

**SUBJECT: ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION – MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT**

**MEETING: PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**1. PURPOSE:**

1.1 This report evaluates Monmouthshire's strategy, monitoring, and support for Elective Home Education (EHE) learners from 2024 to spring 2025, including the use of Welsh Government grant funding and the Children Missing Education (CME) database pilot.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 That the People Scrutiny Committee receives the report and scrutinises its contents to inform any further necessary engagement with this topic.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

3.1 The Education Welfare Service (EWS) works with families to support EHE learners, through annual visits and regular EHE engagement activities. Most initial visits occur within four weeks following deregistration. EWS provide advice, guidance and resources to support EHE families in providing their children's education.

3.2 Welsh Government grant funding supports a full-time EHE Support Officer to fulfil statutory duties relating to EHE children as well as providing learner enrichment activities, examination support, careers advice, counselling, referrals to wider agencies, educational resources such as book vouchers to enhance learning opportunities.

3.3 The local authority provides an examination base for Year 11 EHE learners and supports exam administration. All Year 11 EHE learners receive careers guidance and are signposted to further education support services as appropriate.

3.4 There has been a significant rise in EHE registrations since the COVID-19 pandemic, with 119 learners registered as EHE in 2024-2025 compared to 60 in 2019-2020.

3.5 Secondary school EHE numbers exceed primary, with notable increases in Years 10 and 11 due to factors such as, Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA), mental health, trauma, additional learning needs. The primary reasons for deregistration from school are family lifestyle, however there is an increase in anxiety related reasons rising post-pandemic.

3.6 The local authority fulfils its legal duty to identify children not registered at school or receiving suitable education, working closely with CME officers to monitor and support learners, sharing information with the Access Team and other relevant

agencies.

**3.7** Participation in the Welsh Government CME pilot, has supported the maintenance of accurate data and collaboration with a range of agencies to ensure learners are properly identified as EHE or CME and safeguarding concerns are managed according to established procedures

**4. REASONS:**

**4.1** To report Monmouthshire's strategy, monitoring, and support for Elective Home Education (EHE) learners from 2024 to spring 2025 and ask the scrutiny committee to consider the full report attached as Appendix 1, providing feedback and making recommendations to the Council's Cabinet, as appropriate.

**5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable for this report.

**5.1 EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

Not required for a performance report.

**6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

Not required for a performance report.

**7. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Not required.

**8. CONSULTEES:**

CLSE DMT

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

The Children Missing Education (CME) database pilot.

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