

# Report to Council

**18 January 2022**

<b>Subject:</b>	Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2020-21
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Children and Education Michael Jarrett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator, Charlotte Moriarty <a href="mailto:charlotte_moriarty@sandwell.gov.uk">charlotte_moriarty@sandwell.gov.uk</a>


## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council considers the 2020-21 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and makes any recommendations as necessary.




## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Annual Report highlights the work of the Corporate Parenting Board during the academic year September 2020 to August 2021. The report includes feedback from young people presented to Corporate Parenting Board throughout the year in Young People's reports from Voices of Sandwell Board and Care Leavers Forum.

## 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p><b>Best start in life for children and young people:</b></p> <p>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 leavers receive the right support to enable them to thrive and have successful adult lives.</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 fully a part of our 'family'. The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report provides an overview of what Corporate Parenting Board has delivered throughout the year.
	<b>Strong resilient communities:</b> 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 jobs, activities and facilities to give them a part in the local community.
	<b>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods:</b> 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.
	<b>A strong and inclusive economy:</b> 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 2020-21 is an assessment on the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board in delivering improved outcomes for the children in Sandwell's care and care leavers.



- 4.3 Section 1: Background – Introduces the background to the Annual Report. Details the purpose of the report, the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-23 and the Corporate Parenting Pledge. These documents detail how Councillors, Council Officers, Partner Agencies and children in care and care leavers will assist with the delivery of these outcomes.
- 4.4 Section 2: Context – Provides the context behind the Annual Report. This specifically includes Activity and Performance Information with regard to: Social Care, Health and Education.
- 4.5 Section 3: Service Performance – Social Care – Provides activity and performance information with regard to social care within the reporting period.
- 4.6 Section 4: Service Performance – Health – Provides activity and performance information with regard to health within the reporting period.
- 4.7 Section 5: Service Performance – Education – Provides activity and performance information with regard to education within the reporting period.
- 4.8 Section 6: Corporate Parenting Board – Provides information with regard to Corporate Parenting Board, including its structure and role. Discusses the commitment of the Board to be a jargon-free zone.
- 4.9 Section 7: Corporate Parenting Board Engagement – Provides an overview of each of the engagement session topics that have been discussed throughout the reporting period.
- 4.10 Section 8: Participation – 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 year.
- 4.11 Section 9: Achievements – Provides information specific to the key achievements of Corporate Parenting Board in this reporting period.



#### 4.12 Section 10: Glossary of Abbreviations

#### 4.13 Section 11: Appendix 1

#### 4.14 Section 12: Appendix 2

### 4.15 The Current Position

4.16 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report was approved at Corporate Parenting Board on 13 December 2021.

4.17 Shadow Corporate Parenting Board meetings were re-established this year after lockdown restrictions were eased in March 2021. They were attended by Directors as an opportunity to keep in touch with Corporate Parenting activity and identify opportunities to enhance SMBC's offer to our children in care and care leavers. An agreement was made at Shadow Corporate Parenting Board in September 2021 that the Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator would provide a regular update to Leadership Team to discuss Corporate Parenting activity and Action Plan progress. This would replace Shadow Corporate Parenting Board sessions. These meetings ensure that Corporate Parenting activity is visible throughout Sandwell MBC and that there is clear ownership and responsibility for this activity within each Directorate.

4.10 Corporate Parenting Newsletters continue to be delivered. These provide updates on Corporate Parenting activity within Sandwell MBC and encourage a more active role wider than the Corporate Parenting Board itself. These newsletters are targeted at Councillors and SMBC Officers. The newsletters are currently being refreshed to ensure that they are accessible and contain the most relevant information.

4.11 The landing page on Sandwell MBC's Intranet continues to be utilised as the base for the Corporate Parenting Newsletters and as an area to read the latest updates and news, and information on ways for Officers to get involved in their role as Corporate Parent.

### 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.
- 4.17 The Annual Report was agreed by Corporate Parenting Board on 13 December 2021.

#### 4.18 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

<b>Resources:</b>	There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. The formulation of the Annual Report was met from existing resources.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	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.
<b>Risk:</b>	There is no requirement to engage crime and disorder policies or risk assessment methods because of this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	An equality impact assessment is not required.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	The work of Corporate Parenting Board supports the health and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers.
<b>Social Value:</b>	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.



## 6 Appendices

Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2020-21.

## 8. Background Papers

Corporate Parenting Landing Page:

[https://intranet.sandwell.gov.uk/info/20171/childrens\\_services/3239/corporate\\_parenting\\_matters](https://intranet.sandwell.gov.uk/info/20171/childrens_services/3239/corporate_parenting_matters)

