

Scrutiny

28th November 2024

Kerica Hunt – Service Manager

School Attendance Support Service

Latest data overview Autumn/Spring 2023/2024

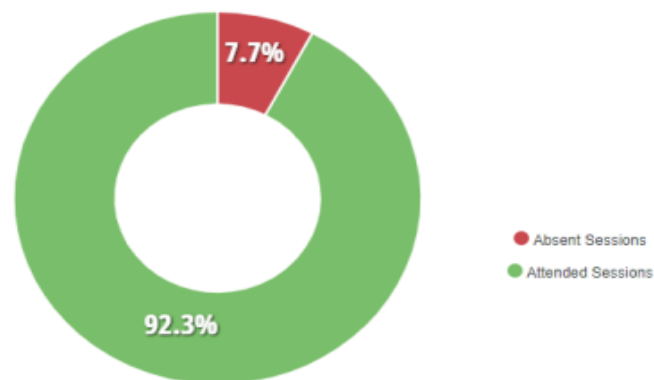
Opportunities and Challenges

From a cohort of **32,144 enrolments** in your LA, you had an Overall Absence of **7.7%**, this is based on **579,683 sessions** being missed out of a possible **7,515,215**.

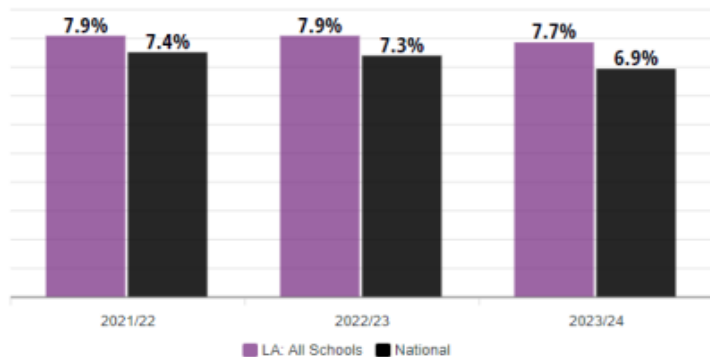
Your Overall Absence rate equates to an average of **18.0 sessions** missed by each pupil.

10.8% of your cohort have no Overall Absence sessions, a total of **3,456 pupils**.

Absence - Aut/Spr: Overall Absence | Value



Absence - Aut/Spr: Overall Absence | Trend



Your LA's Overall Absence has **decreased by 0.2%** from **7.9%** in 2022/23 to **7.7%** in 2023/24.

Your LA's average for the last 3 academic year(s) is **7.8%**.

Latest data overview Autumn/Spring 2023/2024

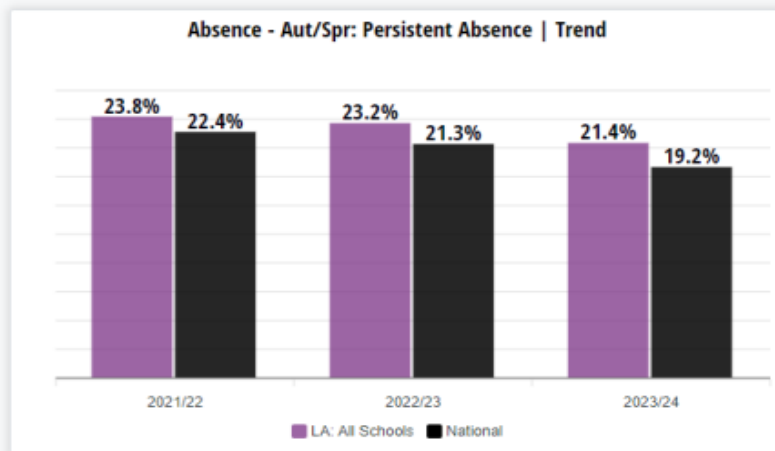
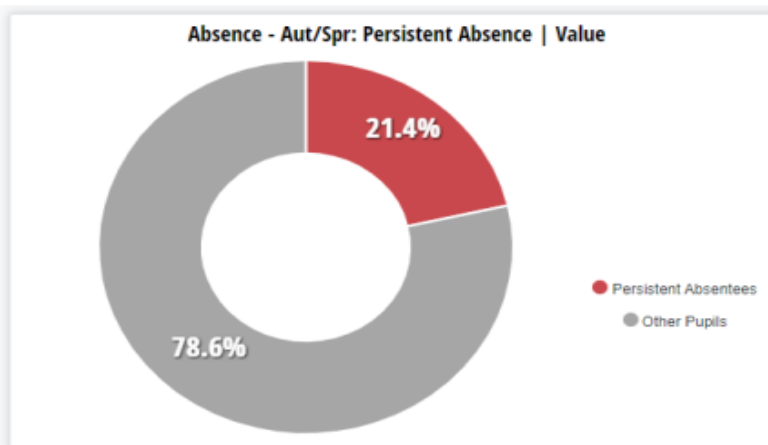
Opportunities and Challenges

From a cohort of **32,144 enrolments** in your LA, **21.4%** were Persistently Absent, this was **6,885 enrolments**.

This is based on **186,040 missed sessions** due to authorised absence and **184,596 missed sessions** due to unauthorised absence, out of a possible **1,536,341 sessions**.

Your persistent absence rate equates to an average of **46 more** sessions missed compared to your cohort that were not persistently absent.

If your persistent absence cohort is removed from absence calculations your overall absence would be **3.5%**.



Your LA's persistent absence has **decreased by 1.8%** from **23.2%** in 2022/23 to **21.4%** in 2023/24.

This is equivalent to **572 fewer** pupils being persistent absentees in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23.

Your LA's average for the last 3 academic year(s) is **22.8%**.

Latest data overview Autumn/Spring 2023/2024

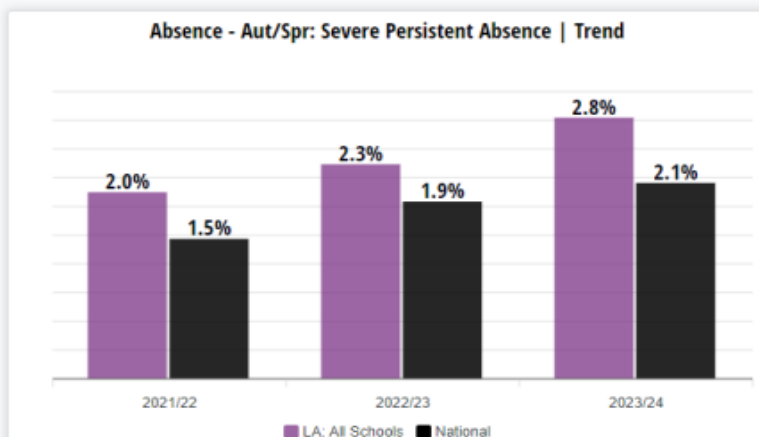
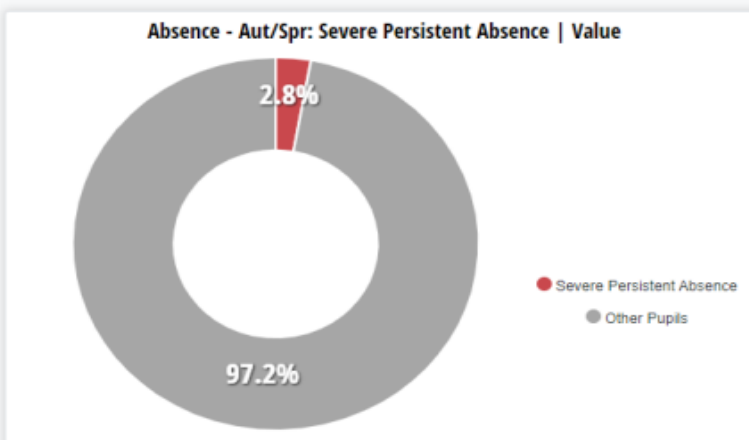
Opportunities and Challenges

From a cohort of **32,144 enrolments** in your LA, **2.8%** were severely persistently absent, this was **893 enrolments**.

This is based on **41,625 missed sessions** due to authorised absence and **77,288 missed sessions** due to unauthorised absence, out of a possible **161,513 sessions**.

On average, your severely persistently absent pupils missed **133.2 sessions**.

If your severe persistent absence cohort is removed from absence calculations your overall absence would be **6.3%**.



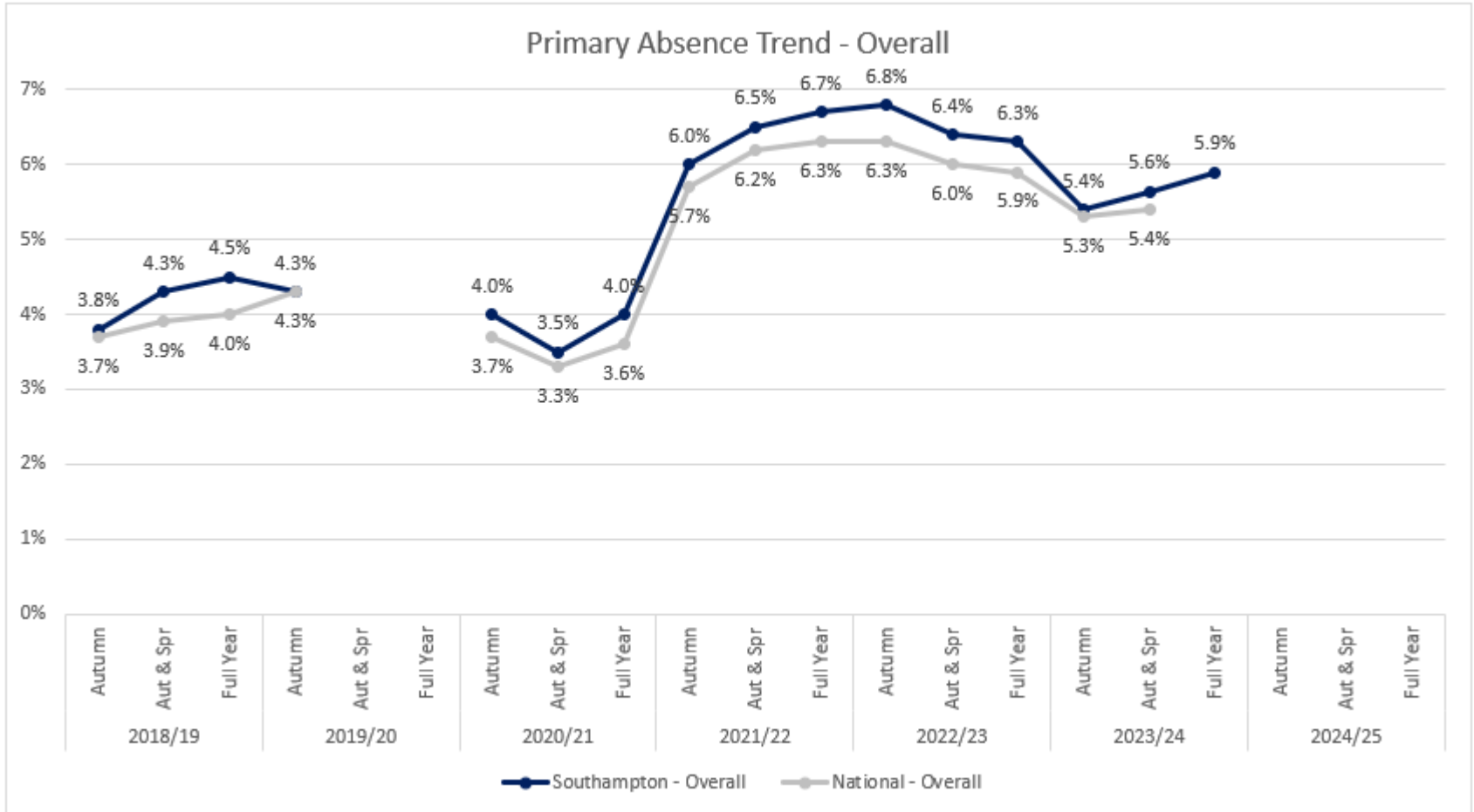
Your LA's severe persistent absence has **increased by 0.5%** from **2.3%** in 2022/23 to **2.8%** in 2023/24.

This is equivalent to **154 more** pupils being severe persistent absentees in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23.

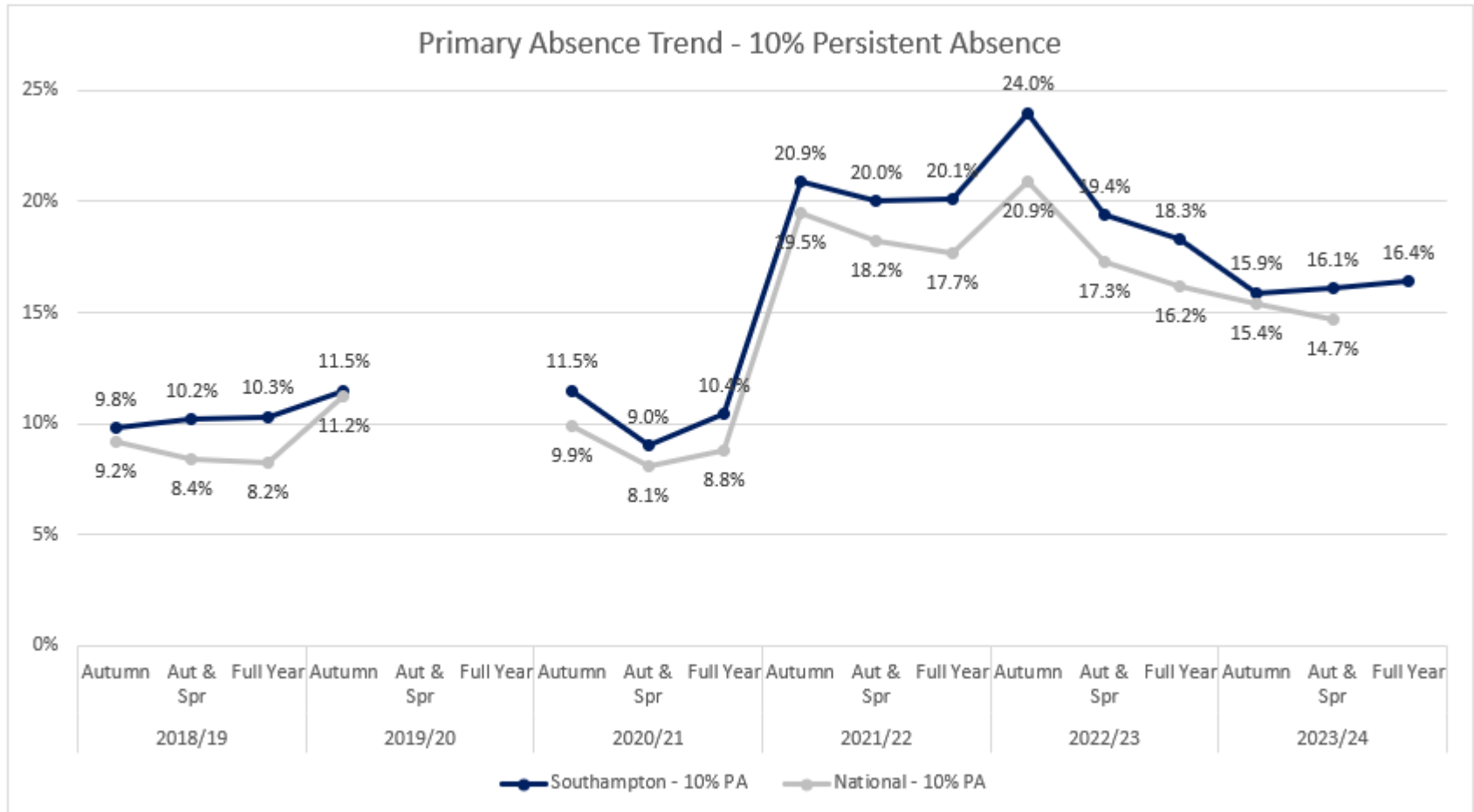
Your LA's average for the last 3 academic year(s) is **2.4%**.

Trend Over Time

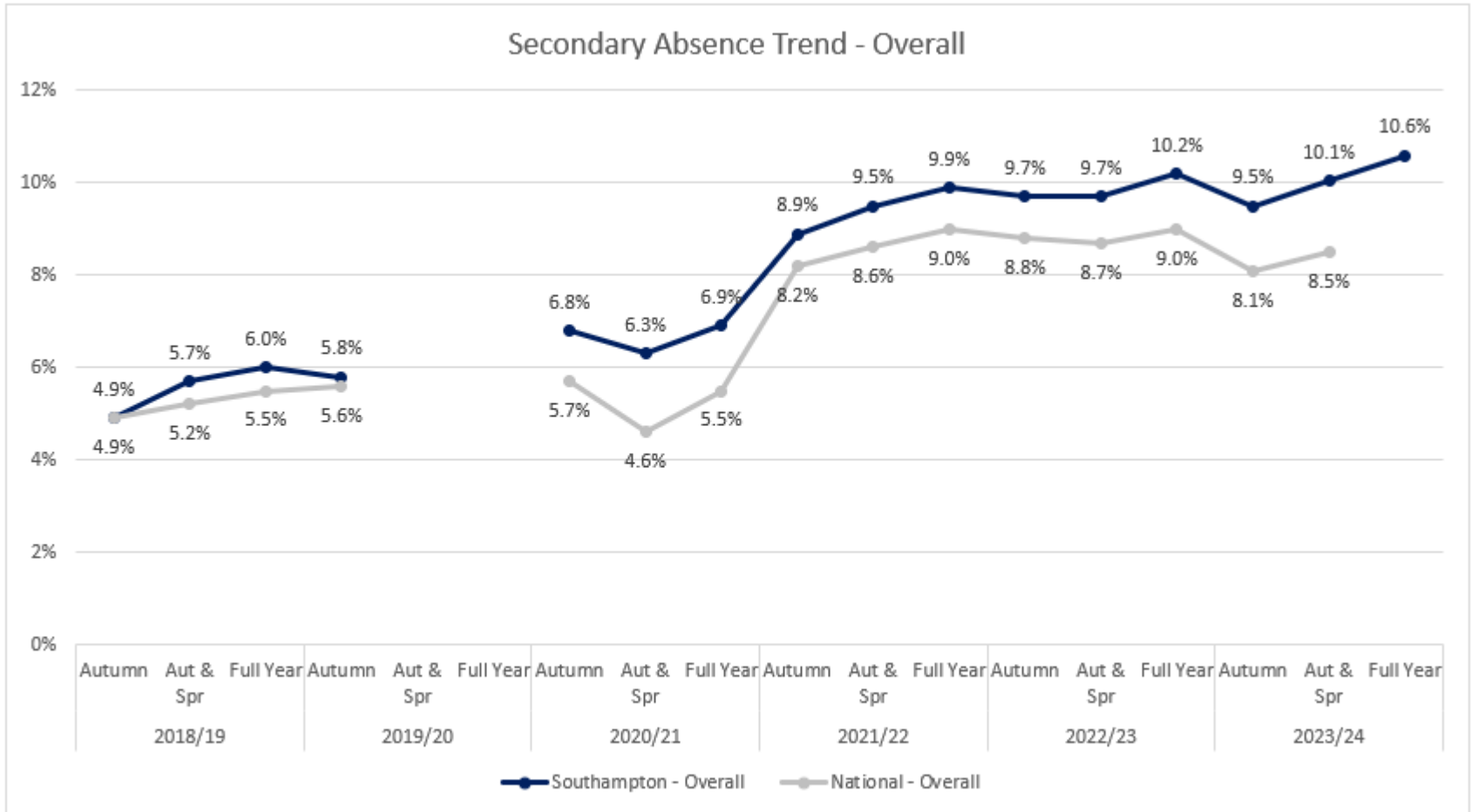
Trend – Primary Overall Absence



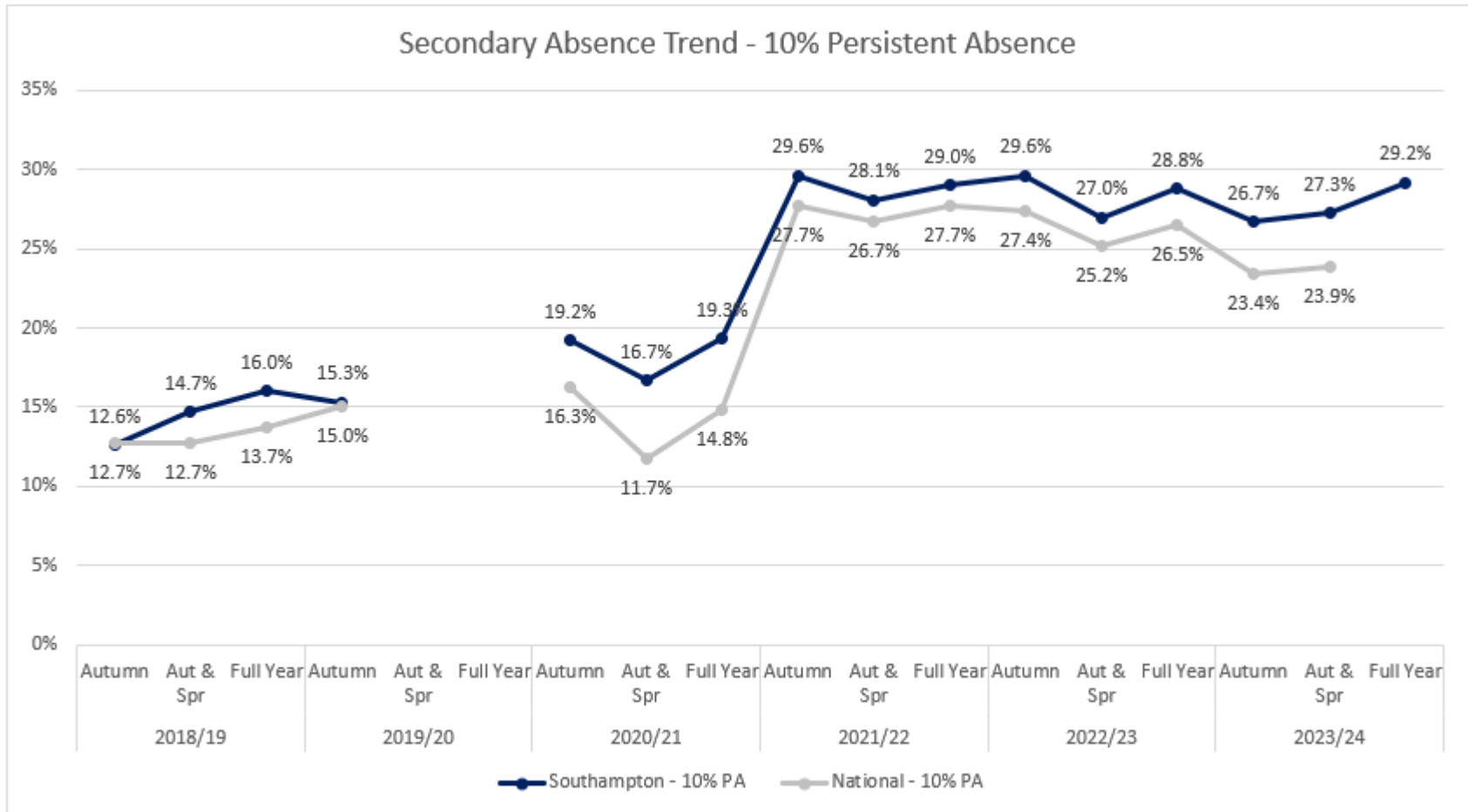
Trend – Primary 10% Persistent Absence



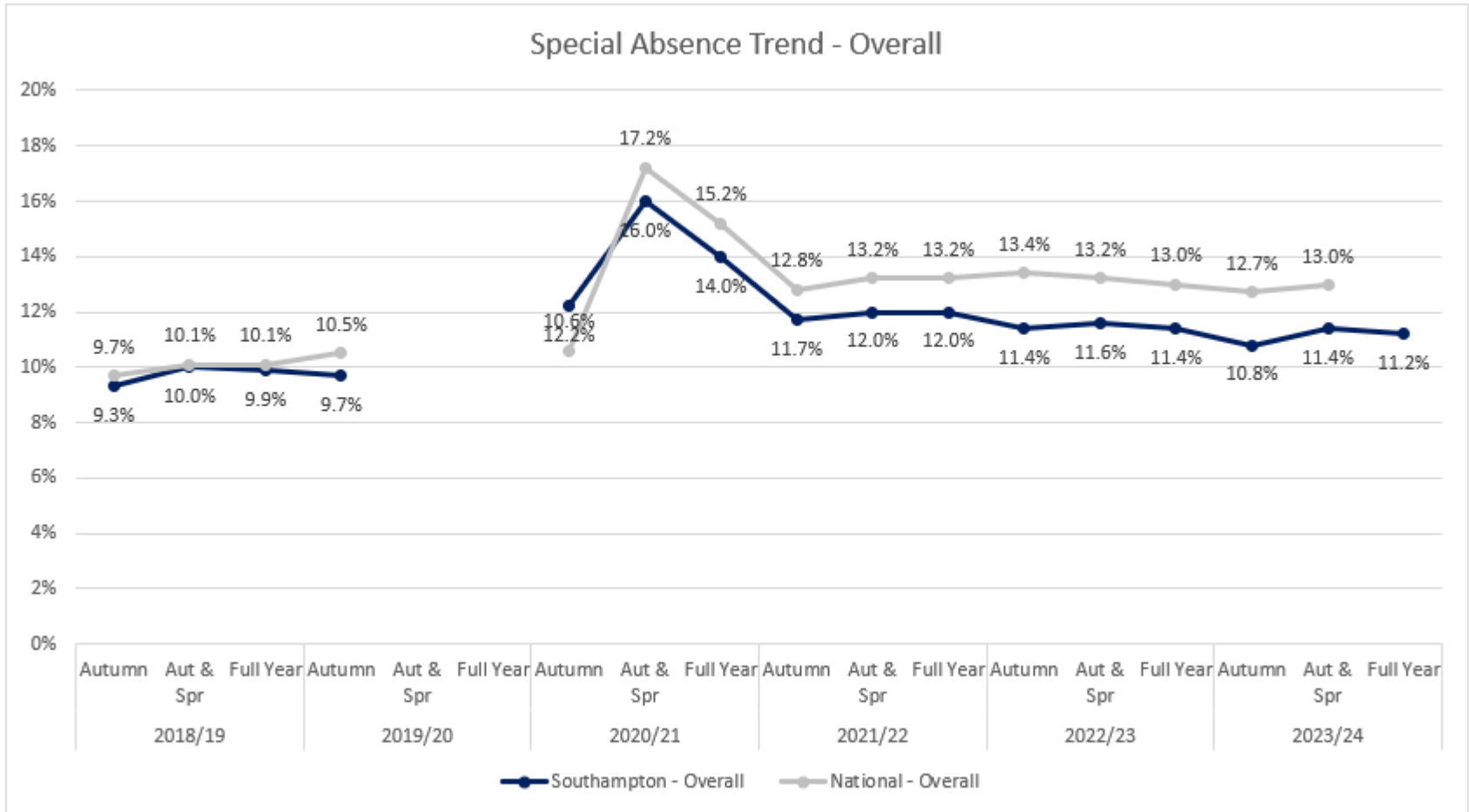
Trend – Secondary Overall Absence



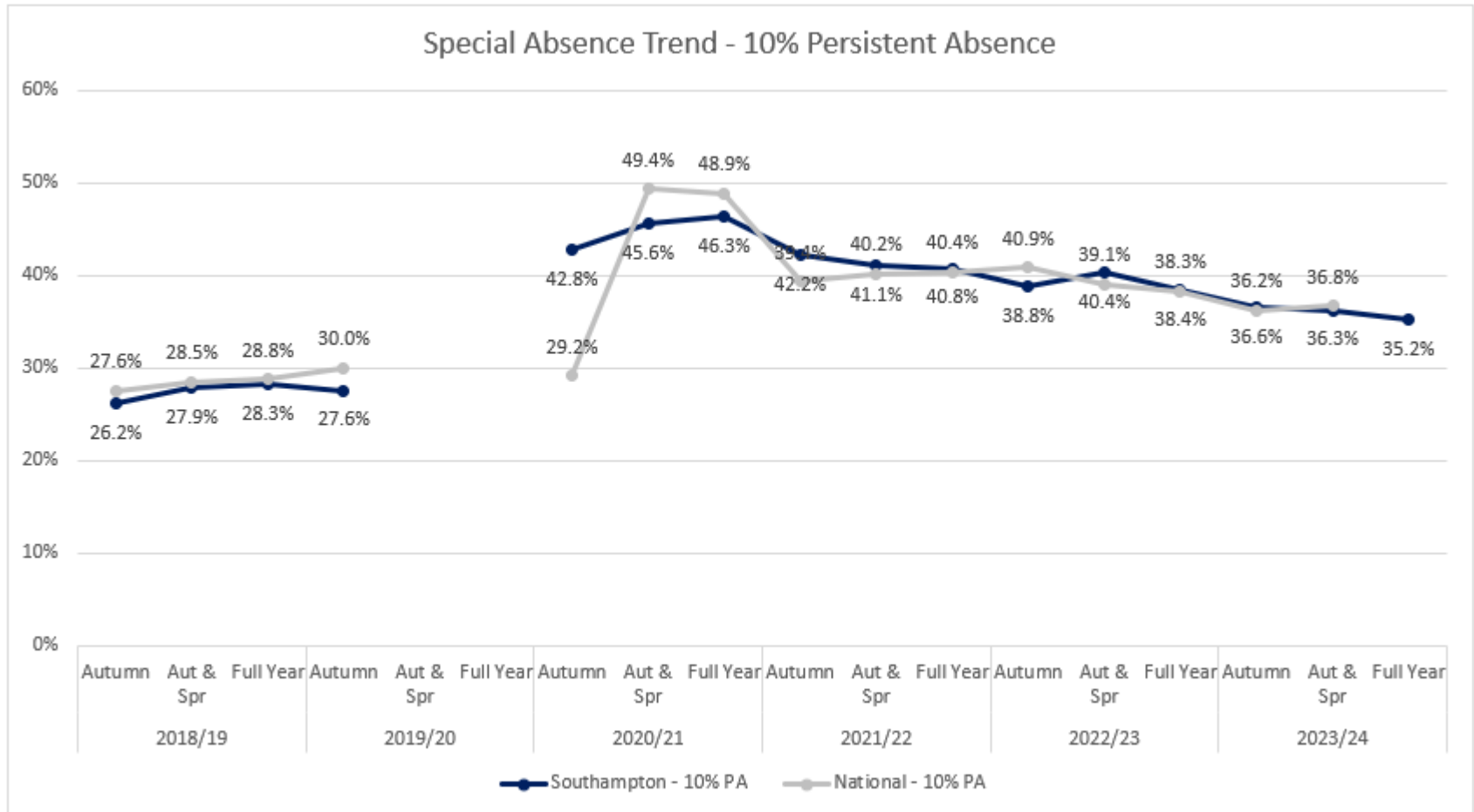
Trend – Secondary 10% Persistent Absence



Trend – Special School Overall Absence



Trend – Special School 10% Persistent Absence



Working Together to Improve School Attendance Expectations on Local Authorities

- **Rigorously track local attendance data to devise a strategic approach to attendance that prioritises the pupils, pupil cohorts and schools on which to provide support and focus its efforts on to unblock area wide barriers to attendance.**
- **Have a School Attendance Support Team which provides the following core functions free of charge to all schools (regardless of type):**
- **Targeting Support Meetings: hold regular conversations with schools, using their attendance data to identify pupils and cohorts at risk of poor attendance and agree targeted actions and access to services for those pupils.**

Working Together to Improve School Attendance Expectations on Local Authorities

- **Communication and advice: regularly bring schools together to communicate messages, provide advice and share best practice between schools and trusts within the area.**



School Attendance Action Group (SAAG) Meetings

Dear Colleagues,

The School Attendance Support Service would like to invite you to the School Attendance Action Group Meetings for the 2024/25 Academic Year. These meetings will continue to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. All details are set out below.

All Senior Attendance Champions of the school's leadership team are invited to attend, as well as any other key members of staff within your settings who have oversight for improving and promoting school attendance. Key issues relating to attendance will be discussed, with the agenda for each meeting being sent out prior to the session.

You will have an opportunity to gain updates, advice and guidance and ask representatives from not only the School Attendance Support Service but other Southampton City Council colleagues, around best practice in dealing with barriers to school attendance. There is also an opportunity for you to share your good practice – don't be shy please get in touch if you want to talk about the impact you are having on reducing pupil absence in your setting. Finally, there is always an opportunity to hear the latest position regarding pupil absence from our Principal Analyst in the Data Team and the opportunities and challenges we face and need to address together in the future.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Please see dates and joining details below.

Dates for the 2024/2025 academic year:

- Tuesday 19th November 2024
- Tuesday 29th April 2025
- Tuesday 17th June 2025

All sessions will be held from 10am – 12pm via Microsoft Teams.

The same joining link will be used for all three sessions, therefore please ensure you add these links to your calendar.

Working Together to Improve School Attendance Expectations on Local Authorities

- **Multi-disciplinary support for families:** provide access to early help support workers to work intensively with families to provide practical whole-family support where needed to tackle the causes of absenteeism and unblock the barriers to attendance.
- **Legal intervention:** take forward attendance legal intervention (using the full range of parental responsibility measures) where voluntary support has not been successful or engaged with.
- Working together to improve school attendance guidance
[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#)

Multi-disciplinary support for families: Impact: Case studies

- **The benefits of multi-agency working and how SASS work:**
- **Case study – Child A (see attached)**
- **Case Study – Child B (see attached)**
- **Case study – Child C (see attached)**

Evidence based practice

The EWO Project and the SPIRAL principles:

1. Supporting parents and carers
2. Promoting CYP's sense of belonging and safety
3. Including and informing parents
4. Raising awareness of non-attendance
5. Accessing external professionals
6. Lessons learnt from COVID-19

“It was helpful to share the issues within a 'stuck' family and collaborate to conclude with increased understanding and an action plan.”

[CotN_Attendance_Report_10.pdf](#)

And finally.....DFE Attendance Advisor Feedback 2024

A huge thank you for all the work you have done over the last couple of years - veritable mountains have been moved. You have now reached a point where you are deemed to be “green “ on your self-assessments and so no further individual sessions will be provided by me as a matter of course. A testament to your successes.

We know that there are likely to be changes in LAs and ongoing developments as we find things out, embed further and develop and improve practice and skills. That is to be expected and reflects how we work in LAs by always striving for excellence.