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**Impact**

required further escalation to MNT Teaching support.

The ESO Initiative is demonstrating positive early impact, with growing demand and positive school feedback. The next phase will focus on formal impact measurement and reviewing expansion potential.

Supported students are beginning to actively participate in interventions and are showing more engagement with their ‘phased return timetables’ in comparison to before their referral. Early signs suggest a stabilising effect on student attendance, with full attendance tracking ongoing. Families report positive early engagement, as do schools, who also report an increased awareness of early mental health intervention strategies. None of the students being supported by the ESO initiative have so far

The Calderdale ESO initiative aims to increase engagement, attendance and academic participation for students at risk of persistent absence due to mental health challenges. This in turn aims to work preventatively, to reduce referrals to the Medical Needs Team (MNT) Teaching, through targeted early support.

The Calderdale Education Support Officer (ESO) Initiative was launched to provide early intervention for students at risk of persistent absence due to mental health challenges, reducing referrals to the Medical Needs Team (MNT). Since December 2024, ESOs have worked across three target schools to support students through individualised support plans to increase engagement, attendance and academic participation.

Two Education Support Officers have been deployed across three target schools. ESOs work collaboratively with schools, parents and carers, the Local Authority SEN Team, Mental Health Support Teams and the Medical Needs Team. Currently 14 students are receiving direct support, with individualised support plans for referred students. A one-minute guide has also been developed for Parents and Carers to understand the support their child is receiving.

**Activities**

**Aim**

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"I believe that the ESO support has been critical in helping my daughter access school again. It is questionable as to whether without this my daughter would have made the fantastic progress she has in such a short period of time."

"The ESO helped my daughter feel seen and supported before things got worse. She’s now attending full time again and has friends she trusts."

"The ESO gave us hope again."

"We are in the early stages of the programme and XXXX does struggle to open up and talk to people even his own family, but I think he is starting to feel at ease with XXXX and is starting to share his thoughts. I hope this continues and Leo does continue to feel he can open up and share why he struggles so much with school."

"I am very impressed by the help you've given us so far with trying to get XXXXX back into school again, we are still in the early stages but I'm hopeful it will help her as long as she can keep up her attendance in school and try and tackle this anxiety and panic attacks."

"We are very appreciative of your support as we have been battling through this over a year and not really had any help so thank you."

**Parent Comments**

**Parent Feedback**

**Young Person Comment**

"Talking to someone who wasn’t a teacher or my mum helped me get back into school."