

From: H. D
Sent: 12 November 2017 17:24
To: soleyc
Cc:

Subject: FW: Home education
Attachments: Comments on the Home Education Bill 2017.docx

Hi C

I have attached D s very comprehensive commentary.

The general view of the executive of the AEHEP is that words 'physical and emotional' could be left out not least because this will distract and allow the EHE lobby to be critical. The important issue is the duty to monitor the child's 'educational' development, safeguarding issues will be covered as EHE professionals will be able to visit the child at home/neutral location home and with a discussion with the parent and child, they will be in a better position to detect any safeguarding issues anyway. If there are concerns, these would be referred to Children's services and dealt with appropriately. That process is well established across all LA's with minor differences dependent on how the LA organises itself.

The core issues then are to establish clear statutory access to the children and having full details of all EHE's, not just those out of school or who volunteer. It would seem bizarre that in the 21st century we do not know exactly how many children are EHE and must rely on voluntary contact from parents.

Hope this is helpful

Best wishes
D

D H

From: D M
Sent: 11 November 2017 19:19
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Home education

Dear D: and A

I'd be grateful if you could please forward the attached to Lord Soley and to hi assistant A S

And do please forward it to your colleagues too on the AEHP.

Any queries please let me know

best wishes

D:

D M

From: H D:
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2017 8:53 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: FW: Home education

Hi D

Have a look at the email trail below....

Best wishes

D

D H

From: H D:
Sent: 06 November 2017 08:37
To: 'SOLEY, Lord'
Cc:
Subject: RE: Home education

Hi C

If safeguarding concerns are identified by an education officer (i.e. suspicion of neglect, sexual, emotional or physical abuse) then this is referred to Children's Services and due process takes place. Case conferences would be called by Children Service's colleagues. The problem emerges where education officials do not have access to children so would not necessarily have any knowledge of any safeguarding issues so would not report.

Different LA's might do things differently but I will write to AEHEP colleagues and collate replies before passing back to you to avoid your inbox being bombarded with comments. I expect to reply to you by the end of this week (10 Nov).

Best wishes

D

From: SOLEY, Lord
Sent: 05 November 2017 00:37
To:
Cc:
Subject: Home education

Hi D

I have been giving some careful thought to the wording of my Bill and thinking of changes that will enhance its chances of getting sufficient support and also making better legislation.

I think there is a problem when I include "physical and emotional development". including these words will increase opposition and in any event I am not sure how realistic it would be for an education officer to make such an assessment.

For this reason I am minded to try and amend the Bill in committee excluding those words in the long title and in Clause 2(1) and Clause 2 (4).

That would still leave a problem in relation to any child being subject to abuse or being radicalised etc. So I could add another sub clause saying something along the following lines:

'If a local authority has concerns about the welfare of the child they shall refer the child to the appropriate authority or call a case conference.' This will have to be put into proper Parliamentary drafting language. Does an education officer have authority to call a case conference if they are concerned about a child's welfare? What are they are expected to do if they become concerned about welfare?

I would find it very helpful if you could run this email past your colleagues to get some feedback - ideally before the second reading on the 24th.

Can you do this for me? Please call me if you need clarification.

Many thanks.

C

Lord Soley