

## How can you request support?

We will provide you with a separate document *A Guide to Requesting Support* to help you with this process. This includes the Requesting Support Criteria and The Requesting Support Process.



The Watchtower Project is delivered in Middlesbrough, Knowsley, Doncaster, Stoke on Trent and Salford.

**For more information about our service please contact:**

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**THE WATCH TOWER PROJECT**

Looking out for your students

Information for schools

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## DfE Attendance Mentor Project

We have a team of mentors working geographically within the areas of Middlesbrough, Doncaster, Knowsley, Salford and Stoke on Trent who are led by a Children's Service Manager, Lead Mentors and a Service Administrator.

We work with young people who are struggling to attend school and help them and their families to identify and overcome potential barriers to improve school attendance.

### How will we work?

We will work with the individual young person and their family. We will offer weekly 1-1 sessions for up to 20 weeks, in person wherever possible. If face to face sessions are not possible then we will do our best to accommodate additional ways of working such as online or by phone. We will adjust the number of sessions based on the need of the individual and family. We will build relationships with the young person and parents/carers and will use a variety of activities to do this.

### Our sessions

Our sessions can take place in our Barnardo's services or Community Venues. Alternatively, we can agree with schools to meet with the young person on school premises or visit the young person at their home. If sessions are to take place in school, then we would not intend to disrupt learning if the child is in lessons. We would work with staff and the young person to arrange a more appropriate time to meet. We will work together with the young person and parent(s)/carer(s) to carry out an initial assessment which will give us a starting point. We will work together to identify reasons for not attending school as frequently as expected and work to overcome such barriers through a variety of means. Part of this work may include developing further the relationship with you, the school. Some of our sessions may be with the young person, some may be split between the parent(s)/carer(s) and the young person, some may be used to work with the parent(s)/carer(s) individually.



### Examples of things we might cover in our sessions

Each young person and family are unique, as are the reasons for not attending school. You will be more than aware of barriers linked to school attendance including low self-confidence, bullying, fear around school / people in school and friendship difficulties. Whatever the underlying reasons regarding school attendance we will work to address these in a supportive manner. We will use a trauma informed approach; we will be non-judgemental, and we will use a variety of strategies with the aim to improve school attendance.

