Dear Parent/Carer

**Elective Home Education (EHE) Team**

You may recall that I wrote to you on 14 February 2014 explaining that we were having to review the support available to families who chose to educate their children at home. The review comes after the decision of the Schools Forum that schools money should not be used to fund the service from the end of August this year. The Schools Forum funding is the sole source of funding for the EHE Team.

I’m sure you will be aware of the significant financial challenges facing the Council and coupled with the decision of the Schools Forum, I am writing to let you know that we have been unable to secure funding to provide anything other than our statutory requirement for home education.

That statutory requirement can be summarised as:

- a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children – including children who are home educated
- ensuring parents are providing suitable education for their child of statutory school age and considering the use of School Attendance Orders to ensure they do.

On that basis, Jennifer Padgham, Elective Home Education Coordinator, and Chris Williams, Elective Home Education Officer, will be leaving the County Council at the end of August and will not be replaced and the services and support they currently provide will cease from that date. The statutory duties will continue to be delivered through the Education Attendance Service which is where the EHE Team is currently based.

Children known to be electively home educated will be recorded as such by the Local Authority. The Local Authority request that you submit annual education plans in order that we can fulfil our statutory duties as outlined above. Details will follow later on how to do this.
In terms of support that is available, you may find the following websites useful:

www.parentsintouch.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.homeeducationsw.org.uk

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jennifer and Chris for all the work they have done in supporting families who choose to home educate and wish them well for the future.

Yours sincerely

DAVE FARROW
Strategic Manager – Vulnerable Learners