

Email to KCC Cabinet Members and Roger Gough

Dear Roger,

Further to our brief conversation this afternoon, I would like to register my deep concerns regarding the proposed EHE policy that you and other cabinet members are due to vote on on Monday.

I, and other home educators, take issue with the following:

- the blatant disregard for the law - the policy is a perfect example of ultra vires behaviour
- inaccuracies in the interpretation of the law regarding elective home education
- lack of evidence to support the policy
- evidence provided in the summary report is taken out of context and not applicable
- lack of consultation with the home education community
- conflating education with welfare

To suggest that parents who refuse a local authority visit should be deemed not to be providing a suitable education for their child is a downright misuse of authority and twisting the law for the wrong purposes. The LA has no such right or duty! Below is a communication between Elizabeth Truss MP to Graham Stuart MP Chair of the Education Select Committee last month. She reminds local authorities they must follow the 2007 Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities which clearly states in section 3.6 "Where a parent elects not to allow access to their home or their child, this does not of itself constitute a ground for concern about the education provision being made." These guidelines are statutory!

<http://www.grahamstuart.com/2014/06/minister-supports-grahams-call-for-local-authorities-to-follow-government-guidelines-on-home-education/>

This is but one of many inaccuracies in this draft policy that seeks to register and monitor home education where there is no duty to do so.

I urge you to take another look at the policy before the vote on Monday and ask questions. This is not the first time since Patrick Leeson arrived at KCC that the education department are seeking to step beyond their legal remit. I would be more than happy meet with you to discuss where the policy goes wrong and how KCC can engage with the home ed community in a positive way. Two years ago, home educators tried to engage with Patrick Leeson and his team to prevent an ultra vires policy from being implemented. We were promised consultation and have yet to meet with anyone from the EHE team. It is disappointing to note that despite all the attempts to educate the education department on the law and EHE over the years, the team have still got it wrong and are reluctant to meet with stakeholders (which is their duty!!).

I will be copying this email to the rest of the KCC cabinet members, Damian Green MP, Graham Stuart MP and Elizabeth Truss MP.

I trust I will hear from you before the end of the week so you can be better informed prior to your meeting on Monday.