

## What will happen at the Children's Hearing?

Each Hearing comprises three Panel Members - all trained volunteers from the local community. The child and their family or carers are central participants in the Hearing. The role of the Reporter is to attend the Hearing to support fair process. The Reporter takes no part in the Panel Members' deliberations.

The Panel Members will listen to everyone and consider all the information. The Hearing will then make a decision, and the Panel Members must give reasons for their decision. Decisions are made openly in the Hearing.

## What decisions can be made at a Hearing?

The Hearing can decide that formal, compulsory supervision measures are not required and discharge the case.

The Panel Members can decide that they need more information to help them make a decision about what is best and they can continue the Hearing until a later date.

The Hearing can decide to issue a warrant to keep the child in a safe place for up to three weeks, until the next Hearing but only if this is necessary.

The Hearing can decide that compulsory measures of supervision are needed to help the child, and can make a Supervision Requirement.

For further information about Children's Hearings log on to [www.scra.gov.uk](http://www.scra.gov.uk)

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

[www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)

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# Keeping Our Children Safe, Secure and Healthy Attendance Procedures



## Advice for Parents 2



**Perth & Kinross Council is committed to improving the life chances of all school pupils and to working in partnership with parents to enable their children to achieve success at school and in their future lives.**

**It is a parent's legal duty to provide an efficient education, suitable to age, ability and aptitude either by sending the child to school or by other means. If your child attends school, it is an offence for him/her to be absent without reasonable excuse.**

**Parents and school staff can work together to improve pupils' attendance at school. There are many reasons why children and young people do not attend school, but we are committed to finding solutions to any barriers.**

You have previously received a letter from your child's school asking for reason(s) for your child's absence(s) and either:

- *you have not given the school notes outlining reasons;*
- *your child's attendance has not managed to achieve an acceptable level;*
- *your child's Headteacher has decided to proceed to refer your child to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (Children's Reporter).*

## **What is the Children's Reporter?**

The Children's Reporter is the person who will decide if a child needs to be referred to a Children's Hearing. They will get information about the child to help them make a decision - they might speak to a social worker if the child has one, or their teacher. You can also provide the Children's Reporter with information about a child. Anyone who is concerned about a child or young person can tell the Children's Reporter about their worries.

## **What is a Children's Hearing?**

The Children's Hearings System in Scotland aims to provide a safety net for vulnerable children, and to work with partner agencies who deliver tailored solutions which meet the needs of the individuals involved and help to build stronger families and safer communities.

In Scotland, children and young people who face serious problems in their lives can sometimes be asked to go to a meeting called a Children's Hearing.

Some of these problems include not attending school, getting into trouble with the Police, or being abused and/or neglected at home by the people who look after them.

Children's Hearings make decisions in the best interest of the child or young person to help and protect them.