

# Children and Young People's Select Committee

## Update on Elective Home Education

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# Elective Home Education

- New guidance - April 2019
- Elective Home Education – latest data
- The current approach in Hampshire
- Next steps

# New DfE Guidance 2019

- Guidance in two parts – Local Authority and parents.
- All arrangements to be proportionate, sensible and allow Local Authorities to focus on families who are most at risk or need most support to provide a suitable education.
- Reminds Local Authorities of what they can do and gives greater clarity.
- Local Authority to assess if EHE is suitable, have oversight of all children, make contact at least annually with all families.
- Firms up options if families do not co-operate.

# Guidance 2019 Headlines

- The Local Authority's task is to find out how the child is being educated and whether that education satisfies legal requirements.

Para 3.1-3

- Until a Local Authority is satisfied that a home-educated child is receiving a suitable full-time education, then a child being educated at home is potentially in scope of this duty.

Para 4.2

# Guidance continued

- The duty under s.436A dealt with above means that Local Authorities must make arrangements to find out so far as possible whether home educated children are receiving suitable full-time education

Para 5.1

# Guidance – implications

- The Local Authority should consult the parents of the child when establishing whether the child is receiving suitable education. Prompt action and early intervention are crucial.
- School attendance proceedings can be used where the Local Authority has determined that the education being provided is not suitable.
- Robust policies and procedures should be in place to enable Local Authorities to meet their duty. These should include effective tracking and enquiry systems.

# Monitoring or oversight?

- Local Authorities have no statutory duties in relation to monitoring the quality of home education on a routine basis

(Repealed old guidance para 2.7)

- It is important that the authority's arrangements are proportionate and do not seek to exert more oversight than is actually needed where parents are successfully taking on this task

(New Guidance 2019, para 5.2)

# Oversight means...

- . . . *on at least an annual basis* so the authority may reasonably inform itself of the current suitability of the education provided.
- . . . where there were no previous concerns . . . such contact would often be very brief.

Guidance, para 5.4

# Education Act 1996 s 437(1)

The key statutory duty . . .

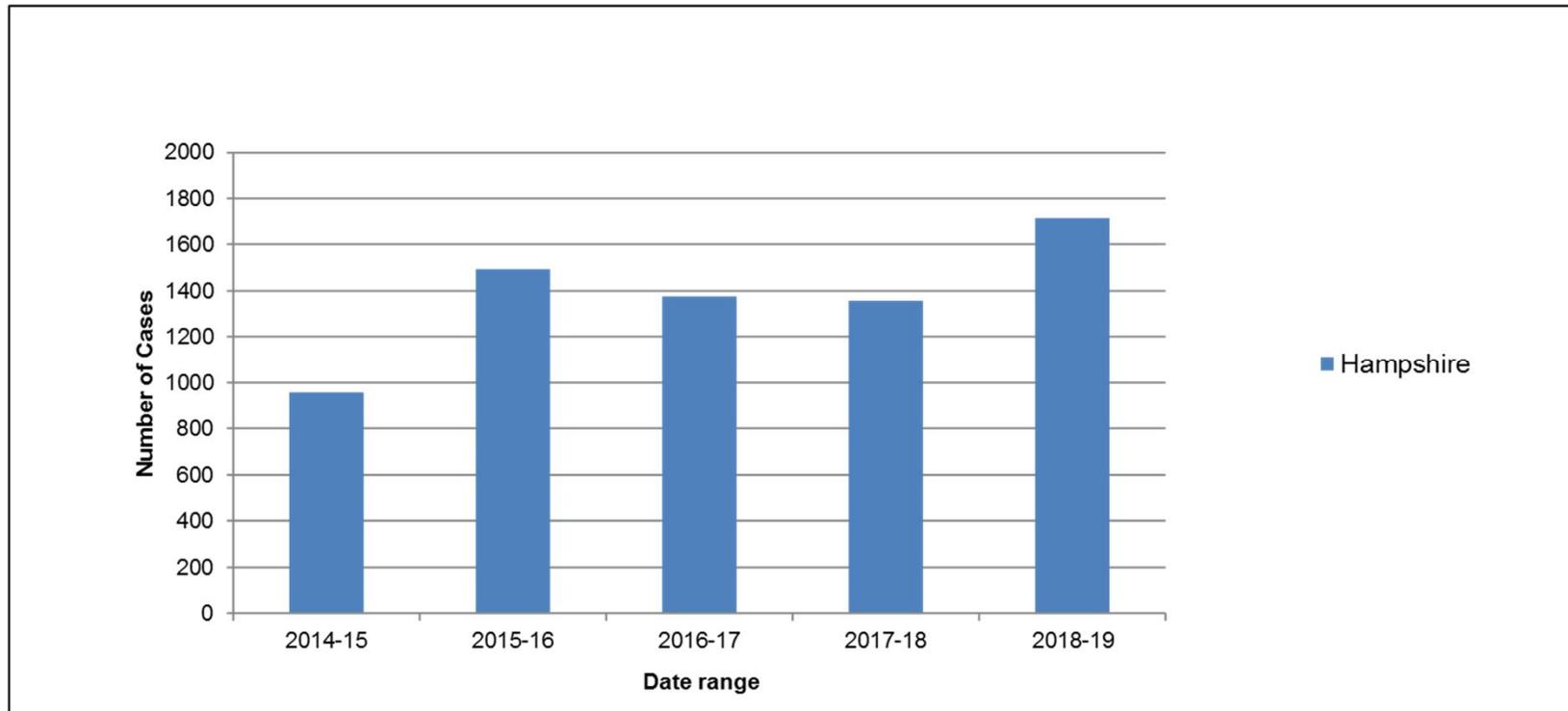
- If it appears to a Local Authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring him to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education.

# **‘What should local authorities do when it is not clear that home education is suitable?’**

- Parents are under no duty to respond . . . but if a parent does not respond, or responds without providing any information about the child’s education, then it will normally be justifiable for the authority to conclude that the child does not appear to be receiving suitable education and it should not hesitate to do so and take the necessary consequent steps. This is confirmed by relevant case law.

Guidance, para 6.5

# Number of children registered as Electively Home Educated in Hampshire



# Current children registered by year group with percentage change

Year	Hampshire		
	Summer 2018	Summer 2019	Change
R	28	43	54%
1	41	47	15%
2	63	69	10%
3	68	84	24%
4	75	97	29%
5	95	110	16%
6	113	122	8%
7	124	170	37%
8	168	193	15%
9	210	221	5%
10	212	228	8%
11	181	271	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>1715</b>	<b>24.46%</b>

# Children registered as elective home educated by district of previous school...

District	Academic Year - 2017/18		Academic Year - 2018/19	
	Summer Term 2018	Percent of number on roll	Summer Term 2019	Percent of number on roll
Basingstoke & Deane	161	0.7%	195	0.8%
East Hants	112	0.9%	152	1.2%
Eastleigh	98	0.5%	134	0.7%
Fareham	116	0.7%	147	0.9%
Gosport	119	1.2%	162	1.6%
Hart	63	0.5%	74	0.5%
Havant	139	0.8%	168	0.9%
New Forest	218	1.1%	273	1.3%
Rushmoor	86	0.8%	93	0.8%
Test Valley	109	0.7%	138	0.9%
Winchester	123	0.8%	163	1.1%

# Social care involvement...

Social Care Involvement	Summer 2018	Summer 2019
Child Protection Plan	12	10
Children in Need Plan	38	42
Early Help/Family Support Service	40	38
<b>Total Social Care</b>	<b>90 (6.5%)</b>	<b>90 (5.2%)</b>
<b>Total EHE cohort</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>1715</b>

# EHE and SEND

SEND Involvement	Summer 2018	Summer 2019
SEN support	284 (21%)	364 (21%)
EHCP	61 (4%)	66 (4%)
SEN Total	345 (25%)	430 (25%)
No SEND or not known	1033 (75%)	1285 (75%)
Total EHE	1378	1715

# For those children re-entering education in 2018-19, the length of time in EHE

Academic Year 2018/19		
Average time spent educating at home	8 months and 4 days	
Length of EHE duration	Number of children returning to education	%
0 - 3 months	127	39%
3 - 6 months	63	20%
6 - 9 months	40	12%
9 - 12 months	25	8%
12 months +	68	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>100%</b>

# The EHE team...

- HCC registers all EHE young people (where known) on a database.
- At the point of registration Children's Services Social Care and Early Help Hub records are checked. Where known, the relevant Key Worker is contacted.
- Team focuses on the most vulnerable.
- Introductory letter and information pack sent with the offer of a single EHE Visitor appointment (or multiple visits where appropriate), together with a written report that is shared with parents.
- Universal website guidance for parents.
- Bespoke telephone or email guidance for parents and schools.
- The offer to pay for Year 10 & 11 examination fees of GCSE or equivalent qualifications subject to published conditions.
- Maintain good links with EHE parent groups, NHS, Social Care and other services.
- Challenge to schools – links with School Improvement Service

# Team activity

- Home visits/significant phone calls: 199 (23.7%)
- Feedback forms received = 153 (out of 839 new cases)
- Telephone calls from EHE parents = 1178
- Telephone calls from parents with children at school = 815
- Total calls/emails to county office = 1993
- Exam funding = 45 children

## Next steps...

- EHE team capacity is being enhanced to deal with increased numbers of children and young people
- Capacity to increase home visits being enhanced through the school improvement team
- Continue to focus on the most vulnerable children whilst recognising that oversight of all EHE is now the goal
- Continue to join up this agenda with other key teams such as Children Missing Education, SEND and Social Care
- Working with south-east authorities to have common definition of “suitable education”.