**Understanding Support for children who are Emotionally Based School Avoiders (EBSA)**

Dear Colleague,

We are currently in the formative stages of putting together guidance for and advice around the support, and pathways, required for young people who are experiencing difficulties attending school due to EBSA (previously referred to as school Phobia, see definition of this below).

You may be aware that this is a growing need across the country and, in order for us to create a useful document for supporting schools in meeting these needs, we would kindly ask you to supply us with the below information.

**EBSA Definition:**

*Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a broad umbrella term used to describe a group of children and young people who have* ***severe difficulty in attending school*** *due to* ***emotional factors,*** *often resulting in prolonged absences from school.*

*A clear distinction is made between those that are absent from school due to truanting and those that are absent from school due to the specific emotional distress that they experience around attending school* (Thambirajah, Grandison & De-Hayes, 2008).

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| **School Name:** |
| **Going by the above definition, how many pupils do have in your school who you would describe as experiencing difficulties attending school due to EBSA? E.g. Children who have enduring and lasting EBSA and possibly known to CAMHS or other mental health services.**  Please give numbers, including year groups and gender. Please do not disclose any names or initials. |
| **What strategies and support (internal and external) are in place at your school to support pupils with EBSA needs? E.g. Mental Health in schools team?** |
| **What assessments do you use to try to understand young people’s needs?** |
| **What borough services would you commonly call upon to assess/support young people with EBSA and at what point in the young person’s non-attendance would you go to them? (e.g. EP, CAMHS, CDC/Cheyne)** |
| **What/Who else do you think would support you in meeting the needs of YP with EBSA in a more timely fashion (ie. before the non-attendance becomes entrenched)?** |
| **What/Who else do you think would support you in meeting the needs of YP with EBSA when the behaviour is entrenched?** |
| **Have you noticed any common factors or patterns in your EBSA cases?** |
| **Do you have any examples of good practice to share?** |
| **Is there any other information you would like to share with us about EBSA to inform future policy and advice?** |

**Thank you for your time. Please return the completed forms to**  Keith.Fernandes@lbhf.gov.uk