

Notes All Party Parliamentary Group Home Education Event Access to Exams Private Candidates October 22nd 2013

APPG Web page <http://edyourself.org/articles/allpartygrouphomeeducation.php>
url for these notes <http://edyourself.org/appgnotesoctober22nd.pdf>

The meeting on October 22nd at Westminster was attended by managers responsible for elective home education services in some of the larger county councils as well as representatives from London boroughs and MPs from Birmingham and Hampshire

The meeting looked at how to remove barriers to exam access for home educated private candidates. A survey has been sent to all local authorities which may be read here <http://edyourself.org/examsaccess2013.pdf>

The week before the meeting this 5 page briefing was sent to all delegates summarising the key issues <http://edyourself.org/appgoct2013briefing.pdf> which should be read in conjunction with these meeting notes.

The **Exams Officers' FAQ** prepared by home educator Angela Horn will shortly be available from this page <http://edyourself.org/articles/exams.php> Angela's contact details can be supplied on request by emailing fiona@edyourself.org

As at the July APPG meeting it was stressed that home educators have an extremely good peer support network and are well placed to answer a range of questions from private candidates from finding a centre to choosing the board and syllabus. **The best place to start is the home educators' exams wiki** <http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk> which also has links to the home educators' exams yahoo group.

At the end of the meeting Graham Stuart MP offered to assist with the launch of a national body for elective home education professionals working within local authorities to network and share models of good practice as recommended by the Education Committee.

“ The development of a more formalised professional association of, and/or annual conference for, home education officers, driven by those in the profession themselves, could be a welcome step in terms of sharing best practice nationally”
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmeduc/559/55909.htm>

This was widely welcomed and the next APPG meeting in February will take this forward.

Speakers' Contact Details + Notes

Katie Clegg, Manager at Worcestershire County Council

Notes <http://edyourself.org/worcsFE2013-14.pdf>
KClegg@worcestershire.gov.uk

Dave Harvey and David Retter, Managers at Hampshire County Council

Notes <http://edyourself.org/hampshiremodelexams.pdf>
david.retter@hants.gov.uk Dave.Harvey@hants.gov.uk

Andrew Harland, CEO Examination Officers' Association

andrew.harland@examofficers.org.uk

At the end of September EOA launched **My Exams Officers Year** which is a comprehensive toolkit created by exams office staff for exams office staff. It is designed to support exams officers in all kinds of centre, for all types of qualifications, with useful links to forms, base data, documents, templates and procedures. Information about private candidates is embedded in My Exams Officers Year, and it is explained that "private candidates are predominantly independent adult learners and/or home educated children." View a demo here <http://meoy.pearson.co.uk/demo/planning/workload/pcs.html>

As a follow-up to our earlier meeting in July, Andrew is currently advising Hampshire tutor groups on how to set up their own exam centre. This involves working with an established centre and raising funds to pay for an administrator. Hampshire LA will assist with invigilation training.

Andrew has also met with several local authorities as a result of the July event. Local authority managers are asked to contact Andrew to explore the range of ways in which private exam candidates can be supported locally, and what schools need to know.

Myles McGinley, Pearson Edexcel will provide details shortly of a direct contact in customer services who can take Edexcel home education queries. In the short term, queries can be passed via Myles by emailing fiona@edyourself.org

<http://edyourself.org/pearsonedexcelprivatecandidatesappg2013.pdf>

Edexcel does get asked a lot of questions by people wanting to take exams who aren't registered with a school and it was proposed at the meeting that private candidates could be signposted to the peer support networks run by home educators. **A good start is the home educators' exams wiki** <http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk> which has links to the home educators' exams yahoo group.

The meeting discussed the issue of immediate past papers and the suggestion was made that they could perhaps be released to a home education group or exam centre if not to individuals.

Alison Culshaw, DfE Qualifications and Assessment Division asks that queries are initially directed to fiona@edyourself.org One of the main questions was how schools could be assured that private candidate entries would not show up on the school records.

We are aware there is a Tables Checking Exercise for schools and more information can be found on the **Exams Officers FAQ** compiled by Angela Horn which will be updated regularly and will shortly be added to this page <http://edyourself.org/articles/exams.php>