

Leicester City Council Scrutiny Review

**To explore the reasons for educational underachievement
of 'African Heritage' pupils and 'White Working Class'
pupils in Leicester**

Scoping document for a review of the Children, Young People
and Schools Scrutiny Commission

December 2018

Background to scrutiny reviews

Determining the right topics for scrutiny reviews is the first step in making sure scrutiny provides benefits to the Council and the community.

This scoping template will assist in planning the review by defining the purpose, methodology and resources needed. It should be completed by the Member proposing the review, in liaison with the lead Director and the Scrutiny Manager. Scrutiny Officers can provide support and assistance with this.

In order to be effective, every scrutiny review must be properly project managed to ensure it achieves its aims and delivers measurable outcomes. To achieve this, it is essential that the scope of the review is well defined at the outset. This way the review is less likely to get side-tracked or become overambitious in what it hopes to tackle. The Commission's objectives should, therefore, be as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic & Time-bound) as possible.

The scoping document is also a good tool for communicating what the review is about, who is involved and how it will be undertaken to all partners and interested stakeholders.

The form also includes a section on public and media interest in the review which should be completed in conjunction with the Council's Communications Team. This will allow the Commission to be properly prepared for any media interest and to plan the release of any press statements.

Scrutiny reviews will be supported by a Scrutiny Officer.

Evaluation

Reviewing changes that have been made as a result of a scrutiny review is the most common way of assessing the effectiveness. Any scrutiny review should consider whether an on-going monitoring role for the Commission is appropriate in relation to the topic under review.

For further information please contact the Scrutiny Team on 0116 4546340

To be completed by the Member proposing the review

1.	Title of the proposed scrutiny review	To explore the reasons for educational underachievement of <i>African Heritage</i> pupils and <i>White Working-class</i> pupils in Leicester.
2.	Proposed by	Cllr Mohammed Dawood, Chair of Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission
3.	Rationale Why do you want to undertake this review?	<p>Nationally Black Caribbean and White working-class pupil's underachievement in education is real and persistent and that these groups are consistently the lowest performing in the country, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2017 national data shows Black Caribbean pupils perform worse at Key Stage 4 than other pupils. • A study by the 'Sutton Trust Education Charity' identified that Schools must focus on struggling white working-class pupils as attainment has stayed stubbornly low. <p>Leicester City 2015/16 Annual Education Performance Report shows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the attainment of Black Caribbean and White working-class pupils is low and this gap has widened over the years. b) That from key stage 2 to key stage 4 the attainment levels are lower. c) That the 'NEET' rates are high amongst Black Caribbean and Black African groups in Leicester. <p>Elected scrutiny members wish to further explore the position in Leicester.</p>
4.	Purpose and aims of the review What question(s) do you want to answer and what do you want to achieve? (Outcomes?)	<p>Scrutiny members have expressed an interest in investigating the educational underachievement of African heritage and White working-class pupils with a view to identify factors that contribute to this. The review will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identifying the extent of underachievement b) Identifying the factors responsible for underachievement c) The support schools and LCC policy makers offer to improve educational attainment. d) The support offered within community provisions.

5.	<p>Links with corporate aims / priorities How does the review link to corporate aims and priorities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicester City Council Corporate Education Plan • Leicester City Council Annual Education Report • Department for Education 'Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential' (link below): https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-social-mobility-through-education
6.	<p>Scope Set out what is included in the scope of the review and what is not. For example which services it does and does not cover.</p>	<p>The scope of this review will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Leicester City Schools education and performance services b) Leicester City Council Education support services to improve the educational attainment and performance of pupils. c) Exploring best practice d) Identifying the key challenges and issues for Leicester City Council. e) Ensuring that the council and elected members continue to have an effective role in school improvement and performance standards in all schools across the city.
7.	<p>Methodology Describe the methods you will use to undertake the review.</p> <p>How will you undertake the review, what evidence will need to be gathered from members, officers and key stakeholders, including partners and external organisations and experts?</p>	<p>This review will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Relevant schools and pupils and parents to capture evidence. b) Understanding detailed data analysis on educational attainment. c) VCS education related organisations and TREC to capture evidence. d) Relevant education service leads, stakeholders and partnerships to give evidence.
	<p>Witnesses Set out who you want to gather evidence from and how you will plan to do this</p>	<p>Witness evidence will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Deputy City Mayor (Executive Lead) for Schools and Childrens Services. b) Strategic Education Lead Director c) School heads / Education Partnership Forums d) Multi-Academy Trust leaders e) TREC and Black-led Churches and Streetvibe organisations f) Pupils and Young People's Council views to capture
8.	<p>Timescales How long is the review expected to take to complete?</p>	<p>3 months</p>
	<p>Proposed start date</p>	<p>November 2018</p>
	<p>Proposed completion date</p>	<p>January 2019</p>

9.	<p>Resources / staffing requirements Scrutiny reviews are facilitated by Scrutiny Officers and it is important to estimate the amount of their time, in weeks, that will be required in order to manage the review Project Plan effectively.</p>	This review will be facilitated by the Scrutiny Policy Officer (Anita Patel).
	Do you anticipate any further resources will be required e.g. site visits or independent technical advice? If so, please provide details.	Expert external advice could be explored from organisations who support and engage with African heritage and White working-class young people.
10.	<p>Review recommendations and findings To whom will the recommendations be addressed? E.g. Executive / External Partner?</p>	The evidence gathered will be compiled into a review report of findings and recommendations which will be presented to the City Mayor and Executive for consideration.
11.	<p>Likely publicity arising from the review - Is this topic likely to be of high interest to the media? Please explain.</p>	<p>This review is likely to attract high interest from the local media.</p> <p>The communications team will be kept informed.</p>
12.	<p>Publicising the review and its findings and recommendations How will these be published / advertised?</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations will be publicised via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Leicester City Council Website. b) Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission (public meeting).
13.	<p>How will this review add value to policy development or service improvement?</p>	<p>It is hoped that recommendations and findings from the review will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Opportunities for Leicester City Council and Schools to identify and support educational attainment for African heritage and White working-class pupils in the city. b) Identifying best practice and initiatives.
To be completed by the Executive Lead		
14.	<p>Executive Lead's Comments The Executive Lead is responsible for the portfolio so it is important to seek and understand their views and ensure they are engaged in the process so that Scrutiny's recommendations can be taken on board where appropriate.</p>	<p>This is a vitally important issue that extends beyond educational attainment. Happy for the department to support but concerned that there needs to be a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities of schools, the council and other groups prior to commencing.</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Russell Deputy City Mayor and Executive Lead for Children's and Schools Services</p>

To be completed by the Divisional Lead Director

15.	Divisional Comments Scrutiny's role is to influence others to take action and it is important that Scrutiny Commissions seek and understand the views of the Divisional Director.	
16.	Are there any potential risks to undertaking this scrutiny review? E.g. are there any similar reviews being undertaken, on-going work or changes in policy which would supersede the need for this review?	
17.	Are you able to assist with the proposed review? If not please explain why. In terms of agreement / supporting documentation / resource availability?	
	Name	
	Role	
	Date	

To be completed by the Scrutiny Support Manager

18.	Will the proposed scrutiny review / timescales negatively impact on other work within the Scrutiny Team? (Conflicts with other work commitments)	The review will be supported by the Scrutiny Policy Officer and is not expected to negatively impact on her work.
	Do you have available staffing resources to facilitate this scrutiny review? If not, please provide details.	The review can be adequately supported by the Scrutiny Team.
	Name	Kalvaran Sandhu, Scrutiny Support Manager
	Date	4 th October 2018