

Elective Home Education	Recommendations	Updates
	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 1:</b> That an annual Borough network meeting take place between LBH EHE Parents and the local authority to enable networking to take place between different EHE groups.</p>	<p>A borough network meeting was arranged following the POC report in 2012. This was well received and well attended, however it was decided by the parents attending the meeting that, while they were grateful that a network meeting had been arranged, they did not want the local authority arranging future meetings as they were happy to take over the management of the meetings and organise meetings themselves without local authority involvement.</p> <p>This is something we would like to review again to see if there is demand for a local authority arranged network meeting. As such, a question will be included on a proposed questionnaire to ask parents who elect to home educate their children if they would be interested in such an event.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 2:</b> That Officers review the EHE correspondence which is sent to EHE parents to ensure that their tone is empathetic and their contents are not open to misinterpretation.</p>	<p>Correspondence was reviewed following the POC review in 2012 in line with the recommendations. Correspondence has been further reviewed since EHE fell under the remit of the School Placement and Admissions Team in July 2015. The local authority now uses three main letters which have been designed to take into account the POC review recommendations and also reflect good practice following research regarding EHE communication with other local authorities.</p> <p>The first is an introductory letter sent to parents following notification of a child receiving EHE. This contains details about the parents' and local authority's responsibilities regarding EHE as well as a list of useful contacts for support. The second letter is an 'evidence of education' request letter. This letter is clear that parents are invited to submit evidence of education using a number of alternative methods, but are under no obligation to do so. Parents are advised that by submitting evidence or allowing a home visit, they will receive a report highlighting the strengths of education being received. Parents are further advised that if the local authority has any concerns about the quality of</p>	

	<p>education being provided, the initial response from the local authority is to work together to address this issue in the best interests of the child.</p> <p>The third letter is an annual update letter that is sent routinely to parents educating their own children to update them on recent developments and inviting them to submit evidence of work. We are also proposing to include a questionnaire with this letter which can be completed either online or by post. The survey is intended to find out from parents what their experience is of the support and guidance available for parents organising the education of their child(ren) at home to inform future service development. We also hope to learn from the survey more information about parents' reasons for choosing EHE as they are not required to provide this information to schools when they take their children off-roll.</p> <p>At no point in any of the letters is there any mention of school attendance orders as this will only be considered as a last resort if the local authority remains dissatisfied that suitable education is not being provided, even after parents have been given an opportunity to address our concerns.</p> <p>Further to this, the School Placement and Admissions team have also published a new webpage at <a href="http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ehe">www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ehe</a> which provides factual information for parents considering or providing EHE, groups together the LB Hillingdon EHE policy, the POC report and DfE (DCSF) guidance and also provides useful links.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 3:</b> That EHE parents be provided with information on London Borough Exam Centres that will accept EHE children.</p>	<p>Information is provided in the introductory letter and on the Hillingdon website regarding The Skills Hub in Yiewsley. This is an exam centre that accepts EHE children. The School Placement and Admissions Team are also exploring alternative options such as Hillingdon secondary schools that are prepared to accept EHE children for examinations and provisions available privately within or outside the borough.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** That Cabinet be recommended to approve the updated policy on Elective Home Education and that the policy be reviewed on an annual basis.

The policy is still suitable for use by LB Hillingdon as the guidance has not changed since it was agreed, despite a change of Government. The School Placement and Admissions team have provided an updated policy with minor changes to reflect changes in personnel and to remove references which are now out of date.

Reducing the Risk of Young People Engaging in Criminal Activity and Anti-Social Behaviour	Recommendations	Updates
	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 1:</b> To help young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and antisocial behaviour, that the Cabinet Member for Education &amp; Children's Services requests that officers investigate the feasibility of improving access to appropriate preventative services available for young people and their parents, via the Early Intervention Service, where the young person is at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Feasibility has been investigated and processes established to improve access to preventative services re: young people at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour. The early intervention and prevention targeted programme offer has been developed with particular regard to enabling access for vulnerable groups including those at risk of engagement in criminal activity. A referral process has been established whereby all agencies who are working with, or are in a position to identify those at risk are able to refer. In addition. Services carries out outreach work in the community and also delivers work in schools to promote and enable access.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 2:</b> That the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services requests that the Early Intervention Service investigates the possibility of kick-starting a Parenting Forum / Network and/or regular seminars for parents of young offenders or young people at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour. Improving awareness and communication</p>	<p>It has not been feasible to establish an independent parenting forum or network. However processes have been developed to attend to the need for parents with young people at risk of involvement in crime. These include targeted parenting support work via the Youth Offending Service, parenting support work through the Team around the Family process and key-work support for families experiencing a range of problems including those associated with crime and anti-social behaviour. Also and within the context of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) agenda, plans are being developed to create a parent led network for parents with issues and concerns in relation to CSE and associated youth crime and serious youth violence agenda.</p>	

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 3:</b> That the Cabinet Member for Education &amp; Children's Services requests that officers work with the Early Intervention Service to investigate the provision of activities for young people within Hillingdon and the scope for additional provision. In addition, officers are asked to ensure that the YOS has the necessary information to promote suitable activities to young offenders and their parents through the Youth Offending Service and other relevant agencies.</p>	<p>Additional targeted provision has been created through the development of the Early Intervention and Prevention Service in general and the targeted programme component in particular. Other developments include the creation of a new Well-being Service within the Council, which provides a range of universal services for young people to which those at risk of engagement in crime and or anti-social behaviour may be sign-posted. The Youth Offending Service is part of the Early Intervention and Prevention Service and as a consequence is rooted into the activities available through the targeted programme offer. Knowledge of and access to pan-London activities commissioned by the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) have also been developed.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 4:</b> That the Cabinet Member for Education &amp; Children's Services requests that officers explore the feasibility of working with the Borough's schools to develop and strengthen interventions designed to divert young people from criminal and anti-social behaviour. Officers are also requested to explore the provision of drug and crime awareness education available to young people to ascertain whether it is sufficient and meets the needs of particular communities and age groups.</p>	<p>Work has been progressed with schools in order to strengthen joint work re: interventions designed to divert young people from criminal and anti-social behaviour. This includes the commissioned 'CLASH' forum theatre project, which enables pupils to explore attitudes and concerns regarding serious youth violence and knife crime, through a participative drama production and facilitated discussion groups. Work is also being developed via school cluster meetings in order to progress the Child Exploitation Strategy and which includes preventative work re: violence, vulnerability and crime.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 5:</b> That the Cabinet Member for Education &amp; Children's Services requests that officers investigate the possibility of improving joint work and timely information sharing between partner organisations, with particular regard to young offenders.</p>	<p>Joint working and information sharing has been improved through the creation of the multi-agency Risk and Vulnerability process. The process brings together a range of professionals including the Police, officers, the Youth Offending Service to share information and agree joint actions in relation young people who may be at risk of engagement in criminal and anti-social behaviour. This work processes concerns on a case by case basis as well as considers wider patterns and trends.</p>