

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	09 December 2025
Title of Report:	Elective Home Education Deep Dive
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Jo Tyrrell
Contact Email:	Jo.tyrrell@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	EHE Deep Diver Report AY2024/25
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report provides an analysis of new Elective Home Education (EHE) registrations in Plymouth during the 2024–25 academic year, examining pupil characteristics and key trends with a focus on safeguarding and inclusion. Its purpose is to inform strategic planning and ensure that all children, regardless of educational setting, receive a suitable education and appropriate support, in line with the council's statutory duties under the Education Act 1996 and the city-wide Place Based Plan, Education Strategy 2026–2029, and SEND Strategy 2023–2026.

Recommendations and Reasons

That the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel:

- I. Note the key challenges and current work programmes and endorse the priorities.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The report is for information only.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

It aligns with the Corporate Plan priorities of “A Caring Council” and “A Growing City” by supporting our work to ensure that every child receives a suitable education and appropriate support, regardless of setting. Additionally, it contributes to the Plymouth Plan’s strategic objectives with regards to educational attainment, reducing inequalities, and strengthening community resilience through collaborative approaches to education and welfare.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Not addressing the challenges set out in the report will continue to put pressure on schools and local authority Children’s Services.

Financial Risks

None.

Legal Implications

None.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Elective Home Education trends have potential implications for child poverty, as families choosing home education may face increased financial pressures due to the costs of resources, technology, and parental time commitment. Where EHE is linked to unmet needs or exclusion from school, there is a risk of widening educational inequalities, which can perpetuate cycles of disadvantage. Strategic oversight is therefore essential to ensure that children educated at home receive equitable access to support services, safeguarding, and opportunities, reducing the risk of poverty-related barriers to learning and wellbeing.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
<p>Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Amanda Davis (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families)</p> <p>Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes</p> <p>Date agreed: 01/12/2025</p>											
<p>Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Cresswell</p> <p>Date approved: 01/12/2025</p>											