

Report To: PSCB - 19th July 2017
Report By: Julia Katherine - Head of Inclusion
Report Date: 23rd June 2017
Report Title: Elective Home Education (EHE)

Recommendations

It is recommended that the PSCB notes the following:

1. Information is available to enable parents/carers to make informed choices when considering to electively home educate their children.
2. Schools have a responsibility not to persuade parents to electively home educate and to keep children on roll whilst any issues are resolved rather than de-registering and then trying to remedy problems.
3. The local authority has a responsibility to make efforts to ensure that children are receiving a suitable education.

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform the Board of the roles and responsibilities of parents, schools and the local authority in relation to Elective Home Education (EHE).
- To assure the Board that robust processes are in place to ensure that these responsibilities are carried out in the interests of safeguarding children.

2. Definition

2.1 Elective Home Education is the term used by the Department for Education to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school. The responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory, but school is not.

4. Responsibilities of parents, schools and the Local Authority in relation to Elective Home Education

3.1 Parents may decide to exercise their right to home educate their child from a very early age and so the child may not have been previously enrolled at school. They may also elect to home educate at any other stage up to the end of compulsory school age. Parents are not required to register or seek approval from the local authority to educate their children at home.

3.2 Schools responsibilities are to ensure that parents are not persuaded to electively home educate, to resolve any issues before a parent makes the decision to EHE and to retain the pupil on roll until they have a letter from the parent that explicitly

states in writing that they wish to EHE (at this point school should send a migration report to the childrenmissingeducation@portsmouthcc.go.uk (or place on SSE) and a copy of the letter detailing this to electivehomeeducation@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

- 3.3 Local authorities have a statutory duty under section 436A of the Education Act 1996, inserted by the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to make arrangements to enable them to establish the identities, so far as it is possible to do so, of children in their area who are not receiving a suitable education. The duty applies in relation to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, and who are not receiving a suitable education otherwise than being at school.

Portsmouth City Council delivers its statutory duty by employing an attendance officer with this responsibility, keeping a record of children who are EHE, making contact and offering a visit at least once a year, referring on to the MASH if there are any concerns etc. We offer an annual visit, however and if there are any concerns from MASH they would contact EHE for information as and when they need it.

5. Local trend data

Academic Year	2010/1 1	2011/1 2	2012/1 3	2013/1 4	2014/1 5	2015/1 6	2016/1 7
Number of Pupils who have at some point been registered as Electively Home Educated at some point within the academic year	101	139	143	191	205	221	

5.1 Current Snapshot (June 2017) by year group

Year Group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Total	6	8	6	11	10	8	5	17	12	21	28	22

5.2 Current Snapshot (June 2017) by school

Last School attended	Year Group											Total	
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11
Priory								3		3	2	3	11
Mayfield									1	1	1	5	8
The Portsmouth Academy								1		1	2	3	7
Charter Academy									1	4	1		6
King Richard School										1	3	2	6
Highbury Primary				2		2			1				5
Admiral Lord Nelson School									1		3		4
Portsmouth Grammar School										1		3	4
St George's C of E Primary	1				1	1					1		4
St Jude's Primary		1			1	1		1					4
Trafalgar								2		1			3
Medina Primary				1	2								3
Milton Park				1	1			1					3
St Edmund's									1	1		1	3
Beacon View Primary Academy				1	1								2
Fernhurst Junior								1	1				2
Gatcome Park Primary							1	1					2
Meon Junior				1		1							2
Miltoncross											2		2
Moorings Way Infant		1	1										2
Northern Parade Infants		1	1										2
St John's College											2		2
The Harbour School										1	1		2
Arundel Court Primary									1				1
College Park Infant School		1											1
Cottage Grove Primary School							1						1
Devonshire Infant				1									1
Meon Infant			1										1
Meredith Infant								1					1
Northern Parade Juniors									1				1
Solent Infant		1											1
Solent Junior							1						1
Ark Ayrton									1				1
Springfield										1			1
St John's Cathedral Primary		1											1
St Paul's Catholic Primary								1					1
St Swithun's Catholic Primary					1								1
The Victory Primary School										1			1
Westover Primary											1		1
Wimborne Infant											1		1
Out of Area/Not Known	6	2	3	4	3	3	2	5	3	5	8	5	50
Grand Total	7	8	6	11	10	8	5	17	12	21	28	22	156

5.3 Additional information

In relation to visits, off the 156

- 5% parents meet at an alternative venue
- 35% parent have a home visit
- 17% parents submit reports
- 36% parents do not wish any meetings/send reports/respond to letters
- 7% parents have yet to respond

In relation to the pupils SEN

- 79% have no recorded SEN by the school they most recently attended,
- 10% were on SEN Support (formerly School Action or School Action + and
- 11% have an Education Health and Care plan (or statement of SEN)
- Of those 22 who are SEN support or EHCP, 12 wish for no contact, 1 sent a report and 9 have had visits

Mash are made aware of 100% of the cases of parents who decide to deregister to EHE

- 3% of EHE pupils in this typical snapshot have a CiN plan, 2% have a CP plan and 95% have no social care involvement. Of these none have wanted a visit. 1 provided a report and 2 have school attendance orders active, the other has just completed Y11, so not pursued.

We currently have 11 open with ongoing School Attendance Orders, where we feel that a suitable education is not taking place (7%) plus we have 3 pupils (2%) who have recently been prosecuted where there is still no evidence that an education is taking place. One is with SEND, one is going to Inclusion Support Panel and one attends The Harbour School 1 day per week for the young parents group.

5.4 Comparison with national data

There are no national comparators published on Elective Home Education however the following link <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/apr/12/home-schooling-parents-education-children-england> suggests that from

'..freedom of information responses provided to Education Guardian indicate numbers are rising. Responses from 134 of England's 153 local education authorities list 30,298 children as receiving home education in 2014-15. Of these, 13,007 are of primary age, and 17,291 of them are between 11 and 16.

Among 103 authorities that provided data back to 2011-12, the number of primary-age children recorded as home educated rose by 60% in the three academic years to 2014-15. In the secondary phase, the increase was 37%...

...About 85% of local authorities documented a rise in home education over those three years, with 27 authorities reporting a doubling of numbers.

This may be part of a longer trend. Last December, the [BBC reported](#) home education numbers had risen 65% across England and Wales in the six years to 2014-15, while in 2007, [Channel 4 News](#) documented a 61% increase in home educated children in the five years from 2002'

6 Reasons for Elective Home Education

6.1 It is difficult to give the reasons behind the increase and definitively why a parent elects to home educate but in Portsmouth it would seem to be that there are 3 cohorts

- Those who have actively chosen to electively home educate
- Those who have chosen this as a temporary option (sometimes because they have not obtained the school of their selection)
- Those who are using this to remove a pupil from a school roll but who generally do not have the intention of home educating.

6.2 This final cohort are those that we would have most concern for as often relationships have broken down with their school, they are being pursued for non-attendance or the parent is dissatisfied with what the school are offering, usually by way of support.

- 6.3 Another reason that a child may become electively home educated (and indeed sometimes advised by school to do so) because of the following guidance on access to funding for college placements that other than the pupil would not be able to access or the mainstream school would have to pay for.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294898/revised_funding_guidance_-_local_authorities_on_home_educated_children.pdf

<http://edyourself.org/articles/WolfReport.php#14-16collegelatest>

'College places for home educated 14-16s in England are free. Home educated young people aged 14-16 in England are able to attend college part-time or full-time and the Government (Education Funding Agency) will pay for the course. It is up to the colleges whether or not to admit under-16s. These students can do any course agreed by the college, not just a designated 14-16 course, although many colleges still don't offer GCSE courses. The rules are different for home educated young people because the parent retains responsibility and so the college does not have to make special arrangements for pastoral care or offer a full curriculum. DfE says arrangements are between the parents and the college and do not need to involve the local authority at all.'

- 6.4 There are currently 7 pupils in Portsmouth who will fit this category and be attending Southdowns in September. We are not aware of it happening through other colleges at this time.

7.0 Recommendations and further actions

- 7.1 It is essential to ensure that when parents/carers are making the decision to electively home educate their children, they are enabled to make an informed decision. To facilitate this, the PCC School Attendance Team have developed a Frequently Asked Questions document which sets out parents/carers rights and responsibilities and is available on the local offer website: www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/local-offer-search/item/202 . In addition Portsmouth Parent Voice have held two events for parents with EHE as the focus.
- 7.2 Schools are made aware of their responsibilities via PCC website, information placed on the schools Shared Secure Environment (SSE), schools' bulletin and the School attendance network. In addition it is proposed that there is a role for the Director of Children's Services in writing to schools where there has been a cluster of families choosing to electively home educate to ensure that correct processes have been followed and that where there have been concerns, these have been followed up or referred on to the correct agency.
- 7.3 The local authority regular reviews processes and procedures to ensure that these are robust in ensuring that statutory duties are carried out, in this case these include duties in relation to safeguarding and ensuring that children have access to an appropriate education. This year, for example, in order to better understand the reasons for parents/carers opting to electively home educate, the LA School Attendance Team have developed a post deregistration questionnaire which has

been in use since April. So far 55% of families have responded to this. As and when any patterns develop from this data collection recommendations and potential challenge of schools will follow.

7 Supporting Documents and Links

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288135/guidelines_for_las_on_elective_home_educationsecondrevisev2_0.pdf

