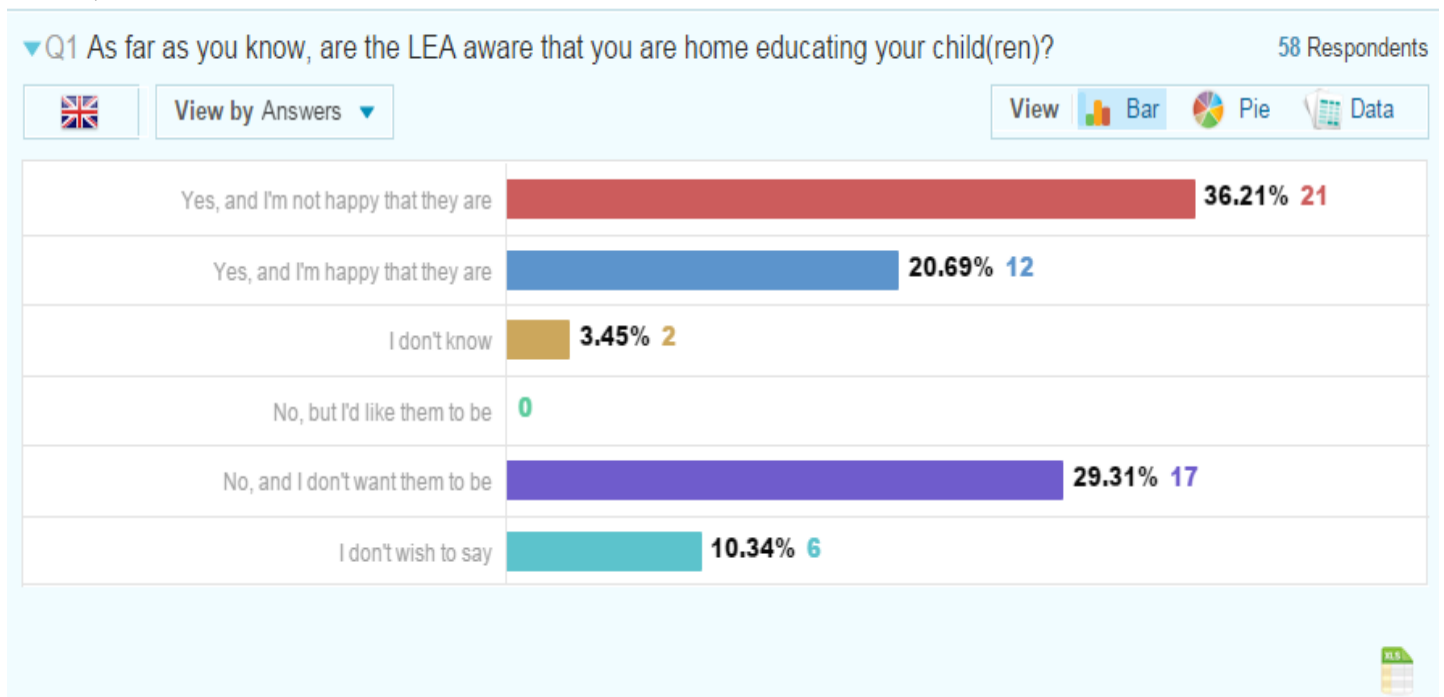


## Survey on Staffordshire LA 60 respondents in total

### Q1.

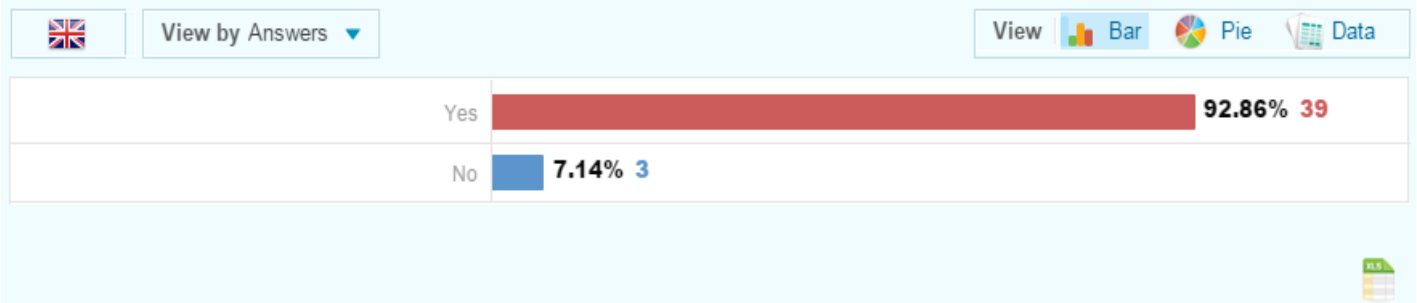


### Q2. Please say more if you want to.

1. I would prefer to be unknown as I would be able to home educate my children without dealing with the LEA who are currently acting ultra vires in their request for information.
2. As a parent I am responsible for my child's education regardless of where that education takes place. The LA only has a duty IF it appears to them no education is taking place and I would respectfully suggest that they spend taxpayers money on improving schools rather than hassling electively home educating families.
3. I don't trust them due to their recent actions.
4. I moved into Staffordshire within the last year. We were known to our previous LEA but they were not intrusive so it was fine. In fact in 4 years I only heard from them twice.
5. I was home educated as a child, and I remember the LEA visits with horror. It ranged from bubbling hostility to open shouting matches with my parents, demanding that we were put in school. They calmed down as the years went by and we were consistently outperforming school educated peers, but they always brought an atmosphere of conflict and dissatisfaction with them. No thanks.
6. very new to this and so far not noticed if they have done anything wrong. of course they could have done, but as I am so new, I will not have realised that yet
7. When I educated my older children and was known back then, visits where pointless and a waste of time. I do not fancy to deal with the Fabian agendas of some LA person.
8. I am happy that the LA knows that we do not require a place at our local school at this time and can budget accordingly or offer the place to someone else.
9. Have only ever had condescending visits from them with no support of any kind.
10. With the current way Entrust are acting I do not wish to engage with the EHE team.
11. What have I got to hide? - glad that there is an organisation out there who is responsible for the safeguarding of children
12. I am OK with having communication with the LEA, however I definitely worry about how much interference I am likely to get as a result, especially in light of other peoples recent experience
13. Some of the things I have heard from others about Staffs LA mean that I am not keen to have a lot of involvement with them.
14. After recently hearing of numerous incidents involving Staffs LEA and their inventive interpretation of the law, I am absolutely committed to ensuring my children remain 'unknown' to them.

### Q3.

▼Q1 If known to Staffs LEA, did you receive paperwork from them regarding your choice to Home Educate? 42 Respondents

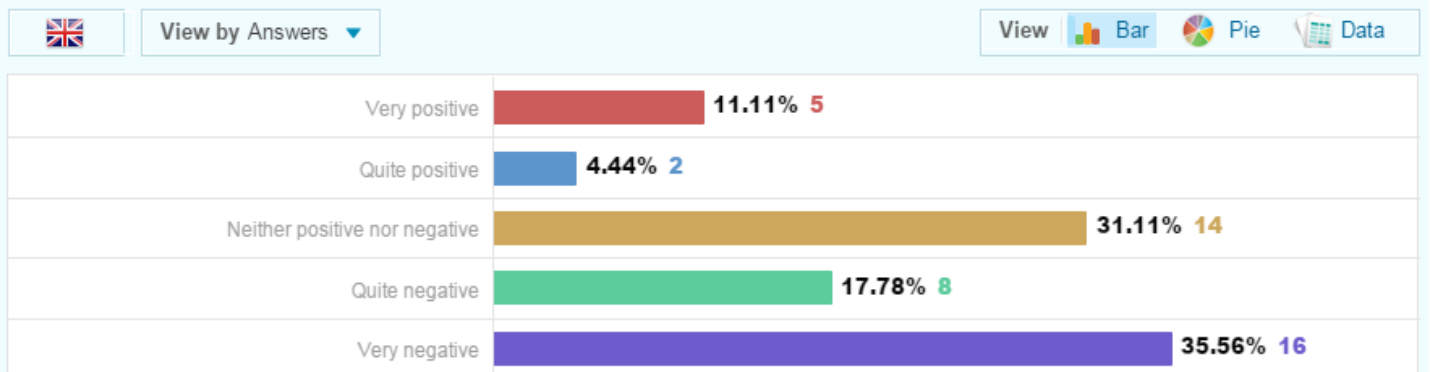


### Q4. Please say more if you want to

1. Plenty of paperwork, none of which was legally correct and once again a waste of taxpayers' money.
2. Asked to give a timetable of our activities, asked personal questions and the paperwork stated that Section 7 gave them the duty to monitor us.
3. Small booklet requesting a timetable of education with subjects for my 5 year old. With very little space for anything other.
4. Happy with information received, informative and useful

### Q5.

▼Q1 If you are known to the LEA, how would you rate the experience of dealing with them overall? 45 Respondents

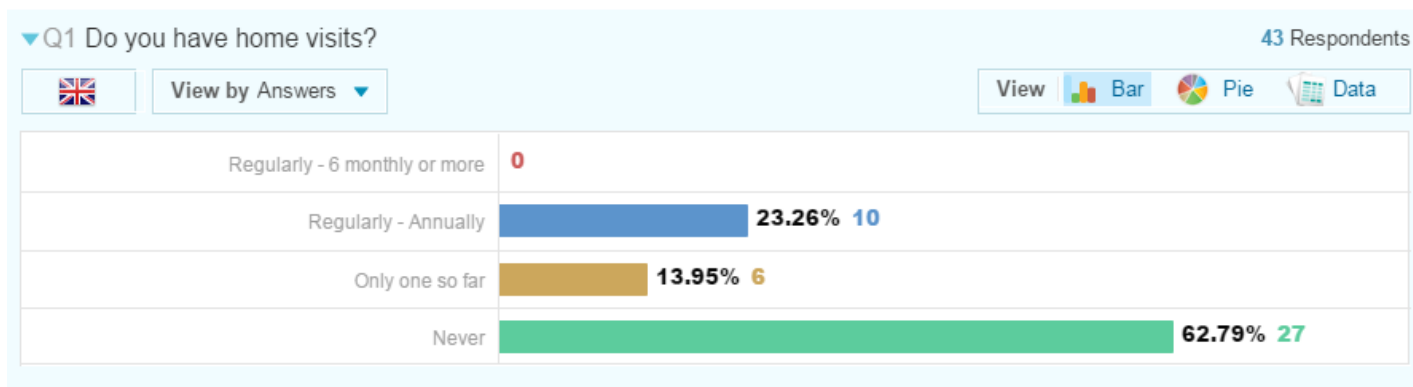


### Q6. Please say more if you want to

1. They are asking me for information but ignore my request to clarify why they want it or what their concerns are which they should do.
2. Bullying, patronising, outright lies and more lies.
3. They don't follow government guidelines.
4. Based on my own experiences detailed in the previous question.
5. On the basis that we initially had no idea what the LA's job was in relation to HE, there was nothing particularly negative about receiving a "welcome pack", except that it was badly written. However, once we realised that the LA was conducting an investigation rather than offering support we began to see things in a different light and felt duped.
6. No support Condescending Official SAO issued after 1 failed app as was on holiday
7. Helpful, friendly, supportive
8. Incompetent and thick
9. I have had a fairly positive conversation with the department, however this is countered by difficulty in contacting the person I required (the link on the website didn't work as switchboard had no idea what I was talking about), and the 'farming out' of aspects to a separate entity 'Entrust', whom I know nothing about and I am not comfortable dealing with.
10. Not known.

- So far we personally have only had minor issues with the LA, however we live in fear of them turning their negative attentions towards us, and consider ourselves lucky to have "escaped" thus far (as we are painfully aware of other home educating families we know suffering at their hands.)

## Q7.



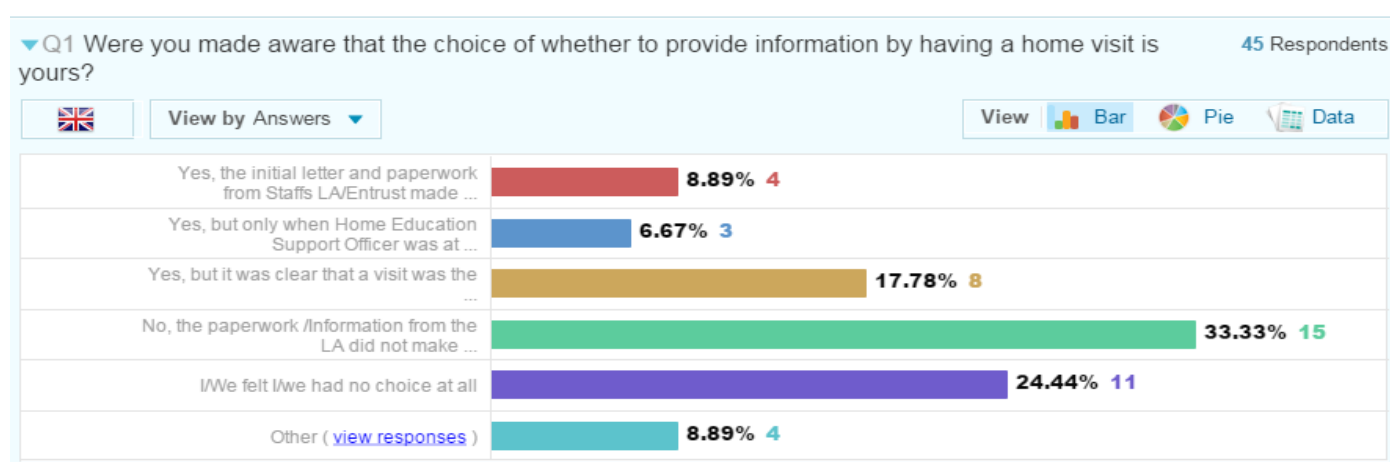
## Q8. What made you decide to have a visit?

- Wasn't aware it was a choice
- I thought I had to
- I was told my visit would be taking place on a set date.
- I had initially chosen not to meet but once I had met Jenny Dodd at a meeting I changed my mind and arranged for her to visit us at home.

## Q9. Please say more if you want to

- I do not want visits, however I do not want to say this to the LA because I fear the repercussions if I do as I know some have then been reported to social services or been threatened with SAO.
- I am pleased that I realised I didn't need to have visits and have declined to have them.
- Why on earth would anyone want someone in their home who obviously has no clue about what home education can look like.
- not at this point
- Told by the EWO that the educational provision has to be approved by the LA every year in order to home educate, and that our child couldn't be de-registered from school initially or the provision approved without a home visit.
- Home visits up until now have never been positive or supportive. Uncomfortable with my son being quizzed. Prefer not to have them and send work in which even that is not legally required. Have no faith in them any more and will never turn to them for help in the future especially as I've been provided with false information
- I have not had a visit from Staffs as I am new to the area. Though I accepted visits from my previous LEA and found them positive, I am unsure whether to have a visit as there is no consistency in LEA approach in England.
- I have met a member of the EHE team in a different situation - but not voluntarily.
- We are no longer willing to have home visits after seeing the treatment meted out to other members of the Home Ed community.

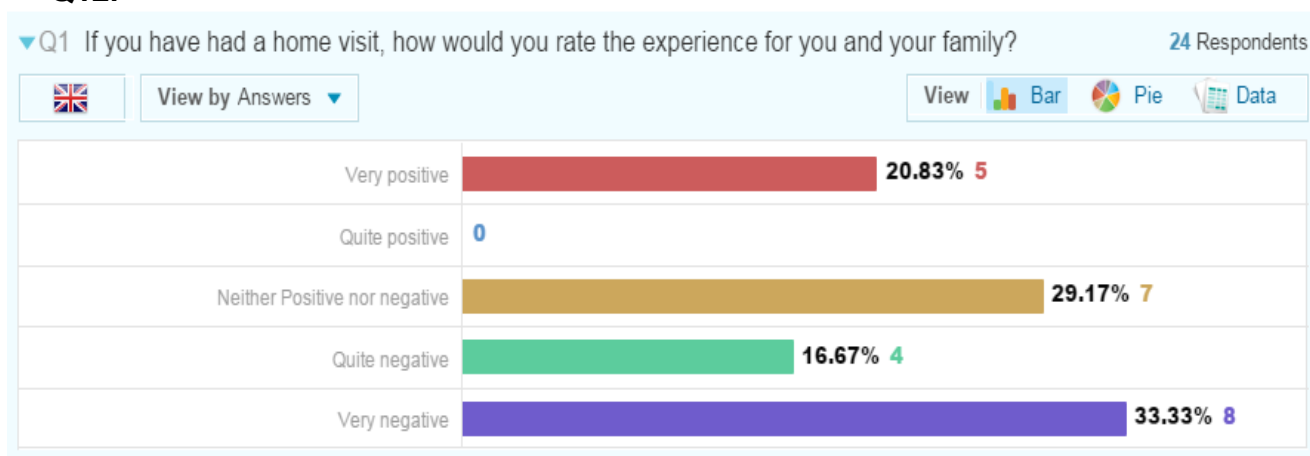
## Q10.



### Q11. Please say more if you want to

1. Its hard to say if I would have been so sure if I didn't know that I didn't need to meet with them.
2. I received my paperwork pre 'consultation'
3. Not even given a chance to submit anything before receiving correspondence threatening a school attendance order.
4. I don't want visits! why would I want a visit from someone who is manipulative that I cannot trust. They send out letters with appointments on (even though they are aware you don't want them to see you). The letter has the date and time arranged. They give the option of meeting elsewhere, but no acknowledgement of the fact you don't need to meet with them.
5. I managed to change the location to the local library
6. Is it a recent thing that visits are no longer required?
7. And through the research I did before starting to home educate.
8. Before the letter was sent out we had requested a phone call. During the call we were offered a choice between having a home visit or meeting at a neutral location - but we were NOT informed that we did not have to meet.
9. We began home educating many years ago - when there was minimal paperwork or info from the LEA. I did however know that a home visit was optional. I chose to welcome the LEA into our home and was proud to show them what we were doing.
10. Would never have had it.
11. The situation seemed to be very much that we should provide details and accept visits, and failure to do so would result in problems later.

### Q12.



### Q13. Please say more if you want to

1. My child absolutely hates the visits, he's terrified he will be sent back to school where he was badly bullied. We have to deal with the side effects of the visits every time they come around, as he gets very anxious, can't sleep and this reflects in his behaviour.
2. I only have visits because I feel that if I don't, then Jenny Dodd will cause problems for my family. She has made it clear on several occasions that she prefers a school at home approach, and told me that my SEN child could not be assessed if she remained home educate and that she needed to go to school if we wanted support. Which I later found out was not true.
3. All our visits over the years - have always been very positive. I would go as far as to say that the visits have been looked forward to and have provided another learning opportunity - how to welcome and interact with a visiting adult.
4. Chance to share our experiences; children proud to show others what they have achieved and discuss their learning. Also a chance for the LEA to learn what can be achieved and how different families home educate. Also a chance for the LEA to learn about ways families socialise, i.e. groups etc
5. Very frustrating, and left feeling as bad as we did when children were at school.
6. Not had one.
7. We have no need of advice and do not need our educational provision to be judged. We do not feel that Staffs EHE service provides the Home Ed community with any support, but rather it is monitoring by stealth. We have no confidence that Staffs EHE team understand Home Ed very well and they appear to still have a school mindset.

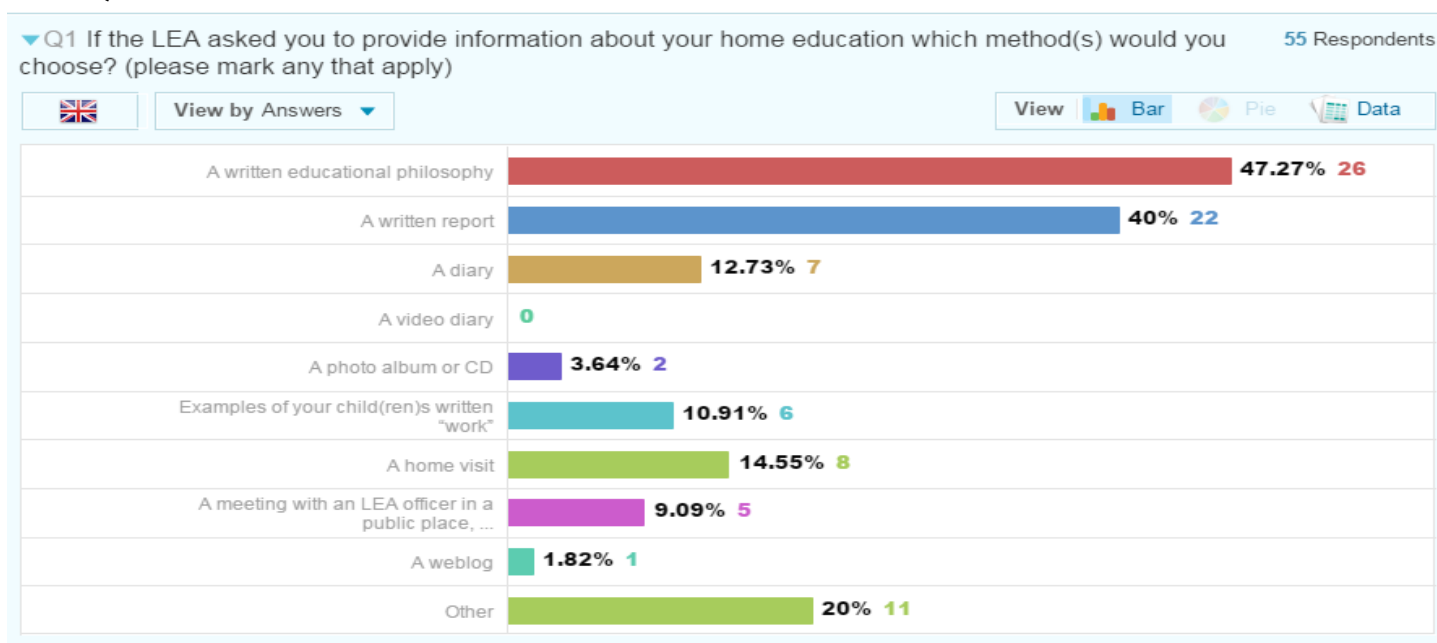
### Q14. If you decided not to have a visit – how did you give information about the educational provision?

1. Written report
2. In writing.
3. I completed the form they provided.
4. Written information
5. Educational philosophy and statement of educational provision. Initially accepted for three years but then told it may be considered not satisfactory retrospectively! More lies and lies
6. I wrote back refusing the visit.

### Q15. How did the EHE team respond to your refusal of a visit?

1. They made an appointment for a visit, and then when this was refused threatened with a SAO as they 'needed to see the child'
2. I was threatened with a School Attendance Order.
3. They acknowledged that I didn't need to have a visit.
4. We were reported to social services by Jenny Dodd.
5. Didn't give them an opportunity - put in a complaint about the incorrect information being sent out and the totally inappropriate behaviour of the LA's officers.
6. Accepted I didn't want the visit.

### Q16.

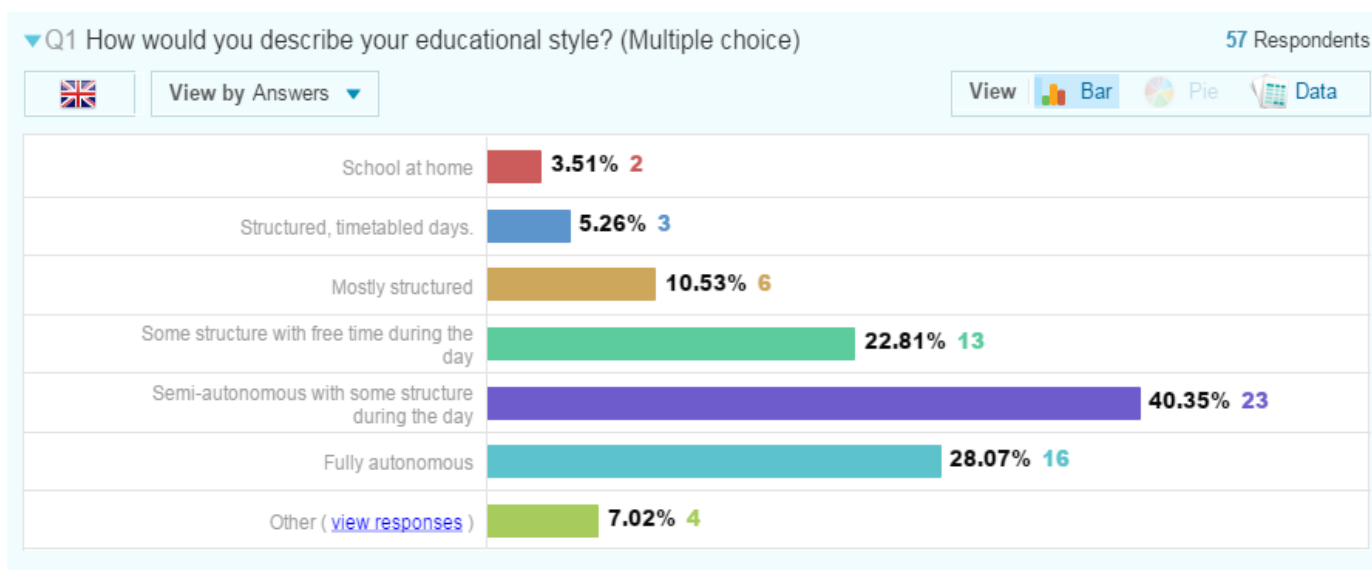


### Q17. Please say more if you want to (including any other methods you would prefer)

1. I would refuse any requests now. Thankfully we're under the radar again after moving house so we are being left alone for now.
2. I don't want contact.
3. If I submit an educational philosophy I am in control of the format and information I provide. I would not be happy to provide anything that included images of my children or their work as it is their private property and not necessary from a legal perspective.
4. My willingness to have a home visit may change depending on the outcome of the forthcoming meetings.
5. The only reason they require information is to ensure that an education is being provided. They have no duty to monitor or judge said provision. Parents are responsible for their child's education and the local authority answer TO parents about the provision they make within schools. If parents are content with their child's progress that is sufficient.
6. The Ed phil and report I would provide if asked would both be very short.

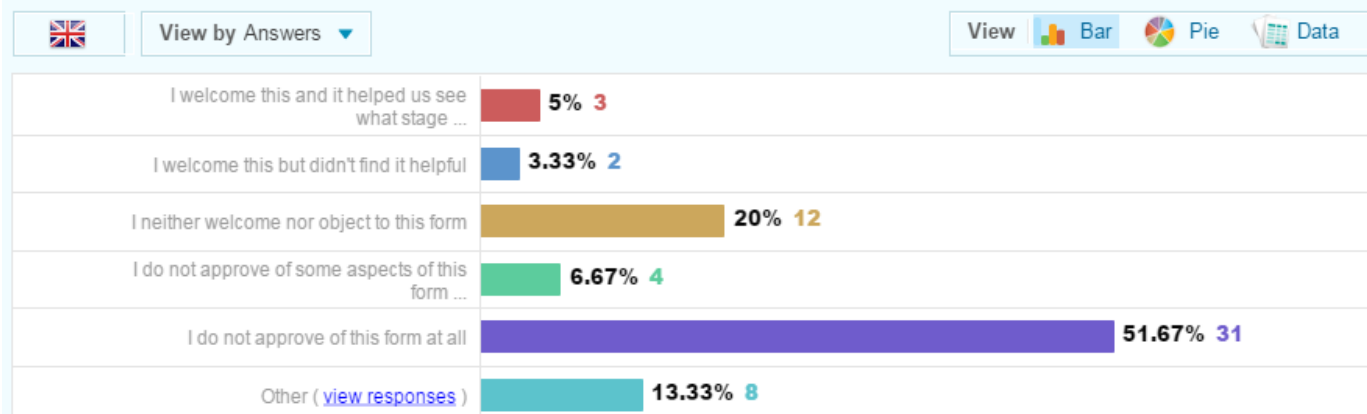
7. I would not want to stick to one method. Children grow, methods that may have been appropriate change. Home visits may be acceptable if the visitor is someone you would welcome in your home. If not, they wouldn't be allowed onto that hallowed ground. The children may be doing written work or they may be discussing a subject. Please keep it fluid and flexible.
8. Only if there are concerns raised, but not routinely.
9. Would rather not have contact with them at all.
10. none. I no longer want any contact with the team, I have been lied to, too many times.
11. We would prefer simply to tick a box to say that we are home educating (as opposed to privately educating, accessing state education in another borough or requiring a state school place locally). We are not aware of any requirement either to ask or respond to questions about how we deliver that education without any concerns having been raised. In any case, we are not convinced that the EHE would be able to see beyond a standard curriculum model.
12. This would not be a long document.
13. A home visit provides the opportunity for an informal meeting - in the environment that we spend a lot of time learning, creating, playing etc. It is obvious by the surroundings that we are a very busy family - and learning plays a very central part to our lives. Much simpler than writing a report/diary/weblog etc.
14. A brief outline of our resources should we choose to use them
15. No problems with any method.
16. Well, aren't these people the same umbrella that run our schools badly?
17. I may have a home visit, but the current climate within the LEA leads me to feel that at present this would be unwise.
18. In my mind, it would be reasonable to provide enough information that on the balance of probabilities, they would not be able to conclude that no education was taking place. That would fulfil their statutory duties. But I would not wish to have to provide information in such a way or on such a regular basis that it was tantamount to being monitored. I would not be keen on a home visit because I have heard accounts of LEA officers worrying the children or overstepping the mark in some way and getting confused about their legal position.
19. Unless I was informed that they had specific concerns, I'd be very reluctant to provide any of the above.
20. Ed phil in the first instance. Would only give anything more detailed (diary, photos, work etc) in response to specific concerns and then probably only if a SAO was threatened. They don't have the right to ask for anything.
21. I'd rather not provide any
22. I would only be happy to provide information if Staffs EHE team had specific reasons to believe that a suitable education was not taking place. If that was the case I would write an educational philosophy and possibly include photographic evidence of the varied activities enjoyed by my child.

## Q18.



## Q19.

▼Q1 Staffs LA/Entrust use an "Record of information" form for known home educators - Link above; please **60** Respondents tell us how you feel about this form (Please note the sentence stating: "Please note: you are not legally obliged to provide us with any information." has now been removed from the document.)



### Other;

1. I'm afraid I can't access the paperwork to view it.
2. Rather invasive, isn't it? Surely this is the sort of information that could be provided IF concerns are raised - I see no reason for it otherwise.
3. I don't think parents should have to explain their reasons for home education - no one asks why you have chosen to send your child to school.
4. "link not found" - link above not found
5. It appears to be better than the one we received, but I still don't like it.
6. I don't like it.
7. As a home educator I am not legally obliged to fill in any forms so I would send this back with a line through every page.
8. It's a load of utter rubbish

## Q20. Any comments about the Initial contact letter (please copy + paste the link into a browser to view)

1. Although they say you can use other means to inform them about your family they are not always accepting of other formats. I am not sure where you want me to put the comments about the record of information form. So I have put them here. The form clearly states that the information you provide is to help them tailor their service to your needs. However, after completing the form and sending it back the response from Jenny Dodd have made it is clear that the form is about monitoring the provision of the education provided. The second box asks for resources or activities that have been considered. I completed the form with brief information about activities that we have considered, as the form only asked for a sentence or so. The correspondence with Jenny Dodd since then has specifically asked for information that is subject specific and inference is that we are discussing the education I am providing my children not just things I have considered.
2. It is quite clear they do not have a correct understanding of the law as it applies to elective home education.
3. "Welcome to Home Education." A bit corny, coming from Jenny Dodd, infamous for her abrasive personality and general hostility toward Home Education. I do not like being given boxes titled with leading suggestions to provide information. The Socialisation myth pervades.
4. It sounds friendly, but Jenny dodd's attitude is completely different
5. The letter makes no sense. Our first impression was that the LA was either incompetent or that there was a hidden agenda. For instance, you can't tell whether you don't have to reply ever, or should reply within four weeks. Nor do we wish to be welcomed to a service that we are actually providing ourselves. We do not believe that any information we provide will be used to support what we do, but is instead being used as part of an investigation into the adequacy of our educational provision. In this regard, the letter is at the very least misleading and possibly underhand.

6. Fine.
7. Can't read form as URL link is a long one and not accessible.
8. I must be made explicitly clear that there is no obligation to fill in the forms, have home visits or provide information in a specific format, failure to do this is misleading and, whilst some EHE families do know the law, and can stand up for themselves, other more vulnerable families would find this initial contact intimidating.
9. It sounds reasonable.
10. I feel this sentence is rather leading - "you are under no obligation to do so, but it would be greatly appreciated if you could get the information back to us by XXX". The implication of this wording is that you're not obliged to return it within four weeks, whereas the fact is you are not obliged to return it at all. There are several similar phrases in the letter.

**Q21. Any comments about the School Exit Form (please copy + paste the link into a browser to view)**

1. Waste of taxpayers money.
2. The form states (LST). Is this going to the local support teams linked with social services? Why is taking a child out of school suddenly a safeguarding issue. The information is invasive and unnecessary. Any reports of concern would already be on file if they existed!
3. These are the kind of questions they asked my daughter's school?! Why was I never told about this?
4. Far too invasive. If the school have any concerns then they should have been reported before de-registration. Safeguarding concerns are for social services to deal with, not the elective home education team. Education and welfare should never be conflated. Home education in itself is not a welfare issue.
5. Fine.
6. This is a horribly clinical form, there is no space for anything positive on here at all! It comes across as 'fishing for dirt'. I would like to see a comments section for a teacher to provide a little positive nugget about the individual child, instead of the 'you are just a number' format here.
7. "The purpose of this form is to determine whether or not there are any Safeguarding/ risk factors present which the LA or other agencies should be aware of as the child in question will no longer be within a school community". As a home educating parent, I find this sentence at the top of the form to be very insulting, especially given that rates of abuse are lower in the home educating population than in the school population.
8. The school exit form should be made available to parents to see. Many don't even know of it's existence.
9. They should already have that information from the child's school records, it is invasive and unnecessary.

**Q22. Any comments about the 'Information for Parents' document (please copy + paste the link into a browser to view)**

1. Load of rubbish.
2. 'Staffordshire's EHE team are here to support you not inspect you' - think they need to re-write this part!
3. We received this quite positively. Some of the information was useful and honest and reflected the current legal position. It would have been helpful to have had more information about local HE groups and what sort of services and support the LA can provide, e.g. LA organised activities for HE and where to access these.
4. Fine.
5. This reads as positive and encouraging, there is one major thing missing, a full description of exactly who Entrust are and what they do with our details and why they are involved in the first place.
6. Fine except where it mentions near the beginning about parents having the 'right' to home educate. I know it mentions duty elsewhere and this is what should be throughout. The problem with 'right' is that it suggests that it is something that can be granted / conferred / taken away.
7. It would be nice if they followed some of their own advice contained in this document.



**Q23. Do you have any comments regarding the new Elective Home Education Procedures? (Please copy + paste the link into a browser to view)**

1. Ultra Vires
2. I would say the content of the document gives the impression that ENTRUST are very supportive of Home Education and only want to help families. It states they have no statutory duties in relation to monitoring the quality of home education. My experience however is that they have an agenda of monitoring and ticking boxes. It states that you can work on what you want to and when you want to but I have been repeatedly asked for subject specific information.
3. Ultra Vires.
4. LA has no clue and is attempting to force electively home educating parents to comply to their procedures which have no legal basis by bullying and threatening words.
5. Why was the document autonomously changed? I do not like the method of operating here. It should be agreed by the EHE community and then revisions should also be agreed. It suggests that the LEA/Entrust are unhappy with their position in supporting Home Educators. It reduces the relationship to a game of chess, not a working team.
6. Completely Ultra Vires. Clearly have no understanding of the law.
7. I don't have time to comment properly as the survey times out if you are away from the page for too long. Main comments are that there have been many examples of maladministration, where the LA is not following even its own guidelines; that the guidelines themselves make a mockery of the law; that welfare and education should not be confused; that procedures are being implemented by people with no experience of HE and whose ideas have been shaped by a belief that "school is best"; and that the procedures purport to relate to a service but are actually placing everyone in HE under suspicion.
8. Nothing to add.
9. 1.2 - Extremely manipulative, reads like you are getting told off for disrespecting the EHE department, before you've even dealt with them! What I read is "We are trying to help, so stop causing trouble." 4.3 - This ruling relate to initial contact only, its use in this section to indicate that parents should respond to all communication is extremely misleading and should be changed immediately. 8 - Requests have been refused before. Most of the rest seems OK, though wording could do with tweaking in places. The problem isn't so much the procedures themselves as the failure of EHE dept to actually follow them with anything like a consistent approach.
10. Again, it shouldn't be talking in terms of parents' 'right' to home educate. They have the duty of education and are choosing to exercise it in this way.
11. Misunderstanding of Lord Donaldson's judgement in my opinion.
12. The documentation appears reasonable, but it is not worth the paper it is printed on if the actual procedures and actions of the EHE staff do not tally with the written procedures. If a letter goes out stating that the parents are not legally obliged to respond, then door stepping them and instigating actions designed to force a response are totally unacceptable.
13. Having followed the consultation closely, they are very far removed from the original piloted version, it is threatening and coercive and I would not be happy to be in contact with someone who clearly doesn't understand the laws surrounding home education regarding my child's educational provision.

**Q24. What are your thoughts regarding the contract with Entrust regarding the EHE services? (Please copy + paste the link)**

1. Does not represent the law or EHE guidelines at all. Unlawful.
2. The contract clearly is at odds with the information for parents provided by Entrust. It states they have a statutory duty to monitor home education which is unlawful and would involve Entrust acting ultra vires. There is no requirement for an annual statutory visit to monitor the provision of home education or for the purposes of safeguarding. Yet this is mentioned several times in different parts of the contract The language of the contract is very negative for example 'informing families of the ramifications of home education' There seems to be an expectation that Entrust will work towards adding families who are currently unknown to the LEA to the register. Despite the fact there is no legal obligation of families to register.
3. There are no monitoring duties, or statutory annual reviews. Whoever wrote this does clearly not understand the law. Completely Ultra Vires and unlawful.
4. Very disappointing.
5. Obviously the person/people who commissioned this service do NOT understand the relevant Law and Statutory Guidelines relating to elective home education and really need to get their act together.
6. They have been instructed to act outside the law and guidance I object to a third party being paid

with taxpayer funds to do the job the LA is charged with and refuse to correspond directly with them - all my correspondence is direct to the LA and will remain that way. Entrust do not feature in my world and will remain locked out

7. I am appalled by it. Guidelines have not been followed, home educators are being seen as guilty of not providing adequate education and since when did we need to be inform of ramifications of Elective Home Education! If I had been aware of the ramifications of school I wouldn't of sent my child there in the first place!

### **Q25. What has been the best thing and what has been the worst thing (if anything) about dealing with Staffs LA/Entrust?**

1. There is no best thing. Their continuing request for information that is ultra vires. The seemingly underhand approach where they come across as being helpful and sincere, however, all they are interested in is monitoring me and my family. My constant worry that because I am not willing to provide them with the information they ask for it could be escalated and be detrimental to myself and my children. The feeling that I can not be trusted as a parent and the onus of proof is on me rather than them having evidence. The loss of trust.
2. Being reported to Social services, simply because we chose not to have a visit. Despite sending in written information about the educational provision.
3. Best thing was meeting with the EHE team and commissioner at the start of the 'consultation' process (? Feb 13). I was optimistic and happy to be involved in the process as I thought the revised processes & paperwork that came out of those meetings would make life much easier for new home educating families. Worst thing was my first contact with the LA in Summer 2012. Despite de-registering my child I was stopped in the street outside my home by a male CME officer who asked to be allowed into my home. Feeling as though my refusal would indicate I had "something to hide" I allowed him in.
4. There is no best thing. It's all rubbish. Worst thing is Jenny Dodd who says one thing and goes off and does the opposite. Obviously in the wrong job.
5. No best thing
6. Arranged visits without your consent. They are the only people I have ever come across to arrange a visit without your knowledge!
7. In the short time I have lived here I have heard many horror stories of Staffs LA/Entrust completely overstepping what is required and what is legal. The best thing for me is that as a family we are not known. In the five years I have been home educating I have almost never heard a positive reason for having any communication with an LEA but I have read many hundreds of parents describing the unnecessary and judgemental experiences they have had. I always advise new home educators to avoid all contact if at all possible. As a community we the fellow home educator provide a vast amount of free and knowledgeable support and advice that is up to date and helpful and a source of ongoing friendships both for the adults and the children.
8. I have managed to avoid contact with the EHE team since the initial letter when we de-registered.
9. I have spoken to many people who have been treated badly by an HESO by the name of Jenny Dodd. Why are they employing people who seem to relish a fight? I would like to have Jenny Dodd's (and all HESO's) philosophical statements regarding HE clearly available.
10. my initial phone call to them when son was being bullied and I was looking for approval to remove him from his school. at the meeting I mentioned one of the kids was very interested in Hoovers so she signposted me to James Ddyson foundation re challenge cards and Hoovers dismantling.
11. We've only had one visit so far, however while it was okay. We probably won't be having one again.
12. The worst thing has been the effect it has had on our son. There haven't been any best bits, and we worry about getting it wrong.
13. There are no best bits. the worst thing was not knowing that I had a choice about whether or not to have contact with them. I will be refusing all further contact from now on because I don't trust them.
14. The sheer incompetence of Jenny Dodd. She appears to be nice, but gives out false information about visits.
15. Greatly appreciated the encouragement, advice and support offered.
16. Best thing: Julie Stevenson has so far shown herself willing to listen and help move us all forward. Entrust incompetence has also (ironically) brought the HE community together. Worst thing: Like everyone else, we are in HE to spend time educating and not filling in surveys, attending meetings

- and writing letters of complaint.
17. There have been no positives
  18. We have found Staffs LEA to be professional, supportive, friendly and unobtrusive. They have left us to educate without any interference - boosting our confidence to do this by the positive feedback that we have received from them. I can't think of any negatives. This was not what we expected from an LEA when we started to home educate - we have been very pleasantly surprised.
  19. They appear to be ill informed, judgemental and incapable of supporting families with SEN children. No positives, my phone call with them didn't impact on us as I found them unhelpful.
  20. Helpful, supportive, friendly. Worst thing - nothing, they have a job to do.
  21. Very incompetent on education side. Good aiming high, as children learn through being happy, and through play.
  22. I have had very few dealings with them, the most useful thing was a list of places accepting external candidates for GCSE's. There is a definite lack of clarity in the paperwork, especially around Entrust and who they actually are.
  23. No contact.
  24. I've never had to deal with them, fortunately! I do believe it's got to a stage now where home educators throughout Staffordshire will bunker down and begin to refuse to cooperate.
  25. There has not been a best thing, and I can't write about the worst thing without giving up my anonymity.
  26. Best thing they only contact once a year. Worst thing they seem to expect school at home
  27. I have lost all trust in the EHE team by witnessing their heavy handed and unlawful treatment of other members of the HE community. The law is the law and must be applied across the board, not just to those who meet the personal criteria of the EHE team. I feel like members of the HE community are being treated as criminals to be investigated rather than law abiding, tax paying citizens who are investing much time, money and effort into giving their children the best educational experience they can.

## **Q26. What would you like Staffs LA/Entrust to improve?**

1. Simply to rewrite the contract so that it is lawful and for Entrust to work within the bounds of the law and government guidance and documentation to reflect their role accurately. To be respected as a parent who cares about the education of their children.
2. Follow the law.
3. To follow national guidance and examples of best practice.
4. Staffs LA should MOVE this section away from Entrust and put it possibly with Libraries and get people who actually understand elective home education on board to improve their policies and procedures. It's quite clear the recent consultation was a complete waste of local families' time.
5. Compliance with the published guidelines as that would demonstrate at least some level of respect towards families
6. Follow guidelines and show respect for home educators. Stop treating a person like a criminal just because they remove a child from a school system.
7. stick to what the law actually says, listen to local home educators. be less intrusive. Staffs LA/entrust seem to have a very poor reputation nationwide for their past behaviour regarding home educators. Lancashire I have heard have a widely respected policy so perhaps Staffs should follow their example.
8. The information provided to Home Educators is unhelpful, and seems to be based on assessing what you are doing rather than providing support and access to resources.
9. I think that the whole mindset regarding HE needs to be addressed. If the promotion of schools to HE families is acceptable, the promotion of HE should also be addressed within schools. I would propose that the LEA/Entrust endeavour to recruit previously HE HESOs and try to draw from them their experiences. The HESOs seem to have no experience of how to best go about their "Support" role other than to attack. Education is not school. School is a set of systems. Education is something that has been going on for thousands of years prior to the introduction of systems. HESOs need to recognise that and get on with supporting the HE process and the families, not issuing 15 Day Notices to Satisfy the moment that someone appears on their radar. It's education, not chemical warfare.
10. to not step over the line with new HE'ers. at the meeting with Alison Johnson I told her a fairly brief synopsis of situation and what I was hoping to achieve with the kids. I was 2 weeks in to HE, and she had written out my Ed phil for me.
11. Stick to guidelines. Stop intimidating people.
12. Why aren't local sites linked to? The only one linked to nearby is a heavily structured group that doesn't suit my child. We've only recently found out there are other local groups about. I want them

- to tell the truth and to follow the law, is that so much to ask for?
13. Follow the law as it stands. Parents are innocent until proven guilty, and the LA only has a duty if concerns are raised about the educational provision. S437 is being heavily misused.
  14. 1. We'd like them to stop misinterpreting the law and overstepping the mark 2. Transparency, so it is clear why we are being asked for information 3. Competency - the right people for the job 4. Respect - there's nothing wrong with HE and yet an assumption has been made that we need to be proved competent.
  15. Listen to the parent and understand all children are different. If a parent asks for help do not immediately blame the parent or carer who may already be feeling like a failure when their child has difficulties. Do not speak down to us. Offer support where requested and I would like to actually feel comfortable enough during a visit so we can relax and enjoy our children and be proud. Not be terrified of the visit.
  16. I would like Entrust to act lawfully and have a proper understanding of the law surrounding the legal right to home educate our own children. I would like Entrust to employ people who actually understand home education in its many and varied forms and have a good understanding of their own role in supporting parents who want support with home educating their children. I would like Entrust to treat all members of the home education community with respect.
  17. For us - there are no improvements.
  18. Actually know the law, stop bullying people, I know several families bullied by them into providing info not legally entitled.
  19. More regular meetings, with varied agenda. More events organised in liaison with local home Ed families/groups.
  20. Try listening, instead of assuming.
  21. I would like to see more services offered (for those who want) rather than the current situation of taking details, issuing demands and all on the LEA's time-scale. Perhaps if the LEA gave something tangible to the EHE community, they would feel more inclined to be involved with the LEA.
  22. Make sure they keep phrases like "Staffs LA has a duty to ensure that all children are receiving a suitable education" permanently out of their documentation. Legally, it is misleading and untrue and it is the sort of language that LAs use to justify all kinds of interference.
  23. Their paperwork, their policies, their procedures, and their staff.
  24. Everything! Their staff training would be a good place to start.
  25. Follow the law
  26. To remove Entrust
  27. I would like there to be trust between the community and the EHE team. How are we expected to ask for support if necessary, when we can't trust them not to have an ulterior motive. Is this a support service or a covert monitoring operation? If it's the former, what support is there? Help with funding exams? Help finding an exam centre? Access to workshops run by advisory teachers? Laboratory access for science projects, negotiating discounts at local authority run sports centres? Access to meeting places? Encouraging local schools to accept flexi schooling? Helping children with SEN access assessments? There is much that Entrust could do to provide support, but at the moment it does nothing, and frankly with relations being as they are between the HE community and the EHE team, I'd be surprised if there was any take up if they did.
  28. I would like them to follow the law, and I would like for the support they offer to be completely separate from asking for information about the educational provision. They are two completely different services. The law is purposely worded in a way to assume that citizens are innocent until proven guilty, the law is reactive upon concerns being reported, not proactive by asking for information where there are no educational concerns.