

Email sent to Nick Gibb on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010,  
copied to Graham Stuart, Chair of Education Select Committee,  
Helen Denton, Executive Director of Children's Services in Lancashire,  
Bob Stott, Director of Universal and Prevention Services in Lancashire

We are very concerned at the response given by Lancashire LA to the DfE about CRB checks on parents Home Educating their children.

(<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/5788446/NickGibb.pdf>)

The issue arose when the EHE Team Lead, Angela Robinson, spoke at January's LSCB meeting :

'TM asked if there are any checks made on the family and home circumstances. AR advised that there were, home visit are made within the first month and parents are engaged to work through any difficulties. A CRB check is also made as well as a check of agency records with regard to any adults in the home; this information is covered in a parent's questionnaire.'

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/viewdoc.asp?id=50604> (Section 4.3)

That is clearly nothing to do with parents employing tutors.

We haven't found any evidence that they actually do CRB checks on HE families but we are concerned that;

- a) the Safeguarding Board think that CRB checks are appropriate,
- b) HEers and safeguarding professionals have been led to believe that this is current practice and
- c) that the EHE Team Lead felt a need to make such a claim at the Safeguarding Board meeting.

There is a lot of concern within Lancashire at the attitude of LA officers towards Home Educators and the constant conflation of education with welfare and ultra vires practices. More information about our attempt to work with the LA is available here:

[www.Lancashire-HE.org.uk/LancsLA.html](http://www.Lancashire-HE.org.uk/LancsLA.html)

Yours sincerely,

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on behalf of Lancashire Home Education Forum Group

<http://www.Lancashire-HE.org.uk>