

Email sent to local authorities September 30<sup>th</sup> 2013 <http://edyourself.org/examsaccess2013.pdf>

The All Party Group for Home Education is holding a second meeting at Westminster on October 22nd to look again at the challenges faced by home educators in arranging to take exams as private candidates. Notes from the first meeting in July can be found here <http://edyourself.org/articles/allpartygrouphomeeducation.php#examsjuly2013>

Ofsted has said it will ask LAs what they are doing to help home educators with exams, and the Education Committee has recommended that the Government place a duty on every local authority to ensure access to local centres for home-educated young people to sit accredited public examinations

Several years ago I asked local authorities what support they offered to home educators looking for an exam centre. The responses from LAs were published here <http://edyourself.org/articles/examcentresurvey.php#responses> and an overview Report with examples of good practice was published here <http://edyourself.org/articles/examsreport.php>

On behalf of the APPG I am carrying out some follow-up research and would be very grateful if you could answer the following questions. The information will be redacted so that individual LAs are not identifiable, with the exception of specific LAs who make it clear that they are happy for good practice to be shared with other LAs.

1. Is there anything in your local offer to home educators regarding support for exams which you think works well and which you would be happy to share as a model of good practice?
2. Do you provide basic information about taking exams as a private candidate including IGCSEs?
3. Do you have FAQ about exams and home education on your website?
4. Do you have a leaflet about exams for home educators?
5. Do you signpost to other sources of information such as awarding bodies and home education peer support networks?
6. Do you have a list of local schools which accept home educated private candidates?
7. What has been your experience of engaging with local schools to explain what is involved in taking home educated private candidates?
8. Have you invited home educating families to a meeting to discuss access to exams?
9. Do you make use of the Pupil Referral Unit as an exam centre for home educated private candidates?
10. Have you approached local FE colleges to see whether home educated young people could take exams as external candidates?
11. Do you know which GCSE courses are running at the local FE colleges and are you advising colleges and home educating families about the new FE funding for home educated under-16s?
12. Does the LA help with assessments for Access Arrangements at all?
13. Has the LA considered running exam courses for home educated young people - possibly in partnership with a local college - including providing somewhere to sit the exam?

#### **APPG for Home Education**

**Chaired by Graham Stuart MP**

**Roundtable Discussion Access to Exams for Home Educated Private Candidates**

**Portcullis House Westminster**

**6.30 to 8pm Tuesday October 22nd 2013**

**Confirmed speakers: DfE, Pearson Edexcel, Hampshire CC, Examination Officers Association**

Please contact [appg@heas.org.uk](mailto:appg@heas.org.uk) for further information or to request an invitation

#### **Reference**

<http://edyourself.org/articles/exams.php>

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for helping with our research