

Monmouthshire LA Monitoring and Evaluation Report (People Scrutiny Committee 21.01.26)

Focus: Elective Home Education - 2024 – 2025 to Spring Term 2025 (Education Welfare Service)

Date of Monitoring Report: June 2025

Purpose of report:

- To evaluate the impact of our strategy, monitoring systems and support for Elective Home Education (EHE) learners in Monmouthshire. This includes the use of the Welsh Government Grant.
- To share information regarding the Children Missing Education (CME) database Pilot with Welsh Government.

How does the LA provide support to Elective Home Education Learners and families?

- EWS works closely with schools to provide support and advice when a parent makes the decision to de-register their child and provide elective home education (EHE) The local authority encourages schools to hold a meeting with parents following such a decision, to discuss and offer any further advice and support as appropriate. The school and parents of EHE learners are required to provide the written de-registration and information to the local authority to confirm the decision to EHE.
- The local authority maintains a list of elective home educated learners from Reception to Year 11. This information is stored securely, and data is collated and analysed by gender, FSM, ALN, EAL, year group, key stage, school, geographical area and reason for de-registration.
- The local authority has established effective and accessible data and systems to manage the work schedule for annual visits. Elective Home Education information is collected centrally and includes relevant information from initial contact and annual home visits. This is collated centrally and stored securely in-line with GDPR so information/contact with the family is available for the team to access and update as required. Family consent is gained to share information in line with Welsh Government guidance and GDPR.
- Section 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on all local education authorities to make arrangements to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the 'identities of children in their area who are not registered at school and are not receiving a suitable education'. Suitable education', is defined as meaning efficient fulltime education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have.
- The purpose of the duty is to make sure that children and young people who do not attend a school placement are identified, and contact is made to confirm if they are being electively home educated or if they are children missing education (CME).
- There are effective monitoring systems which are shared between local authority EHE and CME officers to ensure learners receive a 'suitable education' or are provided with a 'suitable education' and may include support to apply for a school place if appropriate. There is a robust system to share information between the local authority

Access/Admissions team and EWS/EHE officers to ensure checks take place at key points of transition in a learner's educational journey.

- Links between EHE and CME Officer are well-established and strong within the local authority. They work closely together to follow up on any learner queries and ensure all learners are recorded accurately as EHE on central systems. In line with local authority EHE and CME policies, the movement of EHE learners is recorded and a movement out of Monmouthshire form is sent to the receiving local authority in a timely manner.
- The EHE team works collaboratively with other services including Health Visitors, Birth database, Council Tax/Housing Children's Services etc. and with other local authority colleagues ensuring that all avenues have been explored to locate and share learner movement between local authorities.
- Welsh Government EHE Grant Funding is used effectively to fund a member of staff and provide family Enrichment activities. This enables the local authority to carry out initial, annual and additional visits throughout the year. The Family grant funding is used to directly support EHE learners and their families through a Universal offer of support. For example, the local authority offers a range of educational enrichment activities to meet EHE learner's interests and enrich the educational offer from parents. These activities provide opportunities for families to build social links with other EHE families and support the development of good relationships with the local authority. In addition, they provide informal opportunities to meet families face to face and where previously a written report may have been provided.

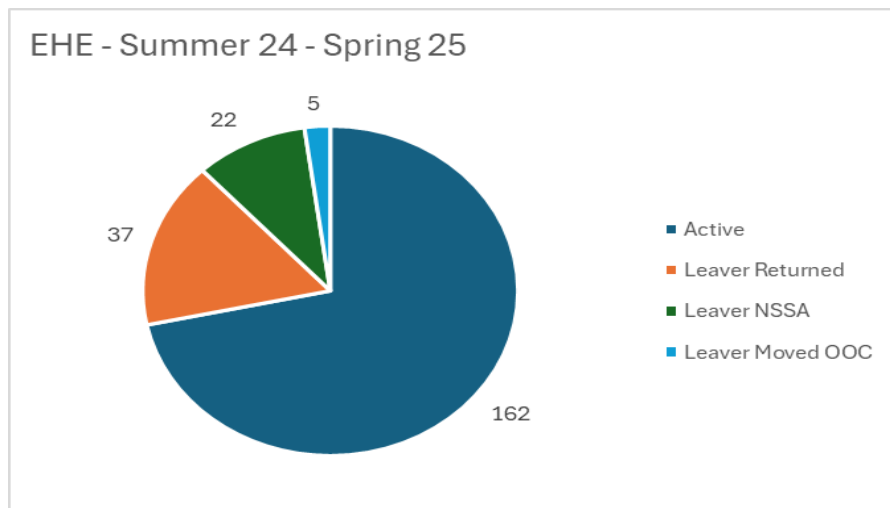
What are the current EHE indicators within the LA?

- There has been a steady increase in the de-registration by parents to elect to home educate (EHE) following the Covid 19 pandemic. In 2019-2020 there were 60 learners compared to 119 at the time of PLACS in 2024-2025.
- Monmouthshire have received an increase in EHE FOI's due to the Children Missing Education Database Pilot with Welsh Government.
- The data the local authority holds would suggest that the de-registration of pupils in KS3 and Key stage 4 areas continues to increase.

Current EHE Data from Summer 2024 to Spring Term 2025.

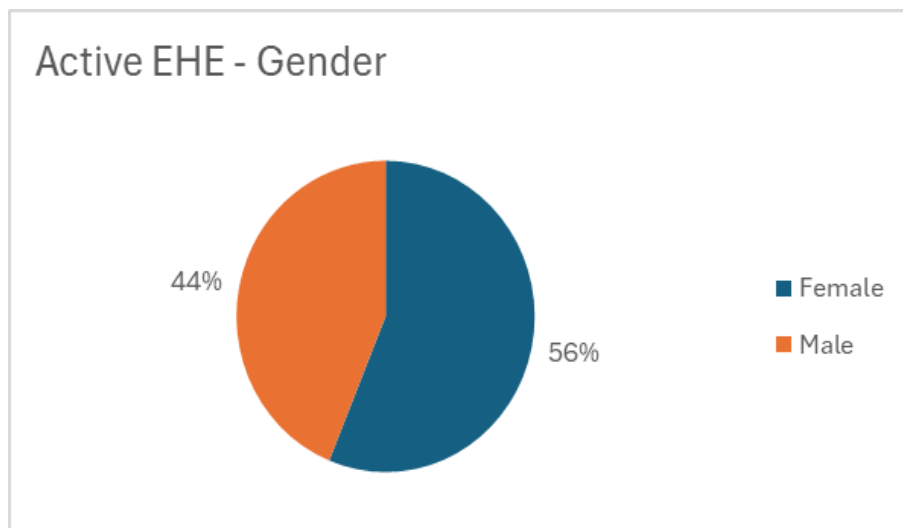
EHE Learner data by numbers from Summer 2024 to Spring Term 2025:

- The information below shows the number of new EHE learners and those who have also returned to school or moved out of area and includes year 11 learners. This data is subject to change weekly.



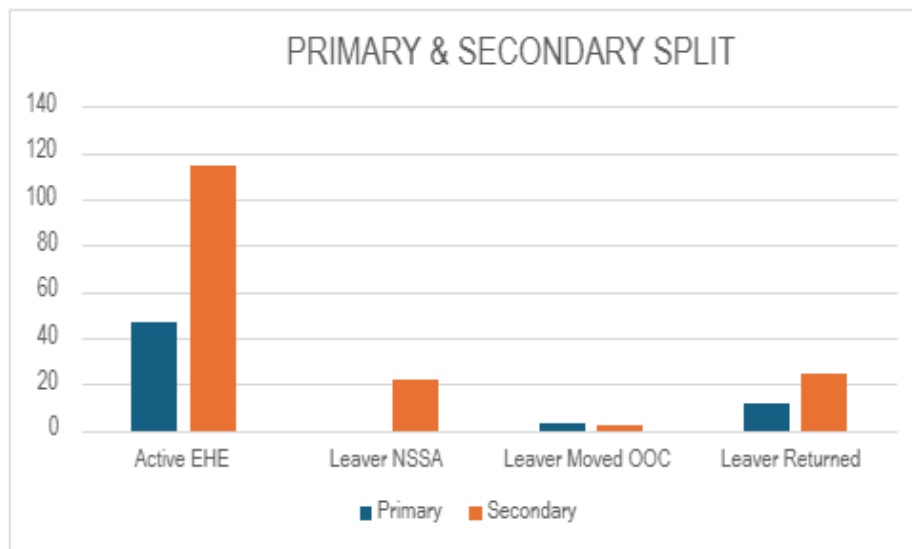
EHE Learner data by gender from Summer 2024 to Spring Term 2025:

- Current active EHE learners by gender percentage can be seen below. These percentages include leavers to EHE and those moving out of catchment.



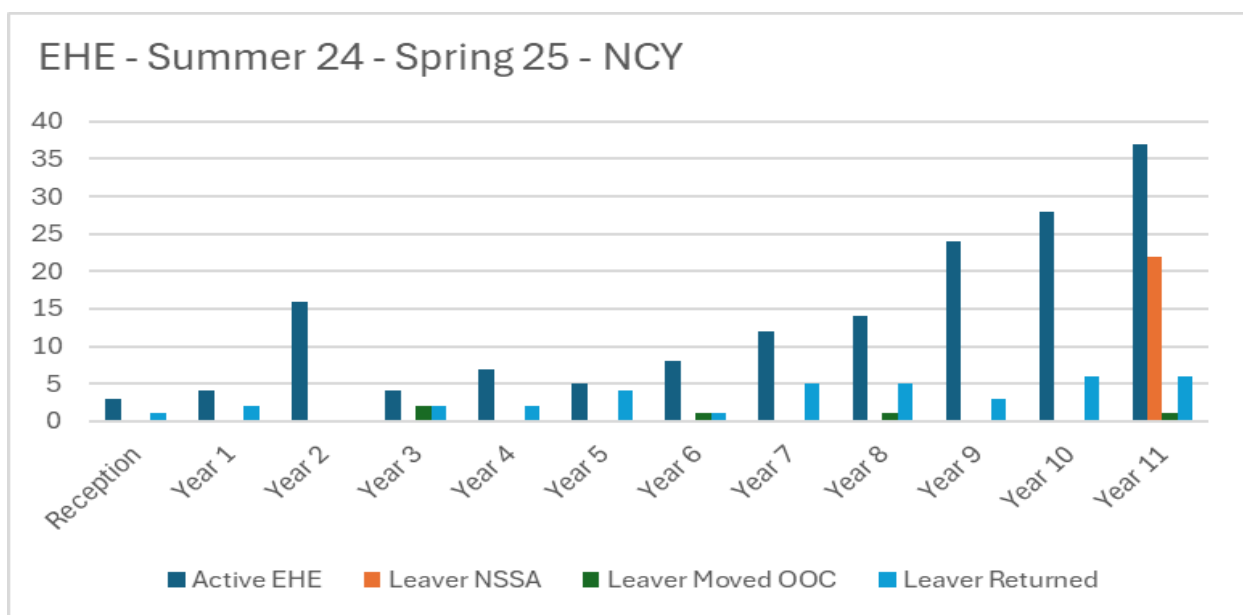
EHE Learners – Primary & Secondary split 2024-2025

- The overall number of EHE learners is higher in secondary schools than in primary schools. Monmouthshire has seen an increase in the number of Key stage 4 EHE learners.



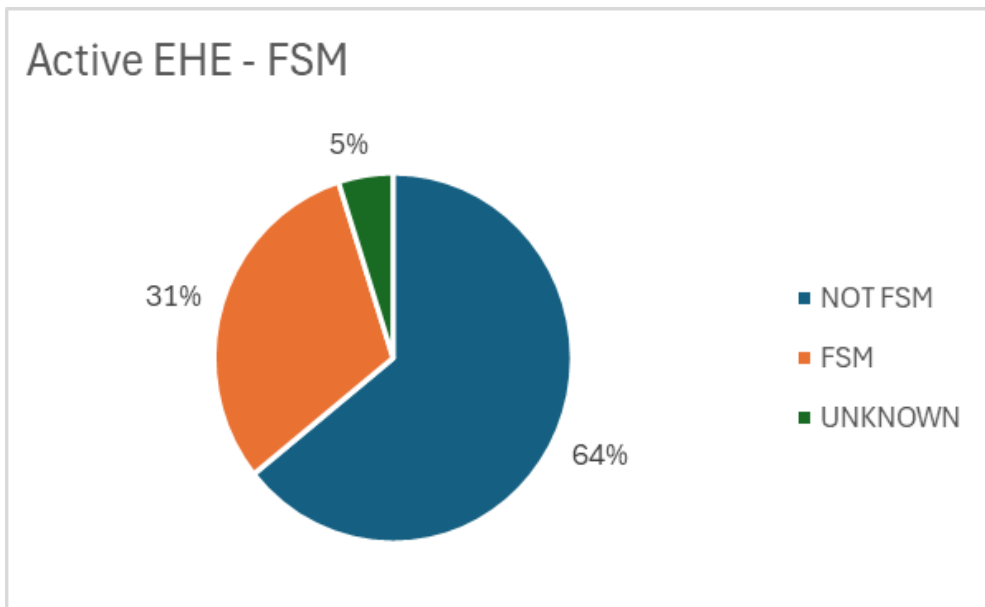
EHE Learner data by academic year:

- The breakdown of EHE learners by their academic year group is included in the chart below.
- In the period between the Summer 2024 and Spring term 2025 the number of EHE learners in years 10 and 11 are much higher than for other year groups. There are many reason for this increase including Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA), mental health and anxiety and learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) which show an increasing trend since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There has also been a rise in the number of EHE learners in Year 2. This may reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.



EHE Learner FSM from Summer 2024 to Spring Term 2025:

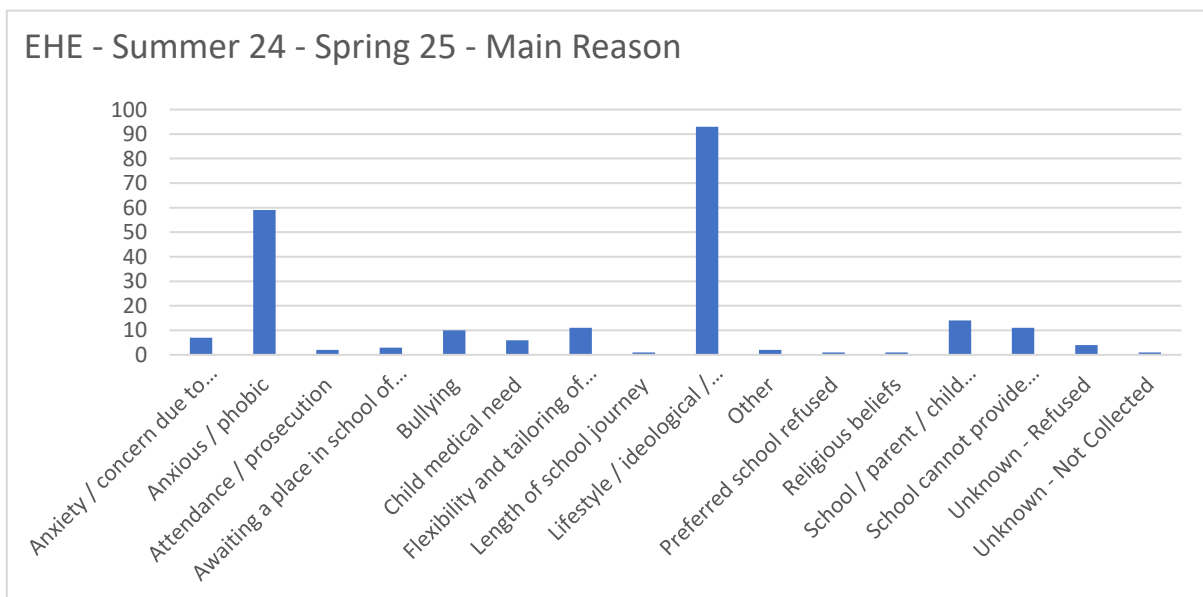
- EHE Learners who are eligible for free School Meals (FSM) do not access their school meals when they de-register. This chart shows the current EHE learners and FSM by Percentage. Where it is unknown learners may not have registered at an education establishment and so there would be no records held of eligibility of FSM.



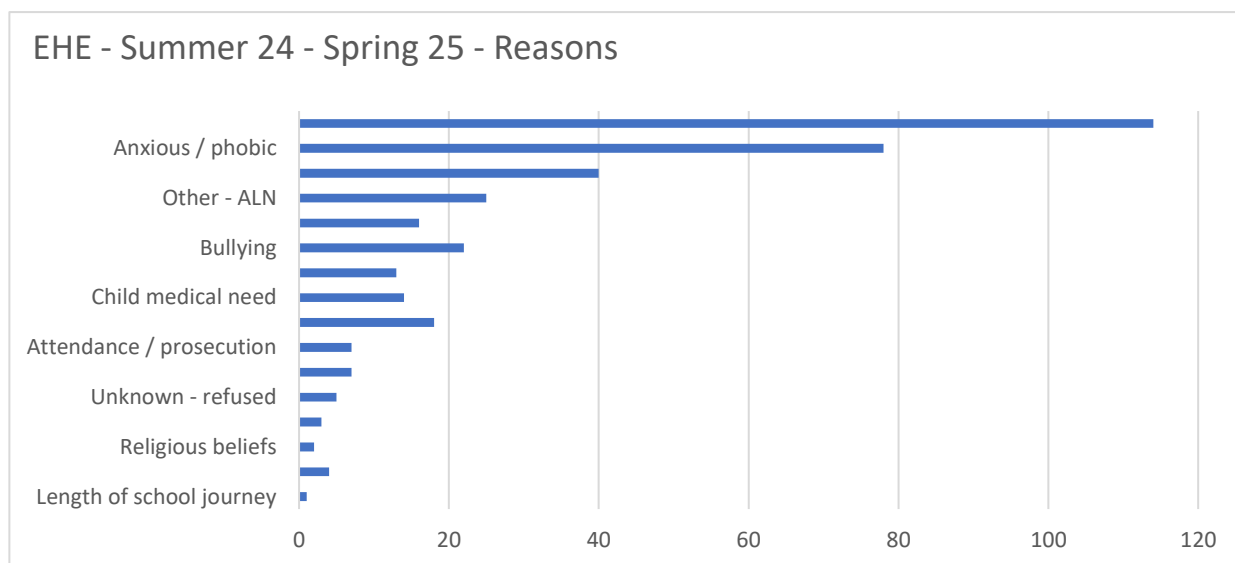
Reasons for De-registration:

EHE Learner reasons from Summer 2024 to Spring Term 2025:

- As far as reasonably possible the local authority (LA) will gain a reason for de-registration from school and Family, some families do not wish to give a reason. The LA will ask the school to complete a form to identify the reason and a form is also provided to parents. Where reasons for de-registration such as Bullying are identified the LA will discuss with school and the LA Inclusion team. The LA will always advise the school meets with families to discuss reason for their decision.
- The graph below shows the main reasons for de-registration is the family's lifestyle, ideological beliefs. Anxiety/EBSA have shown an increase since the Covid-19 pandemic but not the reason provided for the cause of the anxiety, this is now more linked to mental health, trauma, possible ACEs and possible ALN.

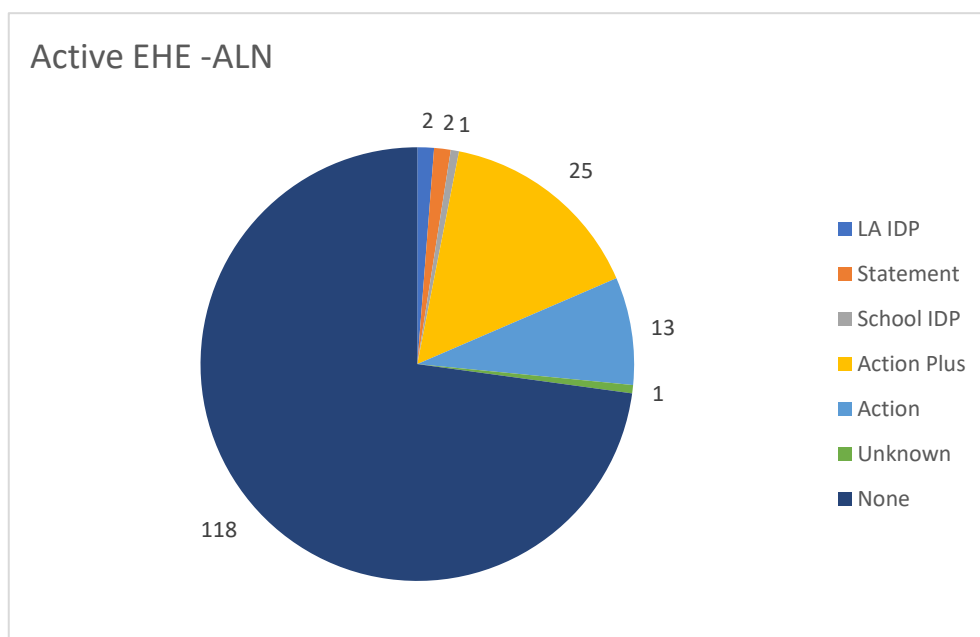


- The chart below show all the reasons provided by families for de-registration.



EHE Learner where there is ALN/Barrier to learning & Engagement from Summer 2024 to Spring Term 2025:

- The pie chart below shows those EHE learners where school or family has indicated that there is an ALN element or where they were receiving additional support in school or who are seeking the LA to determine if their child has ALN and those who may have a school or LA Individual Development Plan (IDP)
- The LA will advise families to the WG guidance on EHE and ALN and provide a copy of the WG EHE Handbook.



Annual Visits/Initial visits (to end of Spring Term 2025)

- The LA endeavours to provide an initial visit to families within the first few weeks of de-registration and then a follow up visit within three months. This time then becomes the annual visit date.
- WG grant funding has enabled the LA to have a dedicated EHE Support officer to carry out this role with the EWS team supporting in some complex cases or where there may need more than one Officer to visit.
- Without the WG grant funding this would put a massive pressure on the EWS team to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the LA in the WG statutory guidance.

NEW EHE - INITIAL VISIT

EHE Status	Yes	No	Total
Active EHE*	64	9	73
Leaver Returned	10	4	14
Grand Total	74	13	87

*1 No was EHE less than 2 weeks

ANNUAL VISITS - WITHIN 12 MONTHS

EHE Status	Yes	No	Total
Active EHE*	95	67	162
Leaver NSSA	19	3	22
Leaver Moved OOC	4	1	5
Leaver Returned	30	7	37
Grand Total	148	78	226

*45 No were EHE less than 12 months

The LA submits numbers of new EHE learners and those that have returned to an educational establishment or moved out of area each month to Data Cymru.

The LA attend the All Wales National Steering Group (NSG) EHE Meetings.

Efficiency in spending the WG Grant funding:

- The LA has a duty to carry out its responsibility in line with WG guidance for EHE and this is further supported by the WG grant by enhancing the capacity of the EHE team by having a dedicated Officer to dedicate the time to carry out home visits and additional visits if necessary.
- There are two elements within the WG Grant funding which are split into Staff costs and learner enrichment. The current amount received for learning engagement is small and is based on numbered of EHE learners when the funding was initially provided (76)
- The universal offer within MCC utilises the grant to its full capacity and MCC offer a varied universal offer in line with the Terms and conditions of the grant.

MCC current Universal Offer using WG Staff Grant funding:

- 1 x FT EHE Support Officer – Temporary post through the WG funding (until 31.03.26)
- 1 x Lead EHE Support Officer Admin top up time by Senior Education Welfare officer who leads on Elective Home Education (until 31.03.26)

MCC current Universal Offer incorporating some of the elements using WG Family Grant funding:

WG EHE Grant Funding 2024 – 2025	
Activity	Aim/ Impact
Enhancing capacity of Local Authority. Appointment of EHE Support Officer. Top up for Admin support by Senior Lead EHE Officer	To ensure that each learner has an initial visit and Annual visit. To support admin/organisational tasks. Enhanced relationship building with EHE families through increased contact.
Outdoor Activity Days- Mon Life (WG grant funded)	To offer outdoor activity days, Gorge Walking, Caving, Paddle Boarding, Steam Walking, bushcraft, Archery. To offer social enrichment days for EHE learners. Provide an opportunity for families to network with other EHE families. Activities split by age of activities due to Risk assessments of activities.
Enrichment Activity Days- Cute Farm Experience (WG grant funded)	To provide learning opportunities for families at a local venue. To offer social enrichment days for EHE learners. Provide an opportunity for families to network with other EHE families. Cute Farm Experience - walking lamas, meeting miniature donkeys with grooming/ petting sessions and young farmer day.
Fire & Rescue Service	Visits to the Fire & rescue service have taken place previously (Usk Fire Station) who provided an educational informative practical session for EHE learners and families and provided resources free of charge. The link for this has changed and so further communication is taking place to reinstate some more sessions.
GCSE Examination base offer. Administration and Invigilation costs covered. Exam costs covered (when possible) (WG grant funded)	To provide Year 11 learners with an opportunity to sit GCSEs at a recognised examination centre. To provide more options of examinations not just WJEC – IGCSE, Pearson etc. English and Maths and Welsh could be funded where possible– this is due to numbers in the cohort. Use of County Hall, Usk as an examination base to EHE learners. Processing of any access arrangement requirements. Invigilation and training of staff to cover examinations. Collection and delivery of examination papers from PRU bases (PRU have allocated examination Officer)
Careers Wales Support	Careers Advice is available for next steps. Referrals with agreement are made. There is a designated EHE Careers officer who the team met regularly with and works with Learners who are EHE.

	Ensure information is disseminated to EHE learners that would be accessible if they were educated in schools. Free resources are sometimes sourced to add to the enrichment educational resource bags.
Face to Face Counselling	To provide access to counselling services which they which would usually be available at school. Designated EHE Counsellors through Service area. To ensure EHE learners have access to wellbeing and mental health support.
Referrals to Wider agencies e.g. SPACE WB, ALN	Referrals to support the Learners needs are considered and made. The relevant support is made available to the Learner and Family. To ensure EHE learners have access to wellbeing and mental health support. Safeguarding processes are followed where there may be a concern. WG guidance provided for parents to request to the LA to determine any ALN they feel their child may have.
Parent Welsh Language Courses (WG link provided)	March 2025 - WG are working with an agency who can provide Welsh lessons to parents so they can then educate their own children to enrich their home learning – MCC have asked parents for expression of interest which has been shared with WG, there were a low number of parents that replied (less than 10). Information was sent out to families via email as it was a first come first served basis through WG.
Signposting to Educational support Websites.	To share information of on-line resources that can enrich learning. Advice on philosophical approach to education given in discussions with learner/parent.
Book Vouchers. Bag of Educational resources. (WG grant funded)	Each EHE Learner received a £40 book voucher to enrich their literacy/numeracy skills and areas of interest. Resource bags contain age-appropriate educational enrichment resources some of which include – Scientific calculator, Workbooks, Paint & Brushes, Paper, Craft activities, Clay, Revision cards, Pens, pencils, highlighters, dictionary, maths games, literacy games, wellbeing books.
The EHE Team are continually discussing and sourcing different enrichment activities to enhance the offer for EHE learners.	

Effectiveness:

- The WG grant funding has enabled us to provide a good local authority universal package of support for EHE families. As a result, Monmouthshire has a clear offer of support and effective staff working so that families who may have not engaged previously with the local authority are more willing to do so.
- The increase in opportunities for learners and their families to participate in organised face to face activities, is proving very beneficial in strengthening relationships between home and EHE officers.
- Partnership working with schools, Access/Admissions, Housing, Social Services and other local authorities is continually improving.

- Our data recording processes are robust and ensure that we hold accurate up to date information about the EHE families we are aware of and work with regularly.
- Regular team meetings ensure we are aware of all families within Monmouthshire who are EHE or who have moved into the area who may be EHE and monitor where EHE learners may become CME.

EHE Year 11 Learner – Examination Entries 2025

- The WG funding enabled the Local Authority to support Year 11 learners in 2024-2025 who were taking examinations, unfortunately the amount of grant could not subsidise the cost of examinations. In previous years the LA have paid for English x 2, Mathematics x 2 and Welsh examinations, this has not been possible in 2024-2025 due to higher numbers.
- The LA has provided a local base - Usk, County Hall as an Examination base for EHE learners, supported any examination dispensation requests, examination paper collection and delivery from the main examination base in Chepstow and provided trained staff for Invigilation.
- There have been 9 EHE Learners taking a total of 68 examinations fully financed by their families this year.
- The range of examinations and low cost of entries has provided families the opportunity to enter multiple examinations as other local independent examination bases in Monmouthshire, Bristol or Hereford have higher administrative costs. Monmouthshire has worked to keep these costs as low as possible for EHE families.

Post 16 Leavers:

- All Year 11 learners are signposted to Careers Wales and referrals made with consent from EHE Learner/Parent.
- Careers Wales provides on-line sessions and Social Media information which is shared with all EHE families in Year 10 and Year 11.
- Families are also signposted to the Inspire to Achieve team for advice and support for next steps.

Elective Home Education (EHE) linked to Children Missing Education (CME)

- We do not currently have any EHE children who are on our CME list, as not receiving a suitable and efficient education where the LA is looking to put a School Attendance Order in place.
- The LA have held discussions with less than five families following their offer of a visit which have resulted in firm discussions over returning to school due the LA Officers not being able to determine if the education is suitable and efficient. These Learners and families were supported by LA in attending re-integration meetings at school and offered advice on supportive plans to ensure a smooth transition, this prevented consideration of a School Attendance Order.
- During any visit, if there are any safeguarding concerns the process of submitting a Duty to Report (DtR) to Children's Services is followed. The EHE team are trained to Level 2 (Group C) Safeguarding.
- MCC are part of the WG Children Missing Education (CME) Pilot Project within Wales to establish a Register/Database for CME pupils. The LA have worked with WG in the lead up to the Pilot going live. Health data was received and cross referenced with data held by the LA. Private Independent School records have been shared with the LA as part of the

regulations. There is a higher number of potential CME pupils within Monmouthshire due to having four Independent Schools.

- If a pupil cannot be located, the LA will follow their CME Processes in line with the CME Policy.

Professional learning and practice worth sharing

- The LA attends all consortia and national NSG EHE meetings to ensure the EHE service remains up to date with current developments in this area. This information is regularly disseminated to the team and informs future developments in EHE practice in the local authority

Finance – Value for Money

Welsh Government Grant Funding: Total grant - £64,062	Senior Education Welfare Officer leads on Elective home education as part of their role.
£50,000.00 – Staffing	The WG grant funding for 2024/2025 has secured the capacity of an EHE Support Officer to full time.
£14,062.00 – Learner Engagement	

Self-Evaluation: Good with some practice worth sharing

In light of the above evaluative evidence, the above judgement applies:

Self-evaluation judgement:	Work in this area is judged to be good with some practice worth sharing. Monmouthshire has been asked by WG to share good practice and recording at All Wales NSG EHE meetings. The local authority's work to implement new strategies to improve the data recording and analysis of EHE learners has been developed to a good standard. The use of Welsh Government funding has increased the LA's staffing capacity which has enabled the LA to build on community relationships and support EHE learners and families. The strong features of practice include: • Increased contact with EHE families • Strong engagement with schools • Team commitment • Coordinated approach for annual visits • Robust strategies for follow up • Robust use of data recording and analysis • Effective partnerships with schools, Access/Admissions, Children's Services, other LA's, Housing • Recording and reporting of information is effective • Promotion of services available to EHE learners e.g. Health Services, Face to Face Counselling, Careers etc. The judgement for our work remains good as strong progress has been made to support EHE learner's and their families support.
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Follow Up Actions:

- To continue to work with outside agencies to ensure learners are EHE not CME.
- To continue to work collaboratively with outside agencies in supporting EHE learner as and their families.
- To develop further data analysis to provide the LA with termly/yearly trends, information on support avenues that may be required for EHE learners and families.
- To update the LA EHE Policy following new WG EHE Guidance.

Report completed by:

Michelle Kear – Senior Education Welfare Officer & Lead Elective Home Education Officer

Date: June 2025 for People Scrutiny Committee

Reviewed by:

Sharon Randall-Smith - Head of Service

Date: July 2025