

Home Education

Official Newsletter From Educational Freedom

December 2024

Building relationships between LAs and Home Educators.

We wish this was a cheery Christmas newsletter, but home education is being attacked from many angles and we need your support.

Home education is not to blame for the death of Sara Sharif.

We know EHE teams have difficult jobs sometimes, especially when faced with abuse cases. We truly believe though, that current legislation allows you and children's services ample opportunity to safeguard children who are being harmed. We know many home educating families each week who are maliciously referred to children's services by school, neighbours, doctors etc, most of these cases are based purely on the fact the child is home educated, no previous or current safeguarding concerns are known, social workers with no understanding of home education are assigned to the case and end up inadvertently harming innocent families (stress from the investigation, misinformation about home education from the social worker, ongoing cases based solely on being home educated etc). We believe EHE teams should encourage their social workers to actively engage in learning about home education, the legislations and the many approaches families use in their home education. We think this further training will help alleviate some of the unnecessary investigations and misinformation, it will also help social workers see

where there are genuine cases to be involved in, and when the referral was malicious or from ignorance.

Sara Sherif was known to the EHE team because she was deregistered from school, being on a CNIS would not have changed her outcome. There are issues the Children's commissioner, the media and politicians are not talking about. Were the EHE staff working during the summer holidays? Did school raise concerns when they submitted the paperwork to EHE? Did EHE ask children's services about Sara? Without all of the information it is speculation, but it seems Sara was not in receipt of a suitable education and therefore swift action should have been taken because of the harm already known to have happened. What can your EHE team do now to prevent further cases like this? But without penalising innocent home educators.

We believe a CNIS register that includes home educated children will make your job more difficult, home educators will feel as if they are under scrutiny, guilty without any reason, they will be more reluctant to engage with you in any meaningful way. Home educators already have a distrust of the EHE team, whether it's because school failed their child, whether the LA failed the child because of unmet SEN, or whether they see the daily problems home educators face from overzealous LAs. The only way forward, that will benefit all parties is to ensure EHE teams act within legislation, that they are supportive rather than taking an ultra vires monitoring and judgemental role. The LAs who are well known for being supportive and helpful find they have more families reaching out when they need support, rather than struggling without it.

We ask again, what can your service do today to ensure children do not get missed like Sara? What can you do to ensure innocent law abiding home educators are not punished in the process.

We ask you to make your concerns known to the government and Children's Commissioner. We ask you to speak out loudly against the accusations that home education was to blame for Sara's death. And we ask you to make your voice heard that you do not support including home educated children on the CNIS register as it will not protect the children they think it will. It will cause more harm than good.

Our recent article about the death of Sara Sharif and how home education was not to blame.

Read it [HERE](#)



Educational Freedom

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