

**Education, Learning and Development Committee
Elective Home Education Task Group
Scoping Report**

Review Topic: Elective Home Education (EHE)
Select Committee(s) Education, Learning and Development Select Committee
Relevant background <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the Education, Learning and Development Committee (then known as the Schools and Learning Select Committee) in December 2009, a petition was received calling for “an Official Surrey County Council Elective Home Education policy to be drawn up in consultation with local home educators and in line with existing law and guidelines” 2. At that meeting the Chairman decided that an item should come to the Committee to ensure that Members were fully informed around any changes in Elective Home Education and that any new policies were developed in a fair and transparent way. 3. On 14 April 2010 a paper was presented to the Education, Learning and Development Committee to update Members on the position regarding the County Council’s current statutory duties in relation to Elective Home Education. 4. The recommendation from the Select Committee Meeting on 14 April is “That the Committee works with Officers to set up a task/working group to look at developing a Surrey Elective Home Education policy”
Aim To produce an updated draft policy and procedures document for Surrey EHE for the further consideration of the Education, Learning and Development Committee and for final approval by the Cabinet.

Terms of Reference

1. With reference to current policy and procedure gain an up-to-date view of working arrangements within EHE considering all stakeholder perspectives.
2. To clarify the context of EHE within the Inclusion team and more widely within Schools and Learning.
3. To map EHE links with other services and agencies.
4. To analyse the reasons why parents opt for EHE and the implications of the findings for future policy/procedures.
5. To analyse the stage at which parents opt for EHE and the implications of this for future policy/procedure.
6. To research and report on the approaches taken by other LA's in relation to EHE provision and practice and to consider the possible relevance of those models for future policy/procedures/practice.
7. To consider the needs of specific groups within the EHE community e.g. those with Statements of Special Education Need and Travellers and the current response to these groups.
8. To consider other methods of service delivery within the legislative framework.
9. To review all sources of good practice regarding EHE and where relevant use to underpin the development of this area of work in Surrey.
10. To engage with interested Surrey schools to promote the development of Surrey's EHE policy and procedure.

Areas for Exploration

- Consider the findings of the Ofsted report, *Local authorities and home education* (June 2010) and their implications Surrey.
- What are the minimum requirements for EHE provision and how can we enhance this?
- How can we build relationships with the EHE communities in Surrey?
- Do we 'signpost' EHE parents to appropriate sources of support?
- Should the links of EHE with other professionals and agencies be enhanced and if so how?
- Could/should the EHE team use other professionals in its visits/support programme to provide a more balanced input?
- How does the EHE team fulfil its safeguarding responsibilities and how can these be developed? Are we meeting with statutory duties in this regard?
- What are the 'blocks' to parents registering with the LA as home educating?
- How do we develop links with schools and use the partnership to support the work of the EHE community?

Outcomes for Surrey / Benefits

- EHE Policy and procedures developed through a consultative approach
- Work of the EHE team reviewed and developed to better support the EHE community within existing resources.
- Development of a more coordinated approach to supporting EHE children and their families
- Families more positive about registering with Surrey their intention to home educate

<p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the Education, Learning and Development Committee (Dorothy Ross-Tomlin, Steve Cosser) - Invited Stakeholders (Ruth O'Hare, Lindsey Stedman – Home Educators) - EHE Officers (Margaret Widdows, Gwen Crossan) <p>Chair</p> <p>Dorothy Ross-Tomlin</p>
<p>Officer Support</p> <p>EHE Officers</p> <p>Margaret Widdows Gwen Crossan</p> <p>Democratic Services Officers</p> <p>Rachel Yexley</p>

Proposed work plan

It is important to clearly allocate who is responsible for the work, to ensure that Members and officers can plan the resources needed to support the task group.

Timescale	Task	Responsible
27 July 2010	Agree Terms of Reference Current legislation Consideration of recent Ofsted Report – <i>Local authorities and home education</i> Ofsted June 2010 Ref No 090267 Current Policy/Procedure in Surrey and a selection of neighbouring LA's	Rachel Yexley and EHE team to prepare resources
8 September 2010	Safeguarding <i>Representative from the Children's Services to attend</i>	RY
20 October 2010	Focus Group with Home Educators/Travellers <i>Home Educators and Travellers to be invited</i>	RY
9 December 2010	Links With Schools <i>Headteachers to be invited</i>	RY
Jan 2011	Special Educational Needs <i>Head of Special Educational Needs to be invited</i>	RY
March 2011	Recommendation setting and approval of final report	RY
25 March 2011	Select Committee	RY
April 2011	Report goes to Cabinet	RY

Witnesses

- Relevant stakeholders to be invited to identified sessions to provide information, submit views and be involved in consultation with the working group (schedule to be agreed by group)

Useful Documents

- *Review of Home Education in England*, Graham Badman, June 2009
- *Education Act 1996*
- *Local authorities and home education*, Ofsted June 2010 (Reference no.090267)
- *Elective home education: guidance for local authorities*, DCSF, 2007
- *Working together to safeguard children*, DCSF 2006, revised 2010

Potential barriers to success (Risks / Dependencies)

- Organisational changes within Surrey County Council
- Legislative changes
- Consultative approach will mean wide range of views will be heard but the group may find it difficult to please all stakeholders
- Challenge of working with current legislation about which the Ofsted Report (Local Authorities and home education) June 2010 indicates that the current legislation around elective home education means it is extremely challenging for local authorities to meet their statutory duty to ensure children have a suitable education.
- Possible tensions between the LA statutory safeguarding responsibilities and current EHE legislation.

Equalities implications

- This work is consistent with the local authority Equality and Diversity policies
- The intention is that the EHE team will deliver a fair and accessible service within the framework of current EHE legislation and available resources.
- The work will endeavour to understand the needs of vulnerable/priority groups who may choose EHE alongside those of all others who elect for EHE.