

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Elective Home Education	
<b>Report to:</b>	Children’s Partnership Board	
<b>Date:</b>	22 March 2017	
<b>Relevant Director:</b>	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Nicholas Lee, Head of Access and Inclusion <a href="mailto:Nicholas.lee@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">Nicholas.lee@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>	Jane Daffé	
<b>Relevant Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) priority or priorities:</b>		
<b>Safeguarding and supporting children and families:</b> Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.		
<b>Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people:</b> From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.		
<b>Supporting achievement and academic attainment:</b> All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.		X
<b>Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing:</b> More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>		
To provide an overview of elective home education in the city of Nottingham; identifying the numbers engaged, the legal position of home educators and the response and support provided by the Elective Home Education service of Nottingham City Council.		
<b>Recommendations:</b>		
1	That the Children’s Partnership Board note the findings of this report and associated presentation and consider the implications / cascade across their respective areas of responsibility.	

## **1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

### **(Explanatory detail and background to the recommendations)**

- 1.1** Nationally over the previous few years there has been a reported increase in the number of children and young people whose parents/carers have chosen to electively home educate (EHE) their children. This is a legal option for parents, as long as they are able to demonstrate that they are providing their child(ren) with a suitable education.
- 1.2** There is no legal responsibility for EHE parents to register their intention to home educate with their Local Authority, though all Local Authorities have a legal responsibility to monitor the provision of those children who they are aware of. If there are concerns that a suitable education is not being provided for any child legal proceedings, including issuing a School Attendance Order, can be undertaken.
- 1.3** The two most common reasons given to Nottingham City Council for electing to home educate were:
  - a) dissatisfaction with educational provision/school environment and;
  - b) lifestyle / cultural philosophical reasons.

Many children and young people do not remain home educated throughout statutory school age and return to or start school during their statutory school years.

- 1.4** In Nottingham City Council, the EHE service sits within the Access and Inclusion Service of Children and Adults department. It is funded through the Central Expenditure Block of Dedicated Schools Grant (via Schools Forum) and has a current staffing complement of 1.8 wte staff.

Strong partnership working practices have been established across a wide range of internal services and external agencies for example, City schools and academies, Futures, Central College, School Nurse Service, Health Visitors, CAMHS, Inclusive Education Service, Social Care, Education Welfare, Children Missing Education and School Admissions.

Additionally the service has developed and actively supports a EHE parents working group, including representation from a national officer from the leading national EHE representative body.

## **2. RISKS**

### **(Risk to the CYPP, risk involved in undertaking the activity and risk involved in not undertaking the activity)**

- 2.1** A significant number of electively home educated children and young people are known to Social Care; either currently or previously.
- 2.2** There would be concern about those children whose parents don't register EHE with the LA and who choose not to engage with other services leading to children that are not seen either regularly, or at all, by professionals.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

**5. CLIENT GROUP**

**(Groups of children, young people or carers who are being discussed in the report)**

Currently 193 children and young people of statutory school age known to the Local Authority to be electively home educated.

**6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

**(A brief description on how many minority groups are being engaged in the proposal and how their needs are being met: This section includes traveller and refugee families. The themes of the Shadow Boards – children and young people; parents and carers; equalities issues and the voluntary and community sector should be considered here.**

The ethnicity profile of those who are home educated is broadly in line with city ethnic group percentages.

**7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

**(Briefly state which of the CYPP priorities will be addressed)**

2a Children and young people are safe

3b Children and young people achieve their full potential

**8. CONTACT DETAILS**

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