

Portsmouth City Council Scrutiny Scoping Document

Scrutiny Panel	Education, Children and Young People
Topic	A review into Elective Home Education
<p>Purpose of enquiry inc. potential outcomes.</p> <p>(The remit to be clear and concise as this statement forms the backbone of the enquiry)</p>	<p>This topic was agreed by the Scrutiny Management Panel on 22 July 2024.</p>
Reason for enquiry	<p>The number of parents / carers choosing to home educate their children is significantly rising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The latest national data available from the Department for Education show that as many as 92,000 children were taught from home at the date of the census in England in autumn 2023. This is an increase from an estimated 80,900 in the previous autumn term. It also represents a 67% increase to the estimated 55,000 highlighted in the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) 2019 Elective Home Education Survey. • In Portsmouth the numbers of children who are electively home educated continue to rise (to over 300). Over a hundred more children are now electively home educated than at the same point two years ago <p>20% of children who are deregistered from school and are then home educated, return to school within 6 months.</p> <p>The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill includes a focus on EHE and specifically proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils to maintain “children not at school” registers with a duty to support parents on their registers • Some parents will need council consent to home educate their child – it will apply to those with children subject to protection orders, on a protection plan or at a special school under arrangements made by the local authority. Local authorities can also compel home educated children on protection orders to attend school • School attendance orders will be standardised nationally, with councils compelled to check whether

	the home learning environment for a child is suitable
Enquiry format	Meeting to agree scoping document.
Corporate Priority linked to	Lifelong learning
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education
Relevant officers	Sarah Daly, Director of Children, Families and Education Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director, Education
Consultees & stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Inclusion and Service Manager for Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Re-integration, PCC • PCC's School Attendance Team and officers who are responsible for determining if the education provided is suitable • Primary, Secondary and Special Schools • Parents who electively home educate / Portsmouth Home Education Group • Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership
Start Date	February 2025
Target Completion Date	