

# Elective Home Education in Nottingham

## The Law

- *Parental right to choose to home educate*
- *No requirement to inform LA if child has never attended school*
- *Once deregistered from school (letter to head teacher), no obligation to meet/liaise with LA*
- *EHE officer may never see the child/young person*
- *No set curriculum or need to take examinations – requirement is for a “full-time suitable education”*
- *EHE officer refers to Education Welfare Service if it has reason to suspect this is not in place*

# When It Works Well

- *Positive choice*
- *Committed parents who have the time and capacity to provide a broad but personalised education*
- *An education that inspires and is child-led*
- *An education that develops a child's individual strengths and areas of interest*
- *Opportunities for socialisation and group learning/activities with other EHE families*
- *Opportunities to acquire qualifications that support further and higher education opportunities*

# Safeguarding Considerations

- *There are additional CYP being home educated that we don't know about – no data / monitoring*
- *Vulnerable children who are not seen daily at school*
- *When EHE is chosen for negative reasons rather than positive choice – lack of parental commitment/capacity to ensure a good education*

# Nottingham City's Initiatives

- 2 Elective Home Education officers within Access and Inclusion service – information / recording / liaison / monitoring role
- '3-way meetings' (EHE/school/family) – early intervention discussion offered to ensure best interests of child and understanding of EHE
- 'Not supporting EHE letter' issued where there are significant safeguarding concerns expressed by other professionals
- Multi-agency liaison and information sharing well-developed e.g. school health now offer same universal service to EHE CYP
- Relationship with local FE college – course offer to 14-16 year old EHE young people
- EHE parent working group (with national rep)
- Regular presentations at DSL / Head teachers' briefings / FAP / SENDCo network etc to ensure safeguarding element is understood

# Current Issues

- Increasing numbers reported at regional/national level  
(The Guardian Dec 2015 – *“There has been a 65% increase in children recorded as home educated in the UK over six years”*)
- There has been concern expressed recently by Ofsted that a small number of people may be misusing the right to home educate to place their children in unregistered, and potentially illegal schools.