

Access to Qualifications for Home Educated 14-16s Worcestershire Council

Presentation at the All Party Group for Home Education Westminster October 22nd 2013

<http://edyourself.org/worcsFE2013-14.pdf> via

<http://edyourself.org/articles/allpartygrouphomeeducation.php#examsoctober2013>

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In June 2013, following the publication of the Wolf Report, the Government issued Guidance to Local Authorities, Colleges and Sixth Form Centres on the Full-Time Enrolment of 14-16 year olds.

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/d/dfefinal.pdf> Home education arrangements are set out in **Annex C DfE FE Funding Guidance June 2013**

In August 2013 Worcestershire wrote to all known home educating families with children at KS4 (14-16) giving information about how to apply for free courses on the **Foundation Learning programme** leading to a **Level 1 qualification**. Information has also been provided to families about the **full-time GCSE course** (infill) at Worcester 6th Form Centre. These courses have been opened up to home educated young people through dialogue between the providers and the council.

The LA is arranging an Open Day for home educators in December.

When the 14-16 Further Education Funding Guidance was first issued it was apparent that FE Providers were not clear on the implications of such arrangements and therefore contact was made with each of the **5 local colleges** to deliver training on the 14-16 arrangements.

Worcestershire Council also confirmed with the Department for Education that **Alternative Providers**, who receive funding direct from the Education Funding Agency, are eligible to claim the funding in the same way as Further Education Colleges.

There are **90 home educated young people aged 14-16** (KS4) known to Worcestershire Council. 26/90 have made applications to the available providers and have either started their course or are currently going through the induction process. Worcestershire Council believes that access to further education pre-16 promotes engagement and participation through varied programmes of study, and learners will also have greater opportunities post 16. The LA is currently adapting recording systems to be able to report on the number of registered EHE learners who are accessing FE provision.

Worcester Sixth Form Centre:	One year full-time GCSE course (infill)
CSV Redditch:	Entry-L2 Provision (transport inc.)
CSV Worcester:	Entry-L2 Provision (transport inc.)
Foundation Learning (LA):	Full Entry-L2 provision (transport and mentor inc)
Worcester College of Technology:	Currently under review
South Worcestershire College:	Awaiting Contact.

Where a child is registered as EHE the parent maintains responsibility for their child's provision. If a parent wants their child to attend college on a full or part-time basis then that is their choice and it is at the **college's discretion**.

A college which admits a home educated child does not have to comply with the arrangements for full-scale direct admission of 14-16s and it is entirely up to the college how they arrange such provision (see **Annex C DfE Guidance June 2013**). Home educated young people are enrolled on the ILR the same way as post 16 learners. Where applicable, colleges can claim the **Pupil Premium** for these learners.

Where the college receives an application from a young person who is **not on a school roll because they are already electively home educated**, the college does not require proof of home education. The FE provider is required to report to the EFA retention and attainment figures but it has no duty to the LA. FE providers are

asked to notify the EHE team when they admit a young person and when they cease to attend.

Once enrolled on a course, if after 2-4 weeks a learner fails to attend **and** the FE provider has been unable to establish contact with the parent through its attendance policy, the FE provider will consider deregistering the young person. The FE provider should, at the earliest opportunity notify the EHE team.

Children who have Statements of SEN will be referred to Early Help/Post-16 engagement team to assist with the Learner Disability Assessment (LDA). The Foundation Learning programme is suitably differentiated to meet specific needs of learner's through targeted provision.

The current funding arrangements only enable providers who are funded direct by the EFA and who offer 14-16 provision to enrol 14-16 year olds. The arrangements mean that EHE learners are included in the targets associated with 16-19 year olds although there are no requirements set for EHE learners. Colleges are not keen to admit 14-16 year olds on a full-time basis due to the rigid requirements. Uptake varies across the county.

Future developments and considerations:

- To explore the opportunities for schools with Sixth- Form Centres to admit home educated learners
- To ensure capacity for Independent Advice and Guidance [IAG] and Learner Disability Assessment prior to enrolment
- To continue to work with FE providers to expand the availability across the county
- To seek alternative ways to fund providers offering entry level provision such as 4U
- To develop a placement panel for FE provision
- To explore cost savings in relation to transport where an FE provider is closer than the allocated school when exceeding the statutory distance
- Assess the impact on KS4 Pupil Referral Unit/Alternative provision
- To identify access to distance learning provision/exam centres

Abbreviations Used

DfE	Department for Education
EFA	Education Funding Agency
EHE	Elective Home Education
FE	Further Education
IAG	Independent Advice and Guidance (formerly careers guidance/Connexions)
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
LDA	Learning Difficulty Assessment
SEN	Special Educational Needs