

	Evidence gathered																									
1	EHE Notification Trends	<p>EHE numbers over the last 7 academic years have risen significantly in Sandwell – peaking at 576 statutory school age children in June 2021. The table below shows the rising trend in numbers at academic year end:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year end</th> <th>14/15</th> <th>15/16</th> <th>16/17</th> <th>17/18</th> <th>18/19</th> <th>19/20</th> <th>20/21</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Statement / EHCP</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>11</td> <td>17</td> <td>23</td> <td>25</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Active EHE</td> <td>142</td> <td>200</td> <td>267</td> <td>300</td> <td>334</td> <td>408</td> <td>576*</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*This is the number of active cases prior to the removal of the year 11s from the data on the last Friday in June - the date for post 16 statutory school age leavers.</p> <p>The snapshot figure at the time of the ADCS survey (7<sup>th</sup> October 2021) showed 507 active EHE cases. Despite or due to the re-opening of schools since March 2021, we continue to see new cases of parents choosing EHE as an alternative to mainstream education.</p>	Year end	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Statement / EHCP	4	7	11	17	23	25	22	Active EHE	142	200	267	300	334	408	576*
Year end	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21																			
Statement / EHCP	4	7	11	17	23	25	22																			
Active EHE	142	200	267	300	334	408	576*																			

2	Current EHE referrals for period 2021/22 – HT1	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Current EHE referrals (as at end of period)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total number of students</td> <td>486</td> <td>Percentage of total school population*</td> <td>(inc academies)</td> <td>0.88%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>(exc academies)</td> <td>1.45%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">* Percentage of total school population based on 2020 census data</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>227</td> <td>Male</td> <td>259</td> <td>School Support</td> <td>92</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>EHCP</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New EHE referrals</td> <td>52</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closed EHE referrals</td> <td>81</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current EHE referrals at end of period</td> <td>486</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total active EHE referrals during period</td> <td>567</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Current EHE referrals (as at end of period)						Total number of students	486	Percentage of total school population*	(inc academies)	0.88%					(exc academies)	1.45%		* Percentage of total school population based on 2020 census data						Female	227	Male	259	School Support	92					EHCP	18	New EHE referrals	52					Closed EHE referrals	81					Current EHE referrals at end of period	486					Total active EHE referrals during period	567																					
Current EHE referrals (as at end of period)																																																																															
Total number of students	486	Percentage of total school population*	(inc academies)	0.88%																																																																											
			(exc academies)	1.45%																																																																											
* Percentage of total school population based on 2020 census data																																																																															
Female	227	Male	259	School Support	92																																																																										
				EHCP	18																																																																										
New EHE referrals	52																																																																														
Closed EHE referrals	81																																																																														
Current EHE referrals at end of period	486																																																																														
Total active EHE referrals during period	567																																																																														
3	EHE towns - HT1 (ending 29/10/2021)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Town Description</th> <th></th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Oldbury</td> <td>80</td> <td>0.68%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rowley Regis</td> <td>85</td> <td>1.16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smethwick</td> <td>81</td> <td>0.78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tipton</td> <td>103</td> <td>1.48%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesbury</td> <td>38</td> <td>0.56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Bromwich</td> <td>73</td> <td>0.60%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Town Description		%	Oldbury	80	0.68%	Rowley Regis	85	1.16%	Smethwick	81	0.78%	Tipton	103	1.48%	Wednesbury	38	0.56%	West Bromwich	73	0.60%																																																								
Town Description		%																																																																													
Oldbury	80	0.68%																																																																													
Rowley Regis	85	1.16%																																																																													
Smethwick	81	0.78%																																																																													
Tipton	103	1.48%																																																																													
Wednesbury	38	0.56%																																																																													
West Bromwich	73	0.60%																																																																													
4	EHE Summary HT1 (ending 29/10/2021)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Elective Home Education</th> <th colspan="6">2020/21</th> <th colspan="6">2021/22</th> </tr> <tr> <th>HT1</th> <th>HT2</th> <th>HT3</th> <th>HT4</th> <th>HT5</th> <th>HT6</th> <th>HT1</th> <th>HT2</th> <th>HT3</th> <th>HT4</th> <th>HT5</th> <th>HT6</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New referrals</td> <td>227</td> <td>47</td> <td>22</td> <td>36</td> <td>33</td> <td>45</td> <td>52</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closed in period</td> <td>50</td> <td>17</td> <td>31</td> <td>24</td> <td>53</td> <td>77</td> <td>83</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Open at end of period</td> <td>536</td> <td>566</td> <td>557</td> <td>569</td> <td>549</td> <td>517</td> <td>486</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total closed and active</td> <td>586</td> <td>583</td> <td>588</td> <td>593</td> <td>602</td> <td>594</td> <td>569</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Elective Home Education	2020/21						2021/22						HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6	HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6	New referrals	227	47	22	36	33	45	52						Closed in period	50	17	31	24	53	77	83						Open at end of period	536	566	557	569	549	517	486						Total closed and active	586	583	588	593	602	594	569					
Elective Home Education	2020/21						2021/22																																																																								
	HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6	HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6																																																																			
New referrals	227	47	22	36	33	45	52																																																																								
Closed in period	50	17	31	24	53	77	83																																																																								
Open at end of period	536	566	557	569	549	517	486																																																																								
Total closed and active	586	583	588	593	602	594	569																																																																								

Reason for  
EHE - HT1  
(ending  
29/10/2021)

Reason for EHE (parents' belief)					
At Risk of Exclusion	2	Female	1	Male	1
Attendance/Prosecution	1	Female	0	Male	1
Behaviour	1	Female	0	Male	1
Bullying	31	Female	18	Male	13
Covid-19	96	Female	50	Male	46
Declined	9	Female	6	Male	3
Dissatisfaction With School	74	Female	28	Male	46
Emotional	1	Female	1	Male	0
Emotional Behavioural Diff	22	Female	10	Male	12
Lifestyle/Cultural	115	Female	58	Male	57
Medical	1	Female	0	Male	1
Medical-Child	11	Female	7	Male	4
Medical-Parent	4	Female	1	Male	3
Not Known	6	Female	0	Male	6
Not Preferred School	28	Female	12	Male	16
Other	12	Female	2	Male	10
Philosophical	6	Female	4	Male	2
Problems SEN Provision	3	Female	1	Male	2
Religious Beliefs	8	Female	3	Male	5
Safeguarding	1	Female	0	Male	1
School Refuser/Phobic	6	Female	3	Male	3

6	EHE Equality characteristics - HT1 (ending 29/10/2021)	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<unknown>	15	6	21
		African Asian	0	1	1
		Any Other Asian Background	0	2	2
		Any Other Black Background	6	4	10
		Any Other Ethnic Group	3	3	6
		Any Other Mixed Background	4	6	10
		Any Other White Background	4	7	11
		Black - African	2	4	6
		Black - Ghanaian	0	1	1
		Black - Somali	1	1	2
		Black Caribbean	11	10	21
		Black European	1	0	1
		Chinese	1	0	1
		Egyptian	1	0	1
		Indian	7	7	14
		Information Not Yet Obtained	10	12	22
		Other Pakistani	0	1	1
		Pakistani	7	7	14
		Traveller of Irish Heritage	1	0	1
		White - British	44	33	77
		White - English	4	2	6
		White - Irish	0	1	1
		White / Asian	1	3	4
White / Black Caribbean	9	8	17		
White Other	0	1	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>252</b>		
7	Survey Parents and children	See appendix 1			
		Update – Following a nomination by Sandwell EHE parents, one of our advisory teachers was awarded a gold standard KIT award by Education Otherwise on 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021).			

8	DfE / Ofsted	<p>Since the recent appointment of Nadhim Zahawi as the Secretary of State for Education, the DFE continue to consult with local authorities on the future role of LAs in relation to school attendance, children missing / missing from education and elective home education. Amended guidance and duties are anticipated (date unknown) but have yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>At a Regional Meeting held in Birmingham on 27/10/2021 attendees discussed the advantages and disadvantages of various delivery models including statutory V statutory plus (including targeted early help – where available – not the same in all local authorities).</p> <p>It was agreed that LA’s will require further clarity on future duties, responsibilities and opportunities (e.g. traded v non-traded services plus future funding and resources for Elective Home Education – see section 10 below)</p> <p>DFE were also requested to provide clarity for colleagues in social care etc. in relation to “educational neglect” (failure to educate) and its place in the child protection / early help threshold hierarchy.</p>
9	LA Comparison data	See appendix 1
10	Association of Directors of Children’s Services and Education (EHE)	<p>A response to the 2021 ADCS survey was submitted during the October (2021) half term break.</p> <p>Please note that National data based on the latest submissions from local authorities is not due to be published until late November / early December 2021.</p> <p>As at 7th October 2021 (the date of the ADCS survey) Sandwell had 509 active referrals including 111 citing Covid as the primary reason compared with 90 (citing Covid) in the previous year’s submission.</p> <p>The latest survey confirms that the government is considering a statutory duty on LAs to provide support to EHE families including an annual visit. The DFE is aware that LAs may require additional staff / resources. (E.g. One LA had only 1.5 staff for an EHE cohort of 900 children).</p>

11	Estimated cost of EHE in Sandwell	<p>The current estimated cost of EHE support in Sandwell is £135,500 (Excluding resource or administrative support or any costs associated with the line management / supervision).</p> <p>The structure of the education and children’s Directorate is subject to review and the future resources for EHE etc. have yet to be determined / confirmed.</p>
12	Funding streams	<p>See Appendix 1</p> <p>As there is no dedicated budget, the future funding for Elective Home Education presents a degree of uncertainty and questions remain about the sustainability of existing and future EHE services in Sandwell. This is most concerning given the statutory need to ensure that all children in Sandwell receive "efficient full-time education appropriate to their age, aptitude and special educational needs".</p>
13	Safeguarding	<p>See appendix 1.</p> <p>In March 2021 the LA (including the Trust) were subject to a “focused visit “ from Ofsted. A letter from HMI Peter McEntree dated 10 May 2021, included the following observation: There is effective work by the local authority to promote school attendance and engagement with remote learning. Schools are informing the local authority when children and families do not engage with them directly. All pupils with poor attendance last term have been referred to the authority and have received home visits. Where children are electively home educated or missing from education, appropriate processes are in place to monitor and offer support.</p> <p>Further to the “Annual Conversation” with HMI on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Lesley Hagger (Former Director of Children’s Services) received a second letter also dated 10 May 2021 from HMI, James McNeillie in respect of a range of topics including <b>out of sight children.</b></p> <p>We continue to promote the concept of "professional curiosity" and raise awareness of EHE and CME with other professionals including social care and early help colleagues. The EHE fact sheet for social workers</p>

		<p>and other professionals was revised and shared with Trust colleagues in October 2021. A reminder to SMBC and Trust staff plus partners was sent on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.</p> <p>We continue to work with partners as we are seeing an increase in EHE families with SEND (see data above) and/or other social care / early help support needs including; a rise in anxiety, mental ill-health and children struggling with the after effects of lockdown.</p>
14	Off rolling / backdoor exclusions	See appendix 1 - The Working Group has found that Sandwell processes are working very well.
15	SEND / EHCP	See appendix 1
16	EHE Support	<p>See appendix 1</p> <p><b>Home-schooling parents take legal challenge against council ‘harassment’</b>  Parents whose children are permanently home-schooled have commenced legal action over alleged "harassment" by <b>Portsmouth City Council</b>. Portsmouth Home Education Group claims the local authority has issued legal "threats" to families ordering them to send children to mainstream schools. The council said it has a duty to ensure that children are receiving education that is suitable.  <u><a href="#">BBC News</a></u></p> <p>As at 28/10/2021 this matter has yet to be concluded. An outcome is anticipated in coming weeks however, a firm date is not confirmed.</p> <p>Free school meals is not an entitlement of EHE families. However, following the re-opening of schools in September 2021, the Children and Education Directorate decided to continue the support offered to all vulnerable cohorts during the Covid19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Department for Education have awarded grant funding to Local Authorities to provide <b>Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)</b> to cover the October half term and schools’ Christmas holiday period for 2021 to support children and young people aged 5-16 years (reception to year 11) including those with SEND who are eligible for benefit related Free School</p>

		<p>Meals to access healthy food and enriching activities free of charge. The grant is open to schools, voluntary and community sector, not-for-profit and others.</p> <p>The EHE Newsletter dated Autumn/Winter 2021, sign-posted families to <a href="https://www.scvo.info/category/funding/">https://www.scvo.info/category/funding/</a> and/or <a href="mailto:FSM_Vouchers@sandwell.gov.uk">FSM_Vouchers@sandwell.gov.uk</a> to check eligibility. Staff in the Directorate have administered / supported where families have requested assistance.</p> <p>The Newsletter also explored locations EHE families might use to and so far we have had these suggestions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smethwick area – Warley Woods Café, Lightwoods Café, Why Not Café, The Bear Bookshop, Bearwood Community Hub</li> <li>• Oldbury – Flipout</li> <li>• Rowley Regis – Warrens Hall Stables</li> <li>• West Bromwich – Sandwell Valley Park and Farm, West Bromwich Albion Football</li> <li>• Boroughwide – Any Sandwell Leisure Centre</li> </ul> <p>This work is ongoing as part of the 2021/22 EHE Team delivery plan.</p>
17	Parent School discussions	<p>Please see appendix 1.</p> <p>Whilst recent DfE guidance suggests LAs should attend meetings in schools for every child whose parent may be considering or who has made the decision to electively home educate their child/ren, this is not a statutory requirement and we do not currently have the capacity to do this. We continue however, to offer / provide consultation visits and information packs for parents plus early progress reviews for all new EHE children.</p>
18	Bullying	See appendix 1
19	College	See appendix 1
20	Case Studies / Year 11 outcomes	<p>See appendix 1</p> <p>This year we had 67 Electively Home Educated children reached Year 11 and ceased to be statutory school age. 10 of these children had been part of the Elective Home Education provision at Halesowen College, the Inspire Programme and despite lockdown they all achieved their qualifications and have progressed into different further education, apprenticeships or jobs.</p>

		<p>In addition, 2 children were lucky enough to be the last people to have benefitted from the Elective Home Provision at NOVA Oldbury they too gained qualifications and have progressed into further education.</p> <p>32 year 11's joined various college courses. 3 others have started traineeships in job settings including 2 who entered family businesses. 13 have progressed into A level study or accessing training centres and 1 is continuing with online GCSE study.</p> <p>This goes to show that being home educated can prove that there are other ways to succeed besides attending mainstream education.</p> <p>Connexions continue to monitor and support all post 16 leavers whether home or school educated.</p>
--	--	---

