

Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 17 June 2019

Title of report: Re-establishment of Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel - Elective Home Education

Purpose of report: For the Scrutiny Committee to formally re-establish the Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel on Elective Home Education (EHE) to complete its work.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No .
Key Decision	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Governance and Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft
Cabinet member portfolio	n/a

Electoral wards affected: none specific

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

1. Information

1.1 During 2018 /19 the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel - Elective Home Education continued its work to look in detail and Elective Home Education in Kirklees.

1.2 Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education (DFE) to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school. This is different to home tuition provided by a Local Authority, or education provided by a Local Authority other than at a school.

1.2 Numbers of electively home educated children and young people are increasing in Kirklees, and are in line with neighbouring Local Authorities and national trends. The responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory, but school is not.

1.3 The terms of reference approved for the Ad Hoc Panel are set out below:

To scrutinise Elective Home Education in Kirklees, with a particular focus on;

- Developing an understanding of why some parents and carers choose to home educate, and for how long children are typically home educated for.
- Scrutinising the Local Authority's responsibilities for home educated children.
- Scrutinising how the Local Authority identifies, supports and ensures the safety and wellbeing of electively home educated children.
- Scrutinise the outcomes for electively home educated children.
-

1.4 There is a small amount of outstanding evidence gathering work to be completed before the Panel can finalise its findings. It is suggested that the progress of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel be reviewed after 4 months.

1.5 Consideration will need to be given to the membership of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel as one Councillor and a co-optee have since left the Council. The remaining membership is:

Cllr Cahal Burke
Cllr Lisa Holmes
Dale O'Neill - Scrutiny co-optee

2. Implications for the Council

As part of its work the EHE Ad-hoc Panel will consider work within each of the areas below.

Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

Kirklees has an EHE protocol in place that is understood by all schools in Kirklees. When the Education Safeguarding Team is made aware of a child that has become EHE, it offers to visit the parent to provide an offer of support if required.

Economic Resilience (ER)

No specific implications

Improving Outcomes for Children

The Children's Scrutiny Panel understands that there is no one 'correct' educational system and that all children learn in different ways and at varying rates. The Panel also understands that parents and children choose a type of education that is right for them; however there is a need to ensure that the approach chosen is feasible and legally valid to enable the children to reach their potential.

Reducing demand of services

No specific implications

Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

No specific implications

3. Consultees and their opinions

4. Next steps

Subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee re-establishing the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel for Elective Home Education, officers will work with panel members to arrange meetings and plan the remaining work.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

(1) That the Management Committee approve the re-establishment of the Elective Home Education Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel to complete its work in the 2019 /20 municipal year.

(2) That a progress report on the work of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel be considered in October 2019

(3) That consideration be given to the membership of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel for the remaining work

6. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Not applicable.

7. Contact officer

Penny Bunker, Governance and Democratic Engagement Manager.

Tel: 01484 221000 E-mail: penny.bunker@kirklees.gov.uk

8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

n/a

9. Service Director responsible

Julie Muscroft; Assistant Director: Legal, Governance & Commissioning

