

SCRUTINY SELECTION CHECKLIST

Title of proposed Scrutiny: Pupil Referral Unit

The list is intended to assist the relevant scrutiny committee in deciding whether or not to approve a topic that has been suggested for scrutiny.

Whilst no minimum or maximum number of 'yes' answers are formally required, the relevant scrutiny committee is recommended to place higher priority on topics related to the performance and priorities of the Council.

Please expand on how the proposal will meet each criteria you have answered 'yes' to.

	Yes/No
<p>The review will add value to the Council and/or its partners overall performance:</p> <p><i>The review will consider the high level of admissions to the Pupil Referral Unit and the poor outcomes for Looked After Children.</i></p>	Yes
<p>The review is in relation to one or more of the Council's priorities:</p> <p><i>We will raise aspiration by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Tackling child poverty, raising aspirations and improving educational achievement</i> ■ <i>Safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable</i> 	Yes
<p>The Council or its partners are not performing well in this area:</p> <p><i>Blackpool has one of the largest Pupil Referral Units in the country.</i></p>	Yes
<p>It is an area where a number of complaints (or bad press) have been received:</p> <p><i>Unknown.</i></p>	n/a
<p>The issue is strategic and significant:</p>	No
<p>There is evidence of public interest in the topic:</p>	No
<p>The issue has potential impact for one or more sections of the community:</p>	No
<p>Service or policy changes are planned and scrutiny could have a positive input:</p> <p><i>Unknown</i></p>	n/a
<p>Adequate resources (both members and officers) are available to carry out the scrutiny:</p> <p><i>It is proposed that this review is undertaken 'in a day' to ensure adequate resources are available.</i></p>	Yes

Please give any further details on the proposed review:

At the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee on 2nd July 2015, we discussed the high level of admissions to the Pupil Referral Unit and asked a number of questions. It was noted at the meeting that the number of Looked After Children in the Pupil Referral Unit was proportionately high and that the unit was one of the largest in the country. I believe that an in depth piece of work is required to consider:

- *Poor educational outcomes for Looked After Children at the Pupil Referral Unity and how these can be improved*
- *Why the number of children in the Pupil Referral Unit is so high*
- *What we are doing to prevent admission to the unit, to keep children in school (and what the Council can do)*

Completed by:

Councillor Kath Benson

Date: 30 July 2015