

Report to Council

13 June 2023

Subject:	Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021-2023
Director:	Director of Children and Education Michael Jarrett
Contact Officer:	Corporate Parenting Project Officer, Rosa da Silva Rosa_DaSilva@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 For Council to consider the 2021-2023 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and makes any recommendations as necessary.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

The report will highlight Sandwell Corporate Parenting Board's progress and achievements for our children in care and care leavers throughout September 2021 to March 2023 where our services have supported our young people in adjusting to society's 'new normal' post Covid-19.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people: The work of Corporate Parenting Board provides an assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services for the children in Sandwell's care and care leavers. It aims to ensure that our children in care and care ceavers receive the right support to enable them to thrive and become happy members of society.</p>
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	It ensures that the Council and its key partners are good Corporate Parents and that our children in care and care leavers are a part of our 'family'. The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report provides an overview of what Corporate Parenting Board has delivered between September 2021 to March 2023.
	Strong resilient communities: Corporate Parenting Board aims to listen to the voices of our children in care and care leavers to ensure that our towns become welcoming places for young people and that they have work opportunities, activities and facilities to give them a part in the local community.
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods: Corporate Parenting Board aims to support the Council's ambitions to support our children in care and care leavers with a good housing offer for them in Sandwell when they become adults. This includes an offer of priority 1 banding for care leavers and a 100% Council Tax exemption for care leavers up to age 25.
	A strong and inclusive economy: Corporate Parenting Board aims to listen to the voices of our children in care and care leavers to ensure they have access to the skills and knowledge required for education, employment and training opportunities in Sandwell. Corporate Parenting Board maintains high aspirations for our children in care and care leavers and aims to support the provision of work experience opportunities and apprenticeships for those children and young people wherever possible.

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Background and Main Considerations

- 4.2 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021 to 2023 is a breakdown of the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board multiagency members and extended members in delivering improved outcomes for Sandwell Children in Care and Care Leavers.



- 4.3 Section 1: Contents page - Outline the structure of the report.
- 4.4 Section 2: Chairs foreword – Introduces the annual report, the purpose of the report, the Corporate Parenting Board’s review and the development the deep dive programmes. It highlights the importance in listening to the voice of the child and outlines Corporate Parenting Board next forward steps.
- 4.5 Section 3: Governance – Provides information with regard to Corporate Parenting Board and its role. Discusses the commitment of the Board to use plain English and not corporate language. It breaks down the continual work of embedding the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-23, the Corporate Parenting Pledge and action plan. It highlights the progress the board has made with the new programme.
- 4.6 Section 4: May and December 2022 Ofsted Inspection – Provide a breakdown of the Ofsted children’s services inspection in May 2022 and the Trust Adoptions services inspection in December 2022.
- 4.7 Section 5: Children in Care and Care Leavers Data highlights - Provides a breakdown of the demographics and data of children in care and care leavers.
- 4.8 Section 6: The Voice of the Child – Provides the feedback received by Corporate Parenting Board from children in care and care leavers through reports from Voices of Sandwell Board and Care Leavers Forum. Provides examples of the work completed by our young people throughout the September 2021 to March 2023.
- 4.9 Section 6: Health and Emotional Wellbeing - Provides the context breakdown the accomplished, activities and Performance information by Black Country ICB Partners.
- 4.10 Section 7: Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health – Provides activity and performance information to ensure the emotional wellbeing of Sandwell children in care and care Leavers is .



- 4.11 Section 8: Life and Memory Work – Provides activity and performance information with regards to the work Sandwell Children’s Trust have achieved to ensure the improvement of Life story work for children in care and care leavers.
- 4.12 Section 9: Education – Provides activity and performance information with regard to the education provided by the virtual school within the reporting period.
- 4.13 Section 10: Skills, Training and Employability – Provides Activity and performance to support care leavers into higher education, employment, apprenticeships, and any other employment opportunities.
- 4.14 Section 11: Access to Services - Provides oversight of the activity and achievements to Support Care leavers 18 – 25 years old to access public services.
- 4.15 Section 12: Safeguarding and Stability – Provides clear detail of the fostering service and placement activity of Sandwell children in care and Care leaver throughout the period of the report.
- 4.16 Section 13: Preparation for Adulthood Review – Provides details of support children in care receive as they prepare for adulthood throughout the period the report.
- 4.17 Section 14: Conclusion – Highlights what the report has achieved and further highlights how the Corporate Parenting Board will move forward into 2023/2024.
- 4.18 Section 15: Note – Corporate Parenting members 2021-2022 and Corporate Parenting member 2022 - 2023

4.19 The Current Position

- 4.20 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report was approved by Director of Children and Education services and Chief Executive of Sandwell Childrens Trust in May 2023.
- 4.21 Following a full self-assessment in June 2022 the Corporate Parenting Board meetings have been held every 2 months and has been following a deep dive programme. The first deep dive took place in October 2023



4.12 Consultation

4.13 Sandwell Children’s Trust has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.

4.14 The Designated Nurse for Children in Care has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.

4.15 The Executive Head of the Virtual School has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.

4.16 Children in Care and Care Leavers have agreed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.

4.22 Alternative Options

4.19 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report is considered to be the most effective way of communicating the work of Corporate Parenting Board to the Council.

5 Implications

Resources:	There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. The formulation of the Annual Report was met from existing resources.
Legal and Governance:	This report has been produced in accordance with the Council’s Constitution. The law and government guidance set out the leading role of Councillors to make sure their Council is an effective Corporate Parent for every child in care. This means supporting standards of care and wanting the same as any good parent would want for their child.
Risk:	There is no requirement to engage crime and disorder policies or risk assessment methods because of this report.
Equality:	An equality impact assessment is not required.
Health and Wellbeing:	The work of Corporate Parenting Board supports the health and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers.
Social Value:	The work of Corporate Parenting Board supports and promotes social value for children in care and care leavers. Corporate Parenting Board aims to identify



	opportunities for social value for our young people and supports the relevant partners in pursuing the implementation of these opportunities.
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6 Appendices

Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021-2023.

8. Background Papers

Corporate Parenting Landing Page:

https://intranet.sandwell.gov.uk/info/20171/childrens_services/3239/corporate_parenting_matters

