

## Scrutiny Review – Scoping Document

<b>Review Title:</b>	Elective Home Education
<b>Scrutiny Board:</b>	Children’s Services and Education
<b>Date of Review:</b>	September – December 2020

### Reasons for undertaking the review:

A request for scrutiny to consider home education was received from the Cabinet Member – Best Start in Life. A report was presented to Children’s Service and Education Scrutiny Board [20th July 2020](#).

The report and presentation highlighted that there had been an increase in numbers of elective home education cases and it was questioned why parents were choosing to home educate and whether current support provision was sufficient. The Board wanted to know more about the range of ways to carry out education out of the school system and to hear the child’s voice about home education.

There was consensus that there should be further analysis of data carried out by officers, including: attainment levels of EHE students and the numbers of EHE for each Town.

The Board agreed that the Elective Home Education Working Group be established to scope the review to consider the matter.

Membership of the Working Group:

Cllrs Preece (Chair), Z Hussain, McVittie, Millar and Shackleton.

The working group met on 8 October to scope the review and plan activities to gather evidence. A project plan will be completed for this review.

### Key Lines of Enquiry – Elective Home Education

- a) What is the current LEA offer?
- b) Why do parents choose to educate at home, what are the drivers?
- c) What do children need and want?
- d) What are the attainment levels of home educated children and how does this impact further education and employment trends?
- e) How does the LEA support and safeguard children in home education?

**Intended Outcomes:**

to make further recommendations regarding areas in it considered would benefit from further scrutiny or policy development.

- To understand the current numbers and whether support for Elective Home Education in Sandwell is sufficient.
- To capture young people’s perspective on education at home.
- To establish the attainment level and further education and employment trends for children educated at home.
- To raise awareness of the limitations placed on the LA and bring matters to the attention of the Secretary of State for Education.

It is intended for the session to align with the cross-cutting themes outlined in the Council’s Reset & Recovery Plan and the emerging thematic Cabinet workshops.

**Officer Group (including partners):**

Chris Ward  
Sue Moore  
Ramsey Richards  
EHE Teachers

**Links to Corporate Plan and Vision 2030:**

**Scoping undertaken by:**

EHE Working Group

**Council Chief Officer (or partner equivalent):**

Lesley Hagger / Chris Ward

**Existing data available for consideration:**

Report and presentation to Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board 20 July 2020.

**Potential witnesses**

Home schooling community representative  
Parents  
Young people  
Head Teachers representative  
DfE representative

**Activities**

Desk top research  
Survey  
Focus group(s)  
Meetings