

Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 27th November 2019

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling – draft terms of reference

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present draft terms of reference relating to the Scrutiny Board's forthcoming Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling.

2. Background information

- 2.1 During its October 2019 meeting, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board received a report from the Director of Children and Families setting out national concerns regarding the rising level of exclusions and elective home education numbers, as well as reflecting the position in Leeds linked to school based data.
- 2.2 In consideration of this report, the Board agreed to undertake further scrutiny surrounding the issues linked to exclusions, elective home education and also off-rolling and requested that terms of reference for an Inquiry be drafted and brought back to its next meeting for consideration and approval.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling are in the process of being drafted and will be made available to Board Members in readiness for today's meeting.

- 3.2 To assist the Board in completing this piece of scrutiny work before the end of the municipal year, the Chair has asked that the Scrutiny Board considers holding an additional meeting during February 2020. A provisional date of Wednesday 5th February 2019 at 10 am has been identified for this meeting.

4. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 32 where a Scrutiny Board undertakes an Inquiry the Scrutiny Board shall consult with any relevant Director and Executive Member on the terms of reference.
- 4.1.2 The Director of Children and Families and the Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment have been invited to attend today's meeting to contribute to the Board's discussion surrounding the draft terms of reference.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 Ensuring children and young people "do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life" is a key outcome of the Best City Council Plan and improving Attendance, Attainment and Achievement levels amongst all children is the aim of the newly released 3As Strategy within Children and Families Directorate. To achieve these objectives, it is imperative that children and young people remain in school.
- 4.3.2 These priorities are also reflected in all city strategies contributing to a strong economy and compassionate city including the Best Council Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21, The Best City for Learning 2016-2020, the priority around being a Child Friendly City, Best Start in Life Strategy, Leeds SEND Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021 and Thriving - The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds 2019-2022.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.3 There are no specific climate emergency implications linked to this report.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 Linked to the Vision for Scrutiny, the Board is required to ensure any Scrutiny work undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 This report has no specific risk management implications.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Last month the Board agreed to undertake further scrutiny surrounding the issues linked to exclusions, elective home education and also off-rolling and requested that terms of reference for an Inquiry be drafted and brought back to its next meeting for consideration and approval.

5.2 The terms of reference are in the process of being drafted and will be made available to Board Members in readiness for today's meeting. However, to assist the Board in completing this piece of scrutiny work before the end of the municipal year, the Chair has asked that the Scrutiny Board considers holding an additional meeting during February 2020. A provisional date of Wednesday 5th February 2019 at 10 am has been identified for this meeting.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to:

- (a) Consider and agree the draft terms of reference relating to the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling;
- (b) Consider holding an additional meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board during February 2020 to assist in completing this piece of scrutiny work before the end of the municipal year.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.