

Feedback from Portsmouth Parent Voice workshops on Elective Home Education

- 1.1 In March 2017 PPV held a home education workshop that was attended by 19 people. There were a mixture of parents: those considering home education, those who had just started home educating and those who were experienced home educators. 80% of the attendees knew about the local offer website. The majority of parents had children with anxiety issues and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

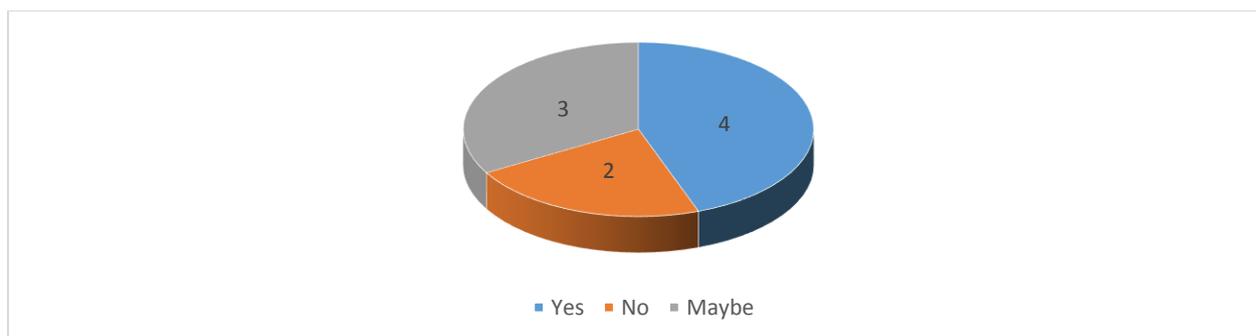
Main comments:

- Parents valued the opportunity to find out about support and information. A few have since joined Home education groups in the city.
 - Parents felt they had to home educate due to lack of provision, difficulties getting the school to help, children who were excluded or on part-time timetable, difficulties in getting an EHCP.
 - Parents were looking for funding for tutoring.
 - They also reported how better life was without the stress of having to deal with a difficult school/SENCO. Although hard work, some said it was the best decision they ever made.
 - Parents would like clarity around exams centres for older children.
 - Until school environment is addressed, children with sensory issues won't be able to access mainstream education.
 - Since unable to get help from CAMHS or school, easier to educate at home. Feeling abandoned.
 - Local schools are not appropriate for all children.
- 1.2 The Home Education Update session took place on a Saturday morning, and was a follow-up to the Home Education Workshop in March. The session was attended by 12 parents with varying experiences and/or interest in home education. Nine completed a feedback form, the results of which are:

1). Why did you choose to home educate (lack of support in school, anxiety issues...)?

- Lack of school support / understanding / adapt to SEN needs
- Increased bullying, anxiety, stress, self-harm, insomnia
- Failure of mainstream school to meet needs
- Refused a statement
- No suitable schools
- Pressure from assessments / targets
- No choice / no other option

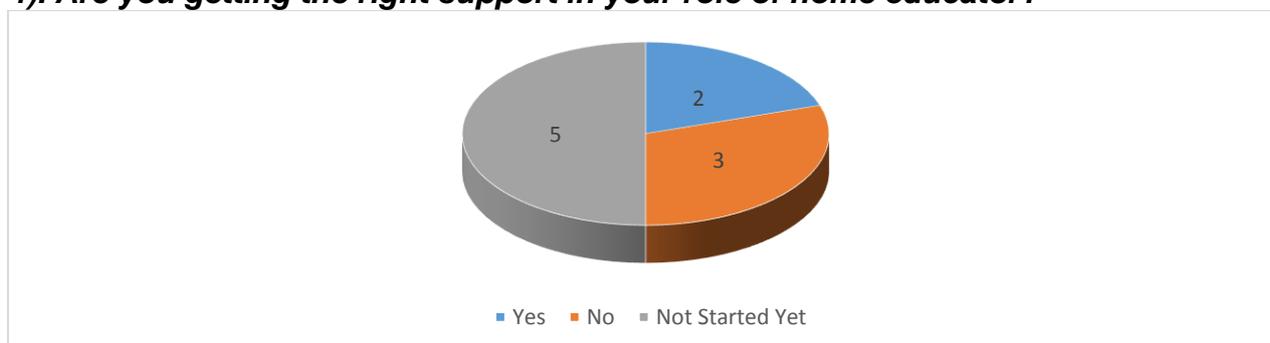
2). Would you consider for your child to return to school if the right help and support was in place?



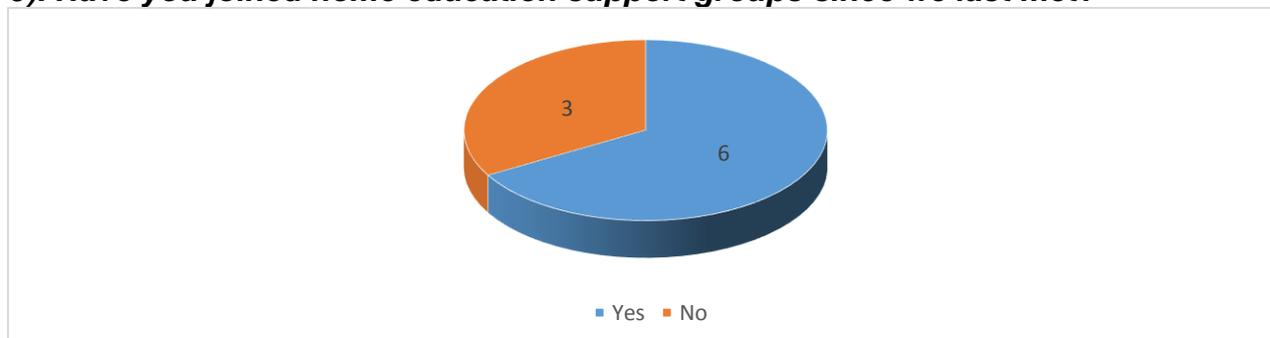
3). What would the ideal provision be for your child's needs to be met?

- The environment (x 2)
- Being around children with similar needs (x 2)
- Qualified teachers (x3)
- SEN school
- Somewhere that sees my child as an individual (x2)
- Adapted curriculum (x2)
- Smaller class size (x3)
- Understanding my child's needs
- Budgets to help with resources
- Active learning
- Allow to use computer, don't force to write (x2)
- 1:1 support
- Schools to listen to parents

4). Are you getting the right support in your role of home educator?



5). Have you joined home education support groups since we last met?



6). What help do you feel you need (financial, support...) to enable you and your child on a daily basis?

- Financial support / funding (x 5)
- Support groups

- Social acceptance (x2)
- Not feeling over looked

7). Any other comments?

- Home education is the best thing I've done for my child
- Need more information about teaching at GCSE level (x2)
- The home education network in Portsmouth is fantastic
- Thank you!

- 1.3 It was noted that one of the main reasons parents had chosen to home educate was due to dissatisfaction with the current offer and their perceived difficulties with SEN pupils getting an EHCP. On the whole (from those that fed back), the choice to home educate was not driven by ideology or a positive desire for a specific home based education but by anxiety about the current school offer. Members noted that another reason parents choose to home educate is as an interim approach, if they cannot get their child a place in a preferred school.