

Scrutiny Review – Scoping Document

Review Title:	Transition to Adulthood
Scrutiny Board:	Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board
Date of Review:	June 2025 to March 2026
<p>Reasons for undertaking the review:</p> <p>The Board had the responsibility to review / scrutinise 'corporate parenting, including services and support to care leavers'. The Board undertook an engagement session in April 2025 where the Board met with the Forum for Independent Young Adults, a number of challenges were presented at the session which the Board agreed required consideration.</p> <p>There was an ongoing piece of work looking into how to strengthen the transition to adulthood offer provided by the Council to looked after / care experienced young people, it was hoped that the Board could feed into these workstreams and support evidence based decisions.</p>	
<p>Intended Outcomes:</p> <p>To improve the transition period of care experienced individuals in Sandwell. Producing a detailed report setting out the current policy and procedures with regards to care experienced young people who are transiting to adulthood, focusing on education and training, housing, and health and adult services as well as the wider impact of the transition on those with care experience. The Board will produce a number of recommendations centered on the particular areas of focus, to enhance and improve services for care experienced young people.</p> <p>Gaps in services will be identified and opportunities considered to support the transition to adulthood. Challenges will be addressed across services to enable care experienced young people to successful and confidently transition into adulthood and access education and training, housing, and health and adult services as required to live independently.</p>	
<p>Methodology</p> <p>At the center of the review will be the young person and their experience of going through the process, this will inform the basis of the review – what is the current impact of the transition to adulthood on the young person – how is it approached, how are individuals supported, what is in place to support transition. What are the positive and negative aspects of the current model/process.</p> <p>The review will then look at three distinct areas that form the basis for any transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Training • Housing 	

- Health and Adult Services

The Working Group will consider each area and consider current arrangements, along with ongoing challenges and potential opportunities.

The Working Group will engage with internal and external partners to understand current practice and identify areas for further work or improvement.

The Board will produce a comprehensive report setting out the current transition to adulthood support and services, along with what changes were being made to enhance / improve the service offer. Recommendations will be sought to strengthen current work to enhance and improve the transition to adulthood offer, along with the potential to address immediate concerns raised by young people and their experiences.

Links to Corporate Plan:

Children and young people have the right skills and support to take the next step in their life and are well prepared for adulthood.

Be a good Corporate Parent for the children we care for, ensuring that those children are fully a part of our 'family'.

Links to Terms of Reference:

(f) corporate parenting, including services and support to care leavers

Scoping undertaken by:

Connor Robinson (Democratic Services Officer)

Council Chief Officer (or partner equivalent):

Sally Giles (Director of Children and Education Services)

Existing data available for consideration:

Catch 22 – Website – [Link](#)

Catch 22 – Report - Corporate Parenting for young people in care – Making the difference? – [Report Link](#)

GOV.UK - Research and analysis - 'Ready or not': care leavers' views of preparing to leave care (Jan 2022) – [Link](#)

UK Parliament - Care leavers' transition to adulthood inquiry - [Link](#)

BECOME – Website – [Link](#)

Barnardo's – Website – [Link](#)

The Care Leavers Association – Website - [Link](#)

The British Academy – Report - Young People Leaving Care: A Four Nations Perspective – (Nov 2019) – [Report Link](#)

University of York - Care leavers face 'acute challenges' in transition to adulthood – March 2023 – [Link](#)

University of Exeter - Care leavers face 'acute challenges' in transition to adulthood, analysis shows - March 2023 - [Link](#)

The Professional Association for Social Work and Social Workers -
Care leavers' views on their transition to adulthood: a rapid review of the evidence - [Link](#)

The Kings Trust – From Care to Independence - [Link](#)

Shelter - Housing help for care leavers - [Link](#)

Children and Young People Now - Scandal over advert reveals care leavers' acute housing challenges – [Link](#)

Potential witnesses

Senior Officers – Sandwell Council
Senior Officers – Sandwell Children's Trust
Forum for Independent Young Adults
Care Leavers and those with Care Experience
Charity / Support Organisations
University Researchers

Review Work Programme:

Task	Method	Lead person(s)	Completion by: