Review of Learning at Home

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6. METHODS

This section outlines the methods used in the Review of Learning at Home. It has been structured around the different stages of the review process.

6.1   Review of policies and strategies

A review of policies and strategies in relation to learning at home was carried out to obtain an overview of the most relevant documents to be considered in this report.

Consideration has not been given to strategies within local authorities on learning at home as these are often embedded into local Parental Involvement Strategies.

6.2   Review of evidence

A review of relevant evidence in relation to learning at home was carried out. The review included national and international literature on learning at home and its associated links to policy and strategy.

The review of evidence drew on a number of sources to identify research covering the past 10 years which was of current relevance to learning at home. Searches were conducted of the Idox database for research specifically linked to learning at home. Key words/terms used in the search were:

- Learning at home
- Home learning
- Home learning environment
- Raising attainment
- Parental involvement
- Parental engagement

Other key words of interest included: academic attainment; achievement; benefits of learning at home; learning together; families; improving outcomes; poverty; homework; socio-economic background; attitudes to school; closing the gap; and supporting parents.

The search returned a number of results that were of relevance including: parenting styles, parent-child relationships and child development. Searches were also conducted by the Scottish Government library across databases (nationally and internationally) and from publicly available resources on the web.

6.3   Developing a definition of learning at home

The results of this review of evidence helped provide the background context for learning at home and identified the need to develop a Scottish definition. Consultation was then undertaken with a range of practitioners across Scotland at workshops, conferences and research cafes on a draft definition. Feedback from the consultations helped shape the revised draft. The final version of the Scottish Learning at Home definition was produced in partnership with the Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network (SPION).