

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

The Children's Service and Education Board is part of the scrutiny function in Sandwell. It has overall responsibility for the scrutiny of a range of matters including services for children's social care, children and family services and education. The scrutiny board is an advisory body, and therefore does not engage in decision making.

RESTRICTIONS ON SITTING:

All Councillors, except members of the Cabinet, can sit on scrutiny boards.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS REQUIRED:

11 elected members, c-opted members representing parent governors of maintained schools, as well as a Church of England Diocesan representative and a Roman Catholic Archdiocesan representative. The quorum is equal to one quarter of the total number of voting members.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

Six Board meetings per year on average. Working groups and inquiry sessions may also be established by the Board.

USUAL TIME OF DAY / LENGTH:

Evening – 6.00-8.00pm

FURTHER DETAILS:

Can initiate working groups, inquiry sessions and site visits to carry out in-depth scrutiny of an issue. Helpful to have an interest or experience in matters considered by the board. Skills and experience useful (ex-teachers/child social care experience)

[Board page on modern.gov](#)



SCRUTINY AND THE CONSTITUTION:

[Article 6 - Scrutiny Boards](#) in the Sandwell Constitution briefly details the function of scrutiny at Sandwell

[Scrutiny Terms of Reference](#) sets out in detail the terms of reference for the Scrutiny Boards at Sandwell Council

[Scrutiny Procedure Rules](#) set out the function and processes around scrutiny and how the meetings are managed and the rules under which they operate.

MEETING ETIQUETTE AND WEBCASTING:

Meetings of this Board are webcast to allow members of the public to easily observe proceedings. You may find the [guide to Webcasting of Meetings](#) useful.

There is also a [Meeting Etiquette Quick Guide](#) that sets out some helpful pointers.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE:

[Scrutiny Protocol](#)

[Chief Officers and Scrutiny Protocol](#)

[Scrutiny Call-In Notice and Guidance](#)

[Scrutiny Councillor Call for Action Forms and Guidance](#)

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT:

In addition to training and development included within the Member Development Strategy, there are also a number of training and development material that can be viewed below:

The Local Government Association have produced a variety of online resources for councillors to support them in their role. The webpage can be viewed here for [Children's Services Improvement](#)

A wide range of publications and resources have been produced or co-produced by the LGA. A list of these publications can be found [here](#).



Centre for Governance and Scrutiny have produced a [Scrutiny of Children's Services- A Short Guide](#). The aims to provide an overview of the main components that comprise of Children's Services within local authorities. More details may be found on their [webpage](#).

The Local Government Association and Centre for Governance and Scrutiny have jointly produced a [Safeguarding Children: A Practical Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Councillors](#).

[Suggested Questions](#) have been produced by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman to support councillors scrutinise their local services.

The LGA have an E-Learning portal that councillors may wish to access: [Councillor LGA E-Learning](#)

The LGA have a number of training sessions available to enhance leadership skills across committees and boards: [LGA Leadership Essentials](#)

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Local Government Association – A Councillors workbook on Scrutiny](#)

[Centre for Public Scrutiny – The good Scrutiny Guide](#)

[Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities](#)

