



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale, NW9 4EW
26 August 2021
Our ref: 7546140

Thank you for your request received on 8 August 2021, for the following information:

Under the freedom of information Act 2000, please supply the following information:

- 1. Is the current Barnet 'Home Education Policy Consultation' (HEPC) a consultation as defined in Barnet's document 'How we define consultation and engagement'?**
- 2. Is the HEPC a formal consultation?**
- 3. Aside from home-educating families who have voluntarily identified themselves to Barnet, what stakeholder groups have been identified for the HEPC? Was Tool 1 from Barnet's 'Consultation and Engagement Toolkit' used to identify them? And what means of communication have been or are being used to invite them to participate in the HEPC?**
- 4. What is the timeline for the HEPC and where may this be seen online?**
- 5. Is there a consultation document for the HEPC and if so, where may this be seen online?**
- 6. Will details of the HEPC be published on the Engage Barnet area of the website?**
- 7. At what stage in the development of a policy is the draft checked to Barnet's Policy Style Guide?**
- 8. Has the HEPC been quality assured and signed off by the central Consultation and Research Manager?**

Please contact me at the given email address if clarification is required. If not all items can be answered, or answered yet, I should be grateful for a partial response once this information is available.

Thank you

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below.

- 1. Is the current Barnet 'Home Education Policy Consultation' (HEPC) a consultation as defined in Barnet's document 'How we define consultation and engagement'?***

Yes - Please note, the Elective Home Education Policy Consultation is being carried out by Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) in agreement with Barnet Council.

2. Is the HEPC a formal consultation?

Yes.

3. Aside from home-educating families who have voluntarily identified themselves to Barnet, what stakeholder groups have been identified for the HEPC?

Headteachers of Barnet schools, all residents who access Barnet Parent-Carer Forum, Internal stakeholders who are affected by the policy and all EHE families known to the Local Authority.

3a. Was Tool 1 from Barnet's 'Consultation and Engagement Toolkit' used to identify them? And what means of communication have been or are being used to invite them to participate in the HEPC?

This specific toolkit was not used however, BELS identifies stakeholder groups through its own processes. EHE families who are known to the Local Authority were contacted directly by email/telephone to participate in the consultation. Information about the consultation was placed on Barnet Councils Elective Home Education and the Barnet Parent Carer Forum. Schools were contacted through a school circular and directly to Head Teachers for participation. Internal stakeholders were also contacted by email to arrange focus groups.

4. What is the timeline for the HEPC and where may this be seen online?

The consultation went live on 28 June 2021 and closed 9 August 2021 (6 weeks). In this time there were two focus groups held for parents, one focus group held with schools, two surveys available to complete as well as an opportunity to provide feedback directly to the EHE inbox. Focus groups were also held with internal stakeholders to gain feedback.

5. Is there a consultation document for the HEPC and if so, where may this be seen online?

The consultation document could be found on the websites listed above. Barnet schools & internal stakeholders were sent the document directly & all individuals contacted about the consultation were provided with a link to the document.

6. Will details of the HEPC be published on the Engage Barnet area of the website?

The details of the consultation will be published on Barnet Council's Elective Home Education web page, Barnet Parent-Carer Forum website and the new dedicated Elective Home Education Website which will launch end of this year.

7. At what stage in the development of a policy is the draft checked to Barnet's Policy Style Guide?

See below.

8. Has the HEPC been quality assured and signed off by the central Consultation and Research Manager?

The draft policy was discussed and approved for consultation at the Council's Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on 7 June 2021.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.