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PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2022

Present: Cllrs Mike Parkes (Chairman), Pauline Batstone (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Pete Barrow, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Stella Jones, Rebecca Knox and Cathy Lugg

Apologies: None

Also present: Cllr Ryan Holloway (Virtual), Cllr Jon Orrell, Cllr Andrew Parry, Cllr Molly Rennie, Cllr Jane Somper and Cllr Peter Wharf

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Amanda Davis (Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships), Kerry Smith (Service Manager for Inclusion), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), Jonathan Price (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning), Mark Tyson (Commissioning Consultant), Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer) and George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

33. Apologies

There were no apologies, however Cllr Holloway attended virtually so he could not take part as a committee member.

34. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

35. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

36. Councillor Questions

There were no questions from councillors.

37. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

38. **Dorset Attendance Strategy**

The Service Manager for Inclusion introduced the item and gave a presentation which is appended to these minutes. She highlighted the key information which included a link between attendance and success, a rise in absence for the year 2021/22, and that children entitled for free school meals were often the most absent. An attendance workshop identified strengths and 5 priorities.

The committee asked questions and provided comments on the report. The following points were raised:

- The strategy would be reviewed by the Education Board on a termly basis.
- One day a fortnight of absence has a significant impact on the pupil.
- There are council link officers to schools that can discuss issues and help families access support.
- There was a need to explore how to reduce families taking holidays during term time.
- In relation to families that identify as Roma Gypsies, Kushti Bok and the Dorset Youth Association are supportive of the attendance strategy.
- The Dorset Inclusion Toolkit was an online resource to help schools improve attendance.
- In the future there will be live data rather than relying on census data.
- Sending sick children to school could have an impact on the attendance of other children through the illness spreading.
- There was a campaign around free school meals and ensuring that schools get pupil premium funding.
- There was a link between coastal poverty and academic achievement.
- Children need to be educated on online safety as it can impact their mental health.

Proposed by Cllr Parkes, seconded by Cllr Batstone.

Decision:

That the attendance strategy and associated plan be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

39. **Developing Commissioning Strategies for Adult Social Care**

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health introduced the item. There had been a variety of engagement sessions and co-production so that all partners were involved in developing the strategy. He would explore how this committee could have more involvement in developing policies.

The Corporate Director for Commissioning gave a presentation on the development of the commissioning strategies. It included what had been done since the last time they were considered at the committee, details on the

engagement sessions, and the key themes raised through the engagement. The presentation was included in the agenda.

Members asked questions on the development of the commissioning strategies. In response to questions, the following points were raised:

- There was an industry standard ratio for carers, but it depended on the type of care.
- Technology and interest were evolving. There were digital ways of accessing information without IT skills, such as using an Amazon Alexa.
- 'A Better Life' was an aspirational title for the transformation plans.
- CareDorset had a fraction of the total care market, and they were included in the overarching strategy.
- There would be a move from day services to day opportunities.
- There were different housing options to look at for carers.
- There were capacity issues in addressing the backlog of care assessments.

The committee provided the following feedback for officers:

- There should be a degree of consistency across services in the use of the word 'community'.
- There was a need to be emphasising a good quality of life.
- The council should encourage career progression for care workers.
- There was a need to encourage farming tenants to provide day opportunities, such as for retired farmers.
- There was a need to look at the use of day centres.

The committee discussed creating a task and finish group to explore the priority themes set out in the presentation, starting with day opportunities.

Proposed by Cllr Parkes, seconded by Cllr Batstone.

Decision:

1. That the committee establish a Task & Finish group with a draft terms of reference being brought to the next committee meeting.
2. That the feedback received on the commissioning strategies be noted.

40. Committee's Forward Plan and Cabinet's Forward Plan

The update on the Children's social care review was deferred to a future meeting due to there not being an update from government. There were no further updates on the forward plans.

41. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.14 pm

Chairman

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Dorset Attendance

**Achieving the best possible school
attendance for the children and
young people of Dorset**

Why does attendance matter?

- A passport to a child's future into adulthood, independence and achieving ambitions
- Schools are places for children to develop socially and emotionally, not just academically
- For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is an important protective factor and the best opportunity for needs to be identified and support provided
- Research has shown associations between regular absence from school and a number of extra-familial harms
- This includes crime (90% of young offenders had been persistently absent) and serious violence (83% of knife possession offenders had been persistently absent in at least 1 of the 5 years of study)



Why does attendance matter?

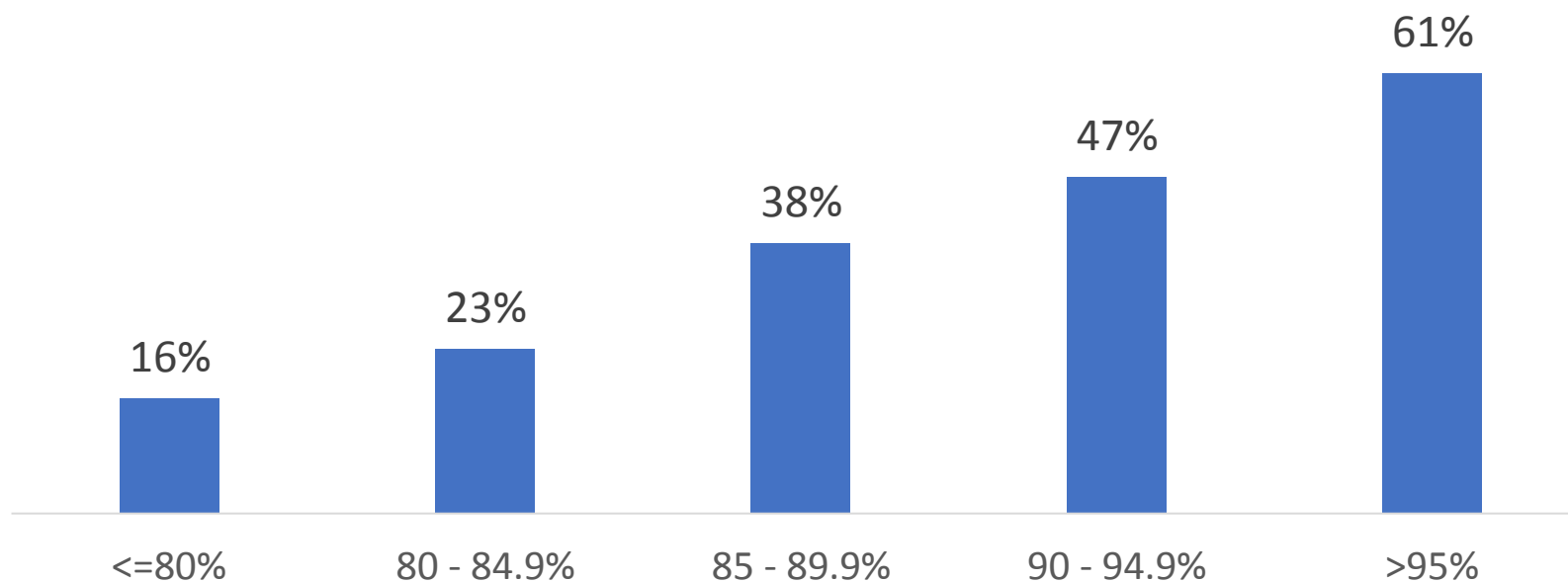
The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment:

- At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard
- At KS4, pupils not achieving grade 9 to 4 in English and maths had an overall absence rate of 8.8%, compared to 5.2% among those achieving grade 4



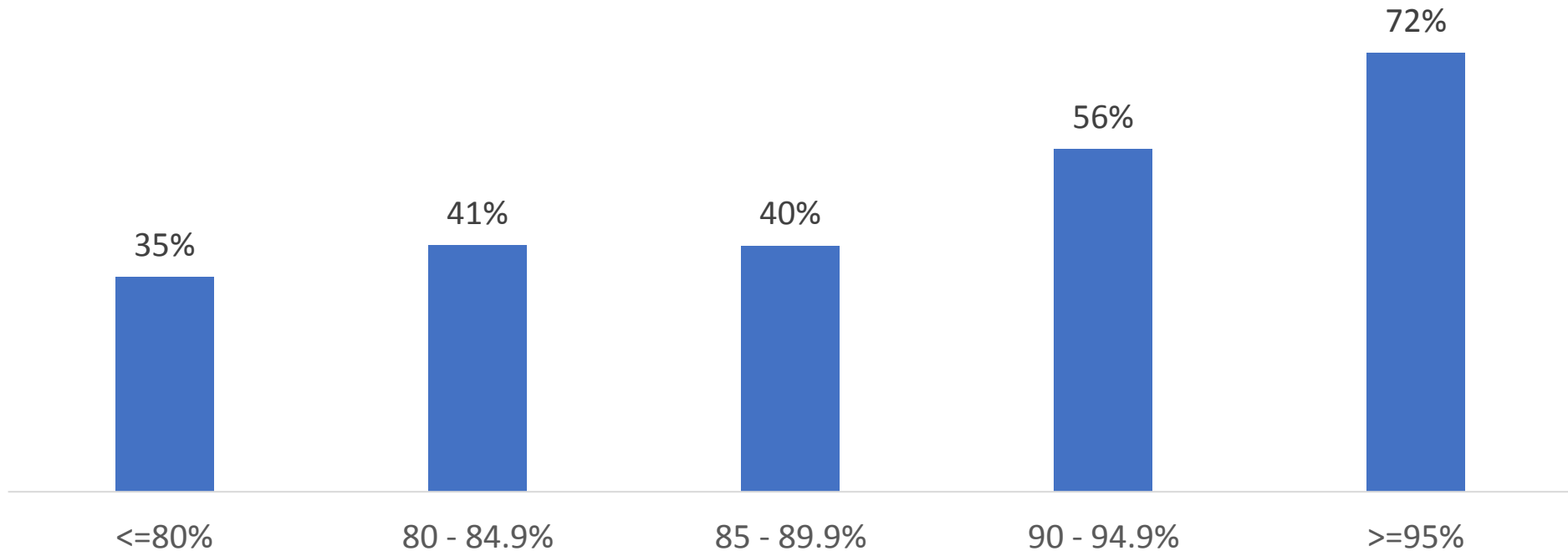
Why does attendance matter?

Key Stage 2 Reading/Writing/Maths Expected
Standard 2022



Why does attendance matter?

Key Stage 4 Basics grade 4+ 2019





Working Together to Improve School Attendance

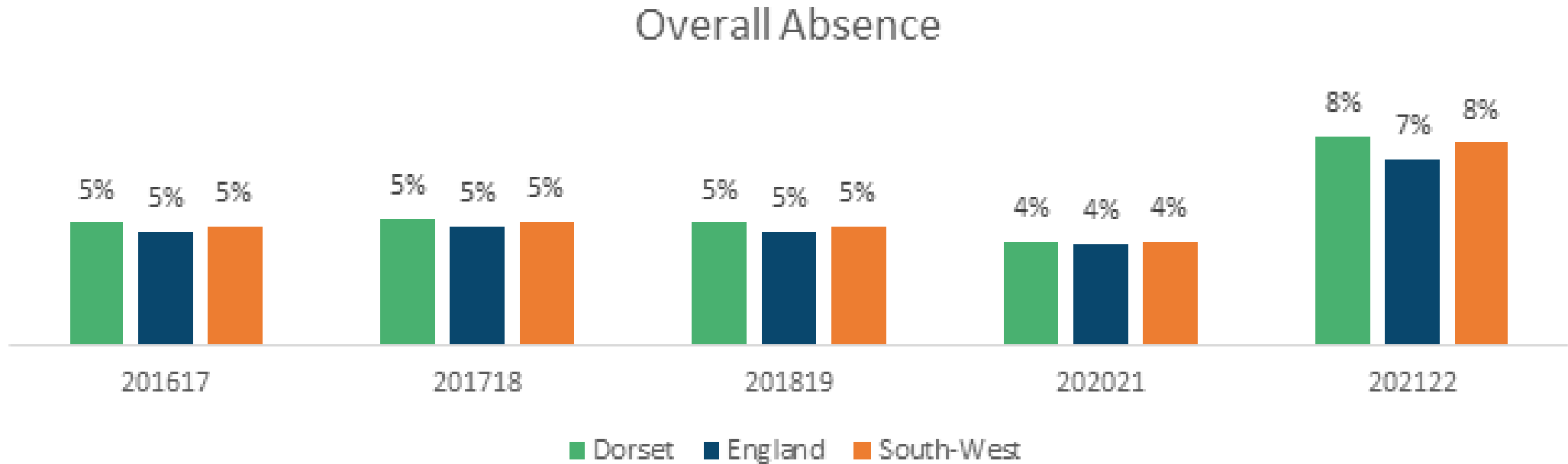
In May 2022, the DfE published new guidance on school attendance, which applies from September 2022:

- Attendance cannot solely be the preserve of a single member of staff or organisation – **improving attendance is everyone's business**
- Absence is often a symptom of wider issues a family is facing
- Work together to understand the barriers to attendance and provide support
- Legal interventions should be a last resort – schools, trusts and LAs are expected to work together to make use of the full range of legal interventions

Overall Absence

Autumn and Spring Term absence (2021/22)

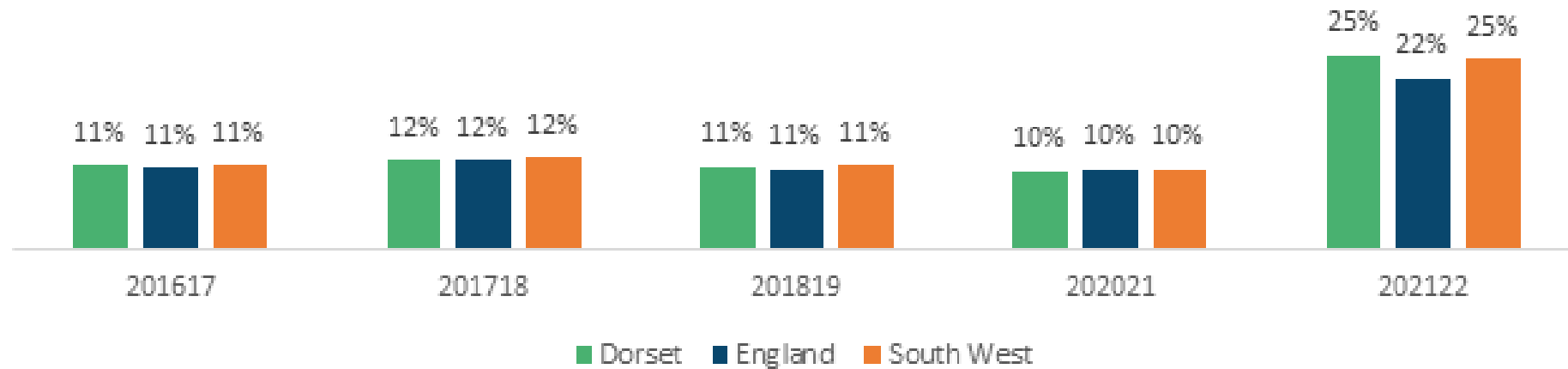
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Persistent Absence

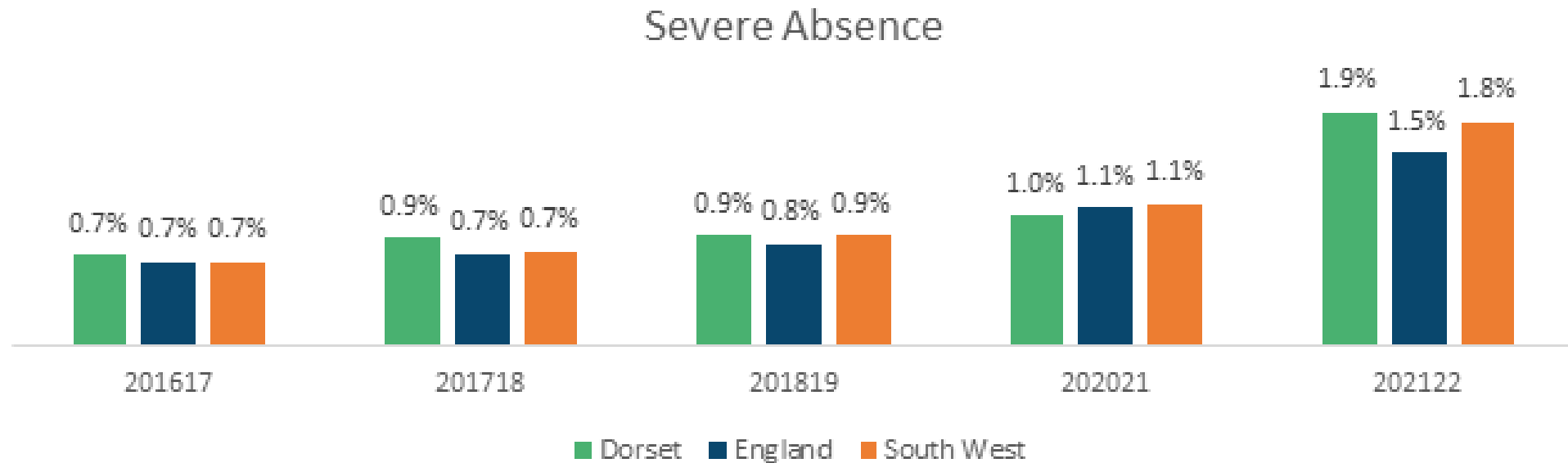
Autumn and Spring Term absence (2021/22)

Persistent Absence



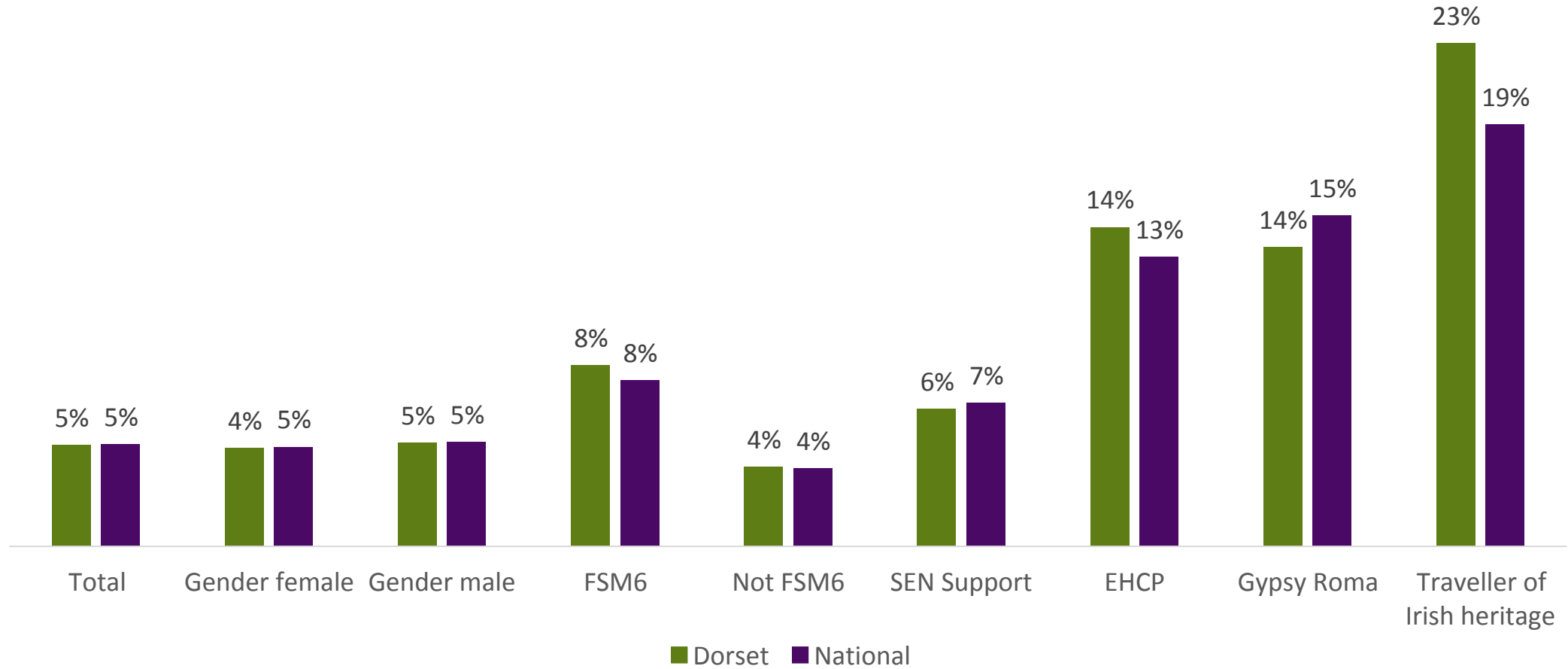
Severe Absence

Autumn and Spring Term absence (2021/22)



2020/21 Absence by Group

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Dorset's Attendance Workshop

The workshop identified many strengths

- **Strengths in school:** Relationships, community links, care, values, clear policy and processes, communication, curriculum, creativity and tracking
- **Strengths in localities:** Whole family working, communication, specific support, relational practice, parental support, contextual safeguarding, data rich
- **Strengths in communities:** Young people, family and neighbours, volunteer groups, health



Dorset Council Priorities

The Workshop identified the following Dorset wide priorities:

1. Consistent Dorset wide policy and practice
2. Knowledge sharing and communication
3. Early identification of causes lead to development of targeted interventions
4. Consistent approach to transition
5. Transport solutions