

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Elective Home Education (EHE)	
<b>Report to:</b>	Children's Partnership Board	
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	
<b>Relevant Director:</b>	Nicholas Lee – Director of Education Alison Michalska	<b>Wards affected:</b> City Wide
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Karen McAndrew – Education Welfare Service Manager 8764892 <a href="mailto:Karen.mcandrew@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">Karen.mcandrew@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>	Yewande Reece – EHE Co-ordinator – 8764923 <a href="mailto:Yewande.reece@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">Yewande.reece@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>	
<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.		X
<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>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nottingham City Council Education Welfare Service facilitate the Elective Home Education Service. The aim of the service is to support those parents/carers who wish to take on total responsibility to home educate whilst ensuring those children and young people receive an effective and suitable Education.</li> <li>To monitor the educational provision and take formal action where appropriate</li> <li>To work alongside colleagues and partners to safeguard vulnerable children and young people and their families.</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommendations:</b>		
<b>1</b>	The Board to acknowledge the legislation and recognise the rights and responsibilities of the parents/carers and those of the City Council in the Elective Home Education Service	
<b>2</b>	The board to recognise the protective factors within the EHE working practice	
<b>3</b>		

## **1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

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

Nottingham City Council recognise that parents have the right to choose to educate their child at home rather than at school. Home educating parents are responsible for ensuring that their children receive a suitable education. Nottingham City Council strive to achieve positive relationships with home educating parents, working in partnership to recognise each other's rights and responsibilities, balancing the right of the parent to educate their child and the responsibilities of the local authority. Nottingham City Council has a clear written policy statement, which is reviewed annually. This provides guidance for parents who request it.

For the academic year 2017/2018 the number of home-educated children in Nottingham City was 300, this is an increase in comparison to the last academic year. There were 140 new pupils starting EHE compared to 110 in 2016/2017. There were 151 pupils leaving Elective Home Education during the academic year. 42% of EHE cases were known to social care, 5% were open to social care.

During the academic year, 41 of the 69 Year 9-11 students known to the local authority accessed a course at Nottingham College. This percentage of 59% is significantly higher than 2 years ago where the percentage was 38% (source: End of Year Report September 2015 – July 2016). There has been an increase in the number of requests for home visits when asking families for information on the educational provision.

## **2. RISKS**

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

Legislation does not give local authorities the power to intervene in cases of EHE. Nottingham City Council EHE policy with our schools is that they supply a 'deregistration letter' from the parent before the pupil is removed from the school roll. We also encourage the schools and families to participate in a '3 way' meeting (school/parent/carer and EHE Officer). At this meeting, the full implications of EHE are presented to the parent/carer and any barriers to continuing in the current school are addressed. This meeting ensures that the parent/carer is fully informed and that any school related issues are discussed in an attempt to resolve matters. When a meeting does not take place, the EHE Officer will contact the parent/carer to arrange a one to one meeting and a home visit.

Where concerns are raised regarding the suitability of elective home education, for example by the current school or by social care the EHE Officer will write a 'non supportive' letter which will outline the concerns and be sent to the parent and other professionals who may be involved. The EHE Officer will become part of any core-group or multi agency plan to ensure appropriate monitoring systems are in place and adhered to.

Parents/carers who are home educating are encouraged to provide a work plan to the EHE Officer and provide regular updates on the education they are providing. Work sent in to the local authority is assessed by the EHE Officers. Where work assessed as not efficient or suitable the case is referred to the Education Welfare Service.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Elective Home Education Team comprises of two full time Officers. A co-ordinator and casework officer. Recent departmental reorganisation has seen the team transfer to the Education Welfare Service. This has resulted in both financial saving and extended capacity within the team.

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Education Act 1996 – Section 7 states *‘The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable –*

- A) To his age, ability and aptitude, and*
- B) To any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise*

No definition of efficient or suitable is provided in legislation but *‘efficient’* has been broadly described in case law, as an education that *‘achieves that which it sets out to achieve’*. A *‘suitable’* education is one that *‘primarily equips a child for life within the community of which he is a member, rather than the way of life in the country as a whole, as long as it does not foreclose the child’s options in later years to adopt some other form of life if he wishes to do so’*

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted section 436A into the 1996 Education Act giving statutory duty to local authorities to make arrangements to enable them to establish the identities, so far as it is possible, of children in their area who are not receiving a suitable education. This duty applies to all compulsory school age children who are not on a school roll (not just those who are electively home educated)

Section 437(1) of the 1996 Education Act states local authorities shall intervene if it appears that parents are not providing a suitable education. A school attendance order will be served after all reasonable steps have been taken to try to resolve the situation.

#### **5. CLIENT GROUP**

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

All pupils of statutory school age who are electively home educated by their parent/carer

#### **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.**

All procedures for dealing with home educating parents and children are fair, clear, consistent, non-intrusive and timely.

Nottingham City Council respects the right of members of specific faith and ethnic minority communities to decide to educate their children at home and in keeping with their culture and beliefs. These parents have the same right to educate their children at home as other families and will be treated equally according to the procedures outlined in NCC policy, having full access to advice and guidance on establishing suitable educational provision for their children.

#### **7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

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

- Safeguarding and supporting children and families
- Supporting achievement and academic attainment

#### **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

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