

Report of the Chair to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Tuesday 12 April 2016.

Subject:

BK

Scrutiny of Home Educated Children – Terms of Reference

Summary statement:

This report presents a proposed Terms of Reference for a Scrutiny of Home Educated Children, with a view to its adoption by the Committee.

Cllr Malcolm Sykes
Committee Chair

Portfolio:

Children and Young People's Services

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services



1. SUMMARY

This report presents a proposed Terms of Reference for a Scrutiny of Home Educated Children, with a view to its adoption by the Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

As part of its 2012-13 work programme, the Committee agreed to undertake a scrutiny of Educational Attainment in the Bradford District.

The proposed Terms of Reference for a scrutiny of Home Educated Children is attached as Appendix 1 and sets out the objectives of the scrutiny and a list of interested parties.

3. OPTIONS

The Committee to adopt the Terms of Reference as proposed or with any amendments they wish to make.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee adopts or amends the proposed Terms or Reference as appropriate.

5. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference for a Scrutiny of Home Educated Children



CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Scrutiny of Home Educated Children in the Bradford District

Draft Terms of Reference

See Part 3E paragraphs 2.1-2.11 of the Council Constitution

1. Background

In December 2015 Sir Michael Wilshaw, Head of Ofsted warned the safety and well-being of hundreds of children could be at risk by their education in unregistered schools illegally operating in several parts of England.

Earlier this year, a senior delegation from Ofsted met with Council officers and members of the Executive. Ofsted raised some legitimate concerns, but also made some general statements regarding home educated children in the District.

At its meeting on 22 March 2016 the Council resolved to:

“Ask the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that a comprehensive and robust review of the Council’s approach to elective home education is carried out over the next six months in which the safeguarding of children is central”.

2. Key Lines of Enquiry

The key lines of enquiry for this scrutiny review are as follows:

- An understanding of the Council’s approach to identifying children not registered at school
- How does the Council minimise the risk of children missing education
- Understanding why some parents / carers choose home education
- How the Council can ensure the safeguarding of children outside the “regular” school system

3. 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:

- Request specific briefing materials and/or reports from officers of the Council;
- Invite written evidence from other interested parties;
- Commission specific research and consider any subsequent findings;
- Hold open meetings at which members of the public or interested organisations can present their views and evidence;
- Hold “Committee hearings” i.e. meetings in public, with specific interested parties invited to give a brief presentation (with a previously submitted written submission), followed by questioning by the Committee;

4. 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.

- Department for Education
- Ofsted
- Children’s Services Department
- Private Tutors / schools
- Teachers
- Young People
- Trade Unions
- Parents
- Governors
- Portfolio Holder
- Telegraph & Argus

5. Indicative Timetable

Dates of meetings – to be arranged