

Review of the National Panel EHE Briefing

Recommendation 3:

The Panel recommends that safeguarding partnerships assure themselves about the effectiveness of their local systems pertaining to the safeguarding practice for children electively home educated.

This should include considering whether:

Recommendation/Action Point	Our Feedback	Any Actions
1. Children are clearly identified as Electively Home Educated (EHE) or Children Missing from Education (CME), and that safeguarding partners receive regular data about the numbers, characteristics and issues of concern about children who are being EHE or missing education.	<p>It was noted that parents do not have to inform the Local Authorities about their decision to home school children, and the Local Authority usually hear about this decision when the school are removing the children from the school role (which means opportunities to attend pre-meets to try and understand the reasons and possibly persuade the parents otherwise have been missed).</p> <p>Within Central Bedfordshire a child's EHE status is recorded on the Social Care system Mosaic, which the Education Team also have access to. CME is recorded on Synergy. Information about EHE children is shared with health partners to help with vaccinations etc.</p> <p>Characteristics such as CP/CIN/EHE and any history is recorded on Synergy.</p> <p>The CBSCP receive an Annual Report in relation to CME and EHE – includes information relating to ethnicity, age, CP, CIN etc.</p> <p>Bedford Borough Council – Senior Education Welfare Officer shares information with the Early Help Manager. Reports/Data would only be provided to the Board Meetings if that theme is being discussed – but access to the data is readily available.</p>	

	<p>Regular audits completed on children who are CP/CIN and EHE.</p> <p>Luton – in relation to EHE data on numbers and characteristics are available and the Education Team try to attend as many CP/CIN Meetings as possible. There is a Database called ‘Eyes’ – The Social Care Team also have access to Eyes, this system flags EHE and also records any social care history. CME is monitored by the Family Partnership Team. The Safeguarding Education Team only receive only receive info re CME if it’s requested.</p> <p>EHE/CME Data is recorded on the LSCP Data Scorecard.</p> <p>Section 175 Audits – Schools provide a score on EHE, but no data.</p>	
<p>2. Children’s voices, needs and perspectives have been considered in the decision by the parent/carer to home educate them.</p>	<p>As mentioned above in 99% of the cases, the Local Authority is informed once the decision has been made and the child has left the school.</p> <p>Central Bedfordshire – once the Local Authority has been notified, they do contact the family via letter (the numbers would make face to face visits to all families difficult). The Letter does include a section asking the children for their views, but it cannot be guaranteed that the parents share this with the child.</p> <p>CBC have a risk matrix which we will help determine if reviews/contact takes place 3, 6, 9, 12 monthly (contact maybe be by letter/email)</p> <p>Luton – The team do try to have face to face meetings with families once they are notified of</p>	<p>Could we have an information leaflet/space on our Safeguarding Bedfordshire Website for young people, with contact details of the teams if they wished to make contact.</p>

	<p>an EHE child. They also carry out annual reviews face to face.</p> <p>Bedford Borough – They do not have any specific process that collect the children’s views – they receive online notifications that usually say ‘we’.</p> <p>It was noted by all areas that if/when families are see face to face, children/young people are always seen in the presence of their parents.</p> <p>Sometime a difficult situation, if families change their mind and the schools place is no longer left – difficulty with waiting lists for school places.</p>	
<p>3. Roles and responsibilities in relation to EHE are understood by all statutory agencies, including local authority education teams, and that they know what to do if they are concerned that children who are EHE may be at risk of harm and may be being deliberately hidden from the sight of statutory agencies.</p>	<p>Good understanding within the Local Authorities.</p> <p>Generally, referrals are received to all Local Authorities from Health, and in particular from GP’s (but this is from certain GP’s).</p> <p>Some Housing and Police referrals received – but more awareness is still needed.</p> <p>On-going awareness with partners is needed (particularly as staff turn in some agencies can be high).</p>	<p>On-going awareness with partners is needed.</p>
<p>4. The role and contribution of different health professionals is well understood that they have a good understanding of EHE as they may at times be the only professionals with regular contact with this group of children. This should include consideration of the role of GPs and school nurses, and particularly for those who have an EHCP.</p>	<p>As mentioned above some EHE referrals are received from some Health colleagues – but a full response is needed from Health Colleagues regarding this recommendation.</p>	<p>Assurance from Health colleagues required.</p>

<p>5. Children's vulnerabilities and safeguarding needs are understood at the point of being removed from school rolls, including if there have been concerns about not being brought to health appointments.</p>	<p>The Local Authority EHE Teams would know any safeguarding information via Mosaic and Liquid Logic but would not have access to health information such 'Was not Brought' information.</p> <p>All 3 teams receive information regarding Domestic Abuse notifications (encompass) through their MASH's.</p> <p>Luton – When the face-to-face visits are completed, they do enquire about physical development. In Central Bedfordshire this is also enquired about through the letters.</p> <p>Bedford – specifically ask about medical needs, SEND and any other professionals involved.</p>	<p>Could we enquire about how medical appointment arrangements/vaccinations through our regular contact visits/letters?</p>
<p>6. Where and when necessary, a suitable multi-agency plan has been developed and implemented to enable the child and family to receive the help and protection they may need.</p>	<p>If CP, CIN, TAF Plans are in place the EHE Officers try to attend as many as possible to feed into the plans, if they are invited.</p> <p>Regular Audits are completed to check if EHE children are/have become CP or CIN.</p>	
<p>7. Particular attention, if appropriate, is given to children where there have been previous safeguarding concerns.</p>	<p>This information is checked on the Mosaic and liquid logic systems and would feed into the plan/arrangements about how often these families are seen/contacted/priority visits.</p>	