

**City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Elective Home Education - Scrutiny Review**

**Terms of Reference**

See Part 3E paragraphs 2.1 to 2.11 of the Constitution of the Council.

**Background**

At its meeting on Wednesday 9 October 2019, Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a programme of scrutiny reviews relating to Children's Services.

One of the agreed scrutiny reviews relates to including Elective Home Education.

Protecting Children's legal right to Education was discussed at the Council meeting on Tuesday 15 October 2019 and the comments and views raised by members will be taken into consideration during the course of this Scrutiny Review.

**Context**

**Elective Home Education**

Despite the term 'compulsory school age', education does not have to be undertaken through attendance at school, even though parents usually request a state-funded school place and the local authority is obliged to find one - or make alternative arrangements for education of your child. Parents not the state are responsible for ensuring that children of compulsory school age are properly educated.

Elective home education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time. This is different to education provided by a local authority other than at a school, for example for children who are too ill to attend school.

There is no legislation that deals with home education as a specific approach. However, Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 provides that:

*The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable -*

- (a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and*
- (b) to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.*

Elective home education is a form of 'education otherwise than at school' and this piece of legislation is the basis for the obligations of parents. It is also the starting point for local authorities' involvement.

## Key Lines of Enquiry

The key lines of enquiry for this scrutiny review are to:

- Explore the proportion of home schooled children who are home schooled, because the child has not been allocated the preferred school place;
- Explore the approach where parents consider that their child will receive a better education at home, rather than school;
- Explore the proportion of children, which have been moved on by the school, into “Elective Home Education”;  
Review the safeguarding of children, who are outside the normal school system;
- Explore and consider the impact of COVID19 on school lockdown, as parents also choose to home educate their children.
- Evaluate the arrangements in place to support parents whose children are undertaking Elective Home Education.
- Considering the Special Education needs requirements of children in Elective Home Education.

## Methodology

The committee will receive and consider a variety of evidence/information provided by a range of interested parties. The Committee may adopt one or more of the following methods to collect evidence/information:

- relevant documents;
- relevant data;
- written submissions from, or meetings with interested parties;
- interview key and relevant personnel;
- undertake relevant visits.

## Indicative list of interested parties

An indicative list of interested parties is provided below. This is not definitive or exclusive and can be developed as the scrutiny progresses.

Organisation / Department	Contact
Bradford Council Executive Portfolio Holder.	Cllr Imran Khan.
Bradford Council.	Marium Haque – Children’s Services. Sue Lowndes – Children’s Services. Danielle Wilson – Children’s Services. Rachel Phillips – Children’s Services. Joanne Gleeson – Legal. Darren Minto – Safeguarding. Jane Booth – Safeguarding.
Local/Regional/National Organisations.	Police. Parents. Bristol Council.

## Indicative Timetable

Date	Milestone
Wednesday 15 January 2020.	DRAFT Terms of Reference to be presented to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – for discussion and approval.
Wednesday 12 February 2020, Committee room 1, City Hall, 4.30pm.	Information gathering session – Setting the scene: Mark Douglas; Marium Haque; Mark Griffen; Legal.
Wednesday 18 March 2020, Committee room 1, City Hall, 5.00pm – <b>was cancelled due to the first COVID19 pandemic lockdown.</b>	Information gathering session – safeguarding of children, who are outside the normal school system and engagement with Schools.
Tuesday 24 February 2021, Remote Virtual Session, 4.40pm.	Information gathering session – Setting the scene, (Mark Douglas, Marium Haque, Sue Lowndes, Danielle Wilson and Rachel Phillips – Children's Services).
Wednesday 31 March 2021, Remote Virtual Session, 4.30pm.	Information gathering session – Safeguarding.
TBC	Information gathering session – Parents.
TBC	Information gathering session – Legal.
TBC.	Draft Scrutiny Review findings and recommendations to be presented to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.