



EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding children who receive elective home education (EHE).

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Most children in Wales are educated in school or provision but some parents / carers chose to educate their children at home. Welsh data shows that more parents are choosing to educate their children at home.

2.2 There are a number of reasons parents / carers chose to home educate such as:

- Health
- Cultural
- Religious
- Additional learning needs
- Bullying
- Flexibility

2.3 The right to home educate is conditional on parents providing their child with an 'efficient' and 'suitable' education. Parents are required to fulfil the requirements of section 7 of the Education Act (1996). Parents can chose to home educate at any time. If the child is enrolled at a school then they cannot be removed from roll unless written notification is received. Parents must not be encouraged to remove their child from a school.

2.4 Welsh Government guidance (202/2016) set outs rights and responsibilities of parents and Local Authorities (LAs). LAs have a duty to identify where a child is not receiving a suitable education (Efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he may have). LA's can use school attendance orders (SAOs) to satisfy themselves that this is the case.

- 2.5 The LA has a clear elective home education (EHE) Policy and a robust process for ensuring that it is aware of children who are electively home educated (EHE), assessing 'suitability' and offering support.
- 2.6 The LA uses Strive (data management tool) to track children who are EHE.
- 2.7 Processes are reviewed in line with national and local developments.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

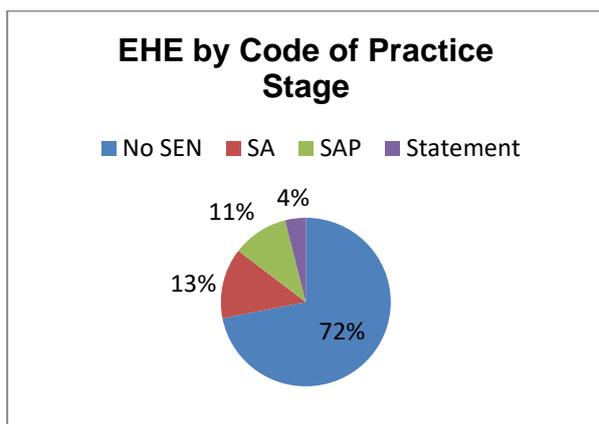
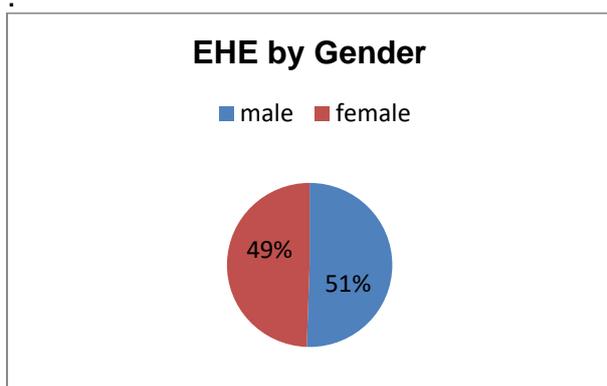
4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The LA is responsible for ensuring that children who are electively home educated receive a suitable education. In this regard members of Scrutiny Committee must be aware of this cohort of young people.

5. THE REPORT

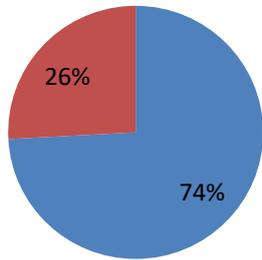
- 5.1 Most children in Wales are educated in school or provision but some parents / carers chose to education their children at home. Welsh data shows that more parents are choosing to educate their children at home.
- 5.2 There are a number of reasons parents / carers chose to home educate such as:
- Health
 - Cultural
 - Religious
 - Additional learning needs
 - Bullying
 - Flexibility
- 5.3 The right to home educate is conditional on parents providing their child with an 'efficient' and 'suitable' education. Parents are required to fulfil the requirements of section 7 of the Education Act (1996). Parents can chose to home educate at any time. If the child is enrolled at a school then they cannot be removed from roll unless written notification is received. Parents must not be encouraged to remove their child from a school.
- 5.4 Welsh Government guidance (202/2016) set outs rights and responsibilities of parents and Local Authorities (LAs). LAs have a duty to identify where a child is not receiving a suitable education (Efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he may have). LA's can use school attendance orders (SAOs) to satisfy themselves that this is the case.

- 5.5 There is a clear process (in line with Welsh Government guidance) for ensuring that the LA is aware of children who are EHE. There is a requirement to write to the LA/school to inform them that the child will become EHE. Following this a visit is undertaken by an education welfare officer to establish reasons for the decision and to offer support to re-engage with education via the LA or receive an initial visit to discuss the provision of a 'suitable' education. Where no further contact is requested by parents the LA has to be satisfied that there are no safeguarding concerns. If a child has a Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN) the process of review remains in place. Families are made aware that they can approach the LA at any time to review their decision or seek advice.
- 5.6 Where a child is supported by Social Services or has a Statement of SEN this should be considered carefully in the context of a notification to EHE.
- 5.7 The LA uses Strive (vulnerability profile and data management tool) to track children who are EHE.
- 5.8 Analysis of available information shows that since 2016 178 children have received elective home education. The following charts shows an analysis by gender, SEN, FSM, year group, trends, and reasons.



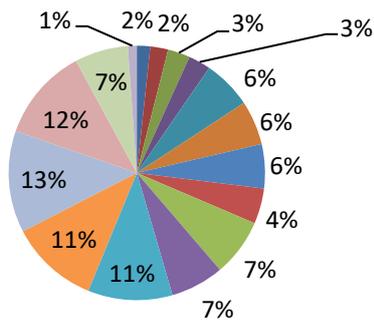
EHE by FSM

no fsm fsm

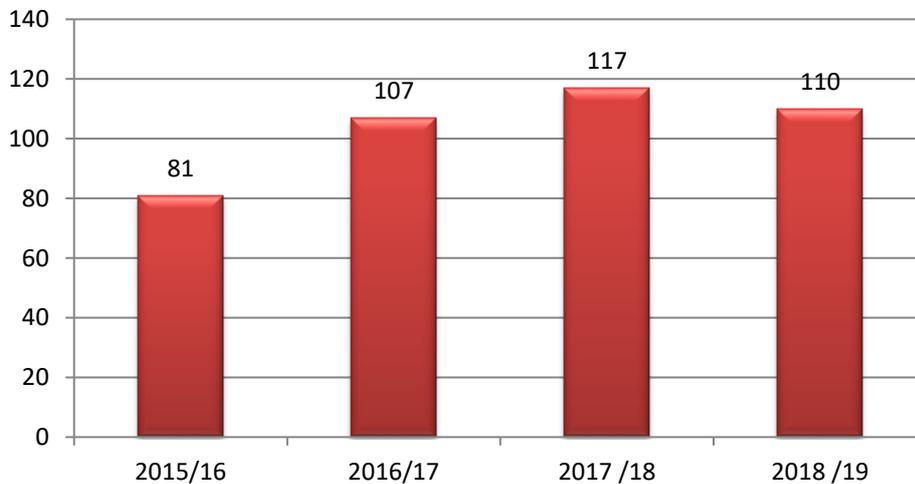


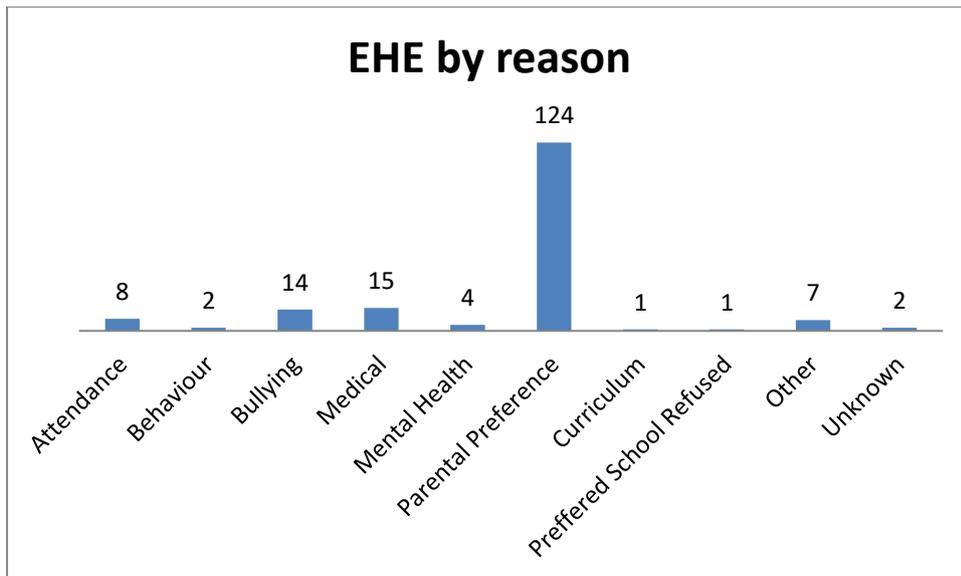
EHE by year group

N R Yr 1 Yr 2 Yr 3 Yr 4
Yr 5 Yr 6 Yr 7 Yr 8 Yr 9 Yr 10
Yr 11 Yr 12 Yr 13 Yr 14



EHE annual trends

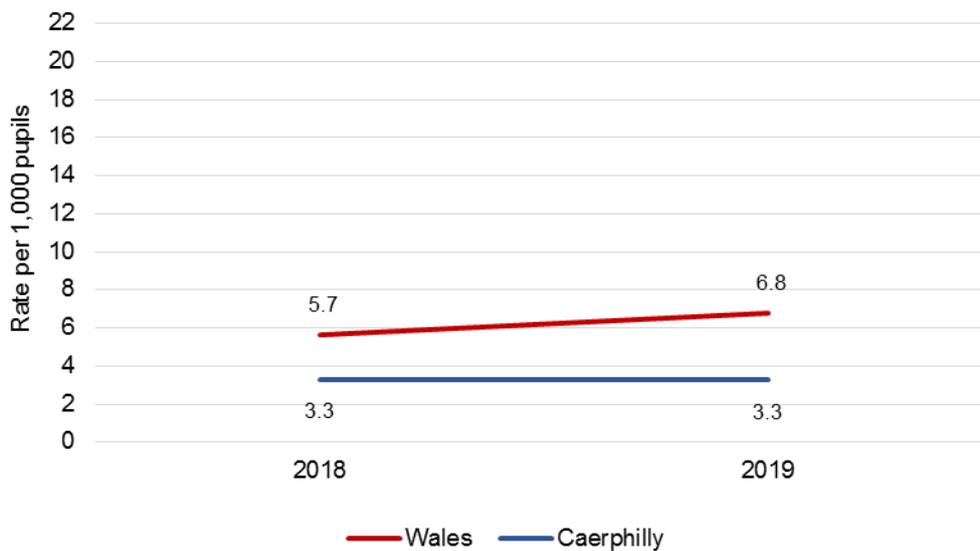




5.9 The LA will review its processes in light of the new guidance to be issued by the Welsh Government.

5.10 In comparison to all Wales figures Caerphilly has a lower rate of EHE pupils per thousand (based on the last 2 years data). Caerphilly also has a lower rate per thousand than other similar local authorities.

Rate of EHE children per 1,000 pupils (Reception - Year 11)



Comparison with two similar LAs

Authority	Caerphilly		LA1		LA2	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Figures	3.3	3.3	3.9	4.7	5.4	5.7
Difference	0		0.8		0.3	
Current CCBC EHE Figures Comparison			-1.4		-2.4	

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 In considering the recommendations the following assumptions have been made:

- Scrutiny members should be kept informed of how the LA fulfils its duty to ensure that children who are EHE receive a suitable education, trends in data and any changes that impact upon the LA and practice.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023
- Service Improvement Plans

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The EHE Policy contributes to the Wellbeing Goals as follows and is consistent with the five ways of working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

- **A prosperous Wales:** Caerphilly County Borough Council is committed to ensuring that everyone living within the Borough is well educated and develop skills for life
- **A resilient Wales:** Safeguarding means protecting individual's health, well being and human rights and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect (Care Quality Commission, 2014). This process will contribute to developing resilience.
- **A healthier Wales –A more equal Wales:** The Council's Policies promote the importance of the well being and fulfilling potential.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report requires no specific equalities impact assessment.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The LA is not funded for children who are electively home educated. In light of the ALN Act 2018 there are implications for the LA where children have an identified additional learning need (ALN) in term of funding appropriate provision.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 In light of the ALN Act there are likely to be increased demands on services and additional responsibilities linked to children who have additional learning needs.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The report reflects the views of the consultees based on consultations undertaken to date.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
Education (Wales) Act 2014
Education Act 1996
Equality Act 2010
Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal Act (2018)
Social Services and Wellbeing Act

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Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
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