

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 28 NOVEMBER 2019**

### **SCRUTINY PROPOSAL: ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to consider the scrutiny proposal: Elective Home Education

#### **Background**

2. The 1996 Education Act states that 'it is the duty of parents to secure an appropriate full-time education for their children of compulsory school age'. Parents can carry out this duty by ensuring their child attends school or parents may decide to take on the duty to educate their child themselves and educate them at home. This is called Elective Home Education.
3. Elective Home Education has been identified as a priority on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel's work programme. The 2019/20 Scrutiny Work Programme was agreed at Council on 12 September 2019.
4. The proposed Terms of Reference are: To investigate how Worcestershire Children First (through Babcock Prime) supports and monitors families who choose to educate their children at home, including the numbers involved, trends and reasons given, and how this compares with statistical neighbour authorities and the national picture.
5. It is proposed that Councillor Fran Oborski, Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel be asked to lead this Task Group. A Scrutiny Proposal is attached at Appendix 1.

#### **Issues Suitable for Scrutiny**

6. The OSPB agreed to use a set of criteria (listed below) to help determine its scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.
  - Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
  - Is it a key issue for local people?
  - Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
  - Are improvements for local people likely?
  - Does it examine a poor performing service?
  - Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
  - Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

#### **Next Steps**

7. Other points which need to be taken into account when considering whether to review a particular issue are:
  - is the subject specific? – to ensure that task groups understand exactly what they are scrutinising; and
  - is it achievable within a realistic timescale?
8. Members are asked to take into account issues raised above and:
  - (a) determine whether they wish to set up a scrutiny task group to look at Elective Home Education and, if so,
  - (b) to consider, comment on and agree the terms of reference and scrutiny proposal and the timing of the Task Group.

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Proposal: Elective Home Education

## **Specific Contact Points for this Report**

Alyson Grice and Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, 01905 844962/844963, [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting on [12 September 2019](#)
- [All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)