Our primary concern is that all children who live in Gloucestershire, wherever they
learn, receive an education that allows them to reach their potential and live fulfilling
lives. As the number of children who are educated at home continues to rise
nationally, and the range of different factors that influence the decision to home
educate become more varied and numerous, so too may the number of instances
where children’s needs are not being well served through the arrangements parents
are making outside of a school setting an, therefore, the instances where a local
authority may need to intervene.

The publication of the revised guidance provides an opportunity for greater clarity in
relation to the powers and responsibilities of a local authority in exercising their
duties around Elective Home Education, especially where young people’s needs are
not being well served, so that the appropriate steps can be taken. We welcome the
clarification this brings.

Our overriding principle in relation to Elective Home Education has always been to
work in respectful partnership with parents in exercising our responsibilities. We
retain our appreciation that learning and progress can take many forms depending
on the needs of the individual and officers will not expect to see any particular
prescribed method of delivery or pattern of progression. We will continue to focus
our resources and energies on those circumstances where it appears that children
are not receiving a suitable education. Those families who share information with us
about the arrangements they are making, and are able to show how their children’s
skills and knowledge are developing through the provision of a suitable education
that equips them for adult life, are unlikely to experience any significant difference in
the way we work together or in the frequency, quality and nature of our liaison.