

Date 3 September 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

You may remember that I wrote to parents and carers of children being home educated in February and July of this year. My letters explained that we had to review the support available to families following a decision of the Schools Forum that schools' money should not be used to fund the service beyond the end of August 2014.

I am writing now to thank you for your responses to those letters, and to let you know how Somerset County Council plans to discharge its statutory duties to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of all children – including children who are home educated.
- Ensure parents are providing suitable education for their child of statutory school age, and consider the use of School Attendance Orders when necessary.

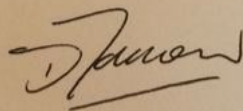
From 1 September 2014 John Riches, working with colleagues, will take the lead in ensuring these duties are discharged in respect of the education of children in the home. This will be in addition to his other duties as an Area Education Attendance Manager, his contact number is as above should you need to contact him.

We will continue to keep a list of children we understand to be home educated; we will no longer use the terms – registered or unregistered, as we will not be providing services, other than those mentioned above.

In my earlier letter I said that we would be asking for annual education plans from you – this will not now be the case. If, from 1 September, we have reason to question the adequacy of the education provided to any home educated child we will write to the parent or carer and ask for evidence that an efficient and suitable education is being provided – this could include education plans for the future, records of education recently undertaken. When the evidence is satisfactory we will take no further action in respect of the child's education. If we still have concerns then we will contact the parent or carer again formally.

We hope you will agree that this is a reasonable way to work with parents and carers who chose to home educate, protecting the child where that is needed, while fully respecting the right of parents to educate their child themselves.

Yours sincerely



DAVE FARROW
Strategic Manager – Vulnerable Learners