



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
25 JANUARY 2017**

SUBJECT: HOME EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify the Committee of information with regard to elective home education.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III C (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising all the functions of the Council as education authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee scrutinises and notes the information on home education contained in this report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under Section 30 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 it is the duty of the parent of every child of school age to provide an efficient education for him/her suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude either by causing him/her to attend a public school regularly or by other means, which could include educating at home.
- 3.2 Section 37 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 requires the education authority to take action where it is not satisfied that an efficient and suitable education is being provided for a child.
- 3.3 The authority makes annual contact with those families known to be home educating in Moray. This annual contact is not a statutory requirement; however this contact serves to reasonably inform the authority in order to fulfil the duty to serve a notice on any parent who is not providing efficient and suitable education.
- 3.4 Contact is made in writing initially to the family, seeking a meeting or requesting an update. The primary purpose of the contact is for the authority to satisfy itself that suitable and efficient education is being provided. This can be done either through a meeting, at a mutually agreed location, or through other means, for example the submission by the family of written, recorded or electronic material.

- 3.5 Following this contact in 2016, the authority has advised all the home educating families that their educational provision was seen to be suitable and efficient and there will be no need for further contact until 2017.
- 3.6 Where the authority has difficulty in communicating with a family for their annual contact the following steps are taken: contact is made by letter; if there is no response a letter is sent by recorded delivery to the family; a check is made that the child has not been registered in a Moray School, then a request for a search by Children Missing in Education (Scotland) (CME(S)) is made.
- 3.7 Consent to home educate is not needed if: the child has never attended a school under the management of any education authority; the child has never attended a public school under the management of Moray Council education authority; the child is being withdrawn from an independent school; the child has finished primary education in one school but has not started secondary education in another; or the school the child has been attending has closed.
- 3.8 **Appendix 1** to this report details: the number of requests to educate at home approved during the year; the number of children home educated where no consent from the education authority was required; the number of home educated children reaching statutory school leaving age; the number of home educated children re-enrolling in school; the number of home educated children leaving the area (or whereabouts are unknown); and the current number of children currently being educated at home.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) **Moray 2026: A Plan for the Future and Moray Corporate Plan 2015-17**
The contents of this report relate to Moray 2026 Priority 3 – ‘Ambitious and confident young people’.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
None arising from this report.
- (c) **Financial implications**
There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
- (d) **Risk implications**
None.
- (e) **Staffing implications**
None.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities

None.

(h) Consultations

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care); the Education and Social Care Senior Management Team; the Children's Wellbeing Manager; Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant; the Legal Services Manager (Litigation and Licensing); Sonia Campbell, Solicitor (Litigation and Licensing); Katrina McGillivray, Senior Human Resources Adviser; the Equal Opportunities Officer and Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer have been consulted on this report and agree with the sections of the report relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.

Author of Report: Paul Watson, Senior Education Adviser

Background Papers:

Ref:

Appendix 1**Home Education Statistics 2016**

All statistics relate to the period January – December 2016

Number of children known to be educated at home in Moray in January 2016	26
Number of applications to withdraw from school approved	8
Number of children home educated (no consent required)	0
Number of children reaching school leaving age	2
Number of children re-enrolling in school	7
Number of home educated children leaving the area	0
Number of children known to be educated at home in Moray in December 2016	22
Number of home educated children whereabouts now unknown (unable to contact family)	3