

Scrutiny Review Scope	
Proposed Title	Scoping Date
Schools' Response to Covid-19 Pandemic	8 July 2020
Criteria and reasons for selecting topic	
As government regulations recommend schools to re-open following widespread closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Members felt it was important to review the response to the emergency as implemented by Blackpool schools.	
Which priority within the Council Plan does this topic address?	
Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.	
What are the main objectives of the scrutiny?	
To review schools' responses to the pandemic and their return-to-school procedures. Will primarily focus on: the numbers of children who have/have not returned and the reasons for non-return and the potential impact on children's future achievement and how schools are mitigating this impact, as well as seeking assurance that schools sufficiently safeguarded pupils and staff.	
What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community?	
Assurance that sufficient measures are in place to ensure the safe provision of suitable education opportunities during the pandemic to all pupils and to identify any areas where improvements can be made and lessons learnt going forward.	
How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc)	
The Panel might wish to gather the views of parents/students through informal discussions in their wards and gather anecdotal evidence on the schools' response from their constituents. Feedback from young people will also be sought via the Justuz group.	
How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers?	
Ensuring efficient use of school resources and associated government Covid-19 funding during the pandemic response.	
What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny?	
Schools' data on numbers of children who have/have not returned to school and the reasons for non-return; numbers of pupils successfully accessing home schooling provisions during school closures and the support provided by schools to parents/pupils; specific health and safety measures implemented within schools during the pandemic.	
What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc.	
'Guidance for Schools: Coronavirus (Covid-19)' government publication to schools.	
Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny?	
Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards Safeguarding and Inclusion Phil Thompson, Head of Service for SEND Kirsty Fisher, Engagement Officer for Our Children Kevin Dacre, Health and Safety Advisor Beth Speak, Service Development Manager, Practice and Performance Hannah Cartlidge, Business Intelligence Officer	
What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council?	
The Panel might wish to consider speaking to headteachers and governors at schools to gather an alternative	

perspective. Views could potentially be sought via email should time/availability not allow them to attend the meeting in person.

What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny?

A preliminary task and finish meeting is proposed to undertake fact finding, evidence gathering and analysis of the data presented. A follow-up meeting will then be held in September 2020 once schools have returned for the new term.

Timescales / likely duration of enquiry

Commenced July/August 2020.

Lead Scrutiny Officer

Elaine Ireland

Scrutiny Panel Members

Cllr Jane Hugo
Cllr Andrew Stansfield
Cllr Kim Critchley
Cllr John Wing
Mrs Helen Sage