

# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	10 July 2019
Title of Report:	<b>Elective Home Education report</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Jo Siney
Contact Email:	Jo.siney@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AB.JS.190619/2
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## **Purpose of Report**

The Education and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested information regarding the current position in Plymouth regarding Elective Home Education and data which is comparative to data that they have received from Devon County Council. The purpose of the report is to provide information in order to facilitate Committee discussions around this line of enquiry.

## **Recommendations and Reasons**

None, this is a report only.

## **Alternative options considered and rejected**

None, this is a report only.

## **Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan**

These reports support 'A Growing City'. It helps to make sure children and young people benefit from a suitable education in order to achieve; develop the necessary skills to be productive citizens who can make a sustained contribution to both the society and economy of the city. It will also help to reduce inequalities within the city.

The work reflects our values of co-operation between partners and the recognition that as a society, we are responsible for each other.

The report supports 'A Caring Plymouth – Focus on prevention and early intervention'. The document provides an overview of the support offered to children and young people who are home educated and where there is a concern in order to take timely steps to resolve and make sure the appropriate support is in place.

**Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

None, this is a report only.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

None, this is a report only.

**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.*

**Child Poverty:** Regular attendance at school provides a routine for parent/carers which allows them to take paid employment and reduce the impact of child poverty. It improves children's potential for future employment, education and training.

**Community Safety:** (due regard to preventing crime and disorder): Children who do not receive a suitable education are at increased risk of child exploitation and anti-social behavior. It is important to safeguard children who are vulnerable by ensuring children are seen and supported by professionals and families to reduce this risk.

**Health and Safety** (any health and safety implications): Regular attendance at school provides oversight and monitoring that identifies when a child is at risk, or vulnerable and in need of support. Families who home educate are not required to engage with the LA in relation to the provision of home education, as a result the identification of risk and vulnerabilities and therefore access to support services is made more challenging.

**Risk Management** (to identify any risk management issues): The management of children prior to the decision to elective home educate is essential in order to address any concerns arising regarding successful inclusion in school enable both action to be taken to safeguarding the individual child, and take steps to reduce the numbers of children being withdrawn from school to be home educated. Close working with school and other partners is important to achieve this outcome effectively.

**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							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

**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)						
	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.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Judith Harwood											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 26/06/2019											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Jon Taylor (approved verbally) Date approved: 21/06/2019											