

Confusion in Khyra Ishaq Serious Case Review over use of “Education Otherwise”

A spokesperson for the leading Home Education charity, Education Otherwise reacted with dismay at the confusion in the Serious Case Review into the death of Khyra Ishaq.

Fiona Nicholson, Trustee of Education Otherwise said, "Like all parents I am horrified at the death of Khyra Ishaq. However, due to the confusion caused by Birmingham City Council I need to make it clear that the charity Education Otherwise has no role in the assessment of home education. Birmingham City Council used the same name for their internal department and this has not been made clear in the serious case review or any publicity."

Annette Taberner, Trustee of Education Otherwise has written to the Select Committee and to Birmingham Council highlighting a number of errors in the Serious Case Review, which should have been corrected before the final draft was agreed in April.

Ian Matthews, Media Spokesperson said, "Despite the agreement of the courts in March, Birmingham City Council are still persisting in causing confusion in the media by using the name Education Otherwise. Criticism intended for Birmingham council in the Serious Case Review appears instead to be directed at the home education support charity. We will be advised by our lawyers on how to proceed."

[ends]

Notes for editors:

Birmingham City Council v AG & Ors 6th March 2009 has the following footnote:

Note 1 This and all further references to “Educating Otherwise” or “Education Otherwise” contained within this judgment refer to “Birmingham City Council’s Elective Home Education Advice Service” and not the Registered Charity No 1055120 “Education Otherwise Ltd” www.bailii.org/ew/EWHC/Fam/2009/B36.html

Birmingham child-protection services described as ‘not fit for purpose’: http://www.publicservice.co.uk/news_story.asp?id=10821

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