

Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling (Part 2) – Draft Terms of Reference

Date: 13th October 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- During 2019/20, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board commenced an Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling and anticipated its inquiry work to continue into the 2020/21 municipal year. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency, the Board agreed to pause its inquiry while focusing its attention on how the Council and its partners worked to support all children and their families during such an unprecedented and difficult period.
- The Children and Families Scrutiny Board gave a commitment to recommence its inquiry work during the 2021/22 municipal year and utilised its meeting on 7th July 2021 to reflect on the evidence previously gathered and to consider appropriate next steps to inform the terms of reference for the second part of its ongoing inquiry.
- Appended to this report are draft terms of reference relating to part two of the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling for the Board's formal consideration and agreement.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and agree the draft terms of reference for part two of the Scrutiny Board's ongoing Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. The Children and Families Scrutiny Board has given a commitment to recommence its inquiry work this year in relation to exclusions, elective home education and off-rolling.
2. During the Scrutiny Board's remote consultative meeting on 7th July 2021, Members were asked to consider appropriate next steps for the second part of its ongoing Inquiry. To assist with this process, the Head of Democratic Services had submitted a report summarising the inquiry work already undertaken by the former Children and Families Scrutiny Board. Members were also provided with a copy of the Director's annual update report on exclusions and elective home education that was considered by Executive Board on 18th November 2020.
3. Reflecting on the Board's discussion in July, terms of reference relating to part two of the Scrutiny Board's ongoing Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling have now been drafted for the Board's formal consideration and agreement.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

4. Linked to the Vision for Scrutiny, the drafted terms of reference aim to assist the Scrutiny Board in ensuring that its ongoing inquiry work has clarity and focus of purpose.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

5. 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.
6. The Director of Children and Families and relevant Executive Board Members had contributed to the Scrutiny Board's initial discussion in July 2021 and have also been invited to today's meeting to contribute to the Board's discussion surrounding the draft terms of reference.

What are the resource implications?

7. 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.

What are the legal implications?

8. This report has no specific legal implications.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

9. There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

10. 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.
11. The latest Best Council Plan also highlights the challenges to education settings as it states, “As a Child-Friendly City, Leeds continues to invest in the future of our young people which has led to improvements in health and educational outcomes. However, we are acutely aware of the potentially significant immediate and longer-term impacts of Covid-19 on the health, wellbeing and learning of our children and young people and so now, more than ever, there is much more to do to ensure everyone is equipped with the education and skills they need to succeed in life. The council is working with families, schools and others to secure a brighter future for every child in Leeds.”

Appendices

12. Appendix 1 – Draft terms of reference relating to part two of the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling.

Background papers

13. None.