



**MONDAY 27TH
MARCH, 2023
9.00AM - 12.45PM
COST: FREE**

THE ATTENDANCE SYMPOSIUM

A professional learning event for educators, aimed at addressing school attendance problems to improve life outcomes for children and young people in Scotland

GUEST SPEAKERS:



DR MARKUS KLEIN

Reader in Human Development and Education Policy at the University of Strathclyde's School of Education.



DR EDWARD SOSU

Reader and Research Director at the University of Strathclyde's School of Education



DANNY GEMMELL

Founder of Be-Inn Unity and Army Veteran

VENUE :

The Technology and Innovation Centre



Scan below to sign up

In-Person



Virtual





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FORTH VALLEY AND WEST LOTHIAN REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

WHO ARE WE?

Our collaborative, which covers Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling and West Lothian, provides core education services to nearly 76,000 pupils and almost 6000 teachers and early years educators. Our improvement work is driven by our key values; **Collaboration**, **Equity** and **Empowerment**.

SUPPORTING PUPIL ATTENDANCE

In response to the post-covid national drop in attendance, and the subsequent detrimental impact on well-being and achievement, our RIC decided to collaborate around the stretch aim of Attendance. Alongside providing direct support for authorities and establishments to address school attendance challenges, our core RIC team has created an **Interactive Attendance Guide**, which features academic research, practical resources, professional learning and an Attendance Self-evaluation Toolkit.

The aim of today's event is to raise awareness of the importance of school attendance and to develop professional understanding through sharing practice and networking.

Contact Us

-  BLOG - <https://rb.gy/hcorps>
-  fwlric@glowmail.org.uk
-  @FWVLric

Scan Me



FWWL RIC
Interactive
Attendance
Guide

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THE EVENT

The symposium is a hybrid event which can be attended either **in-person** or **virtually** via Microsoft Teams. We would recommend attending in-person, due to obvious benefits, however we recognise that this may not be suitable for everyone. If attending virtually, delegates will have complete access to speakers and workshops, and our online facilitators will be on-hand to support virtual attendees participate fully in all aspects of the event.



EVENT SCHEDULE

9.00 - 9.15

WELCOME & COFFEE

Head of The School of Education, University of Strathclyde

9.15 - 10.00

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Dr Markus Klein and Dr Edward Sosu
Determinants and consequences of school absenteeism

10.00 - 10.45

WORKSHOP 1

Workshop details are below

10.45 - 11.00

BREAK

A chance to network over coffee & refreshments

11.00 - 11.45

WORKSHOP 2

Workshop details are below

11.45 - 12.30

DANNY GEMMELL

Founder of Be-Inn Unity and Army Veteran
Empowering young people to thrive through building emotionally safe cultures and meaningful relationships

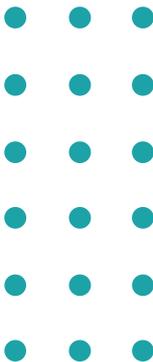
12.30 - 12.40

CLOSING REMARKS

Lorraine Sanda, Lead Officer, Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative

12.40 - 12.45

EVALUATION



Scan Me



Evaluation Form
- We value your
feedback!

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WORKSHOPS



Consultation with our stakeholders informed our choice of workshops. These are designed to meet the needs of a wide range of practitioners and complement the four self-evaluation areas within our Interactive Attendance Guide; **Ethos & Relationships, Processes & Procedures, Targeted Intervention & Vulnerable Groups** and **Effective Partnerships**.

Workshop 1: Developing a clear, shared vision to implement improvement and change, leading to positive attendance outcomes

Self-evaluation Area: Ethos & Relationships

Presenter: Braes High School, Falkirk

Overview: Onwards and Upwards, our Pupil Equity Funded programme, works alongside our universal positive attendance strategy 'Be Here and Be the Best', to create the environment needed for young people to earn success and achieve in Braes High School. Our staff across the curriculum recognise the importance of attendance; building relationships with our young people and families, providing relevant and personalised information and support to remove barriers to attendance and ensure young people are able to meet their potential in our school community and beyond. Our session will provide information about the strategies we have in place, specific programmes that have had a positive impact on attendance including case studies of young people and you will hear from some of our young people who work with us to remove barriers for their peers.

Workshop 2: Raising Attainment, Attendance and Destinations

Self-evaluation Area: Ethos & Relationships

Presenter: Claire Bradley and Clare McLaughlin (Denny High School and Falkirk High School, Stirling)

Overview: RAAD was established in session 2021/ 2022 due to recognising we had a gap in our 5 @ level 4 attainment. The impact of adopting this approach was;

- 5 @ Level 4 for 2022 reached 93%
 - 206 qualifications were supported or achieved through RAAD
 - There was on average a 25% increase in attendance
 - Pupils reported that they felt 'more valued and respected' and it was 'at a pace that supported their learning'
- This workshop session will share an overview of the highly successful RAAD approach.

Workshop 3: Accessing and analysing attendance data

Self-evaluation Area: Processes & Procedures

Presenter: Forth Valley and West Lothian RIC Data Coaches

Overview: A chance to hear how our four RIC Local Authorities use data to track and monitor attendance to improve outcomes for all learners. Our data coaches will also explore how SEEMIS can be used to analyse attendance data and identify patterns and trends.

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Workshop 4: Identifying the causes of school absence with The School Refusal Assessment Scale (SRAS-R)

Self-evaluation Area: Targeted Intervention and Vulnerable Groups

Presenter: FVWL Educational Psychology Team

Overview: The causes of school absence are complex and multi-factorial. There is no one-size fits all approach which has been proven to work, therefore assessment is key to considering possible interventions. FVWL educational psychologists will lead participants through the theory behind the causes of school absence, definitions of terminology and discuss assessments which can help clarify the function of school absence. Those attending this workshop will be given the opportunity to discuss the information presented and share their own experiences

Workshop 5: Using data-informed and multi-agency approaches to improve attendance in the Early Years

Self-evaluation Area: Effective Partnerships

Presenter: Samantha Smith, Lyndsay Gass, Lynne McKay - Cornton Nursery, Stirling

Overview: The team will explore how they use data to inform interventions to support attendance, how they place emphasis on relationships in promoting inclusion for the young people in their community, and how they negate the barriers to children attending an Early Years setting when there is no statutory obligation.

Workshop 6: What is Emotionally-Based School Avoidance (EBSA) and how can we support it?

Self-evaluation Area: Targeted Intervention and Vulnerable Groups

Presenter: FVWL Educational Psychology Team

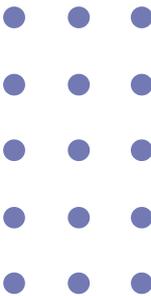
Overview: Emotionally-based school avoidance is a term referring to reduced or nonattendance at school by a child or young person. The term EBSA recognises that this avoidance has its root in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. This workshop will look at the theory around EBSA and various approaches at universal and targeted levels. FVWL educational psychologists will lead the workshop, facilitating discussion around the various aspects of EBSA.

Workshop 7: 'The Family Well-being Partnership': System level approaches to attendance and well-being

Self-evaluation Area: Effective Partnerships

Presenter: Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer for Clackmannanshire Council

Overview: Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership. An overview of a strategic partnership approach to empowering communities. This partnership approach is built on positive relationships and designed to improve health and wellbeing outcomes including attendance and engagement at school.



Workshop 8: Using The Model for Improvement to support young people and families to improve attendance

Self-evaluation Area: Effective Partnerships

Presenters: Karlie Gray (Equity Support Officer, West Lothian), Lea Anne Stephenson (Nurture Teacher, Polkemmet Primary School, West Lothian)

Overview: This workshop will explore the challenges and barriers the Polkemmet school community faced around attendance and how they used 'The Model for Improvement' and QI tools to grow positive change.

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GUEST SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



Dr Markus Klein

Dr Markus Klein is a Reader in Human Development and Education Policy at the University of Strathclyde's School of Education. He has a keen interest in the causes and consequences of school absenteeism. He is the Principal Investigator of research projects investigating socioeconomic inequalities in school absences and their impact on educational attainment and labour market outcomes.



Dr Edward Sosu

In his role as Research Director at Strathclyde University's School of Education, Dr Edward Sosu's current research is predominantly focused on understanding how socioeconomic disadvantage influences educational and psychological trajectories from early childhood. He has recently worked collaboratively with Markus on various research projects, investigating the impact of school absenteeism.

If you would like to learn more about Markus and Edward's research into school attendance, visit their website: www.schoolattendance.org

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:



Danny Gemmell

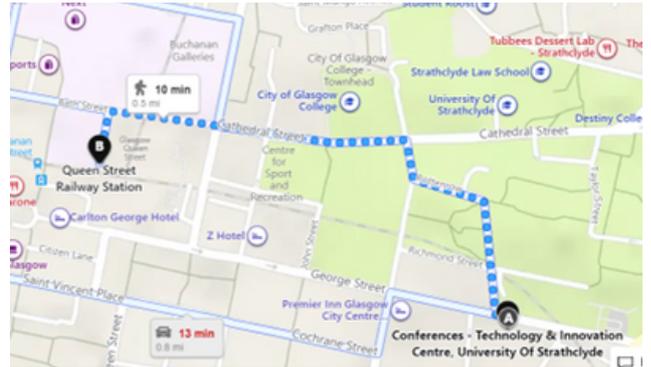
Danny is the Founder of Be-inn Unity, a social enterprise that exists to inspire and educate communities so that individuals are empowered to thrive. Danny and his team deliver a range of initiatives focused on reducing the stigma associated with mental health and suicide prevention. The team works closely with communities including primary and high schools, local authorities, and national businesses to build emotionally safe cultures that offer relationships founded in love, kindness and compassion. Visit Danny's Website: Be-Inn Unity

6 THE VENUE

The **Technology and Innovation Centre** is a conference and events facility, run by the University of Strathclyde, in the heart of Glasgow City Centre.



LOCATION:
99 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1RD



GETTING THERE

BY RAIL:

The closest railway stations are:
Queen Street (0.4 miles), 7 minute walk
Glasgow Central (0.9 miles), 14 minute walk

BY BUS:

Buchanan Bus Station is 0.6 miles away, 10 minute walk

BY CAR:

Discounted parking is available nearby. The 24-hour Duke Street Car Park currently offers an all day special rate at £5.00. Or you can validate your ticket at Reception in the Technology and Innovation Centre or at Security Control in the Livingstone Tower (22 Richmond Street) for the capped rate of £5.00 for 24 hours.

For discounted parking at the 24-hour NCP George Street, download the ParkPass app and register with the code L6PN4FX. Scan the QR code using the app on entry to the car park rather than taking a ticket to receive your discounted rate - visit NCP George Street for prices via the ParkPass app.

ACCESSIBILITY

All conferencing spaces in the Technology and Innovation Centre are fully accessible, and their friendly, professional team is on-hand to offer assistance.

- There's level access to the building, with lift access available to all floors
- All Auditoria have wheelchair spaces
- All Auditoria and Conference Rooms are fitted with induction loops
- Accessible toilets available on all floors

CATERING

Tea, coffee and pastries will be provided on arrival, with further refreshments during the break. Food preferences and allergies will be catered for.

WIFI & DEVICE ACCESS

WiFi is available in all conference spaces and public areas. To connect, select TIC Conferences from the list of available networks and enter the password that will be shared on the day. The tiered sections in the Main Auditorium feature 13-amp sockets under every seat, so devices can be used throughout the conference.

Need more info?



strath.ac.uk/conferencingandevents/attendinganevent/



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