

Report title: Home Education and Children Missing Education	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 14 October 2021	For: Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

This item has been requested by the Chairman as an initial introduction and update on the issue and challenges of Home Education in Essex.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider:

- (i) **The attached update; and**
- (ii) **Identify any follow-up scrutiny actions**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee last discussed in detail the issue of Home Education on 16 January 2020. At that meeting it was reported that the Cabinet Member had hosted a cross party group of members to look into issues around children missing education and the Committee were asked to support ECC's approach to continue lobbying on this issue. Links to the relevant meeting paper for that meeting and the minutes are here –

[PAF agenda paper 16 January 2020 - Children Missing from Education briefing](#)

[PAF 16 January 2020 minutes](#)

- 3.2 The cross-party group has now been re-established to coordinate shared, ongoing concerns in relation to this cohort of children and young people and to further consider the Education Select Committee report published last year (link below).

House of Commons Education Select Committee – Strengthening Home Education – 26 July 2021

[Strengthening Home Education - 21 July 2021](#)

Home Education and Children Missing Education

4. Update and Next Steps

The update is attached in the Appendix. Next steps are as proposed under Action Required.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

County Councillor Tony Ball, Cabinet Member – Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning and Employability.

Clare Kershaw - Director, Education

Michael OBrien - Head of Specialist Education Services

Anita Patel-Lingam - Statutory Education Compliance Manager

5 List of Appendices

Briefing Paper: Home Education/Children Missing Education