

Gloucestershire's response to the Department for Education Elective Home Education guidance for local authorities, April 2019.

Our primary concern is that all children who live in Gloucestershire, wherever they learn, receive an education that allows them to reach their potential and live fulfilling lives. As the number of children who are educated at home continues to rise nationally, and the range of different factors that influence the decision to home educate become more varied and numerous, so too may the number of instances where children's needs are not being well served through the arrangements parents are making outside of a school setting an, therefore, the instances where a local authority may need to intervene.

The publication of the revised guidance provides an opportunity for greater clarity in relation to the powers and responsibilities of a local authority in exercising their duties around Elective Home Education, especially where young people's needs are not being well served, so that the appropriate steps can be taken. We welcome the clarification this brings.

Our overriding principle in relation to Elective Home Education has always been to work in respectful partnership with parents in exercising our responsibilities. We retain our appreciation that learning and progress can take many forms depending on the needs of the individual and officers will not expect to see any particular prescribed method of delivery or pattern of progression. We will continue to focus our resources and energies on those circumstances where it appears that children are not receiving a suitable education. Those families who share information with us about the arrangements they are making, and are able to show how their children's skills and knowledge are developing through the provision of a suitable education that equips them for adult life, are unlikely to experience any significant difference in the way we work together or in the frequency, quality and nature of our liaison.