***Briefing for professionals – Elective Home Education (September 2020*)**

Key considerations that parents/carers should be asked to fully consider before deregistering their child from a school roll:

* If a parent/carer is considering home education for a temporary period, as a result of ongoing Covid-19 related concerns, they should be made aware that, when the time comes for their child to return to school, they may be required to send their child to an alternative school – a school which could potentially be some distance from the family home depending on the availability of school places within the locality.
* Many schools have waiting lists for all/most year groups. This means that, as soon as a space becomes available, another child may be waiting to take up the placement. It is important for parents/carers to note that, should they choose to remove their child from a school roll to home educate, a place may not be available at their child’s current school if, at a later date, they choose to return their child back to the school system.
* When any parent/carer removes their child from a school roll, in favour of elective home education, they essentially take on the full responsibility to provide an education to their child. This will mean that no resources/equipment/exercise books, etc. will be provided to assist with the home education, by either the school or the local authority. Parents/carers will need to be prepared to absorb all financial costs/responsibilities involved in providing an education to their child/ren. This will mean that ‘elective home education’ will feel very different for parents/carers who have enjoyed ‘home schooling’ their child, using resources provided by their child’s school, as part of the lockdown measures imposed as a result of Covid-19.
* For children who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) **AND** are on the roll of a mainstream school, parents/carers need to be aware that any resources that are provided for their child by their current school WILL NOT be made available for their use as part of any home education arrangement. Any special equipment, differentiated resources, etc. will need to be provided/sourced by the parent/carer on behalf of their child. This may have cost implications for parents/carers who require specialist resources to provide a suitable home education to their child.
* For children who have an EHCP **AND** are on roll at a Special School please ensure that parents are aware that they will be required to demonstrate how the needs of the pupil and the provision outlined within the EHCP will be met. If the LA is not satisfied that parents can meet their child’s needs, as set out within the EHCP, the pupil cannot be deregistered from the Special School (the LA must grant permission before deregistration from a special school may take place in favour of elective home education) and parents will be required to ensure their child attends their named provision or face potential legal action for non-attendance.

If you are working with, or come across, a young person that is home educated and want further information or advise you can contact the educational inclusion and partnership team duty line on 01604 365054 or email eip-triage@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk