

SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)

Review: Strategy underpinning the transition from COVID-19

Scrutiny Review Committee: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Director leading the review: Carmel Littleton, Corporate Director – People

Lead officers: Tania Townsend, Children's Partnership Development and Strategy Manager

Overall aim: To assess both the long and short term impacts of COVID-19, the measures implemented as a result of COVID-19 including innovative forms of learning and the lessons that have been learned in order to make recommendations to:

- Reverse the effects of COVID-19 on attainment, safeguarding, equalities, youth safety and justice.
- Prepare for future spikes/waves of Covid-19 and also develop plans for a Covid-free landscape

Objectives of the review:

- To examine the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people.
- To explore the development of different types of learning, support offered to parents/carers and their experiences.
- To analyse the ways in which COVID-19 impacted upon the work of Children's Services and how services were adapted during lockdown.
- To evaluate the work already undertaken to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and identify how this could be developed further.
- To use national research and literature to identify best practice in the response to COVID-19.
- To produce workable recommendations for the council and schools to deliver improvements in educational outcomes across schools after lockdown and support those who have suffered abuse and/or neglect during lockdown

Scope of the review:

The review will focus on:

- Attainment
- Safeguarding
- Equalities
- Youth safety and justice
- Vulnerable children
- Wellbeing/Mental Health
- Catch Up Curriculum
- Digital Inclusion: different types of learning and a blended curriculum
- Mitigating Risks

- Support to parents and carers
- NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
- Participation and engagement levels from young people and parents/carers
- The equalities impact of COVID- 19 including on the BAME community

Type of evidence:

It is proposed that witness evidence is taken from:

- Representative headteachers, teachers and learning practitioners
- Council officers
- Community groups
- Children and young people
- Parents of children of a range of ages, those with SEN and children who were shielding.
- Targeted youth support officers

Written evidence will include:

- Report from Ofsted
- Case studies from schools
- Brightstart work case study

Additional information:

In carrying out the review the committee will consider equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses. The Executive is required to have due regard to these, and any other relevant implications, when responding to the review recommendations.

Programme	
Key output:	To be submitted to Committee on:
1. Scrutiny Initiation Document	28 September 2020
2. Draft Recommendations	9 March 2021
3. Final Report	4 May 2021

Witness Evidence Plan

Committee Meeting – 28 September 2020	
Who / What	Area of focus – Introductory Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scrutiny Initiation Document	For the Committee to agree the aim, objectives and scope of the review. Introductory presentation.

Written Evidence to be circulated	
Who / What	Area of focus – Background Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Written Evidence	Written evidence will be circulated to members. This will include background information that may be of interest to members; i.e. report by OFSTED

Committee Meeting – 3 November 2020	
Who / What	Area of focus – To Be Confirmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Verbal Evidence	

Committee Meeting – 14 December 2020	
Who / What	Area of focus – To Be Confirmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Verbal Evidence	

Committee Meeting – 26 January 2021	
Who / What	Area of focus – Any outstanding matters
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Other information as requested by the Committee	To consider any outstanding information requested by the Committee during the course of the review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Concluding Discussion	For the committee to discuss their thoughts and conclusions on the evidence received, prior to developing recommendations.

Committee Meeting – 9 March 2021

Who / What	Area of focus – Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="135 369 534 403">• Draft Recommendations	To agree a set of draft recommendations that will form the basis of the committee's report.

Committee Meeting – 4 May 2021

Who / What	Area of focus – Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="135 674 359 707">• Final Report	To agree the final report, summarising all of the evidence received, and explaining the reasons for the recommendations. The report will then be submitted to the Executive.