

## **Education Scrutiny Committee – 14 March 2018**

### **Elective Home Education Investigation Progress Report**

#### **Report by the Chairman of Education Scrutiny Committee**

#### **Introduction**

1. At the Committee meeting on 13 December 2017, the Committee received the Elective Home Education (EHE) annual report. The report highlighted that there had been a 21% increase in EHE in the past year. The Committee formed a sub-group comprising of Councillor Waine and Councillor Smith to investigate the reasons for the increase, to find out why parents may wish to electively home educate and to find out what role the Council has in supporting parents who electively home educate. This report provides a summary of the work to date and the next steps for the investigation.

#### **Progress to date**

2. Councillors met with officers on Thursday 8 February 2018. The meeting included the strategic lead for education sufficiency and access, senior county attendance officer, county attendance officer and an EHE link worker. The meeting discussed information provided to EHE parents, the role of the EHE team, support for SEND and vulnerable learners and existing EHE data.
3. This meeting identified the following:
  - (a) A RAG (red/amber/green) rating system has been introduced to prioritise home visits. Any family that had previously been known to social care or were otherwise identified as a vulnerable learner would have a 'red' rating. Home visit invitations are a priority for this group.
  - (b) RAG ratings are not fixed and pupils can be recategorised if additional information is received
  - (c) The authority does not have the power to undertake a home visit but most parents/carers are receptive to meeting with the Council.
  - (d) Some instances of EHE are temporary arrangements for example when a pupil is transitioning from one educational establishment to another.
  - (e) In December the Committee noted that the most common reason given for EHE on the school leavers questionnaire was 'unknown'. The questionnaire has since been revised by the Council to remove this option and will give more accurate data about the reasons for EHE in future.
  - (f) In 2016-17, Years 5 and 9 were the most common year groups opting for EHE.

## **Next Steps:**

4. The group have requested additional information to identify:
  - (a) whether Years 5 and 9 have historically been the most common year groups for EHE and to explore the reasons for this with parents/carers
  - (b) whether there is a link between high excluding schools and EHE
  - (c) a comparison of EHE data by locality area.
5. Once this information has been received the group will aim to meet with parents who electively home educate. This meeting will aim to find out the experiences of EHE parents/carers and the reasons why they have made the choice to electively home educate.
6. The group intends to bring a report detailing their findings and any recommendations to the next Committee meeting.

## **Financial and Staff Implications**

7. There are no financial or staffing implications associated with this report.

## **Equalities Implications**

8. There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

9. **The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report and progress to date.**

Councillor Michael Waine  
Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee and Chairman of the sub-group

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