

# On the frontline

Photo: Adobe Stock

## Support for the 'School Attendance Team' as it tackles absenteeism at an early stage

### 1. Background

School non-attendance presents challenges for students, parents, schools, and support systems. Increasingly, early identification and response is emphasized. Identification is more effective when attendance teams address individual, school, family, and community factors involved in absenteeism. A framework for identifying and responding is likely to help the attendance team.

In this study we offer training in a school-based framework for identifying and responding to attendance problems. It is being offered in Norway, Germany and the Netherlands.

### 2. Participation

Training is offered in 4 workshops across one year:

- (1) Benefits of the school-based framework;
- (2) Constructively reviewing policy and practice;
- (3) Enhancing policy and practice;
- (4) Fine-tuning for long-term effectiveness.

The workshops include knowledge-sharing and problem-solving. We invite staff from primary and secondary schools to participate. School governance needs to support the initiation of a 'School Attendance Team' and the team's participation in the workshops.

### 3. What's in it for schools?

- Schools will access state-of-the art information and resources for tackling absenteeism.
- Participants have time and space to reflect on current policy and practice, learning from the experiences of other schools.
- Youth will benefit (continued engagement with education), schools benefit (efficient response systems), and communities benefit (strengthened relationships between schools and community organizations).

### 4. Contact

For further information or to express interest in participation, please contact your country's representative before the end of February 2019.

Dr David Heyne (Leiden University, The Netherlands)  
[heyne@fsw.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:heyne@fsw.leidenuniv.nl)

Dr Jo Magne Ingul (RKBU, NTNU, Norway)  
[JoMagne.Ingul@helse-nordtrondelag.no](mailto:JoMagne.Ingul@helse-nordtrondelag.no)

Dr Trude Havik (Læringsmiljøsentret, UiS, Norway)  
[trude.havik@uis.no](mailto:trude.havik@uis.no)

Dr Volker Reissner (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)  
[volker.reissner@uni-due.de](mailto:volker.reissner@uni-due.de)