

## **Elective Home Education**

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### **Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services**

#### **Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide.

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To present an overview of Elective Home Education in the County Durham.
- 2 The report covers the national and local context and policy, published data and collaborative working.

#### **Executive Summary**

- 3 Nationally, the number of parents and carers choosing to home educate their children are rising. The local rate of increase was less than the overall national rate (when comparing 2021/22 to 2022/23). Published data for the 2022/23 academic year shows that County Durham's rate of increase across the 2022/23 academic year is in line with average national, regional and statistical neighbours.
- 4 The Department for Education have recently consulted on the introduction of new Elective Home Education guidance for Local Authorities and parents / carers. The Council continue to have strong partnership arrangements in place to carry out statutory functions and to support local families.
- 5 The Council have built stronger underpinning tools such as data dashboards, schools portal development and business intelligence applications which all support this area of work. The greater data visualisation has provided more focus on trends and direction of travel.

#### **Recommendation**

- 6 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the overall position and direction of travel in relation to elective home education, and the collaborative help and support of a wide range of professionals to support families.

#### **Context**

- 7 The council is a large organisation. Local rises in the Elective Home Education cohort mirror rises seen regionally and nationally. The service

continues to carry out statutory duties in relation to children in the local area and offer multi-agency support to families.

### **Useful documents**

- [Elective Home Education Guidance](#) (2019).
- [Elective Home Education Guidance Review](#) (October 2023 – January 2024)

### **Authors**

Clare Nicholls

Contact: [clare.nicholls@durham.gov.uk](mailto:clare.nicholls@durham.gov.uk)

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

None currently.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Consultation**

The Department for Education have recently consulted on the introduction of new Elective Home Education guidance for Local Authorities and parents / carers. The Council continue to have strong partnership arrangements in place to carry out statutory functions and to support local families.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Equality measures are monitored as part of wider reporting mechanisms.

### **Climate Change**

No additional considerations.

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable.

### **Crime and Disorder**

The service works closely with anti-social behaviour teams, youth offending teams and are part of serious violence strategic group and more widely.

### **Staffing**

There are no proposed changes to staffing.

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable.

### **Risk**

None to report.

### **Procurement**

Not applicable.