

Correspondence with Cardiff scrutiny committee councillors May 2025

Dear Councillor,

We gather that the topic of Elective Home Education was discussed by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee in September 2024. This has only just come to our attention, so we have not had the opportunity to explore reports and comments relating to that session before now. Unfortunately, whilst we do not have access to a recording of the meeting, from the accounts, minutes and reports on the council website, there are some areas of concern including indications of some likely areas of misinformation. We appreciate that some time has passed since that meeting, making it difficult to address these now.

If you could let us know if elective home education is due to be discussed in forthcoming meetings, that would be most helpful, including forwarding us any copies of reports in advance.

This would, we are sure, allow a more beneficial and rounded discussion during such meetings. Sadly, it is not unusual for us as home educators to meet examples of institutionalised bias and discriminatory attitudes, usually based on lack of understanding of elective home education including false conflation with other cohorts of children. Regrettably, speaking on a national level, it is also not unusual to find that council staff do not have an adequate understanding of their lawful role and remit, a potential strongly suggested by some of the statements we have read in relation to the meeting in question here. If the Committee is scheduled to discuss elective home education in the future, it would indeed be most helpful to be able to clarify any misunderstandings ahead of time.

Would you be interested in meeting with a member of our network to explore and discuss the experiences of home educators, including the reasons for concern regarding comments and statements from the last meeting?

We are sure that could be mutually beneficial, especially in light of your legal experience.

Kind regards,

Home Ed Cymru - A national home educators' support network