

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	<b>Children and Young People's Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING DATE:	<b>26.3.18</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	<b>Elective Home Education</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report: None</b>		

### 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The PDS panel was previously informed that there had been a rise in the number of children and young people who are electively home educated (EHE) in Bath & North East Somerset.

1.2 This report acts as an update on local progress since the PDS briefing

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the PDS panel notes the local updates contained in this report and that the Local Authority will continue to be vigilant within the remit of the current legislation to ensure that where possible, vulnerable children are returned to mainstream education.

2.2 That the PDS panel is made aware that the Department for Education (DfE) has yet to announce to the outcome of its formal consultation on EHE and that Officers will prepare a report as soon as information is available.

2.3 PDS panel is advised that the LSCB has been updated again on EHE and they continue to support the Local Authorities approach to this issue.

2.4 The PDS panel is asked to note and comment on the report and make any further necessary recommendations

### 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 Not applicable

## 4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

### 4.1 Not applicable

## 5 THE REPORT

5.1 Following the last PDS report, the LA has carried out the following actions in line with the LSCB recommendations shared at the PDS panel;

- Created additional capacity within the role of the EHE Co-coordinator to contact and support parents who wish to talk to the Local Authority about their arrangements to electively home educate.
- The Education Inclusion Service manager is working with LA commissioners to formalise links with our Student & Family Support team to create additional support packages for families who are considering EHE to enable children to remain in mainstream education.
- Developed plans with Our Public Health commissioners to formalise links between our school nursing team and Children Missing Education Service to ensure children EHE have flexible access to health support.
- The Education Inclusion Service has carried out a consultation with Head teachers to amend our Fair Access protocol to allow parents a ten day cooling off period before children are removed from a school roll to be EHE. 60% of schools that responded did not agree with this amendment. Schools cited concerns that it may adversely impact on attendance figures and that some parents may use this as a way of taking children out of school for holidays.

5.2 At this time the LA does not have the support needed to amend the Fair Access protocol. However, we believe the LA can engage constructively with those schools who had objected to the amendment to allay their concerns and provide re-assurance around how this system would be managed, so it does not adversely impact on school performance. However as we are imminently due to receive the outcome of the DFE consultation, the LA will hold on re-consulting with schools to account for any DFE changes to legislation.

5.3 In the interim the LA will continue to progress the other identified actions around EHE to ensure we are as robust as we can be with the delivery of our services to families who are considering EHE or who are EHE.

## 6 RATIONALE

6.1 As can be seen in this report we continue to take a very proactive approach to investigate the rising numbers of children and young people who are EHE by continuing to provide to present the issue to the LSCB as the appropriate body to examine our concerns.

## 7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None considered appropriate

## 8 CONSULTATION

8.1 As highlighted in the report the LSCB has again been briefed and consulted on this issue.

## 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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<b>Background papers</b>	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report, and where/how they are available for inspection.</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format.</b>	