

Nottinghamshire County Council Elective Home Education (EHE) and Best Practice

- All schools have been sent and have access to our Best Practice Guide, EHE Fact Sheet & FAQ's which is expected to be shared with parents during EHE discussions.
- Schools are expected to complete the Deregistration Form incorporating amended and improved NCC approach, including specific reminders about legal duty and best practice.
- Schools are challenged and asked for further information where a parent suggests off rolling or we suspect off rolling. Where not enough information is provided on the school form we will send them back for full completion.
- Safeguarding is paramount and underpins everything we do, all safeguarding concerns are discussed at the relevant level and passed to MASH.
- CME cases are discussed at our weekly meetings and passed onto the CME officer where appropriate.

In addition:

- Parents are made aware of any potential issues in the initial call/email from our EHE Practitioners, which can then form part of further school-based discussion before decisions regarding EHE.
- Parents now have our Professional Practitioner's to support in conversations with schools and other relevant professionals to prevent inappropriate EHE recording and if further signposting for support is required.
- All Parents are told they should inform their GP that their child is home educated.
- Parents are sent the NHS letter and rather than giving consent to opt in, they have to inform us in writing that they withdraw consent for information sharing with health.
- We have now moved all our recording to mosaic so we can see any previous or current safeguarding concerns to inform our initial enquiries, this also aids in communication with ICDS and Social Work colleagues.
- If a child has an EHCP or other agency involvement, such as social care, family service, enforcement, Youth justice, HRET etc, we will have discussions with these colleagues when we receive an EHE intention.
- We have recently had a report built by the Business Intelligence Hub to reflect our EHE cohort in terms of data including around ICDS, CIN or CP families (this is still being looked as there are some discrepancies).
- We now have a new website built for our EHE families, [Elective home education | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)
- EHE moved to the Fair Access Team structure in September 2019.
- [Nottinghamshire's Elective Home Education Policy](#) was agreed by members in February 2020 following a period of public consultation there is also further information on this page about EHE in Nottinghamshire. Current NCC EHE policy is in the process of being reviewed.
- Children have a right to education, parents have a right to arrange education at school or otherwise including EHE.
- EHE is free from regulation in the same way as a school, there is no right of access to young people or their parents and education does not have to follow a school curriculum.
- An increasing number of parents are choosing EHE due to dissatisfaction with the school system or a perceived failure to meet their child's needs. EHE is a long term commitment and should never be viewed as a temporary or interim solution.

- Since March 2020 an increase in EHE intentions has been seen in line with Covid restrictions and predicted yearly increase. A number of parents have cited anxiety regarding Covid as the reason they have decided to home educate.
- Under Section 436a Education Act 1996 the LA has a duty to act if we believe that a young person is not in receipt of suitable education (EHE service)
- We make informal enquiries to ascertain whether suitable education is being provided by offering a yearly education adviser visit to parents and if they choose not to engage with this then requesting a yearly demonstration of learning to satisfy us of the education being provided. The Local Authority's right to make enquires and be satisfied as to suitability of education for children in its area is set out in legislation, government guidance and has been supported by recent case law (Goodred v Portsmouth CC [2021] EWHC 3057 (Admin)). Nottinghamshire County Council's current published Elective Home Education Policy (February 2020) includes information about the need for informal enquiry requests for detailed information to all home educators who choose not to meet with one of our representatives. This links to meeting our duties in respect of s436a Education Act 1996, which are further clarified within non statutory Elective Home Education guidance for Local Authorities (April 2019).
- When a parent notifies a school it is their intention to home educate their child the school must inform NCC's EHE service and it is good practice for the school to ask parents to confirm in writing to them. The school returns information to NCC to support decision making about whether EHE is going to be supported.
- Mosaic is reviewed when a new EHE intention is received and a parental intention can only usually be refused if it can be evidenced that potential harm would be caused to the young person. This is usually only applicable to children open to Social Care and a view would always be sought from the lead professional to inform decision making.
- If a child has an EHCP, discussions will be held with ICDS and the plan amended accordingly if appropriate, usually EHE can only be refused if the child is on roll at a special school.
- For children who have never been recorded in a Nottinghamshire school NCC would only become aware if the parent or another service made contact. There is no legal obligation on parents to do this.
- All EHE children that we are aware of are recorded as such on the front page of Mosaic, we have now had all our processes moved to mosaic to ensure that families are followed up in a fair, timely manner.
- We meet weekly with business support to discuss any processing issues.
- We are currently looking at the reporting systems to see what improvements are required to improve data i.e the ECHP, CIN/CP/SEN data doesn't seem to be captured accurately currently, there will be discussions moving forward on how this report can be improved.
- The Parent engagement group have been reaching out to parents and as a result there will be opportunities in the future EHE adviser forums for parents to share their voice on the Nottinghamshire EHE Team and a parent survey will be incorporated into our website and communication.
- We meet weekly to discuss vulnerable cases on a 1:1 basis.
- We attend all the AEHP forums and serious case review panels when required for sharing good practice and receiving essential updates.

EHE Structure – Who are we? Elective Home Education, Education, Learning and Inclusion.

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Business Support Team: Margaret Bowers, Caitlin Coyle, Judith Anderson, Lucy Haigh

EHE Professional Practitioners: **Donna Goodson** (Newark and Bassetlaw), **Rebecca Stringfellow-Bateson** (Mansfield and Ashfield), **Lisa Mathieson (BGR)** - Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe) - Oversight of EHE children in area, direct support and monitoring to the most vulnerable.

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EHE Education Advisers: Ruth Hardy, Trish Dykes, Sally Whitlam, Kevin Hayes, Yvonne Jackson, Val Fraser, Jo Swift, Wendy Mounsey, Eloise Barnett, Paul Lowther, Caron Cox, Tony Walker, Mel Clarke, Georgina Anelay, Rebecca Thompson, Chimson Lawson-Jack and Craig Moxham. Self-employed associates commissioned by the Local Authority to undertake virtual or in person visits to look at a family's education, give support and consider suitability. Education advisers also form part of our education information panels. The responses from our demonstration of learning requests are reviewed by two council representatives, at least one of whom holds Qualified Teacher Status, to form a view about whether the information provided demonstrates suitable education. The points considered to help form a view are applied individually to each young person and their circumstances and are formulated with consideration against or within the context of the 2019 guidance.

EHE Senior Professional Practitioner: Alex Bradshaw - Co-ordination of EHE service, day to day management of EHE Professional Practitioners and 17 EHE advisers.

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Team Manager | Fair Access and Elective Home Education: Linda Smith - Strategic management of Fair Access, EHE Team and overall line management for EHE and Fair Access.

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