

Funding Report pdf

Home Education Funding

2011 Funding Report Summary

A survey of 143 local authorities in England revealed that in the academic year 2010-11, only 34 authorities claimed funding for special educational needs support or college places for under-16s where children were educated at home by parental choice. Large authorities were more likely to claim funding. The 2011 Funding Survey obtained answers from 143 out of 152 authorities. Some local authorities were prepared to claim funding; others preferred not to get involved with the paperwork or reported that they had never been asked for funding. Around a quarter of local authorities were adamant that home educated children were not eligible for any funding. It has always been the Government's position that there is no financial support for home educated children. Essentially this position has not changed. However, at the end of 2009 the Government stated that local authorities were able to claim for home educated children via the Alternative Provision Census where the authority was paying for special needs support or a place at college. In a separate move in December 2010 the Government decided against giving home educators 10% of the individual school pupil allocation to assist with the cost of taking exams. It should be noted that the Alternative Provision Funding for home educated children is extra money which would not otherwise be available to the Council. Normally, when children are home educated the unit of funding is retained by central Government and not passed to the Council.

Claiming Funding for the Academic Year 2011-12

Councils wishing to claim funding for the academic year 2011-12 need to have entered into an arrangement to pay for Further Education Courses, SEN support, or a package of exam support costs by Thursday January 19th 2012. The child's details can then be entered on the Alternative Provision Census in the category **Not A School** and the Council will receive a unit of DSG funding worth around £4,000. See <http://edyourself.org/articles/AltprovFAQ.php> and <http://edyourself.org/articles/APguidance2011-12.php>. Where young people are undertaking a Further Education course funded by the LA, there is no minimum age for the student. The FE course can be online (provided the total that the LA is paying amounts to substantial financial support) or in a neighbouring borough, or via another alternative provider in the area. "Courses" can include full-time courses, part-time courses, vocational programmes and GCSEs offered at evening classes as part of a Further Education programme. AP funding can also be used for a package of costs incurred in supporting a home educated young person to take examinations, as long as the total cost amounts to substantial financial support which justifies entry of the young person on the AP form.

Where a young person has special needs and the LA is making a significant financial contribution to support costs, this money can be reclaimed via the Alternative Provision Census. It is not necessary for the child to have a statement of SEN. Read more <http://edyourself.org/articles/AltprovFAQ.php#SENsupport> here. Where the child entered on the AP Census Form lives in a household which meets the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals, the Pupil Premium may be claimed, on condition that the LA or alternative provider has confirmed the necessary documentation. The Wolf Report says that colleges must offer students a full 14-16 programme. Professor Wolf says the Government should make explicit the legal right of colleges to enrol students under 16 and should ensure that funding makes this possible. The Government confirmed that colleges should open up to 14-16s and should always offer Maths and English GCSEs. Read more <http://edyourself.org/articles/WolfReport.php> here

In September the All Party Parliamentary Group for Home Education held a meeting on Local Authority support and access to Further Education and exams chaired by MP Graham Stuart. Lisa Thom from the Department for Education spent several hours listening to a diverse range of views from local authority representatives and home educating parents. The meeting agreed that future guidance on funding needed to be much clearer. The issues were promptly addressed in the Alternative Provision FAQ and in the AP Guidance. It is expected that many more local authorities will now use this funding for home educated children.

Local Authority Quotes

"We did not make a claim for funding in the Alternative Provision Census for the young people on the Elective Home Education Register. We made enquiries with the DfE but were advised that our elective home educators fell outside the remit of alternative provision."

"Our research indicates that two local authorities provided funding for college courses and both required registration at a Pupil Referral Unit."

"We have 1 home educated child who will be included on the AP census who is being funded for a part-time course at a FE College."

"The council has not previously claimed funding for college places or special needs support for home educated children through the Alternative Provision Census but we are currently looking at this in more detail for future years."

"It is looking likely that we will be making a claim for financial support for Traveller children and for those vulnerable groups 14-16 who need support to either enter college or for alternative non-mainstream college education.

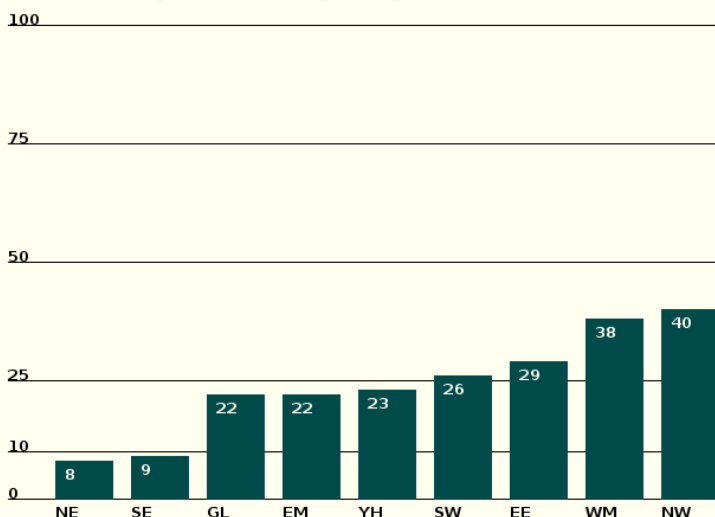
We are not currently seeking funding as we are awaiting guidance from the DfE in respect of the Badman recommendations.[March 2011]"

Why Home Educators Might Choose College

- Colleges may be far better suited to part-time attendance in order for home educated children to attend a stand-alone course in preparation for taking a particular exam.
- A young person may wish to access a vocational course which is currently only available to young people at risk of exclusion.
- The government's response to the Wolf Report (May 12th 2011) requires colleges to admit more 14-16s and to offer English and maths GCSEs
- Additional learning needs support might be available in college which could otherwise be extremely difficult or expensive to arrange as a private candidate outside the system.
- It can be very difficult for home educated children to take exams as private candidates and attending college between the ages of 14 and 16 may be the only way for some young people to achieve GCSEs.
- There may not be a local exam centre which will accept private candidates.
- GCSE controlled assessments require many hours of teacher's supervision over an extended period of time.

Regional Variations in Claiming Home Education Funding

Percentage Claim By Region



The bar chart on the left shows the percentage of local authorities in each region who are claiming funding.

Home educated children in the West Midlands and the North West are 4 times more likely to be funded for special needs support or college places than children in the North and South East.

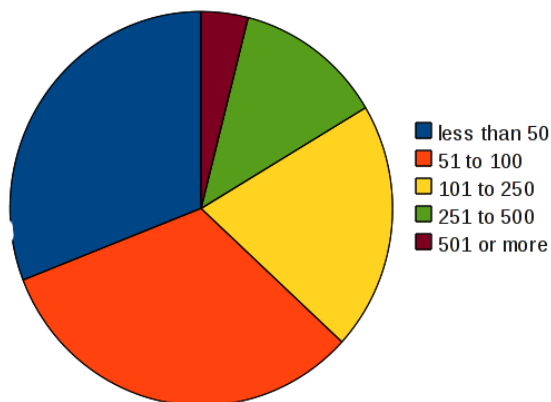
1 in 10 LAs in the North East and South East are claiming funding

Greater London, East Midlands, Yorkshire/Humberside, the South West and Eastern England all have between 20% and 30% of LAs claiming funding

4 in 10 LAs are claiming in the West Midlands and in the North West.

Larger Local Authorities Claim More Funding

Number Home Educated Children in LA



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63% of LAs in England have fewer than a hundred home educated children.

19% of LAs have between 100 and 250 home educated children.

8% of LAs have 251 to 500 home educated children.

4% of LAs have over 500 home educated children.

To find out how many home educated children are known in any particular local authority, simply put the name of the authority + number of home educated children into an internet search engine. Alternatively, all council websites have details on how to make a request for information.

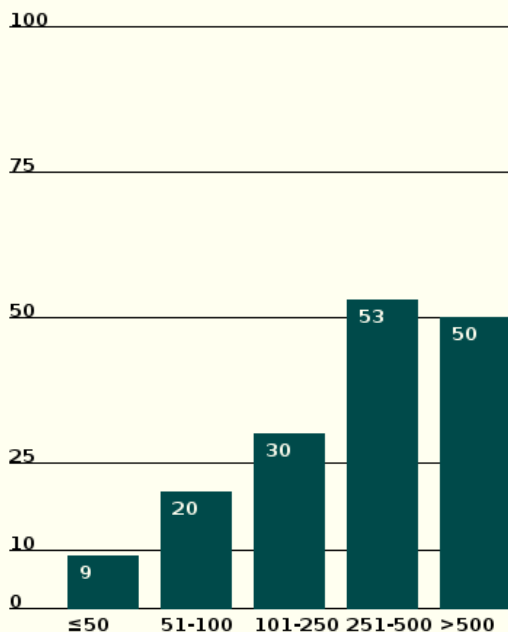
The job of overseeing home education may be a full-time or part-time post or may simply be passed to someone who is already working in Education Welfare, Alternative Provision, Special Needs or Traveller Education Services. In some areas the job of overseeing home

education may be carried out on a contract basis by a retired teacher who will be paid for each assessment or inspection.

Local authority employees or contractors who oversee home education do not generally have support as part of their job description. For example Redbridge council states that "the role of the Elective Home Education Support Officer is to advise the Head of Admissions and Awards that children who are educated at home are receiving an education that meets the statutory requirements."

Local authority Home Education Officers may respond to requests for help from home educating families but this is not regarded by council employers as a core element of the job. The officer is primarily required to file reports on individual children's education at home. Following the general election in 2010, an increasing number of local authorities are in talks about sharing services to reduce costs. This could have an impact on the future administration of home education services.

Councils Claim Funding



- Under 50 home educated children: 9% LAs claimed funding
- 51 to 100 home educated children: 20% LAs claimed funding
- 101 to 250 home educated children: 30% LAs claimed funding
- 251 to 500 home educated children: 53% LAs claimed funding
- Over 500 home educated children: 50% LAs claimed funding

14-16s: Who Can Get a Place Funded at College?

The three main ways for young people to be funded at college are 1/ if the young person is on the roll of a school, where the school money can be transferred pro rata to the college or 2/ where the young person is NOT on the roll of a school, where the local authority has a responsibility to pay for some educational provision. A third possibility is where a young person is on the roll of a Pupil Referral Unit where the PRU funding can be used to pay for a college place. We are aware that all three of these mechanisms have been used to fund places for home educated 14-16s. We would like to stress that it is not necessary for young people to be placed artificially on the roll of a school or PRU, since the local authority can legitimately reclaim funding for home educated young people under the category "Not a School."

At present, the typical college offer for 14-16s consists of vocational courses at college one day a week. These young people will be on the roll of a school and the school will pay for the day at college. In addition, young people who are excluded or at risk of exclusion can be funded to attend college full-time. In these cases, the school funding may be transferred if the young person is still on the school roll. If the young person is NOT on a school roll, the local authority will pay the college fees. Young people who have been bullied at school and who are described as "school phobic" may also be funded to attend college part-time or full-time. Once again, if the young person remains on a school roll, the school funding can be transferred to the college. Where young people move to a new area during Key Stage 4 and a school place is not available, the local authority has a responsibility and may pay for a college place if no other suitable arrangements can be made.

Home educating families who approach FE colleges with a view to 14-16s taking GCSEs may find that the college does not currently offer GCSE courses as part of the standard daytime college programme. However, this looks set to change with the publication of the Wolf Report.

More information about the current situation for 14-16s at college may be found on local FE college websites, which tend to emphasise the one-day a week vocational offer for 14-16s, although some colleges will also give information about full-time places. As Thameside College 14-16s explains: "Full-time attendance at the College for school aged young people is currently £3000 per annum. Additional fees may be charged for students with significant learning support needs. Funding is provided by the school (if a pupil is still on roll) or the Local Education Authority (LEA). Parents and carers who would like a young person to attend the College on a full-time basis must have funding agreed by the School or LEA." South Staffordshire College 14-16s says:

"If you're aged between 14 and 16 and cannot continue in full-time education for some reason (for example you may have moved to a different area at a difficult time, be experiencing bullying, are struggling at school, are school-phobic, or have a medical problem) our alternative provision projects may offer a solution. You cannot apply directly to us – you will first need to talk to your school and an Education Welfare Officer from the local education authority."

Special Educational Needs Funding

Ofsted's Home Education Survey found that children with special needs or physical disabilities who are educated at home are often denied access to support services and equipment. The 2011 Home Education Funding Survey has also revealed that four out of five local authorities do not make services and support available to home educated children with special needs.

Children in school who are identified as having special educational needs may be provided with extra help in schools or with therapies such as speech and language therapy or physiotherapy. In addition schoolchildren who have a physical disability may be provided with extra equipment such as wheelchairs or braille readers/video magnifiers for visual impairment. School pupils taking exams may have access to the services of an educational psychologist who can make the appropriate assessment for extra time/scribe/typing instead of writing by hand and so on.

The Department for Education website currently states that "funding may be available where an LA provides significant financial support for a home-educated young person where the young person has SEN

In the recent SEN Green Paper, published March 2011 the Government said "We expect that when local authorities are considering whether parents are making suitable provision that they also consider whether to use their power under the Education Act 1996 to make special educational provision out of school to help the parents make their provision suitable for their child's SEN" Local authorities who fund special needs support or college places for the academic year 2011-12 will be able to reclaim the money in January 2012 via the Alternative Provision Census.

"Once parents chose to educate their child at home, various forms of support were reduced or stopped. The only consistent contact that families had with the local authority was the annual review of the statement of special educational needs. In one authority, for example, a parent said that the authority had agreed to provide speech therapy for her child, but this did not happen in practice; there was a shortage of speech therapists and the authority's priority was the children who attended school. In another instance, in an initial exploration with the authority about educating her child at home, a parent was told that she would not be able to access any services such as physiotherapy. It was, she said: 'either school and services or home education and nothing'. One authority had 29 home-educated pupils with a statement of special educational needs, of whom 16 were identified as being on the autistic spectrum. No child had additional resources allocated by the statement and the parents had to manage as best they could within the limitations of their personal finances and ability to find and commission support."

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Local-authorities-and-home-education>

Many parents of children with SEN have said that they felt they had no choice but to home educate because of problems in schools. A small-scale study of families home educating a child with special needs found that over two-thirds identified 'push' factors away from the school as their main reasons for educating their children at home, such as bad experiences with formal provision and the perceived failure of schools to meet their child's needs adequately.

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content-db=all?content=10.1080/13603110802504135>

Special Needs Green Paper March 2011

"Many parents, and particularly the parents of children with SEN, turn to home education because they feel that the school system has failed to meet their child's needs. Where home educated children have a statement, local authorities have a duty to ensure that the child's SEN are being met and the local authorities have to review the children's statements annually. In some cases, parents on their own may not be able to make suitable provision for their children but could do so with some support from the local authority. We expect that when local authorities are considering whether parents are making suitable provision that they also consider whether to use their power under the Education Act 1996 to make special educational provision out of school to help the parents make their provision suitable for their child's SEN. We also expect local authorities to consider whether home educated children who had been in receipt of support at School Action Plus at school should continue to receive that support through local authorities using their power under the 1996 Act to make provision out of school."

Paragraph 2.54 SEN Green Paper 2011.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/CM%208027>

> <http://www.education.gov.uk/popularquestions/childrenandfamilies/specialeducationalneeds>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/popularquestions/childrenandfamilies/specialeducationalneeds/a005396/what-is-a-special-educational-needs-statement>

http://www.ncb.org.uk/cdc/resources/legal_handbook.aspx

Background Information on Elective Home Education

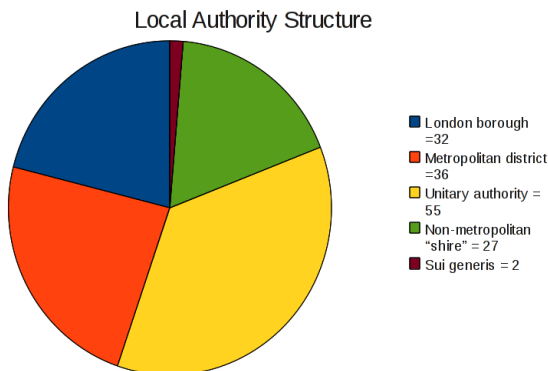
Parents have a duty to cause children to receive education suitable to age, ability, aptitude and special educational needs.

Children with a statement of special needs can legally be educated at home. The Government has no legal power to direct how the child is educated, though the local authority has a duty to act if it appears that the child is not receiving education. Approximately 20,000 home educated children are known to be home educated in England. The Government pays around £4,000 per child to the school every year for each registered pupil via the Dedicated Schools Grant Guaranteed Unit of Funding (DSG/GUF). Where children are in elective home education central Government retains the money which would otherwise have been paid to a school. In other words, the money does not follow the child. Parents who home educate their children pay for all educational resources themselves and local authorities receive no funding for home education services. The National Foundation for Educational Research Study on Home Education Support found that home educators tended to obtain support from national and local home education support groups; family and friends; the wider home education community; the library and the internet rather than from the local council.

The law begins by making a simple distinction between education "by regular attendance at school" and "otherwise". "Otherwise" includes children whose education is arranged outside the school environment by the local council and children whose education is arranged outside school by their parents. The local authority has a duty to provide to provide sufficient school places and to provide Education Otherwise Than At School or EOTAS for children who are unable to attend school but there is no obligation to offer anything to children whose parents have removed them from school. Bullying is often cited as the reason why children are home educated. Where children are bullied, parents may ultimately feel that they have no choice but to home educate. Because parents have taken the initiative and asked for the child's name to be removed from the school roll, this will be categorised as "education at home by parental choice."

Does The Local Authority Structure Make A Difference ?

Some authorities are single towns or cities, other authorities cover an entire county. To an extent the structure of the local authority does make a difference as to whether or not the LA claims funding. Unitary Authorities, which are typically single towns or cities within a larger rural "shire" county, rarely claim funding. By contrast, home educated children in the "shire" counties are much more likely to be funded for special needs or college places. However, another way of looking at the same statistic is that there will also be "shire" counties where the home education officer does not agree with funding or the council refuses to consider the issue and this will have an impact on a large number of families.



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Most councils are Unitary Authorities. Unitary Authorities - in common with most other types of local authority - tend to have fewer than 100 home educated children. Authorities with fewer home educated children are less likely to claim funding. However, Unitary Authorities claim less funding for special needs support or college places than other local authorities with similar numbers of home educated children.

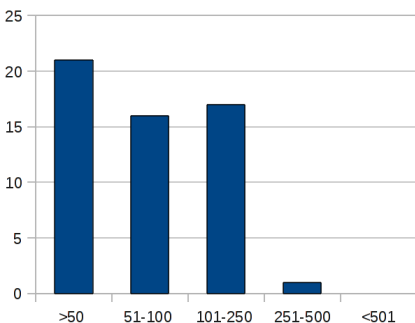
The largest councils are Non Metropolitan "shire" counties. **ALL** the shire counties have more than 100 home educated children and a handful of shire counties have over 500 home educated children. Over 40% of shire counties claimed funding for home educated children,

which probably reflects the fact that the larger authorities are more likely to claim funding.

As can be seen from the diagrams below, some types of local authority have bars on the left hand side of the bar chart, showing a small number of home educated children ie in tens rather than hundreds, whereas other types of local authority only have bars on the right hand side of the bar chart, indicating a much larger cohort of home educated children.

Unitary Authorities

Unitary Authority Number EHE Children



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The most common LA structure is the Unitary Authority which is to be found in over a third of local authorities.

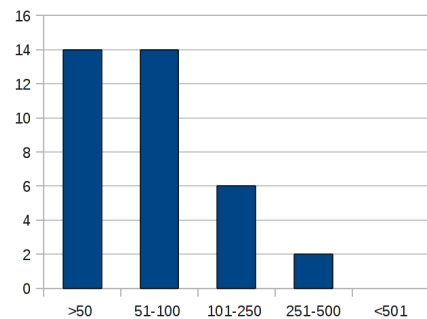
A typical Unitary Authority tends to be a large city or town within a more rural county which has its own separate council, as is the case with Derby and Derbyshire.

2 out of 3 Unitary Authorities have fewer than 100 home educated children.

Only 12% of Unitary Authorities claimed funding for home educated children.

Metropolitan Districts

Metropolitan District Number EHE Children



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A quarter of LAs are Metropolitan District or Metropolitan Borough Councils.

These are found in larger regional areas of the North of England including Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear with a further 7 in the West Midlands region.

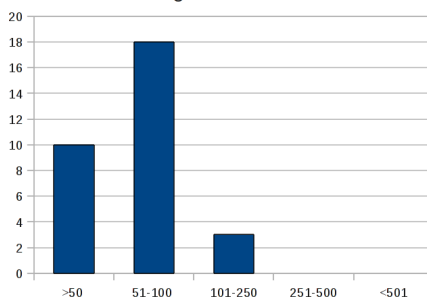
3 out of 4 Metropolitan Districts have fewer than 100 home educated children.

31% of Metropolitan Districts claimed funding for home educated children. Metropolitan Districts are notable for having a relatively small EHE cohort but being more likely to claim funding than other local authorities with a similar size EHE

population.

London Boroughs

London Borough Number EHE Children



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A fifth of LAs are London Boroughs.

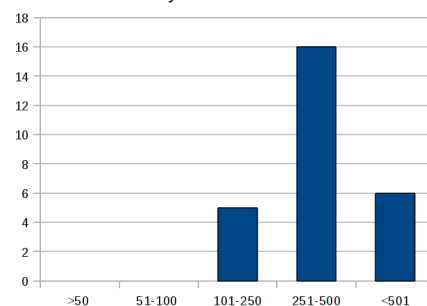
The combined area of all 32 LBs put together would fit into a quarter of North Yorkshire.

9 out of 10 LBs have fewer than 100 home educated children.

20% of London Boroughs claimed funding for home educated children.

Non-Metropolitan Shire Counties

Shire County Number EHE Children



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One in six LAs are Non-Metropolitan "shire" Counties. These are the larger councils.

All the "shire" Counties have more than 100 home educated children.

60% of "shire" Counties have between 250 and 500 home educated children and 20% have more than 500.

All the LAs with more than 500 home educated children are "shire" Counties

44% of Non-Metropolitan "shire" Counties claimed funding for home educated children. These larger "shire" Counties are the most likely to claim funding.

Historical Position on Funding

Over the years, when home educating parents have been to see their MP to ask for help with special needs support or with taking exams, the official line from the Government has been that home education is not funded. Most local schools and local authorities inform parents that they will receive no further support once they take children out of school.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100209w0001.htm#10020993000028>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmpublic/childs/100204/pm/100204s12.htm>

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/ByDate/20100628/writtenanswers/part018.html>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/vo061023/text/61023w0008.htm#06102334004136>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/vo040504/halltext/40504h04.htm>

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