

**OVERVIEW AND COMMENTARY ON  
DRAFT REVISED STATUTORY GUIDANCE TO  
SECTION 4 OF THE 2006 EDUCATION AND INSPECTION ACT  
Education Otherwise Government Policy Group**

**Introduction/Timeline**

**Comments on the 2008 draft revised guidance**

1. Title introduces word “suitable”
2. Targets don't apply to home educated children p.1
3. “Suitable” education?
4. Vulnerable = “at risk of not receiving education”
5. Duty to put children into school wherever possible ? pages 2-3
6. Duty should not apply to children who are home educated p.4
7. Information systems/pupil tracking pages 6-7
8. “Process steps”
9. Children who are “more at risk of not receiving suitable education”= at risk of being at risk pages 9-10
10. “Pupils at risk of harm” ?
11. Guidance on referrals to children's social care/ police p.13
12. "Reducing the risk of children not receiving education" p.16.
13. Flowchart p.18
14. Information sharing and when to notify others p.20-21
15. The section on Elective Home Education p.24
16. Insist on seeing child under section 47 1989 Children Act p.26
17. Section 47 of the 1989 Children Act
18. “In the interests of other agencies for children to be enrolled in education and attending regularly” p.27
19. Where does the section on home education end ?

**APPENDIX 1 STANDARD DATA DEFINITIONS**

**APPENDIX 2 RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

## Introduction/Timeline

The **2006 Education and Inspection Act** introduced a new section ( **436A**) to the **1996 Education Act**. This is not currently available via the online versions of the 1996 Education Act, so you have to find it via the Education and Inspection Act 2006 which explains where the new section fits into the Education Act 1996 and what changes have been made. Essentially, the new section 436A was inserted at the end of 2006 just before section 437 which deals with School Attendance and School Attendance Orders.

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2006/ukpga\\_20060040\\_en\\_2#pt1-11g4](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060040_en_2#pt1-11g4)

### **436A Duty to make arrangements to identify children not receiving education**

**(1) A local education authority must make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children in their area who are of compulsory school age but—**

**(a) are not registered pupils at a school, and**

**(b) are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.**

**(2) In exercising their functions under this section a local education authority must have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the Secretary of State.**

**(3) In this Chapter, “suitable education”, in relation to a child, means efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he may have.”**

**(2) In section 437 of EA 1996, in subsection (8) omit the definition of “suitable education”.**

**(3) In section 580 of EA 1996 (index) for the entry in the second column which relates to the expression “suitable education (in Chapter 2 of Part 6)” substitute “section 436A(3)”.**

Meanwhile from **September to November 2006** the DfES undertook a full public consultation on statutory guidance to section 4 (then called “Clause 4” because the Bill had not yet become law). and the resulting guidance was published in February 2007.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources/IG00202/>

( 31 pages )

In **September 2006** new Pupil Registration Regulations for England were published following a limited consultation process. [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi\\_20061751\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi_20061751_en.pdf)

In **February 2007** the statutory guidance was published on Children Missing Education.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources/IG00202/>

It was anticipated that this guidance would work with ContactPoint, the national children's database.

In **May 2007** the DfES launched a full public consultation on Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities.

In **September 2007** the DCSF published revised guidance on Attendance and Inclusions Sweeps Procedure ( made necessary by directives concerning excluded children in the 2006 Education and Inspection Act.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolattendance/uploads/ATTENDANCE%20AND%20EXCLUSION%20SWEEPS%20FINAL%20SEPT07.pdf>

In **November 2007** DCSF announced a 5 month delay to the introduction of ContactPoint while a security review was implemented.

In **November 2007** the DCSF published Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/documents/content/7373-DCSF-Elective%20Home%20Education.pdf>

In **January 2008** new guidance was published on School Attendance.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolattendance/uploads/Prosecutions%20Ensuring%20Child%20rights%20to%20education.pdf>

In **April 2008** Education Otherwise met with DCSF Home Education and Children Missing Education teams to discuss concerns that local authorities seemed unaware of the 2007 statutory guidance on Children Missing Education and appeared to be using earlier draft guidelines from 2005.

In **August 2008** DCSF launched a consultation with the aim of amending the 2007 statutory guidance for Children Missing Education. As part of the consultation process, draft revised guidance was uploaded to the DCSF consultation website. In all instances the 2008 guidance adds the word "suitable" to "education."

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/MISSING%20EDUCATION%20-%20Consultation%20Version.doc>

<http://tinyurl.com/5seuqv>

2008 draft revised guidance 41 pages

The DCSF also invited a number of stakeholders to meetings to give feedback on the revised draft guidance. Education Otherwise attended a meeting with DCSF and representatives from the Home Education Advisory Service at the end of **August, 2008**. You can read an account of the meeting here – <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/CMEreportIDDCSF29thAugust08meeting.pdf>.

## **Link between Forced Marriages and Home Education ?**

One of the most significant things to emerge from this meeting was that the Home Affairs Select Committee on Forced Marriages and Domestic Violence had conjectured that there might possibly be a link between home education and forced marriage and had instructed DCSF to issue revised guidance on children missing education. You can find more about the Home Affairs Select Committee here <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/hascr.htm>.

## **Comments on the 2008 draft revised guidance**

### **1/ Title introduces word “suitable”**

The difference starts with the title of the guidance. 2007 was entitled "Statutory guidance for local authorities in England to identify children not receiving education." 2008 is entitled "Revised statutory guidance for local authorities in England to identify children not receiving a suitable education". This completely changes the emphasis of the whole guidance and the word "suitable" has been added throughout. This is not helpful because a/ it is subjective; b/ it puts inappropriate and heavy burden of responsibility for assessment on local authority ; c/ it conflicts with other published guidelines and d/ the draft guidance does not adequately define "suitable" in terms of the law.

### **2/ Targets don't apply to home educated children p.1**

The 2008 guidance has details about national and local targets for improving "outcomes" for children and young people. We feel this is misleading because the local authorities could think they were responsible for the education of home educated children.

### **3/ “Suitable” education ?**

The 2008 draft guidance always talks about "children not receiving a suitable education" without making it clear that the legal duty on the parent is to cause the child to receive efficient full time education suitable to the age ability and aptitude of the child and to any special educational needs. It is very misleading to condense this in to the single word "suitable".

The 2008 draft guidance doesn't give reference on page 1 to s436A of the 1996 Education Act.

### **4/ Vulnerable = “at risk of not receiving education”**

The 2008 draft guidance by implication suggests that home educated children are in same vulnerable group as "unaccompanied asylum seeking or trafficked children" or children at risk of forced marriage. The list of who is considered vulnerable can be found here <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/vulnerablelistforCME.pdf>.

The 2008 draft guidance talks about tracking and enquiry systems which appears to tell the local authority that they have a duty to find all home educated children. This implicitly puts a huge legal liability on the local authority.

### **5/ Duty to put children into school wherever possible? pages 2-3**

The 2008 draft guidance seems to say that the authority is responsible for "ensuring safety and wellbeing" as well as for the educational outcomes of all children. Combine this with the repeated information that the CME duty does not apply to children in school or registered provision and you are effectively telling the local authority to try and put home educated children in to school. ( See also notes on p.27 )

2007 guidance heading for 1.2 was "Duty to identify children not receiving education" ( p.1)

2008 guidance heading for 1.2 is "Duty to identify children not receiving a suitable education" (p.2)

In the 2008 guidance we have to wait till page 4 before we get the full information about what the word "suitable" means in section 436A of the 1996 Education Act. It would be much better just to reproduce the whole of section 436A introduced in the 1996 Education Act by the 2006 Education and Inspection Act.

## **6/ Duty should not apply to children who are home educated p.4**

2008 draft guidance omits the relevant passage on parents' right to home educate from the 2007 guidance.

2007 guidance says 1.2.6. page 4 "The duty does not apply to children who are being educated at home. Monitoring arrangements already exist for children being educated at home. Parents have a duty to ensure that their children receive a suitable full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (under section 7 of the Education Act 1996) and they may choose, as is their right, to provide this by educating their children at home. "

This passage must be retained (though more information on the definition of "suitable" from section 436A(3) would be welcome )

## **7/ Information systems/pupil tracking pages 6-7**

2008 draft guidance has some very misleading instructions under heading "Effective Pupil Tracking Systems". NB it is well worth having a particular look at this area pages 6-7 of the 2008 draft guidance and comparing with the relevant area from the 2007 guidance pages 5-6.

Reminder of URLs

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources/IG00202/>

current guidance published in February 2007 31 pages

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/MISSING%20EDUCATION%20-%20Consultation%20Version.doc>

<http://tinyurl.com/5seuqv>

2008 draft revised guidance 41 pages

The draft 2008 guidance asks: "Does the local authority maintain a database of children not currently in suitable education"? This places an impossible duty on local authorities who in turn will put pressure on home educating families. The 2008 draft guidance suggests local authorities note "date it was considered that home education provision was not suitable" This is not helpful and directly contravenes the 2007 DCSF Home Education Guidelines which outline the steps which a local authority should take under "Local Authorities Responsibilities" page 6 onwards.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/documents/content/7373-DCSF-Elective%20Home%20Education.pdf>

The 2008 draft revised guidance also asks: "does the local authority keep a record of children whose parents or carers, fathers as well as mothers, it considers are not providing them with a suitable education and a note of action it has taken to address these concerns ?" p.7.

In this case the word "suitable" needs either to be removed or explained via s.7 or s.436A(3) of the 1996 Education Act ( the latter only available via the 2006 Education and Inspection Act )

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2006/ukpga\\_20060040\\_en\\_2#pt1-11g4](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060040_en_2#pt1-11g4)

The draft revised 2008 guidance doesn't make it clear where home educated children stand in relation to "pupils". The guidance doesn't make it clear where "pupil tracking systems" relates to home educated children.

## 8/ "Process steps"

Paragraph 2.3 (page 8) of the draft revised guidance needs clarifying because it appears 10 pages away from the explanatory flowchart. The "process steps" list doesn't mean that the local authority has to complete every step in the process and this needs to be made quite clear. Both the guidance and notes on the flow chart need to make this evident. It is extremely confusing to put them in a list because it sounds like a sequence. It is potentially very misleading especially when it appears divorced from the flowchart. (In the 2008 guidance the flowchart does not appear till p.18 which is a full 10 pages later. This is not an aid to clarity.)

## 9/ Children who are "more at risk of not receiving suitable education"= at risk of being at risk pages 9-10

The list of vulnerable children at 3.3 on pages 9-10 is unacceptable.

"Some children who experience certain life events, or who live in certain circumstances, are more at risk of not receiving suitable education. These include:

- children and young people under the supervision of the youth justice system;
- children living in women's refuges;
- children of homeless families, perhaps living in temporary accommodation, house of multiple occupancy or Bed and Breakfast;
- young runaways
- children whose parent/carer(s), fathers and/or mothers, and other close family members, move to another local authority area;
- children who were registered with a school that has closed, and have not made the transition to another school;
- children with long term medical or emotional problems;
- children in families involved in anti-social behaviour;
- **children whose parents withdraw them from school in order to home educate them but then fail to provide a suitable education;**
- children who are on the child protection register;
- children affected by substance and/or alcohol misuse;
- unaccompanied asylum seekers;
- children of refugees and asylum seeking families;
- children in new immigrant families, who are not yet established in the UK and may not have fixed addresses;
- children of families who can be highly mobile, eg parents in the armed forces; Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families;
- children who have been bullied;
- children who have been trafficked to, or within the UK;
- children at risk of forced marriage;
- looked after children/children in care;
- children who are privately fostered;
- young carers;

- teenage mothers; and
- children who are permanently excluded from school, particularly those excluded unlawfully eg for problematic behaviour or offending"

Compare this with previous shorter list of "Vulnerable Groups" pages 7-8 of 2007 Guidance

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources/IG00202/>

## **10/ "Pupils at risk of harm" ?**

Sections around 3.14 need reworking because the meaning is not at all clear. "Children may be removed from education or prevented from attending as a result or symptom of them suffering from abuse or neglect[...]examples of the types of abuse where this could be a factor are:- the child may be at risk of forced marriage [...] the child has been trafficked and/or subject to sexual exploitation"

Does this mean where the child is "removed from school" because it talks about "attending". Statutory guidance must make it very clear that many children are removed from school in order to be home educated and that there is not a more sinister explanation which always has to be ruled out. The guidance on this point is extremely misleading and casts an unacceptable slur on home educating families.

## **11/ Guidance on referrals to children's social care/ police p.13**

See also 4.1 p.13 "When a child is absent from education, it is possible that this is due to other behaviour, associations or activities that puts them at risk of harm. This could be of their own choice or by the action of another person or persons influencing their behaviour and choices. They could be the victims of crime, including sexual exploitation, forced marriage, criminal neglect or abduction. It is important to recognise when young people are in situations where they are vulnerable and to take appropriate action."

It is not clear whether 4.1 is talking about all forms of "educational provision" (which could include home education provided by parents) or whether it is talking about school and local authority "provision". It is also not clear whether 3.13 is talking about registered pupils. Home education is a valid form of educational provision but it is not clear how a child could be categorised as "absent". Does 4.1 in fact mean "school" when it says "education." ? 4.3 refers to "disappearance from education provision". 4.5 refers to "unexplained absence from education provision". 4.6 refers to "absence from school". 4.8 reverts to "absent from education" but then begins to speak about "children not receiving, or at risk of not receiving a suitable education." This whole section is in urgent need of clarification.

## **12/ "Reducing the risk of children not receiving education" p.16.**

It is redundant and misleading to include "children who are not receiving a suitable education at home" in this section and it should be removed. At all times when home education is mentioned there should be reference to the 2007 DCSF EHE Guidelines for the agreed procedure.

[http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/\\_documents/content/7373-DCSF-Elective%20Home%20Education.pdf](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/_documents/content/7373-DCSF-Elective%20Home%20Education.pdf)

5.5 p.17

It must be made clear that home education does not put children "at risk of not receiving a suitable education." The word "suitable" is very misleading here since the reference should be to s.436A(3) of the 1996 Education Act ( via s.4 of the 2006 Education and Inspection Act) where "suitable" is accurately defined in law.

### 13/ Flowchart p.18

The flowchart on page 18 is the same as the previous flowchart in the 2007 guidance but since much of the text is different the flowchart will require more explanation and commentary with regard to home educated children and young people.

“6.11 Notifications could be about children who are actually receiving an education, which is being delivered by a route not known to the local authority at that time: eg independent schools, home education or alternative provision. When the route of education has been determined it should be logged on the local authority database for future reference.”

6.11 on p.20 needs more explanation of the phrase "has been determined." and also "the local authority database." Which database? ContactPoint or the Children Missing Education database? The context of the 2008 revisions change the possible interpretations of this section.

### 14/ Information sharing and when to notify others p.20-21

6.17 should be removed and replaced with the 2007 text as follows **"When raising awareness with partner agencies it is useful to remind them that parents have a legal right to educate their children at home. Where a parent states that their child is educated at home, the child is receiving education and is not the target of this duty, so it is not always necessary to notify the local authority. Education of children at home by their parents is not in itself a cause for concern about the child's welfare."** 2007

It would generally be helpful throughout to include links to home education support organisations such as Education Otherwise. It must be made clear that home educated children are not "at risk" or "vulnerable."

<http://www.education-otherwise.org/>

**National Helpline 0845 478 6345**

### 15/ The section on Elective Home Education p.24

This section begins on page 24. It is not clear where it ends. 6.30 is not accurate. Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act should be quoted here.

**“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable -**

**( a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and;**

**(b) to any special educational needs he may have,**

**either by regular attendance at school or otherwise”**

6.31 is extremely hard to follow. It would be easier to include the URL for the Pupil Registration Regulations England for 2006

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi\\_20061751\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi_20061751_en.pdf)

and to cite the regulations relevant to parents deregistering in order to home educate. The deregistration page on the Education Otherwise website could also be cited.

<http://www.education-otherwise.org/legal/Deregistration.htm>

The meaning of 6.35 is not clear.

Guidance currently says "In order to discharge their duties in relation to children not receiving an education, local authorities should make inquiries with parents about whether their home educated

children are receiving a suitable education." p.25. Is the guidance implying that the authority discharges its duty by simply asking the parents "are your children receiving suitable education" ? If so and if the aim of the guidance is clarity and consistency then this should be stated explicitly. It would be helpful to refer the reader immediately to the 2007 DCSF Home Education Guidelines for local authorities or quote sections 7 and 436A to 448 of the 1996 Education Act.

In the footnote to p.25 the case law is summarised inaccurately. This duty is not derived from Phillips vs Brown. It would be more helpful to refer the reader directly to the 2007 DCSF Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities.

6.36 should refer the reader to the 2007 DCSF Home Education Guidelines as well as to the 2008 guidance on attendance. It would also be useful to give the direct URL

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolattendance/uploads/Prosecutions%20Ensuring%20Child%20rights%20to%20education.pdf>

## **16/ Insist on seeing child under section 47 1989 Children Act p.26**

6.37 it would be helpful to give URL for relevant section of 1989 Children Act and to state which part or whole of s.47 is intended. Is it talking about children who are the subject of emergency protection orders or where there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm? This is not quite the same in lay terms as "concerns about the child's safety and welfare." It would also be helpful to give the URL for Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00060/>

## **17/ Section 47 of the 1989 Children Act**

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1989/ukpga\\_19890041\\_en\\_7#pt5-11g47](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1989/ukpga_19890041_en_7#pt5-11g47)

(1) Where a local authority—

(a) are informed that a child who lives, or is found, in their area—

(i) is the subject of an emergency protection order; or

(ii) is in police protection; or

(b) have reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm,

the authority shall make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

(2) Where a local authority have obtained an emergency protection order with respect to a child, they shall make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide what action they should take to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

(3) The enquiries shall, in particular, be directed towards establishing—

(a) whether the authority should make any application to the court, or exercise any of their other powers under this Act, with respect to the child;

(b) whether, in the case of a child—

(i) with respect to whom an emergency protection order has been made; and

(ii) who is not in accommodation provided by or on behalf of the authority,

it would be in the child's best interests (while an emergency protection order remains in

force) for him to be in such accommodation; and

(c) whether, in the case of a child who has been taken into police protection, it would be in the child's best interests for the authority to ask for an application to be made under section 46(7).

(4) Where enquiries are being made under subsection (1) with respect to a child, the local authority concerned shall (with a view to enabling them to determine what action, if any, to take with respect to him) take such steps as are reasonably practicable—

(a) to obtain access to him; or

(b) to ensure that access to him is obtained, on their behalf, by a person authorised by them for the purpose,

unless they are satisfied that they already have sufficient information with respect to him.

(5) Where, as a result of any such enquiries, it appears to the authority that there are matters connected with the child's education which should be investigated, they shall consult the relevant local education authority.

(6) Where, in the course of enquiries made under this section—

(a) any officer of the local authority concerned; or

(b) any person authorised by the authority to act on their behalf in connection with those enquiries—

(i) is refused access to the child concerned; or

(ii) is denied information as to his whereabouts,

the authority shall apply for an emergency protection order, a child assessment order, a care order or a supervision order with respect to the child unless they are satisfied that his welfare can be satisfactorily safeguarded without their doing so.

(7) If, on the conclusion of any enquiries or review made under this section, the authority decide not to apply for an emergency protection order, a child assessment order, a care order or a supervision order they shall—

(a) consider whether it would be appropriate to review the case at a later date; and

(b) if they decide that it would be, determine the date on which that review is to begin.

(8) Where, as a result of complying with this section, a local authority conclude that they should take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare they shall take that action (so far as it is both within their power and reasonably practicable for them to do so).

(9) Where a local authority are conducting enquiries under this section, it shall be the duty of any person mentioned in subsection (11) to assist them with those enquiries (in particular by providing relevant information and advice) if called upon by the authority to do so.

(10) Subsection (9) does not oblige any person to assist a local authority where doing so would be unreasonable in all the circumstances of the case.

(11) The persons are—

(a) any local authority;

(b) any local education authority;

(c) any local housing authority;

(d) any health authority; and

(e) any person authorised by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section.

(12) Where a local authority are making enquiries under this section with respect to a child who appears to them to be ordinarily resident within the area of another authority, they shall consult that other authority, who may undertake the necessary enquiries in their place."

### **18/ "In the interests of other agencies for children to be enrolled in education and attending regularly" p.27**

p.27 of the 2008 draft guidance says "It is in the interests of other agencies for children to be enrolled in education and attending regularly, ( whether at school or otherwise), not only because of the welfare of the child but also in order that the agency can fulfil their duties." The reference to "or otherwise" is misleading since it presumably refers to local alternative provision where "enrolling" and "attending regularly" would have some meaning. However it could confuse some local authorities. Moreover, funding is not available for home educated young people to access alternative provision. The local authority will be well aware of this. Therefore the 2008 guidance effectively tells local authorities to put home educated children into schools wherever possible.

### **19/ Where does the section on home education end ?**

Are sections 6.38 onwards still about Elective Home Education? The draft guidance is not clear at this point. We assume not because 6.39 talks about "pupil mobility checks" and "pupil registration." This section is potentially very misleading.

Again it needs to be made very clear where the section on home education begins and where it ends.

## **APPENDIX 1 STANDARD DATA DEFINITIONS**

The DCSF is keen to hear people's views on these new data definitions. There is more background information about the data definitions in the report of EO's meeting with DCSF at the end of August 2008 (<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/CMEReportIDDCSF29thAugust08meeting.pdf>).

You can view the 2 page appendix

here <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/appendix1datadefinitionsCME.pdf>.

Essentially DCSF is proposing 2 sub-sets of "children not receiving suitable education" and the appendix gives examples of what might be included in each category.

- a) Children not on a school roll, nor in local authority care, nor in juvenile custody, nor in immigration removal centres, nor in alternative provision, nor in a Pupil Referral Unit, nor in Further Education.
- b) Children who have been on the roll of a school, but have left, destination unknown (both those still on roll of school, and those removed from it)

Within the sub-sets it is further proposed to include cases of "Elective home education that is unsuitable in accordance with Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act"

As far as Education Otherwise is concerned, there is a huge problem with the whole concept of assessing "suitable education". You can read more about this in the account of our meeting with the DCSF (<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/CMEReportIDDCSF29thAugust08meeting.pdf>).

From the point of view of standardised database entry and data management systems there can only be one simple question: is the place of education known or not known. If the place of education is known then this can be logged on the database. If the place of education is not known then the data field is blank. This takes away all subjective distracting irrelevant partial information. The subjective random arbitrary list at 5 a) is not helpful from a data management point of view and will also greatly add to the local authorities' liability exposure. The list should be removed. As we understand from the meeting with DCSF

(<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/CMEReportIDDCSF29thAugust08meeting.pdf>, these

blank fields from ContactPoint will be consolidated to provide monthly reports to the local Children Missing Education teams.

When the data definition focuses on location rather than assessment of "suitability", data management becomes possible since home education where an address is given for the child would obviously fall into the category of "place of education known" and extensive guidance notes and examples would not be required in order to complete or amend the form. The child's place of education would be "the given home address" unless and until it changed to "a particular school" or "a different home address".

## **APPENDIX 2 RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

"The relevant legislation" section is inaccurate and incomplete.

We would expect URLs for the following so that the legislative references and Government guidance can be checked.

DCSF Elective Home Education Guidelines 2007

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/documents/content/7373-DCSF-Elective%20Home%20Education.pdf>

Section 4 Education and Inspection Act 2006 (introducing section 436A to the 1996 Education Act)

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2006/ukpga\\_20060040\\_en\\_2#pt1-11g4](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060040_en_2#pt1-11g4)

1996 Education Act

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts1996/ukpga\\_19960056\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts1996/ukpga_19960056_en_1)

1989 Children Act

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1989/ukpga\\_19890041\\_en\\_7#pt5-11g47](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1989/ukpga_19890041_en_7#pt5-11g47)

2004 Children Act

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/ukpga\\_20040031\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/ukpga_20040031_en_1)

2006 Pupil Registration Regulations ( England )

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi\\_20061751\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi_20061751_en.pdf)

2007 Attendance and Exclusions Sweep Guidance

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolattendance/uploads/ATTENDANCE%20AND%20EXCLUSION%20SWEEPS%20FINAL%20SEPT07.pdf>

2008 School Attendance Guidance

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolattendance/uploads/Prosecutions%20Ensuring%20Child%20rights%20to%20education.pdf>

The Children's Plan

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/downloads/The\\_Childrens\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/downloads/The_Childrens_Plan.pdf)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/AE53C8F9D7AEB1B23E403514A6C1B17D.pdf>

Section 175 Education Act 2002

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2002/ukpga\\_20020032\\_en\\_15#pt11-pb1-11g175](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_15#pt11-pb1-11g175)