When support exists, but engagement is missing.

THE SPECIALIST ENGAGEMENT SERVICE

How do you create the hook back into education?

For headteachers, Designated Safeguarding Leads and local authority teams, including Children Missing Education (CME), Elective Home Education (EHE), Fair Access, alternative provision and social care. **Our specialism is engagement where engagement has been difficult to achieve:** every case joins three strands of work, with parents and family, with the child, and with the schools and agencies already involved.

FOUR SCENARIOS: WHAT THE OFFER LOOKS LIKE

Arriving from out of borough through Fair Access

A child and family new to the area, with significant vulnerabilities and little engagement so far.

The offer: we build trust with the family early, help parents understand the process and engage the child through their interests. We support the introduction to the new school and stay involved through a mid-year start.

Returning to school from EHE or CME

Out of education for anything from a few weeks to several years.

The offer: we start at home, build parents' confidence and engagement, and develop the child's resilience and readiness in achievable steps. Home-to-school mentoring then continues through any setbacks.

Permanently excluded or disengaged, with low school attendance and poor behaviour

Has a school place, but is not engaging with it.

The offer: we find out what sits behind it, rebuild the child's trust in education and work with family and school to improve attendance and behaviour. On a managed transfer, we start in the current school and move with the child to the new one.

Placed in alternative provision, but not attending

The provider has done everything it can and attendance is still poor.

The offer: bespoke, hybrid support alongside the existing placement. We engage the child and family at home, then mentor the child into the provision until attendance is established.

WHAT BECAME POSSIBLE: TWO EXAMPLES

From 18 months out of school to a route back

Had stopped leaving the house and would not talk to others, with distress and conflict at home. Now: a calmer home life, renewed interaction and the first steps into alternative provision.

“Home life is more peaceful.” Mother

From reduced education to regular attendance

Over 12 months outside full-time mainstream education, with only brief attendance and unable to attend on Mondays. After mentoring ended, his mother reported regular school attendance, greater confidence and a return to football.

“He is now attending school on a regular basis.” Mother

Sources: parent testimonies and education details held by Every Child Needs a Mentor. Names withheld. These are individual reported outcomes; every child's route is different.

HOW IT WORKS

1 Referral

From a panel, a local authority team or a school.

2 Initial conversation

Suitability, education goals, scope and cost are agreed with you.

3 Engagement plan

Built around the child and family, with a named liaison.

4 Progress reviews

Regular reviews with you and the professionals involved.

“ECNM are beyond comparison.”

Louise Morris, Manager, Children Missing in Education and Alternative Provision, Sandwell Council

Close to 25 years of engaging the children and families whom services struggle to reach. **Working in Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell and Birmingham**, including on the Department for Education's SAFE project.

Is there one child or family you have been unable to engage?

Arrange a 20-minute initial conversation with Herman Stewart, our Founder & CEO.

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