

Education Otherwise letter to Minister Stephen Timms May 2008

"The current plan to put home educating lone parents onto Jobseeker's Allowance will force many hundreds of children below the poverty line.

If home educating lone parents were to be moved on to Jobseeker's Allowance they would not be available for work because of their caring and teaching responsibilities. They would therefore be in breach of JSA regulations and their family income would be reduced by £60.50 a week.

Education Otherwise Government Policy Group and Education Otherwise Disability Group therefore recommend that lone parents who home educate must be allowed to remain on Income Support because of their additional caring responsibilities and because they make a vital contribution to society raising and educating children who for one reason or another do not fit into the state system.

Home education is not a lifestyle choice; for many of our children it is quite literally a lifeline."