

## Initial Findings of the ADCS Elective Home Education Survey October 2018

The Association of Directors of Children's Services Ltd. (ADCS) is the national leadership organisation in England for directors of children's services (DCSs) under the provisions of the Children Act (2004). The DCS acts as a single point of leadership and accountability for services for children and young people in a local area, including children's social care and education.

In autumn 2018, ADCS issued a survey to all 152 local authorities (LAs) in England to better understand the volume and characteristics of children and young people who are known to be home schooled, the different reasons behind a family's decision to home school, to understand how LAs across the country are supporting these families, and how resources are being deployed in this area.

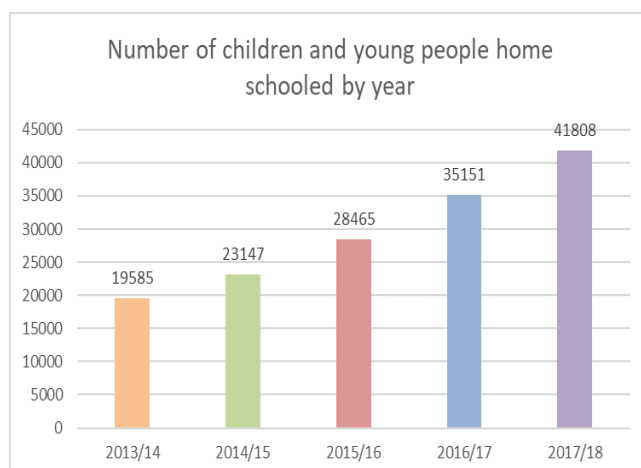
This is the third consecutive year of completing this exercise and we have received a total of 106 valid responses from LAs across all nine regions. A selection of key findings from the survey are summarised below with a more substantial report due to follow. This year, elective home education has received a renewed focus in the media and from government, with two consultations and a call for evidence released by the Department for Education, as well as the progression of Lord Soley's Home Education (Duty of Local Authorities) Bill.

### Total number of children known to be home schooled on Thursday 4 October 2018

Across the 106 LAs completing this survey, a total of 40,359 children and young people were known to be home schooled as of 4 October 2018, the first school census day of the current academic year. It can therefore be estimated that there were 57,873 children and young people being home schooled across the 152 LAs in England on 4 October 2018. This represents an increase of approximately 27% from 5 October 2017. Greater awareness of home education, rising birth rates and improved LA recording techniques may, in part, account for some of the reasons for this growth in the cohort.

### Year-on-year increases in the known home schooling cohort from 2013/14 – 2017/18

105 LAs answered this question, providing the number of children and young people known to be home schooled on the final day of previous academic years. Not all of the LAs had data for the past five years, with 96 respondents providing data for 2013/14. The number of known home-schooled children and young people has increased in each of the past five years, increasing by an average of approximately 20% each year.



### Cumulative total of children and young people known to be home schooled during 2017/18

In the survey we tried to capture the in-year churn and 105 LAs responded to our question on the cumulative total of children and young people known to be home schooled at any point across the 2017/18 academic year. A total of 54,204 children and young people were known to be home schooled, meaning it could be inferred that somewhere in the region of 78,466 were known to be home schooled across the 152 LAs in England during the 2017/18 academic year. When compared with the number of children and young people being home schooled on the final day of the 2017/18 academic year (see chart above), this represents an in-year variation of 30%.