

Scrutiny Review Scope	
Proposed Title	Scoping Date
Review of Blackpool Better Start	November 2020
Criteria and reasons for selecting topic	
As Better Start reaches its five-year half way point, Committee Members felt it was an appropriate time to undertake a review of how the first half of the £45 million funding had been used and to determine how effective the projects had been as well as looking ahead to proposals for the remaining five years.	
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 the projects undertaken by Blackpool Better Start over the past five years and to assess the impact of the work on Blackpool families. To consider the planned projects for the remainder of the scheme and to gain information on proposals for continuation and sustainability at the end of the ten year funding period.	
What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community?	
Assurance that the annual funding of £4.5 million has been utilised to positively impact on the lives of Blackpool families and that future projects address the specific needs of Blackpool's parents and children.	
How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc)	
Explore ways to engage with end-users of Better Start services.	
How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers?	
Ensuring efficient use of Blackpool Better Start funding.	
What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance data and details of Better Start projects undertaken; • Information on any proposed continuation of Better Start on completion of the current funding; • Feedback from service users. 	
What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded information sessions from the Better Start Virtual Annual Conference held on 4 November 2020; • Town-wide performance data as collected as part of the impact study by Professor Leon Feinstein of Oxford University; • Details of proposed future projects and how they were selected. 	
Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny?	
Merle Davies, Centre for Early Child Development Director Clare Law, Centre for Early Child Development Deputy Director Colette Golcher, Senior Manager Early Years Mel Farman, Development Manager Simone Moore, Connector Sarah Peers, Connector Vicky Walker, Development Manager Annette Algie, Business Manager Colin Smy, Community Engagement Officer Relevant Cabinet Members – Councillors Lynn Williams and Kath Benson	

What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council?
Professor Leon Feinstein, Oxford University
What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny?
Two half-day task and finish meetings were initially proposed to undertake fact finding, evidence gathering and analysis of the data presented, although at least one further meeting will also be required. In addition, all Members were invited to attend the 'Five Years of A Better Start Virtual Conference 2020' and all recorded information sessions were made available after the event.
Timescales / likely duration of enquiry
Commencing November/December 2020.
Lead Scrutiny Officer
Elaine Ireland
Scrutiny Panel Members
Cllr Jane Hugo Cllr Kim Critchley Cllr Peter Hunter Cllr Andrew Stansfield Mrs Helen Sage