

Response to the draft guidelines on Elective Home Education

From colleagues in the northeast region who attended the Meeting at St James¹ Park on 1.3.05

Part 1

Introduction

- 1.2 Include independent schools
- 1.4 bullet 4 change system to "available provision"
- 1.5 explain in more detail.

Flexi-schooling?

Good..emphasises parental choice and aims to encourage good practice, provide advice, roles and responsibilities, develop trust and mutual respect, positive relationships, interest of child.

Queries...not registered full time, ref to flexi schooling.

Reasons for EHE

Some do it because their pupils are poor attenders

Some do it for negative reasons....fixed term exclusion, attendance

Not always a positive choice Non-attendance - fixed term exclusions Bullying

- 1.6 Reasons may be negative and may use as part of ongoing supervision
Specific problems in certain areas

Negative reasons should be mentioned

Check wording in places Part 2

The Law relating to EHE

- 2.3 adequate provision unclear
"make sure" ascertain.....implies the LEA should provide resources

Parental rights and responsibilities

Move into the area.....how do we know.....we need contact on a multi-agency basis

LEA responsibilities

- 2.5 "assume full financial"
- 2.6 amplification of "suitable"; what is a good reason?
How long *before* this can "kick" in? 2.9 Every Child Matters...still
a loophole.....could links be made;
possibly intro. Some confusion here.No right to see the child!!!

What is good reason to intervene?

Child welfare v LEA powers

- 2.7 Good reason? What is evidence?

Need specifics.Time element

Evidence for assuming the education is suitable

Opinion of the LEA that every child should attend school.
Again, evidence - verification.
Reasonable avenues

Part 3

Clear policies and procedures

- 3.3 more clarity on "providing guidance"....believe this should read provide guidance on their responsibilities...otherwise too open-ended.
3.4 Who trains those who are going to visit?

Not consistent with 2.1 Need own

policy

De-registration from school 3.22 should be included within 3.4

Receive letter from school
Email schools to ensure they are taken off roll....LEA check.
Repetitive

Withdrawing the child

Good response initially - trust in future

- 3.11 opportunity / time?

Written evidence; speak to young person

Where is the information to show properly informed judgements?

Providing an "efficient and suitable full-time education

Last sentence.....remove the word "support" as it implies open-ended LEA support.

- 3.12 Require?

- 3.13 Normal school pattern...hours / weeks

Signed and dated...evidence

Access to the home

What if parents refuse?

School attendance orders and ESOs

- 3.20 Family proceeding court
Need to find out what circumstances
3.21 clearly not efficient How long will they last? Reapplying them?

Children with SEN

What about School Action and School Action*

Provision for assessing SEN at home LEA still

responsible for the Statement. NB unreasonable expenditure?

Not on roll...no cash for the LEA

Part 4

Developing relationships 4.2 "advice"
not support Should be earlier

Acknowledging diversity
Should be earlier in the document

Put in earlier

Providing information for parents Contact with
parents and children

4.7 repetitive

4.8 contradicts 3.19 (or is it 3.79)

Contact person...EWS initially to make introductions as they will be familiar with the family. 4.18

contradicts 3.19 Child protection

Local information-sharing arrangements...will Health disclose to LEA?

Implication for sharing information

Need local protocols

Significant harm?

Be aware of "Caldicott Saurdians"?

Reviewing policies and procedures

4.16 will this change with the new LEA framework?

Part 5

Support and resources

5.1 Full financial responsibility?

5.2 Do not like last sentence and bullet points....may set an expectancy that LEAs are unable to meet. We would also have to allow pupils in independent schools similar access

The Nat. Curriculum

5.3 Name change.....update

Take out "local school resources"

Connexions Service

Flexi-schooling

Discretion of school and governors....implications for small schools?

LEAs role in supporting work experience

Look into paperwork

Insurance?

Health and safety checks re work place

Cost?

Preparation

Monitoring

Truancy sweeps

Card...not an identity card

Travellers children

Examples of good practice

Edexel

Int. SCSEs