

Review Scope: Elective Home Education Policy

Purpose of the Review	To review the draft revised Elective Home Education policy in advance of it being considered for approval by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families.
Anticipated outcome(s)	To gain assurance that the Council's approach to Elective Home Education, as set out in the draft policy, supports the delivery of the best outcomes being achieved for the children, young people and their families who are receiving and providing Elective Home Education.
Background <p>Elective Home Education is the term used by the Department for Education to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home - or at home and in some other way which they choose - instead of sending them to school full-time. This is different to education provided by a local authority otherwise than at a school - for example, tuition for children who are too ill to attend school.</p> <p>Home education is an option that families may consider for their children's education. Parents may choose to electively home educate their children for many reasons. Educating children at home works well when it is a positive, informed and dedicated choice, but there is evidence that not all children who are educated at home are in receipt of suitable education. The Council has a duty to ensure that children are safe and are being suitably educated and the Council's aim is to take a proportionate approach in ensuring that all children receive a good education that enables them to reach their potential and prosper into adulthood.</p> <p><i>Information on current EHE numbers here</i></p> <p>At the meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee held on 10 October 2022 a report on Elective Home Education was considered where it was resolved that:</p> <p><i>"That members of the Children and Families Select Committee be involved in the review of the Council's Elective Home Education Policy that is scheduled to take place during 2023."</i></p>	
Key lines of enquiry	Does the draft policy support the delivery of its stated objectives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring that the Council has clear and consistent procedures for working in partnership with parents who choose to electively home educate their children and discharge its statutory duties in relation to the education of all children living within Nottinghamshire.• Giving parents who are considering removing their child from school to home educate them, the opportunity to fully explore the implications, and to assist them in making an informed decision that is an active and positive step in the best interests of their child.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the policy link into existing processes to ensure that effective safeguarding procedures are in place for children being educated out of the school system. • In addition to Department for Education guidance and the related legislation and regulations, as detailed in the draft policy, has best practice and benchmarking information been used to inform the development of the refreshed policy?
Links to the Council's Corporate Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Communities and Families • Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe • Building skills that help people get good jobs
Methodology	Information gathering meeting. Analysis of the draft Elective Home Education Policy and supporting documents.
Key background papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Elective Home Education Policy • 2019 guidance provided by the DfE, Elective home education Departmental guidance for local authorities (hereafter referred to as '2019 guidance') • Education Act 1996 (inserted by the Education and Inspections Act 2006) • The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 28) • European Convention on Human Rights (Article 2, Protocol 1) • Case law Goodred v Portsmouth City Council (2021) • The Children Act 2004 • Education Act 2002 • The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 • Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities January 2015 • Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Protection Procedures
Evidence to be provided by	Cabinet Member for Children and Families Service Director - Education, Learning and Inclusion Group Manager for Education Access and Partnership
Timetable	Evidence gathering meeting to be arranged. The group's report and recommendations to be considered by the Children and Families Select Committee on 16 January 2024.
Reporting mechanism	The report of the scrutiny group and its recommendations will be considered by the Children and Families Select Committee on 16 January 2024 in advance of being submitted to Cabinet on 8 February 2024.