
To: Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board

On: 6 June 2016

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Absence Statistics

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Joint Consultative Board: Non Teaching of the Quarterly Absence Return for the period 23 June 2015 to 31 December 2015. The report breaks down the absence statistics by service and by category of staff. Attached to this report are appendices A-B described in the index of appendices at the end of this report
- 1.2 The report provides information in relation to absence targets and how services have performed against them. An analysis of the reasons for absence for the latest quarter has also been compiled and details are included within the report. Information is also provided on supporting attendance activity and the costs of sick pay.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 25 June 2002 the Scrutiny Board agreed that absence levels will be reported to the Scrutiny Board (now Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board) on a quarterly basis. It was agreed that the report will include the

following information relating to maximising attendance:-

- Absence statistics broken down by department and category of staff.
- Reasons for absence broken down by department and category of staff.
- Progress on implementation of departmental maximising attendance action plans.

4. Absence Statistics - Quarters Ending 21 September 2015 and 31 December 2015

- 4.1 Please find service and Council overall absence performance for quarter ending 21 September 2015 given in the table to follow. In line with the reporting requirements for Scottish Councils absence is expressed as a number of work days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) employee. The absence performance for quarter ending 21 September 2014 has also been included in the table for comparison purposes.

Service/Area	Quarter Ending 21 September 2014	Quarter Ending 21 September 2015	Quarter Ending 21 September 2015 Target
Chief Executive's Services	0.74	1.70	0.80
Education and Leisure Services	2.48	1.04	1.56
Community Resources	2.29	2.26	2.15
Finance and Resources	1.86	2.25	1.34
Development and Housing Services	1.86	1.26	1.69
Social Work Services	3.27	3.48	2.36
Council Overall	1.85	1.96	1.79

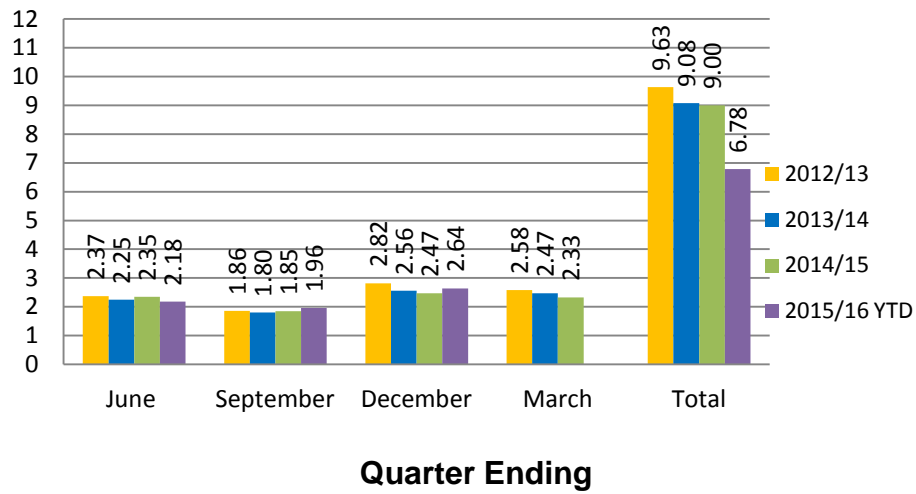
- 4.2 Please find service and Council overall absence performance for quarter ending 31 December 2015 given in the table to follow. In line with the reporting requirements for Scottish Councils absence is expressed as a number of work days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) employee. The absence performance for quarter ending 31 December 2014 has also been included in the table for comparison purposes.

Service/Area	Quarter Ending 31 December 2014	Quarter Ending 31 December 2015	Quarter Ending 31 December 2015 Target
Chief Executive's Services	0.19	0.67	1.20
Children's Services	-	2.20	2.35
Education and Leisure Services	2.07	-	-
Community Resources	2.90	2.88	3.22
Finance and Resources	1.90	2.69	2.00
Development and Housing Services	1.91	1.73	2.53
Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership	-	4.15	3.54
Social Work Services	3.70	-	-
Council Overall	2.47	2.64	2.69

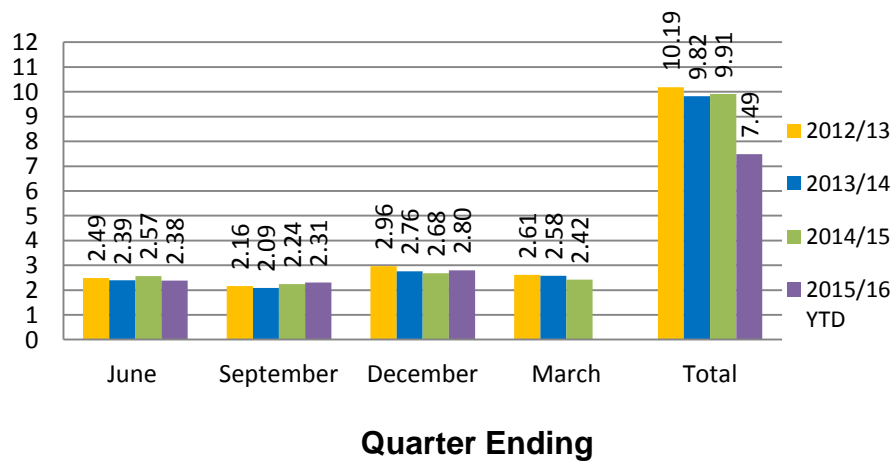
5. Analysis and Trends - Quarters Ending 21 September 2015 and 31 December 2015

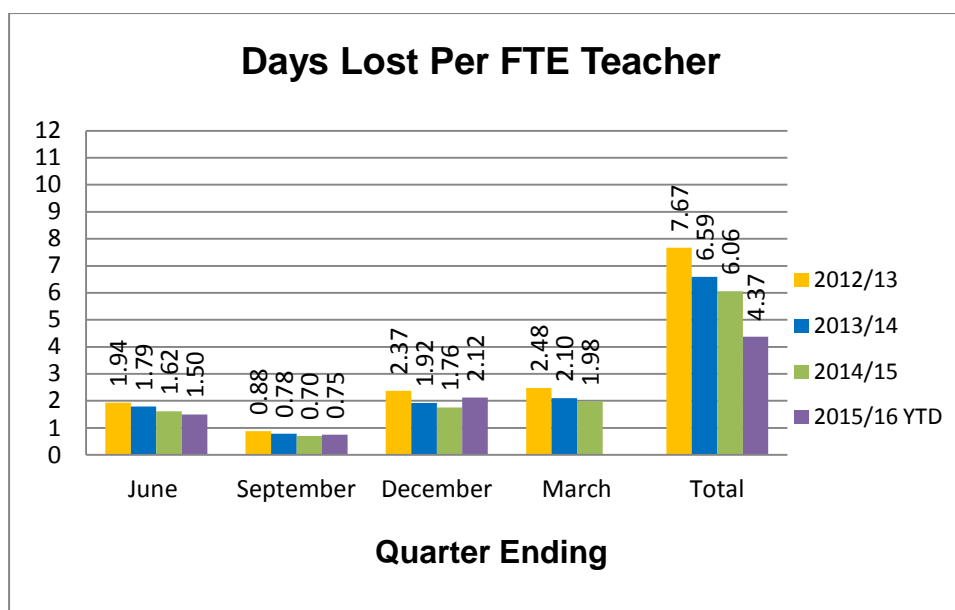
- 5.1 The number of days lost per FTE employee due to absence has increased from 1.96 to 2.64 between quarters ending 21 September 2015 and 31 December 2015 respectively. Also, overall absence in quarter endings 21 September 2015 and 31 December 2015 has increased by 0.11 days and 0.17 days respectively per FTE employee compared to the equivalent quarters in 2014/2015.
- 5.2 The overall number of days lost per FTE employee due to absence is 6.78 for 2015/2016 year to date as at quarter ending 31 December 2015. This represents a 0.11 days per FTE employee increase in absence when compared to the equivalent quarters in 2014/2015.
- 5.3 The following tables detail the percentage absence levels by employee category for 2015/2016 year to date as at quarter ending 31 December 2015, and for the equivalent quarters in 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015:-

Overall Days Lost Per FTE Employee



Days Lost Per FTE Local Government Employee





6. Absence Targets 2015/2016 and Ranking Information

- 6.1 The absence performance of services, the Council overall and employee groups against the set absence targets for quarter ending 31 December 2015 is shown at **Appendix A**.
- 6.2 The Council has recorded an overall absence rate of 2.64 days lost per FTE employee for the quarter which is 0.05 days **below** the target figure of 2.69 days. In addition the Teacher absence level of 2.12 days lost per FTE employee is also 0.18 days **below** the quarterly target of 2.30 days. The absence performance of Local Government employees at 2.80 days lost per FTE employee is 0.08 days **below** the quarterly target of 2.88 days.
- 6.3 Please see **Appendix B** for trends in Council overall and employee group absence performance in recent years, in comparison to other Scottish Councils.
- 6.4 The Scottish Council ranking information for 2014/2015 has now been received. It is of note that the Council overall, Local Government and Teacher absence performance rankings all improved between 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. This resulted in absence performance improving from 12th to 10th position for the Council overall, from 10th to 9th place for Local Government employees and from 20th to 12th position for Teachers

7. Reasons for Absence

- 7.1 The category with the highest level of absence in quarter ending 31 December 2015 is 'Psychological' - 27.54% (non work related - 23.22%, work related - 4.32%), with the second highest being 'Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders' - 22.48%. This compares with quarter ending 21 September 2015 when the category with the highest level of absence was 'Psychological' - 26.98% (non work related - 23.70%, work related - 3.28%), with the second highest being 'Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders' - 24.32%.

8. Supporting Attendance Activity

8.1 Recent and planned actions to improve absence performance include the following:-

- Proactively contacting managers who have absence cases of 2 to 4 weeks in duration, to monitor action taken to date and proposed next steps. This is to ensure that managers intervene early in absence cases and keep in regular contact with absent employees. In turn, discussion is facilitated around the employee's progress, any support that may be required and allows flexible return to work options to be explored.
- Ongoing promotion of the Occupational Health Service Early Intervention Helpline for managers. The aim is to ensure managers receive prompt medical guidance and employees can be quickly referred to support services, where appropriate.
- Continued delivery of supporting attendance training at a corporate level for managers, with the provision of tailored training for managers and employees at a service level on request.
- Ongoing health promotion activities including smoking cessation, mental health awareness and events aimed at raising employee awareness of health issues.
- Ongoing work to improve the absence information available to managers, and to streamline supporting attendance related processes to facilitate prompt absence reporting, recording and updating of relevant systems.

9. Costs of Sick Pay

9.1 The costs associated with sick pay are provided to the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board. The table to follow outlines the costs of sick pay by employee group and overall for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016:-

**Details of Occupational Sick Pay and Statutory Sick Pay Costs Per Employee
Group and Overall for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016**

Quarter/Year	Teachers (includes Supply Teachers)	All Other Employees	Overall
Quarter 1 of 2014/2015	£490,739	£1,085,444	£1,576,183
Quarter 2 of 2014/2015	£231,365	£1,108,770	£1,340,135
Quarter 3 of 2014/2015	£396,512	£999,266	£1,395,778
Quarter 4 of 2013/2014	£552,457	£944,041	£1,496,498
2014/2015 Overall	£1,671,073	£4,137,521	£5,808,594
Quarter 1 of 2015/2016	£393,394	£935,284	£1,328,678
Quarter 2 of 2015/2016	£125,710	£1,286,198	£1,411,908
Quarter 3 of 2015/2016	£546,844	£1,089,060	£1,635,904
2015/2016 Year to Date	£1,065,948	£3,310,542	£4,376,490

Implications of this Report

- 1 **Financial Implications** - Improvement in attendance impacts on the financial costs of absence.
- 2 **HR and Organisational Development Implications** - HR and Organisational Development Practitioners will continue to work with service managers and consult with the Trade Unions, on the implementation of the Supporting Attendance at Work Policy and Guidance and initiatives detailed in this report.
- 3 **Community Planning**

Children and Young People - none.

Jobs and the Economy - none.

Community care, health and wellbeing - provides for continuous improvement in health and attendance.

Safer and Stronger - provides for improved service performance across the Council.

Greener - none.

Empowering our Communities - none.

4 **Legal Implications** - none.

5 **Property/Asset Implications** - none.

6 **Information Technology Implications** - none.

7 **Equality and Human Rights Implications** - none.

8 **Health and Safety Implications** - it is integral to the Council's aim of securing the health and well being of employees.

9 **Procurement Implications** - none.

10 **Risk Implications** - Without continued effective supporting attendance focus, there is a risk that sickness absence levels will adversely impact on the Council both financially and in terms of service delivery. Consequently supporting attendance activities are monitored via the Corporate Risk Register.

11 **Privacy Impact Implications** - none.

List of Background Papers - none.

The contact officer within the service is Morna Armstrong, Senior Human Resource Adviser, telephone 0141 618 7329, e-mail morna.armstrong@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Author: Morna Armstrong, Senior Human Resource Adviser,
Finance and Corporate Services,
telephone 0141 618 7329,
e-mail morna.armstrong@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Index of Appendices

Appendix A	Graphs detailing trends in service, Council overall and employee group absence levels against targets for quarter ending 31 December 2015.
Appendix B	Graphs detailing trends in Council overall and employee group absence performance as well as sick pay costs, for the years 2010/2011 to 2015/2016 year to date.

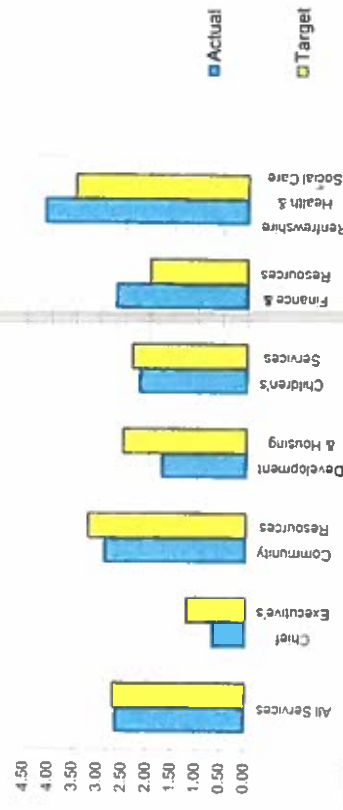
PERFORMANCE V TARGETS 2015/2016

Quarter 3

September 2015 - December 2015

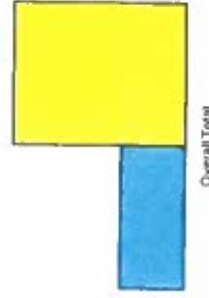
Quarter 3

September 2015 - December 2015



	Actual	Target	Difference
All Services	2.64	2.69	-0.05
Chief Executive's	0.67	1.20	-0.53
Community Resources	2.88	3.22	-0.34
Development & Housing	1.73	2.53	-0.80
Children's Services	2.20	2.35	-0.15
Finance & Resources	2.69	2.00	0.69
Renfrewshire Health & Social Care	4.15	3.54	0.61

2.7
2.69
2.68
2.67
2.66
2.65
2.64
2.63
2.62
2.61



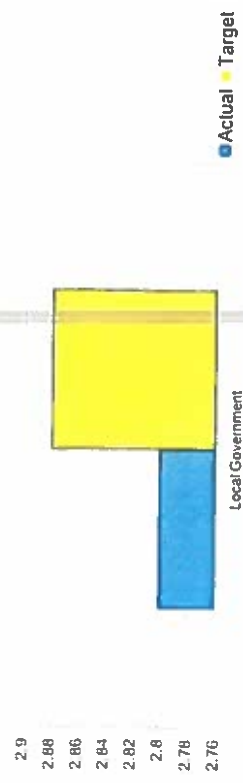
	Actual	Target	Difference
Overall Total	2.64	2.69	-0.05

Quarter 3

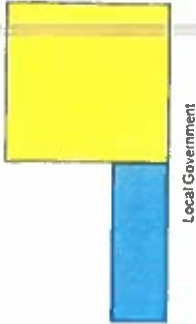
September 2015 - December 2015

Quarter 3

September 2015 - December 2015



2.9
2.88
2.86
2.84
2.82
2.8
2.78
2.76



	Actual	Target	Difference
Local Government	2.80	2.88	-0.08

	Actual	Target	Difference
Teachers	2.12	2.30	-0.18

2.35
2.3
2.25
2.2
2.15
2.1
2.05
2

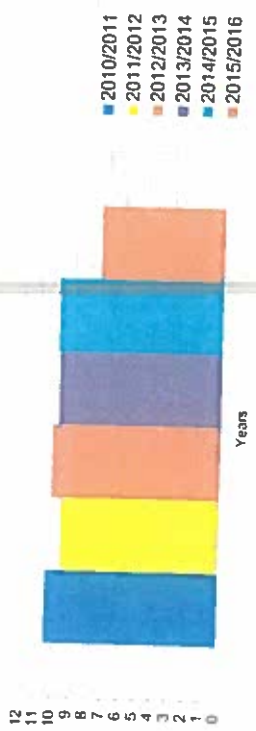
ABSENCE (DAYS LOST PER FTE EMPLOYEE) V OTHER SCOTTISH COUNCILS AND SICK PAY COSTS 2010/2011 TO 2015/2016 APPENDIX B

Council Overall



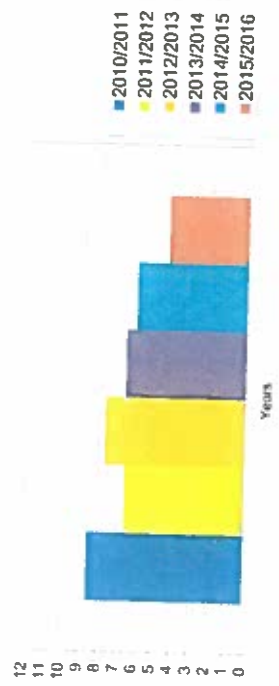
Year	Actual	Ranking	Costs (£)
2010/2011	10.12	23rd	6,882.45
2011/2012	8.90	11th	6,146.25
2012/2013	9.63	13th	6,058.539
2013/2014	9.06	12th	5,934.901
2014/2015	9.01	10th	5,808.594
2015/2016 Year to Date	6.78	Not known yet	4,376.490

Local Government Employees



Year	Actual	Ranking	Costs (£)
2010/2011	10.50	15th	4,929.071
2011/2012	9.60	7th	4,462.908
2012/2013	10.20	8th	4,083.003
2013/2014	9.81	10th	4,176.906
2014/2015	9.92	9th	4,137.521
2015/2016 Year to Date	7.49	Not known yet	3,310.542

Teachers



Year	Actual	Ranking	Costs (£)
2010/2011	8.60	28th	1,953.383
2011/2012	6.60	18th	1,683.343
2012/2013	7.70	25th	1,975.536
2013/2014	6.61	20th	1,757.995
2014/2015	6.05	12th	1,671.073
2015/2016 Year to Date	4.37	Not known yet	1,065.948