



To:
Kirsty Williams AM
Welsh Government Minister
Education and Skills

Please ask for: **Scrutiny**
Scrutiny Office Line: **01792 637256**
e-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
Date: **26 October 2016**

Dear Minister

Elective Home Education

I am writing to you on behalf of the Education Through Regional Working Scrutiny Councillor Group which is made up of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of six local authorities' Education Scrutiny Committees. We came together in Pembrokeshire on 27 September 2016 for our bi-annual Scrutiny ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group.

At this meeting we shared our concerns on elective home education and in particular issues relating to the role as councillor in safeguarding children within our local authority areas. We had concerns about not knowing where children are being home educated in our communities and particularly that they are not being seen by an education professional. This issue has also been highlighted further over recent years where serious cases have come to light where children have not been on the local authority radar and connections have not been made with other agencies. An example of this is the death in 2011 in Wales of an 8 year old boy. The Seabridge Serious Case reviewⁱ was published in 2016 which has recommended: '*Welsh government consider changing legislation to require parents to register children receiving home education with the local authority on an annual basis and to ensure the children are seen and spoken to and their wishes recorded annually*'.

This issue had been raised and discussed consistently by local authorities in the region over recent years with some making previous individual representations to Welsh Government Ministers. Members of the Group believe that stronger leadership is required at the national level. The Group would be interested in hearing your views and any future plans on this matter.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,
Councillor Guy Woodham
Chair ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group and
Chair of Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee, Pembrokeshire Council

ⁱ Concise child practice review: re: CYSUR 2/2015 - NSPCC -
Published by [CYSUR Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children Board](#) ([2016])