

## **Appendix 1 – Cross Party Scrutiny Review Group proposals**

At the meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 1 December 2021, the following motion was agreed:

*“This Council notes the findings of the inspection of SEND services within Wolverhampton.*

*Council agrees to explore the formation of a Review Group, outside of the existing scrutiny process, to monitor progress, in consultation with the SEND Partnership Board and other partnership bodies and organisations, of SEND services, and provide regular, dedicated scrutiny and support to assist in both the embedding of the strengths that exist within the service and to improve where weaknesses have been identified.*

*Council agrees that if the parties consulted agree that such an approach has merit, then proposals be brought forward to full Council for approval having consulted with the partners above.*

*Council delegates responsibility to the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel for the selection of both Review Group numbers and membership.”*

The required consultation has now taken place and the following actions are recommended:

- That a time limited scrutiny review group, which will be a working group outside of the formal arrangements of the Local Government Act 1972, be set up to consider the Written Statement of Action, its progress, and any challenges that may occur.
- That the first meeting of the review group be held in September 2022.
- That the review last for 12 months initially with an option to extend this should the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel consider this appropriate.
- That updates from the review group be provided to the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel every six months for the duration of the group.
- That the Review Group be constituted of five members from the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel.
- That this membership remains consistent throughout the life of the group and that should members of the group cease to be members of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel, their membership of the group, can by agreement of the group persist. If however a member is no longer a Councillor then a replacement will be appointed by the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel, on recommendation from the relevant political group.

- That the review group consist of three members from the majority group in the council and two members from the opposition group and, if considered appropriate by the group, that up to two co-opted members from the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel also be included in its membership.
- That substitutes be allowed to attend in exceptional circumstances (reasons for the substitution must be provided) following agreement from the Chair.
- That the remit, terms of reference and membership of the review group be agreed at the first meeting of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel in the 2022-2023 municipal year.
- That as far as possible, meetings of the group be open to the public unless there is information to be considered that falls under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information. However, a degree of flexibility and discretion will be employed should the group consider that a public meeting is prohibitive to the matter under consideration and that on balance, the benefits from holding such a meeting in private outweigh any benefits to the public good in making the meeting open.

Recommendations (for Council):

- a) That the Deputy Director for Education in consultation with the Scrutiny and Systems Manager submit a report to the Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel providing details on the remit, terms of reference, frequency of meetings, membership and governance arrangements for the proposed scrutiny review group.
- b) That this report be considered at the first meeting of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel in the 2022-2023 municipal year.