

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title of consultation response:	Department for Education: Home Education – Call for Evidence
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Scheme of Delegation Section 3, Part 1 – Scheme of Delegation to Officers paragraph 3.8 – Formal Responses to Government papers or other consultations

Summary

CSF Schools & Learning is responding to the [Department for Education's consultation on elective home education](#). The Department is calling for evidence to help assess whether the current arrangements for oversight of elective home education are adequate to fulfil the government's aspiration that all children in England should receive a good education.

Following on from its comments in response to [The Home Education \(Duty of Local Authorities\) Bill](#) and in its [Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper](#), the Government launched this consultation in April and is seeking views on a number of areas including:

- How effective voluntary registration schemes for home educated children are, and what would be the advantages and disadvantages of mandatory registration.
- The effectiveness of current local authority oversight and monitoring of home education, and what changes may be needed to ensure the system is satisfactory and proportionate.
- The support available for home educated families, including whether there should be a duty on local authorities to provide advice and support.
- Whether there should be financial consequences for schools if a parent withdraws their child to educate them at home.

Alongside the call for evidence, the Government also published draft versions of two guidance documents about home education for consultation, one intended for [local authorities](#) and the other for [parents](#).

- The guidance for local authorities sets out the process by which local authorities should identify home educated children and how best they should intervene if a child is not receiving a suitable education.
- The guidance for parents offers advice on whether or not home education is the right decision for them, in addition to setting out the powers that local authorities have and the steps parents should take if concerns arise.

The consultation closes on **2 July 2018**.

Surrey's submission focuses on the impact in Surrey of:

- The increasing numbers of children and young people being registered as being Electively Home Educated (EHE), including those with known vulnerabilities.
- The ineffectiveness of the current voluntary registration scheme as the Council does not have full oversight of the numbers of children being home educated and this has safeguarding implications.
- The need to strengthen local authority powers so that the Council is able to undertake mandatory checks to ensure children receive quality full-time education and are appropriately safeguarded.
- The need to strengthen financial penalties for parents who fail to comply with registration requirements and the withdrawal of funding from schools when a child is registered as EHE.
- Promoting and sharing the learning from Surrey's Elective Home Education Service.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED to submit the proposed attached response to the consultation outlined above.

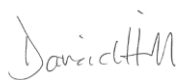
Reasons for Decision:

The responses to the consultation will be submitted to Government so that it can be considered in relation to any future decisions.

Consultation with Cabinet Member

Delegation can only be actioned by an officer after consulting the relevant portfolio holder. Please provide details below:

Dave Hill, Executive Director for Children Families & Learning, acting on behalf of Mary Lewis, Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning

Decision taken by:	Dave Hill – Executive Director for Children Families & Learning Signed: 
Decision taken on:	29 June 2018
Portfolio Holder	Mary Lewis – Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning
Portfolio Holder consulted on	25 June 2018
To be submitted on:	2 July 2018

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None