out on education (2013) Report**

2.0 The report draws attention to the fact that some local authorities are failing to educate children and young people and may be failing in their statutory duty to take reasonable steps to protect them.

The main groups of children and young people who are the focus of the Ofsted report are those who:

- *have been permanently excluded*
- *have particular social and behavioural difficulties and have personalised learning plans: this means that, by arrangement, they do not attend their usual school full time*
- *have mental health needs and access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), either as an in-patient or through services provided in the community*
- *have medical needs other than mental health needs*
- *rarely attend school and have personalised learning plans as part of attempts to reintegrate them into full-time education*

- *are pregnant or are young mothers of compulsory school age*
- *have complex needs and no suitable school place is available.*
- *are returning from custody and a school place has not been found for them*
- *are new to the country and are awaiting a school place*
- *are from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller background and alternative provision has been made*

Ofsted recommendations

The Local Authority will:

- *establish a central record of all children not accessing full-time education in the usual way, including those who are accessing alternative provision full time away from mainstream school, regardless of where they are on roll; and maintain good information about the achievement and safety of any child or young person not accessing education in the usual way.*
- *identify clear lines of accountability for the quality and amount of provision, as well as the educational and social outcomes, for all children and young people of compulsory school age who do not access education in the usual way; taking note of the survey's finding that this was most effective when a named person at a senior level was held to account for this statutory duty.*
- *share information across local authority boundaries in a timely and appropriate way to minimise interruption to a child or young person's educational provision.*
- *ensure that every child is on the roll of a school, regardless of circumstances, unless parents have elected to educate their child at home*

Schools, including academies and free schools, will:

- *with immediate effect, stop unlawful exclusions and provide suitable support for children and young people with behavioural difficulties.*
- *establish clear accountability for the achievement, safety and personal development of all children and young people who are on the school roll but not accessing school in the usual way, and for the quality and amount of provision made for them.*
- *inform the local authority of any part-time education arrangements, regardless of the type of school*
- *keep children and young people on the school roll during periods of illness or custody (or for as long as it is relevant), in line with Government policy and guidance.*
- *respond quickly to any early signs of children and young people's raised anxiety or dips in their progress, attendance or engagement in learning.*
- *give governors sufficient information about children and young people who are not accessing school in the usual way, so that governors can challenge the amount of provision being made and evaluate its effectiveness.*

Health services, youth offending services, police, education services and other partners will:

- agree on joint approaches to sharing information, to be used case by case, so that education provision and safeguarding for any child or young person who does not access education in the usual way is effective.

2.3 Inspection implications

As part of Ofsted's Integrated Looked After Children and Safeguarding inspections of local authorities, they will ask for a report on children for whom the local authority is responsible who are of school age and who are not in receipt of full-time school education at the time of the inspection. This report should include for each child:

- the child's unique ID, date of birth, Unique Pupil Number (UPN)
- type of educational provision being received, including home tuition
- number of hours provision each week (in particular whether the child is receiving more or fewer than 25 hours)
- if the child has been excluded, the type of exclusion
- the date when the alternative provision began

2.4 Good practice

- *The Director of Education within the local authority is responsible and held to account for ensuring that the authority knows about all children and young people who are unable to access school in the usual way; and that action is taken to ensure that they have the best possible provision for as much time as possible.*
- *Accurate data about any child or young person not accessing full-time education is gathered from all schools and services in the local area, regardless of their arrangements for governance, and analysed fully.*
- *Missing Operational Group (MOG) will meet to discuss strategies for any missing children, in whatever setting. (See Terms of Reference)*
- *Senior officers and elected members provide strong challenge and ensure that provision is flexible rather than simply expecting children and young people to fit into what is already provided.*
- *A responsible person has an overview of case histories, the nature of and reasons for the allocated provision, the timeline of the programmes and their effectiveness in terms of the academic achievement and personal development of the children and young people.*
- *Robust systems for working with other agencies, including CAMHS, the police, the youth offending service and local voluntary agencies, ensure that all parties share responsibility for providing all children and young people in the locality with the support they need to access full-time education – or as near to full time as their health allows.*
- *Responsibility for children and young people in a local area is shared and communicated effectively and taken on by all schools and education services, either through multi-agency CME and Vulnerable Childrens' Meeting, locality arrangements or fair access panels linked to behaviour partnerships.*

- *Multi-professional teams (including groups of schools) take responsibility for monitoring and acting on the outcomes for children and young people who do not have access to school in the usual way.*
- *The professionals involved in the local area's multi-professional groups have high aspirations for all children and young people and are strongly committed to ensuring that educational provision contributes significantly to helping children and young people move forward successfully, by aiding treatment and recovery or discouraging re-offending.*

5.0 Responsibility of the Local Authority

The Local Authority has a named Children Missing from Education Officer who has responsibility for carrying out the Local Authority duties

The CMfE Officer maintains a list of Children Missing From Education. SMBC employs officers whose responsibilities include the identification and support of children missing education.

These officers include:

Service Manager - Attendance & Prosecution Service

CMfE Officer - Attendance & Prosecution Service

Pupil Tracking Officer – Admissions Service

Outreach and Attendance Support Workers – Attendance & Prosecution Service

The Outreach and Attendance Support workers also work proactively with parents, internal and external professionals and other relevant bodies to identify those children not in receipt of a suitable education and to identify additional support to assist in securing a suitable education for these children. This may include identifying and securing alternative education provision and/or referrals to:

- Early Help services
- Sandwell Children's Trust
- Connexions etc.
- Other local authorities

The Local Authority multi-disciplinary CME and Vulnerable Childrens' Group meets on a regular half-termly basis to review/share information about individual children and to identify any policy and procedural issues arising.

SANDWELL Missing Operational Group

Terms of Reference

Introduction
The Missing Operational Group reports to CMOG and defines, monitors & uses data to inform the systems, processes and strategic response to 'Children Missing' in the borough.

Aims & Objectives	<p>Purpose of MOG</p> <p>The role of the Missing Operational Group is to align the processes involved in working with children and young people in Sandwell who have gone missing. This document should be used as the overall framework for undertaking this work. This document outlines the processes from the initial Missing Notifications to proposals for further intervention.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all Children’s Service and partner agencies to be clear about their responsibilities regarding missing children. • To enable a process of identification, information sharing, intervention, recording and monitoring. • To ensure all locally held 'Missing Children' information systems interlink and provide appropriate alerts for partner agencies • To develop a data set to monitor all episodes of missing, identifying rates and patterns of performance across all agencies. • To identify, as early as possible, those young people and families who are in need of additional services • To hold agencies, teams and staff to account when working in partnership within this process. • To reduce the number of 'missing' episodes in the borough • To reduce the risk of harm to young people who are 'missing' from home, care and education.
------------------------------	---

Scope of remit

The MOG will review the quality of the strategic response for all children recorded as:-

- Missing from home
- Missing from care
- Missing education (not currently in the education system)
- Missing from education (in the education system but missing out on full time education)

The remit will also review the actions taken once the children are no longer missing to reduce the chances of recurring episodes.

The role of MOG and the risk of child sexual exploitation

CSE is a key priority for the LSCB and its partners. There is a structure of governance that enables the sharing of information, coordination of activity, monitoring of performance against targets and review of the strategy linked to the LSCB. The diagram below shows the structure.



Named Responsible Officers

The Assistant Chief Constable is the designated lead officer with primary strategic responsibility for children missing from care and home.

The Local Authority has designated the Director for Children and Families as their lead officer with primary strategic responsibility for children missing from care and home.

The Local Authority has designated the Director for Education as their lead officer with primary strategic responsibility for children missing education (CME) and missing from education (CMfE)

The Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children is the lead officer with primary strategic responsibility for children missing from the health service.

Membership

To effectively carry out its responsibilities, the group requires representation from:

Role	Organisation
Director Education	Sandwell MBC
Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children	Health Service
DCI Child and Domestic Abuse	West Midlands Police
Assistant Director Children's Services	Barnardos
Group Head - Programmes	SMBC Children's Services
Attendance and Prosecution Service Manager / CME Officer	SMBC Attendance Service
Data Manager	SMBC Data Intelligence
CSE Team manager	SMBC Children's Services
Information Systems Manager	SMBC Children's Services
CSE Coordinator	SMBC MASH Team

Additional representation may be invited when required.

Quorum and delegation

4 members must be present to allow a meeting to formally proceed.

Frequency
Monthly

Duration of the Group
Continuous as part of the strategic response to 'Children Missing'

Circulation of Meeting Agenda and Notes
To all group members, and named responsible officers.

Review
These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually

Contact Officer

Name: Chris Ward
Job Title: Director: Education
Organisation: SMBC
Contact Number: 0121 569 8338
Email Address: chris_ward@sandwell.gov.uk

Sandwell Multi-Agency Terms of Reference

Children Missing Education and Children Missing From Education

Who

- Attendance and Prosecution Service representatives
- Admissions Service representative
- Connexions Service representative
- Youth Service representative
- Health Service representative
- Fair Access
- Early Help
- Youth Offending Service
- Housing
- Police
- GRT (Gypsy Roman Travellers)

Purpose

- To identify and respond to the education needs of children missing education (CME) and children missing from education (CMfE).
- To share information and decide who / how we will respond collectively and individually to minimise lost learning time.
- To encourage and support participation in learning post 16.
- To seek to overcome barriers preventing access to learning.
- To challenge and where necessary to escalate concerns via relevant partners and / or processes in keeping with local school partnership arrangements and the school admissions code etc.

Frequency of Meetings

The multi-agency CME and CMfE group will meet half termly at Connor Centre, Connor Road, West Bromwich, B71 3DJ.

How

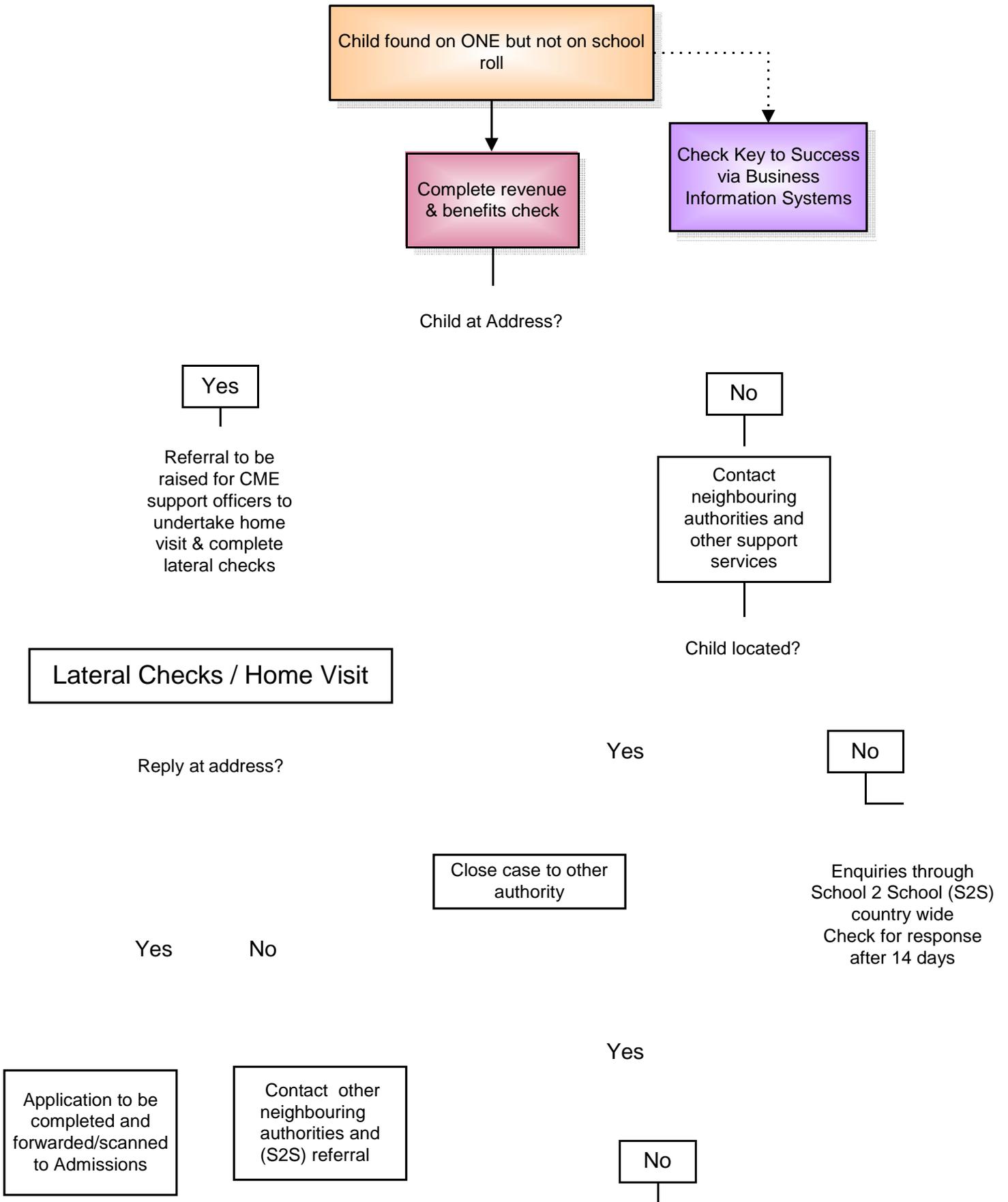
Request a standing agenda item on all “Fair access, behaviour and attendance partnership” meetings.

Where there are delays this group will implement a standard letter process, including a letter to the Chairs of the Schools Partnership requesting for their support.

Where schools refuse to admit, the Admissions Service will implement and escalate where necessary processes as per the school admissions code of conduct. Staff from the Attendance and Prosecution Service will continue to respond to “requests for support” and will seek to secure access on behalf of statutory school age pupils to mainstream and / or alternative provision as appropriate.

Appendix C1

CME Flowchart – CME (LOST/MISSING)



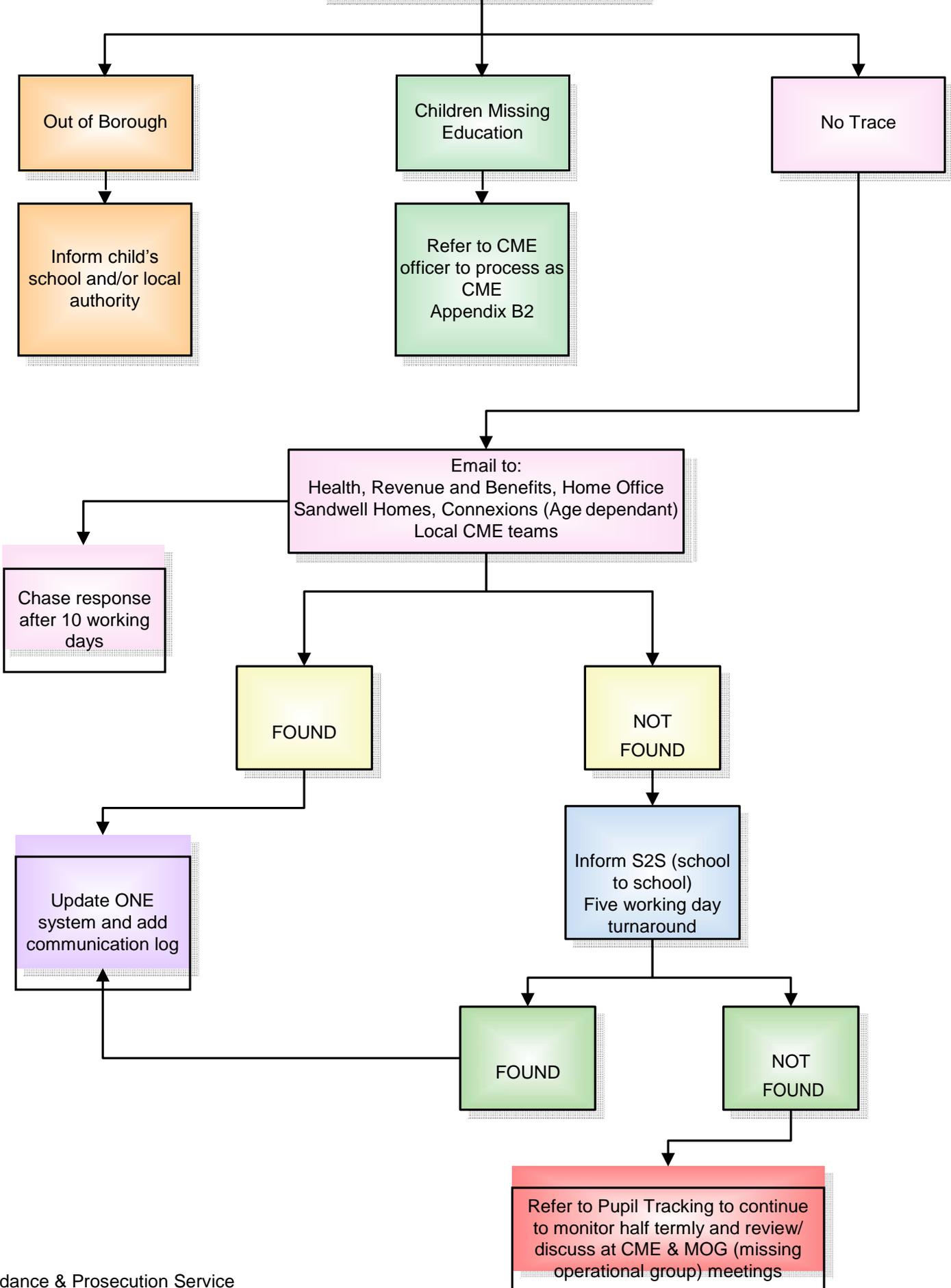
Close on ONE to LOST and advise pupil tracking

Pupil tracking to continue to monitor every 14 days until child is located

Attendance & Prosecution Service
February 16

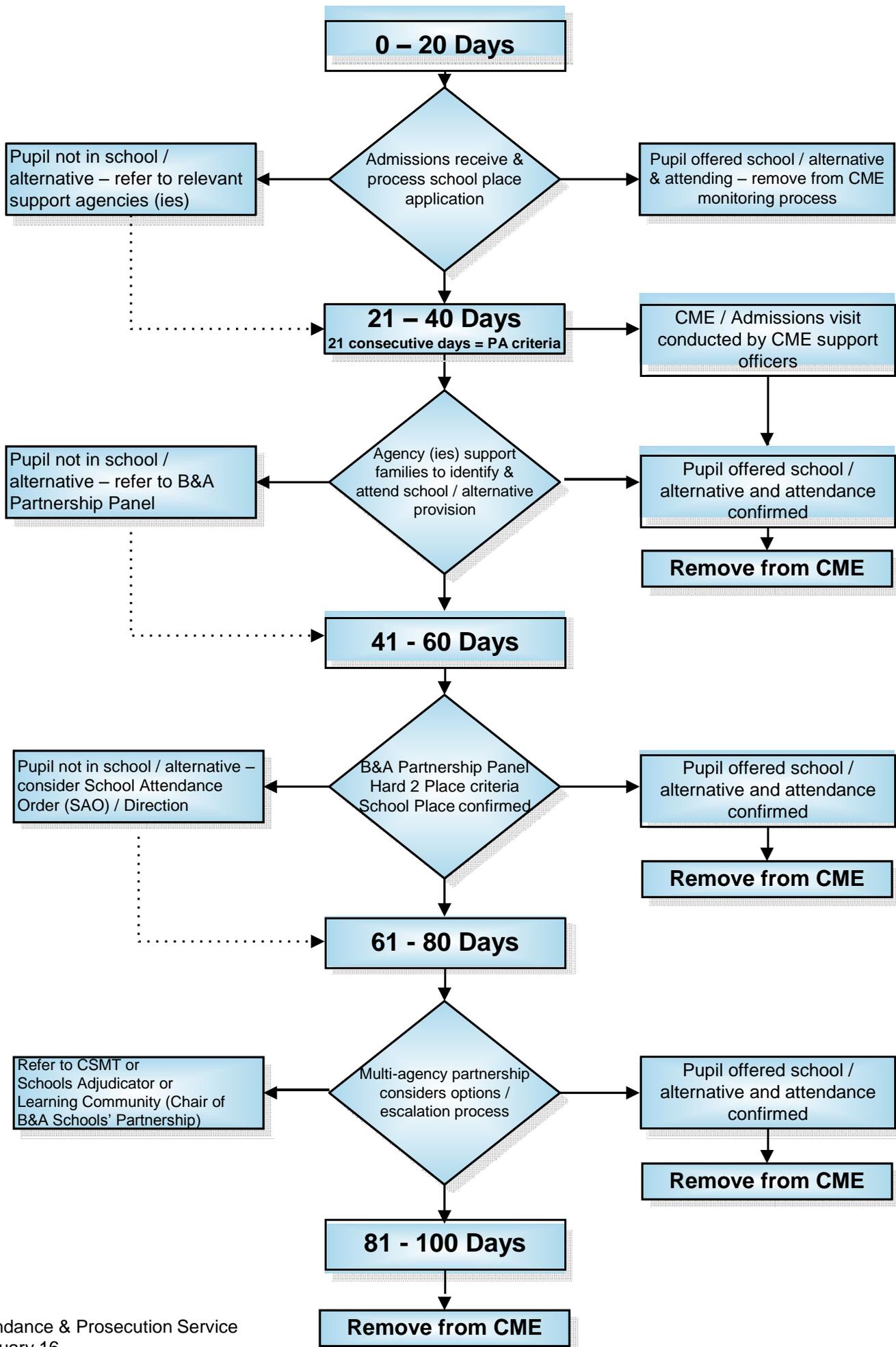
CME Flowchart – Not on ONE

e.g. Incoming notification
Children identified from DV
notifications or other authority



February 16

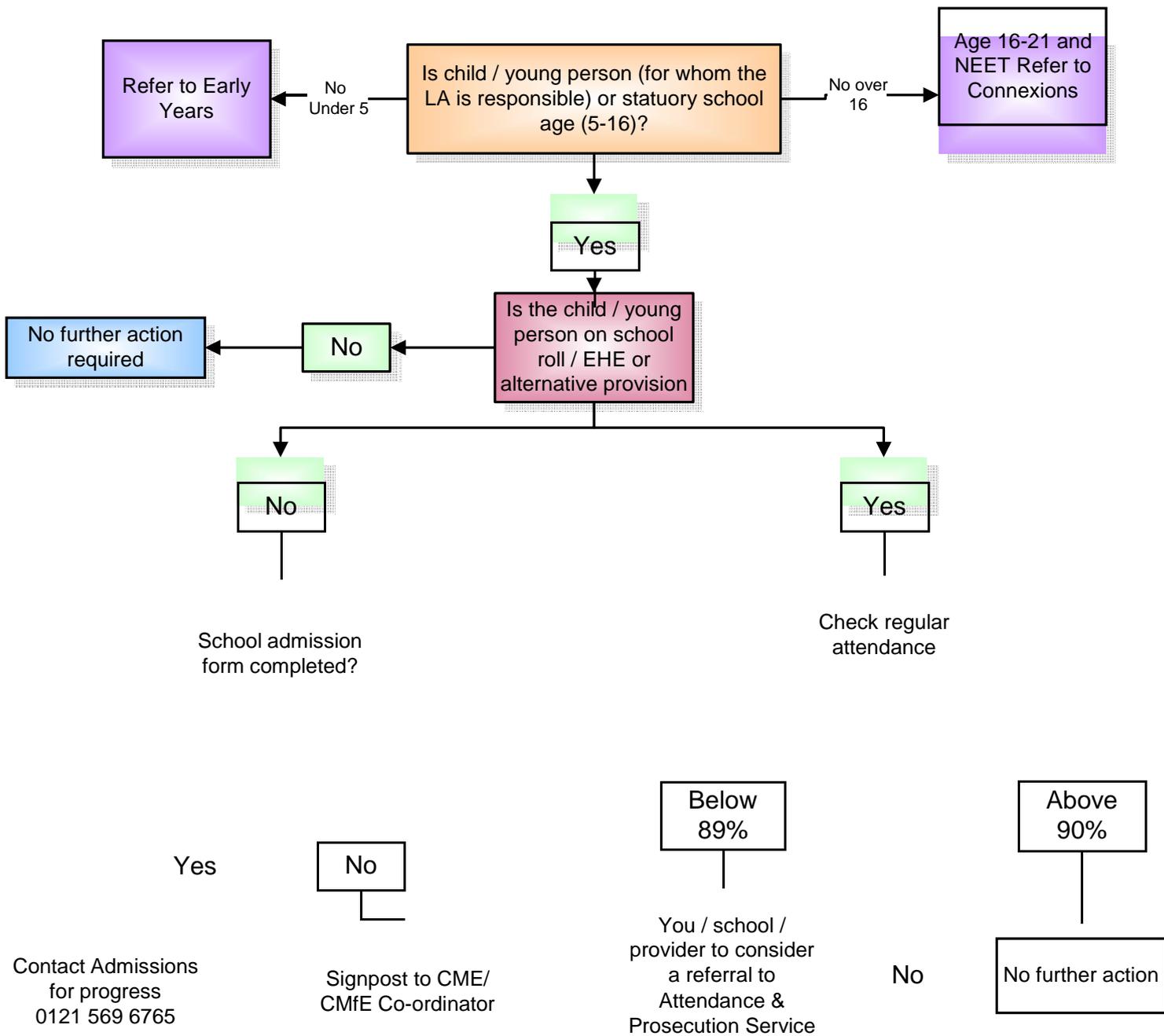
CME Process (Generic)



Appendix C4

Early Help sample flowchart:

CME Process – Early Help



Outcome

With admissions awaiting outcome

With school partnership

Yes

Person responsible for attendance to complete Request for Support form and email to attendance_service@sandwell.gov.uk

Referred to CME/ CMfE Co-ordinator

School allocated to child / young person

Please see Attendance & Prosecution Team guidance for contact details for A&PO for school and COG

NB Mahmood Ahmad is named contact for YOS / Integrated services / Early

Appendix D

Issued 17th March 2015 to all staff and partner agencies

Professional curiosity can safeguard a child - please ask "why are you not in school?"

Please share this information with partner agencies.

Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board requires us to:

- remind you to be professionally curious - *Professor Eileen Munro, London School of Economics;*
- raise the profile of children missing education (CME) and children missing from education (CMfE), plus elective home education (EHE); and
- remind all local authority (LA) employees, and partner agencies engaged with families, of their shared duty and responsibility to identify and refer CME, CMfE and EHE children and young people.

Definitions:

CME (children missing education): children and young people not on a school roll and not in receipt of education at school or otherwise (electively home educated/alternative provision).

CMfE (children missing from education): children and young people on a school roll and not in receipt of full-time education (on part-time timetables etc.)

EHE (electively home educated) by parents/carers.

Department for Education guidance confirms that part-time provision should be temporary only and that there should be a plan of reintegration for the pupil to return to full-time learning as soon as possible (unless medical circumstances prevent this).

All LA services and partners engaged with the public must use any opportunity of family contact to gather information and challenge absence from education. *Examples of services that have opportunities to identify CME/CMfE include: the Early Help services; all partners in the council house one stop shop; and MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub), MAET (Multi-Agency Enquiry Team), and youth and Sandwell Children's Trust etc.*

This shared duty relates to all children of statutory school age, including children for whom the LA is responsible:

- Looked after children.
- Children subject to a Child Protection/Child in Need plan.
- Children receiving support from Early Help.

- All statutory school age (5-16) new arrivals to the borough not in receipt of education/full-time provision.
- All registered pupils categorised as persistent absentees – less than 85% attendance. (Less than 90% attendance – as from September 2015.)
- Elective home education (not the same as CME/CMfE).

All LA employees and partners, working with families and the general public, are reminded to routinely confirm education provision and regular attendance plus **refer where necessary to the attendance_service@sandwell.gov.uk - phone 0121 569 8147.**