

Reference: RFI 1803050

**Request:**

- A) Can you please categorise how those known to the team dealing with elective home education became known? E.g. School, Doctor, self-referral, concerns about the educational provision reported etc.

The children who are home educated become known to the Local Authority through a number of channels, including schools and self-referrals. The Local Authority have an Attendance and Placement Team who are the main link between parents who wish to home educate and the Local Authority. If a child has been in school then the school would notify the Local Authority. We also check that parents whose children have been in early years provision all apply for a school place. If an application does not come in for a school place then the Attendance and Placement Team would contact the family direct. We don't record the details of how home educated children become known to the local authority.

- i) Does the local authority seek to satisfy itself that the educational provision the parent(s) are providing is suitable to the child's age, aptitude, ability and any SEN as soon as they become aware that parents are electively home educating, regardless of how they become known to the local authority?

The team dealing with Home Education contact parents and arrange to either meet up or have examples of children's work sent to them. There is currently no obligation for parents who home educate to provide proof that home education is suitable.

- ii) How many instances have there been in the years (from January 1st to December 31st) 2015, 2016, 2017 and to the date of this FOI where the person dealing with elective home education has or has had concerns that a 'suitable' education is not being provided?

The Attendance and Placement Team have no such recorded instances.

- B) I would also appreciate it if this information could be broken down into categories:

There are no recorded instances.

- 1) whether they feel that no education is taking place?
- 2) whether they feel that the philosophy of education is inadequate - for example in the case of autonomous or child led learning, that the particular child is not appearing to be learning 'enough'?
- 3) whether there are concerns because the family have not implemented a structured approach?
- 4) or whether the fact that the national Curriculum is not being followed is causing concern?
- 5) a qualified third party is not involved in the child's education?
- 6) An educational report has not been provided by a third party such as; a teacher etc.

In relation to the points raised above, we would not review the philosophy of education provided or how the education is structured. Families who home educate are not required to follow the national curriculum or employ a qualified third party. They are required to ensure that their child receives full time education from the age of 5.

Government guidelines state the following:

The responsibility for a child's education rests with his or her parents. An "efficient" and "suitable" education is not defined in the Education Act 1996 but "efficient" has been broadly described in case law<sup>1</sup> as an education that "achieves that which it sets out to achieve", and a "suitable" education is one that "primarily equips a child for life within the community of which he is a member, rather than the way of life in the country as a whole, as long as it does not foreclose the child's options in later years to adopt some other form of life if he wishes to do so".

C) I would like to know of these children, how many of these concerns were proven?

i) Of the children in the above 4 categories, please indicate if further steps have or are being taken - for example, referred to CME or issued with a School Attendance Order. Please break it down into each year asked for.

We have not issued any School Attendance Orders.

ii) Please indicate how many of these went to court in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

iii) Please also indicate if any Education Supervision Orders are currently in court for this population?

We have no Education Supervision Orders currently in court.

Finally, please provide all recorded documentation relating to elective home education including policies, procedures (2015 - present)

Please see links below:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/meeting/minutes/2018-03-19%20CES%20minutes.pdf>

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/meeting/agenda/child%20ed%20and%20skills%20for%2019%2003%202018.pdf>

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/Elective%20Home%20Education.pdf>

and recorded communications relating to elective home education (2017 - present), including any e-mail attachments. This does not include communications between the Elective Home Education team and electively home educating parents or information that falls under S40 (which I expect to be redacted).

We are declining the final point as the work to extract and collate this information will take more than the time allowed by the Act.