

Scrutiny Scoping Document

Title of Review topic	
Elective Home Education	
Objectives	
What does the Board/Task and Finish Group hope to achieve by considering the topic?	The Task and Finish Group aim to strengthen Coventry's approach to Elective Home Education by ensuring an effective balance between safeguarding, parental rights, statutory duties, and practical support for children and families. The review will focus on understanding current practice, identifying areas for improvement, and shaping recommendations that place the wellbeing of children at the centre.
What will be the indicators of success?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear, evidence-based understanding of Elective Home Education (EHE) in Coventry - Including an accurate analysis of local trends, reasons for EHE, and the characteristics and needs of children who are electively home educated. • Identification of gaps, risks, and areas for improvement - Including safeguarding, equality and diversity considerations, and any operational or statutory risks associated with current practice. • Effective engagement with key witnesses and evidence sources - Such as officers, the Home Education Coordinator, and any relevant external partners, to ensure that findings are robust, balanced, and well-informed. • Production of clear, realistic and actionable recommendations – focussing on support for families, and ensuring alignment with statutory responsibilities, forthcoming national reforms, and local strategic priorities. • Improve understanding of roles and responsibilities - Ensuring that expectations of the local authority, schools, and families are transparent, lawful, and consistently applied.
When will the review be evaluated?	
What will be included in the scope of the review?	<p>The scope of the review will include all matters relating to children whose parents elect to educate them outside of formal school settings. The Task and Finish Group will examine the local authority's current approach to Elective Home Education (EHE), with a specific focus on statutory responsibilities, oversight arrangements, safeguarding considerations, and the support provided to families. The review will encompass an assessment of local trends, patterns of engagement, and the operational and strategic challenges associated with EHE.</p> <p>The review will also include evidence gathering from officers, the Home Education Coordinator, and any other relevant</p>

	witnesses to ensure a comprehensive understanding of practice, risks, and opportunities for improvement. Consideration will be given to equality and diversity implications, the effectiveness of current communication and engagement processes, and the alignment of Coventry's approach with national guidance and anticipated legislative changes.
What will be excluded from the scope?	<p>The review will not consider matters that fall outside the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to Elective Home Education. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions made by parents regarding their choice to home educate The Task and Finish Group will not assess, challenge, or influence the motivations or personal reasons behind a family's decision to electively home educate. • The quality or content of education delivered within the home The Group will not evaluate teaching practices, curriculum content, or educational outcomes within individual home-education environments, except where required for safeguarding or statutory oversight. • Individual casework or family-specific circumstances The review will not examine or comment on individual cases, disputes between families and schools, or any personal circumstances relating to specific children or young people. • Wider educational policy areas not directly related to EHE • Proposed national legislative changes beyond the Council's control While the Group may consider the implications of anticipated policy changes (e.g., a national register of children not in school), it will not make recommendations on matters determined by national legislation or government policy.
Does the review link with any existing strategies or policies? Is this currently being reviewed/refreshed?	DFE Statutory Guidance
Methodology	
How will the review be carried out? e.g. surveys, site visits, select committees etc.	<p>The review will be conducted through a structured programme of evidence-gathering activities designed to develop a comprehensive understanding of Elective Home Education (EHE) in Coventry. The Task and Finish Group will adopt a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative evidence to ensure a balanced and robust assessment. The methodology will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer Evidence Sessions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Local Data and Trends • Examination of Policy and Legislative Frameworks • Stakeholder Insights • Comparative Practice Review • Identification of Risks, Barriers and Equality Considerations
Barriers and Risks	
What are the barriers and risks to the review?	The review may be affected by limited or incomplete data on Elective Home Education, difficulties engaging families who may be reluctant to work with the local authority, and constraints arising from statutory limits on what the Council can require from home-educating parents. Safeguarding risks can be harder to identify due to reduced visibility of children educated at home, and operational capacity pressures may limit officers' ability to contribute. The review must also consider equality and diversity implications and navigate challenges in coordinating with external partners who may use different systems or thresholds.
How can these be managed/ overcome?	The barriers and risks can be managed by strengthening data-sharing across services, improving communication and engagement with families, and ensuring the review stays focused on the agreed remit. Clear multi-agency coordination, particularly around safeguarding, will help reduce risks linked to reduced visibility of children educated at home. Operational pressures can be mitigated by planning evidence sessions carefully and prioritising key tasks. Recommendations should align with current legal powers and anticipated national reforms to ensure they are realistic and actionable.
Equality and Diversity	
Does the review have any potential implications for Equality and Diversity?	The review may have implications in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disproportionate Impact on Certain Groups 2. Access to Support and Services 3. Risk of Unintended Discrimination
Timescales and reporting procedure	
List any key dates/events which might impact on the timescales of the review	
Anticipated number of meetings	1 or 2?
Scrutiny Board portfolio	Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board

Cabinet Member portfolio	The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Councillor K Sandhu
Anticipated reporting date to Scrutiny Board	26/03/2026
Anticipated reporting route – Cabinet Member/Cabinet	
Report of.....	
Comms involvement	
Task and Finish Group Members	Cllrs Mutton, Kelly (Chair), Nazir