

Elective Home Education Newsletter 2018-2019

Happy New Year! I am writing to all home educating families to provide an update on a range of items and look forward to supporting you again this year.

Louise Tatton: Lead Officer for EHE
Tel 01983 821000 ext 6856 or 07581571832;
E-mail louise.tatton@iow.gov.uk

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❖ Keeping in touch

Email updates are regularly sent to the Learning

Zone and one of the EHE Facebook groups, but if there are other EHE support groups who would like to be added to my contacts list, please let me have a name and email contact for the group.

❖ Elective Home Education Policy

The Local Authority's EHE Policy, Frequently Asked Questions and information on a wide range of resources and support (including previous EHE Newsletters) are available at:

www.iwight.com/council/OtherServices/Educating-at-Home/Elective-Home-Education-EHE

Please let me know if you have any comments or queries about the EHE Policy or would like further FAQs to be added.

I have been asked if there has been a change of policy regarding young people who do not appear to be receiving a suitable home education. I can confirm that there is no change in the Isle of Wight EHE Policy. On some occasions, concerns about a child's education may arise from an EHE visit or report, information from other professionals involved with the family and/or information from relatives or a member of the public. Any concerns are raised with the family who have the opportunity to provide additional evidence about the education being provided.

The Local Authority's role is set out in sections 437 to 443 of the Education Act 1996:

"If it appears to a local education authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring him to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education."

❖ EHE Bill

In June 2017 the Home Education (Duty of Local Authorities) Bill 2017-19 had its first reading in the House of Lords. The bill, introduced by Lord Soley, aims to increase the duties of local authorities to monitor the home education being provided by parents and to make the registration of all EHE children compulsory (currently schools notify the LA of those who have left school but parents have no duty to register home educated children who have never been to school).

The Bill completed its House of Lords stages and was presented to the House of Commons on 24 July 2018. This is known as the first reading and there was no debate on the Bill at this stage. The Bill is expected to have its second reading debate on Friday 1 February 2019.

The Department for Education has also completed a consultation on new Guidance for Elective Home Education and we are awaiting the outcome of this. Whatever the outcome, the Isle of Wight Local Authority will seek to continue to work collaboratively with the local EHE community and I will keep you informed of any further developments.

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❖ Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

For those young people with an EHCP, a review will be carried out by the local authority's SEND Team every 12 months and I am happy to attend these annual reviews. The EHCP will be amended to reflect the fact that the young person is home educated. The education you provide should be suitable to your child's age, ability, aptitude and any special needs, although you may provide this in a different way to a school.

If you think your child has additional needs, you can apply for an EHCP for your child whilst they are being home educated. You will need to collect evidence to demonstrate that your child has significantly greater difficulties than other children of the same age and would require much greater support than other children if he/she attended school. If the Local Authority agrees to carry out an EHC needs assessment, an assessment by an Educational Psychologist would be arranged by them. The Local Authority would also request evidence from relevant health care and social care professionals

If you have any queries please contact sen.general@iow.gov.uk

SENDASS Isle of Wight offers free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to parents and carers of young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) as well as young people themselves: <http://iowsendiass.co.uk/>

Tel 01983 825548; Email sendiass@iow.gov.uk

The Local Offer: www.iwight.com/localoffer

The Isle of Wight Council is committed to ensuring that all children and young people aged 0 to 25 have the best start in life. Children and young people with the most complex needs and their parents and carers may need access to ongoing support and advice. We aim to provide a range of support so that children and young people with SEND can be educated and enjoy social opportunities alongside their peers, in their local community. Short Breaks activities are a good example of this:

www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/care-and-Support/Short-Breaks/

❖ Information for Year 11 students

It is never too early to be planning for the future and I will shortly write to the parents of all Year 11 home educated students with more information. Open evenings at a number of post-16 providers on the Isle of Wight and the mainland have already started and there is a lot to be said for looking at all the options available.

Island Futures provide a lot of useful information on their website:

www.iwight.com/islandfutures

This includes a free weekly opportunities bulletin for young people, updated every Friday; Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities, along with local jobs, are advertised and information is available on courses provided by The Isle of Wight College and local work-based learning providers including SMART, CLC and HTP. This is also available on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/islandfutures



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❖ College provision for EHE young people aged 14-16

There is no cost for tuition but parents will have to pay for travel costs and materials. There is no bursary available for 14-16 year old students.

The Isle of Wight College continue to offer part-time vocational courses to Years 10 or 11 home educated students and these include Functional Skills or GCSEs in Maths and/or English. The college also offers a GCSE programme for home educated students, offering up to 5 GCSEs. **Students must be home educated for at least 6 months before the start of the course in September and show evidence that they have the maturity to do well in the college environment.**

NB: College Open Day: 26th January 10.00 - 14.00; Open Evening 5th March 16.00 - 18.00.

Please note that the college cannot be named as an educational provider for a young person aged 14-16 with an educational, health and social care plan (EHCP) so are generally unable to offer courses for home educated young people with considerable special educational needs in Key Stage 4.

Please contact Michael Joy (Student Progress Advisor):

Tel 01983 550687; E-mail michael.joy@iwcollege.ac.uk

Platform One College of Music has developed a new Level 2 Technical Diploma in Music in partnership with Pearson (BTEC). The programme is a Post-16 course but would also be ideal for any EHE student in Year 11. If your son or daughter may be interested in this course for September 2019, **please contact David Pontin (Director, Platform One College of Music): Tel 01983 537550**

❖ Examinations

There are many changes taking place in GCSEs and A Levels currently. Home educated students are still able to sit these and other examinations, including iGCSEs, as external candidates. **Please remember that external candidates cannot submit coursework, sit speaking and listening assessments or complete mandatory practical tests or experiments. This means that students may have to change to a different qualification or syllabus from those they have been studying in school. This can be particularly challenging for a young person leaving school in Years 10 or 11 so parents who are considering home education at this stage of a child's schooling are advised to contact me or one of the home education support groups before making the decision.** Parents may like to look at the following websites for detailed updates, including information on how to request additional needs/access arrangements, if required:

<http://edyourself.org/articles/exams.php> <http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/FAQ>

Cowes Enterprise College is continuing to accept external candidates this academic year.

Contact: Annie Hambley (Exams Officer) Tel: 01983 203103;

E-mail: AHambley@cowesec.org

Parents are expected to pay for the cost of the GCSE entry, an administration fee per exam plus invigilator costs.



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❖ Support for young people with mental health issues

The YoungMinds crisis messenger service provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need support, you can text YM to 85258:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/>

They aim to connect every texter to a trained volunteer in less than 5 minutes to provide support in a crisis. They will listen to you and help you think through how you're feeling, and will aim to help you take the next steps towards feeling better.

The trained volunteer will introduce themselves, reflect on what you've said, and invite you to share how you're feeling. You'll text each other, only sharing what you feel comfortable with. By asking questions, listening to you and responding with support, they will help you think through your feelings until you both feel you are now in a calm, safe place. You might be signposted to other services, so that you can continue to get support.

The YoungMinds crisis messenger service could help with urgent issues such as:

- Suicidal thoughts
- Abuse or assault
- Self-harm
- Bullying
- Relationship breakdown

You can text free and anonymously – although if the volunteer believes you are at immediate risk of harm, they may share your details with people who can provide support.

'For Me', is an app launched by Childline, which will help provide counselling and support to children and young people directly through their mobile phone:

www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/childline-launches-new-app/

The app, designed by young people in partnership with Barclays, aims to improve how children and young people get support from organisations like Childline and the NSPCC

Barnardo's also offer a counselling service for children and young people called Talk2.

The service can be accessed by referral from a doctor or health professional or alternatively parents can contact Barnardo's directly and meet with the counsellor to see if Talk2 is right for their child.

The Youth Trust offers counselling to young people up to the age of 25 and they can be contacted directly on 01983 529569 or www.iowyouthtrust.co.uk

