

Elective Home Education (EHE) Strategy for vulnerable children* 2022-2025

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The vision for education in Suffolk: The highest standards, as good as the best, for all Suffolk Children and Young People today and for their futures	
<p>Our ambitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parents have access to accurate information and an awareness of the LA Elective Home education team's role, responsibilities and contact details. In addition, they have details from all services and any setting involved with their family, ahead of any decision to home educate so that they are fully informed of the implications of a decision to home educate their children. Prompt, effective partnership working is in place to offer support to schools and families. Multi-agency professionals use their expertise to support electively home educated children to receive the most appropriate provision and are safeguarded. Schools convene a meeting to talk through parental reasons to home educate their child/children. The meeting will focus on the academic, pastoral and social needs of the child/children, making parents aware of the responsibilities of EHE and any concerns school may have. EHE will be a positive and informed choice. The views of children who are electively home educated are heard and considered in decision-making at all stages. Home educated children are supported to explore post 16 options and move through an appropriate route. Professional curiosity and a good awareness of EHE across CYP teams will help to ensure that SCC EHE team are made aware of any child being electively home educated in Suffolk whether they have been to school in Suffolk previously or not. There will be a clear process for identifying all four to five-year-olds for whom an admission application has not been made. All children's services will have access to basic EHE data to allow them to respond to and take account of changing trends and how this may impact on their work. Where EHE has been determined to be unsuitable there is a clear process back into a setting which takes account of the young person's age, stage and wider needs and this is supported by CYP services and schools. 	<p>How we will measure our success:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Home education provision is successful and is suitable to the age, ability, and aptitude of each child. The length of time a child with undefined or unsuitable provision remains EHE is reduced. Random sampling of cases shows effective communication in and between professionals and families. The local authority (LA) will have a close, positive working relationship with the EHE community. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are well-supported. Provision meets their needs. Parents of home educated children will engage fully in the review of Education and Health Care Plans. Records will show evidence of this. Records show that staff are confident that all parents who choose to home educate are informed about the implications of their decision. An annual evaluation indicates the EHE strategy is effective in providing support to vulnerable children. Records indicate that the views of pupils have been heard. Post 16 EHE children will show a reduction in YP recorded as unknown and NEET. The increasing rates of EHE numbers in Suffolk will slow down There will be a reduction in the number of families with current involvement from SCS. The number of young people who become EHE in KS4 will reduce Every young person who becomes EHE will be offered the chance to share their view and for those families with involvement of Early Help or Children's Services will have their views recorded.

Priority 1: ensuring understanding	Priority 2: information sharing	Priority 3: support for vulnerable children
<p>Objectives - ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate information is available to young people and families from all services involved with the family. Children, families and practitioners across CYP have a clear understanding of EHE including legislation, the work of the EHE team, parental, school and LA responsibilities. For the EHE team to work collaboratively with other teams in SCC to ensure consistency regarding suitable EHE provision Schools are fully informed to enable them to share the implications of home education with any parents who might be considering this option. Governors/ trustees are fully informed to enable them to support and challenge schools effectively around EHE process and practice. EHE panel outcomes are shared with all involved professionals An Elective Home Education policy clearly sets out how Suffolk County Council (SCC) carries out its legal duties. EHE families know how to access opportunities for education, employment or training pre-and post-16. New statutory duties are understood, implemented and shared appropriately Engaging with schools regarding examinations for EHE pupils 	<p>Objectives – make certain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CYP teams can access key EHE data via a dashboard to inform practice All CYP and school staff share relevant information with parents EHE consultants challenge inappropriate advice to families. An effective exchange of information is in place between EHE consultants and professionals including Health, Welfare and Children's and Adult services. Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) should be completed to raise any concerns and any likely impact on the child. Training commissioners include EHE in mandatory safeguarding children training. All EHE staff are confident, competent and up to date with effective safeguarding practices by completing level 2 safeguarding training annually EHE consultants maintain a current level 3 safeguarding children training Liquid Logic indicates clearly to all practitioners where a child is EHE and facilitates effective information sharing in respect of EHE. 	<p>Objectives - ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> FNM, CIN and Core group meetings for any young person who is EHE will include current relevant information about the EHE provision within the plan EHE will be discussed at case transfer meetings as necessary. All children being support by EH/SC have a voice in the decision for them to be home educated. Needs and risks are identified, shared and accurately reported by all schools prior to children being home educated. All schools are supported to accurately share relevant needs, risks and concerns with the EHE team by the most appropriate adult in school. Any identified needs or risks are accurately recorded during the informal information gathering stage and next steps clearly identified to respond to these. Identification of vulnerable learners is timely and effective. Child Protection and Child in Need plans are reviewed in the light of a decision to EHE. There is guidance, tools and support for assessing risk for schools and EHE consultants.

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	<p>10. The LA includes the EHE community in determining its strategies to support EHE children.</p> <p>11. Information is shared with schools which enables dialogue and discussion and challenge where needed.</p> <p>12. Governors / trustees are well informed about trends of EHE in their schools, trusts and community</p>	<p>9. Young carers' needs assessments and relevant support is provided appropriately.</p> <p>10. EHE team are monitoring for trends within EHE children with regards to ethnicity and ensuring follow up action as necessary</p>
<p>Changes we will see:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All parents are fully informed when they choose to electively home educate. Services keep each other informed so that all involved have a thorough understanding of all issues relating to individual cases. LA and EHE community works closely together. Children are consulted about their views, welfare and progress. Website information is clear, concise and unequivocal. Children will not be removed from school roll inappropriately. Schools are challenged and supported where high numbers of EHE are indicating a concern resulting in review of practices and reduction in inappropriate EHE numbers. 	<p>Changes we will see:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There will be one clear co-produced (one-page document) to share with families and professionals. Professionals are well informed to support EHE families Governors/Trustees are well informed to effectively support and challenge school leaders regarding EHE Referrals to EHE consultants are accurate timely and appropriate. Services have up-to-date information from decisions made at EHE panel meetings in a timely manner. The flow of information communicated between teams ensures vulnerable pupils are supported well. Safeguarding concerns are reported and responded to swiftly. 	<p>Changes we will see:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> EHE consultants will be advising 'Family Network Meetings' and have clear information, including signposting to available resources regarding family plans to electively home educate. Increased communication in and between teams so that all involved are well-informed about issues, concerns and action being taken. Young carers are supported in their role. Improved support and challenge between SEOs and school leaders regarding EHE Greater understanding and improved knowledge of mental health/ services to ensure appropriate responses and signposting for EHE families around mental health

This work has been commissioned by Health, Well-being and Children's Services

Consultations:

Admissions

Attendance

Children's Social Care

Early Help

Education & Learning Leadership Team

Elective Home Education

Elective Home Education Community

Inclusion

Legal Services

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Local Safeguarding Children Board

Skills

Suffolk Parent Carer Network

Virtual School

Youth Offending Service