

**Officer Response - CSF Directorate - to question raised at  
Extraordinary Budget OSC 1 on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

1. Noting the Officer comment that although young people may not qualify for MEA that did not signal non-achievement: what were the attendance levels on which they did achieve? If attendance levels had been 95 per cent when EMA had been awarded, how did current attendance compare and what was the variance from target? **Answer to be provided.**

**Response**

The Mayor's Education Allowance (MEA) is the local scheme and the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is the, now ceased, national scheme.

Data is not held centrally that would allow officers to comment on the correlation between attendance and attainment of students eligible to apply for the MEA scheme.

In fact the 95% attendance requirement recommended by the DfE is a high target and there are students in sixth forms who will have chosen not to meet it. That does not mean that those students fail to achieve.

The national EMA scheme did not include a 95% target. The £30 weekly payment would only be paid for each week of full attendance, allowing for authorised absence. Therefore, a student could attend fully for 15 weeks of a 30 week academic year and receive £450.

The differences between the EMA and MEA schemes is that the Mayor's scheme is geared towards making payments for full attendance as a means to drive up standards. EMA did not set such a focussed agenda and had a wider remit of increasing recruitment, retention and attainment.