

Script for LA REACT Calls

For this week there are 5 questions.

- **The first three** are to be asked of all 28 LAs in the list below
- **The other two** should be asked of the 9 LAs highlighted in red.

The first thing to say is that you may not need to call the LA to answer these questions, you may have the information already. If this is the case, feel free to populate the template and tracker accordingly.

For the first three questions we ask that you identify which LAs of the 28 listed you need to contact and pose the questions provided.

The two additional questions, written in red, are resulting from the VCYP survey. Please pose these red questions only to those LAs highlighted red in the list below. Again, you may not need to make a call to answer these questions **so you should first work with your REACT CSC lead** to ascertain whether you can answer these questions yourselves, or whether a call is needed. Please pose the below red questions only to those LAs highlighted red in the list below.

As requested, we have provided detailed background and reasoning to these questions, as well as an explanation of what we intend to do with the data we collect as a result of these

Please collate the responses to all questions on the template linked here

Questions for LAs

Information on Vulnerable Children Attendance (To be disseminated along REACT region lines)

Please record the following question responses on the template linked here

The below information and questions are being included because attendance data for the LA in question shows that Vulnerable Children attendance is significantly below the national average and we want to be able to offer support and advice in improving this, as well as understand the underlying reasons for it.

Information to communicate

- Attendance of vulnerable children and young people (except where their health needs make it inappropriate) is extremely important for safeguarding, wellbeing and to help minimise gaps in attainment.
- Attendance is rising, but is still much too low, with, for example 4 out of 5 children who have a social worker are not attending school, nationally.
- There is also huge variation between the rates of attendance in schools by

vulnerable children in different LAs.

- [Compare the LA in question to national average – this information is included in the list below]
- We are exploring what some LAs (and individual schools) have done to successfully increase attendance by VC, as well as what prevents VC attendance in some LAs, hence the following three questions.

Questions to ask

For info: *All three questions will inform our understanding of the reasons for low VC attendance by phase and LA, which was revealed through data analysis conducted by the department late last week. It may also inform the direct actions we can take to unblock barriers to attendance. This will be beneficial ahead of September and potentially for summer activities too, though timeframes make it unlikely we will be able to unblock barriers this term, given there will only be 3 weeks remaining when conversations are complete. Our understanding of what has already been tried will inform the solutions we consider and help gain their support for proposed further actions.*

1. Why do you think attendance is particularly low here? What are the barriers?

Background: *This question aims to understand what the factors preventing vulnerable children attending school might be. We intend to use the information to identify themes and common patterns.*

2. What, specifically, are you doing to improve attendance of vulnerable children and young people in your area this term?

Background: *This question aims to understand what strategies are already being employed by LAs, whether they are working, and whether effective strategies being used in some LAs could be transferred over to LAs which have yet to trial them, which will help inform our further actions.*

3. What do you think DfE could do to help you to improve attendance of vulnerable CYP from September?

Background: *We intend to feed responses from this question into our support planning for September onwards.*

Vulnerable Children and Young People's Survey Questions

For info: These questions are being asked as a result of the Vulnerable Children and Young People's survey that was commissioned by the department for Local Authorities to respond to. As a result of the survey, social worker contact with vulnerable children has been identified as particularly low in the LA in question, and we are asking the below questions to establish why this is the case and assess what is being done to address this. The questions should only be asked of the 9 LAs highlighted in red below.

1. Why do you think social worker contact for vulnerable children in the past 4 weeks is so low here? What are the barriers?
2. What, specifically, are you doing to increase contact with a social worker for vulnerable children this half term?

Attendance rates for week commencing 8th June

Local Authority	<i>Attendance of Children with a social Worker (National Average = 13.5%)</i>	<i>Attendance of children on an Education and Health Care Plan (National Average = 14.7%)</i>
Lambeth	3.9%	10.2%
Havering	4.5%	10.4%
Swindon	6.2%	7.9%
Windsor and Maidenhead	7.6%	13.4%
Cornwall	7.8%	11.9%
Thurrock	8.5%	8.0%
Luton	9.5%	12.8%
Dudley	9.6%	8.6%
Doncaster	9.7%	7.2%
Walsall	9.8%	8.3%
Birmingham	9.8%	8.6%
Southampton	9.9%	12.1%
Bradford	10.0%	9.1%
Bury	10.0%	8.4%
Manchester	10.1%	11.6%
Sandwell	10.2%	10.5%

Tameside	10.2%	12.0%
Knowsley	10.2%	8.6%
West Berkshire	10.5%	9.9%
Blackburn with Darwen	10.5%	11.6%
Kent	10.6%	12.1%
Salford	10.7%	8.4%
Reading	10.8%	16.3%
Wirral	11.0%	9.2%
Nottingham	11.4%	12.7%
Derby	11.5%	10.9%
Newcastle upon Tyne	11.6%	12.8%
Durham	13.8%	7.1%