

Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling – Statement of Progress

Date: 8th June 2022

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 agreed to undertake an Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling having acknowledged national concerns regarding the rising level of exclusions and elective home education (EHE) numbers, as well as reflecting the position in Leeds linked to school based data and the Council's own commitment towards addressing such matters as part of the Leeds 3As Plan.
- However, throughout the 2020/21 municipal year, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board had focused its attention on how the Council and its partners worked to support all children and their families during such an unprecedented and difficult period. This resulted in the Board's Inquiry work being temporarily paused.
- In October 2021, the Board revisited the terms of reference of its ongoing inquiry and agreed to recommence its evidence gathering work in November 2021. However, due to other competing work demands, a number of the planned evidence sessions had been deferred and since the Board's last evidence session, there have also been significant developments nationally which will impact on the Board's ongoing work.
- It was therefore agreed that a Statement would be produced and shared with the successor Scrutiny Board to summarise the progress made as part of this scrutiny inquiry and to give a brief overview of the preliminary findings stemming from the evidence to-date. Moving forward, the Statement also highlights a number of key considerations to help inform the next steps of the Scrutiny Board's work.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the Statement of Progress relating to the scrutiny inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling and use this to help inform the next steps of the Scrutiny Board's work.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. It was agreed that a Statement would be produced and shared with the successor Scrutiny Board in terms of summarising the progress made in relation to the scrutiny Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling, including a brief overview of the preliminary findings stemming from the evidence to-date and highlighting key considerations to help inform the next steps of the Scrutiny Board's work.
2. This Statement of Progress document is attached as Appendix 1.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

3. Members are requested to consider the Statement of Progress document and use this to help inform the next steps of the Scrutiny Board's work.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

4. The Statement of Progress document summarises the evidence gathering sessions previously held as part of the Board's Inquiry, which had already included the engagement of lead Executive Board Members, the Director of Children and Families and other senior officers and also members of the Leeds Youth Council.
5. The Director of Children and Families and relevant Executive Board Members have also been invited to today's meeting to contribute to the Board's discussion around appropriate next steps.

What are the resource implications?

6. 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?

7. This report has no specific legal implications.

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

8. 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

9. The Scrutiny Board's inquiry work supports the priority commitments set out with the Leeds 3A Plan, with particular reference to Priority 2 which states that 'All children, young people and families are supported to access and regularly attend early years education settings, schools, and post-16 education settings to benefit from learning opportunities, protective factors, and enrichment activities'.

Appendices

10. Appendix 1 – Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling – Statement of Progress. May 2022

Background papers

11. None.