

Report to Council

19 March 2024

Subject:	Corporate Parenting Board Progress Update
Director:	Interim Director of Children and Education, Sally Giles sally_giles@sandwell.gov.uk
Contact Officer:	Corporate Parenting Project Officer Rosa Da Silva Rosa_DaSilva@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council considers and comments upon the Corporate Parenting Board update.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the work carried out by the Corporate Parenting Board over the last 12 months in relation to how services are supporting children in care and care experienced young people.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people:</p> <p>Corporate Parenting aims to give children in our care the best possible beginning in life. This involves making sure that all children under our care, who consider Sandwell their “Corporate Parents,” grow up well, have a positive start, and receive excellent care. Supporting our young people as they transition into adulthood, provides them with services and assistance to help them thrive and reach their full potential.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Corporate Parenting Board has submitted 12 months of minutes to the Full Council for their consideration. The minutes cover the period between March 2023 to January 2024.
- 4.2 Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) is chaired by the Elected Cabinet Member Councillor for Children, Young People and Education . It is led by Voice Of Sandwell (VOS - forum for 11-18-year olds) and Forum for Independent Adults (FIYA - forum for 18-25 year). The CPB's purpose is to focus on key areas that affect and impact our children in care and care-experienced young people.
- 4.3 Representatives on the Board include Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), Sandwell Children Trust (SCT), Education, Skills, Employment and Training, Social Care, Foster Carers, children and young people, NHS/ICB, West Midlands Police, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Elected Members including the Leader of the opposition.
- 4.4 The Board follows a 12-24 month of thematic programme of Deep Dives which was implemented in October 2022.
- 4.5 Each Deep Dive looks at the 7 identified key priorities affecting these areas:
- 19+ Education, employment and training
 - Foster friendly Sandwell
 - Emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - Physical health
 - Out-of-borough placements and stability
 - Access to Services: Local offer
 - Enable elected members and partners to have a better understanding of their service areas and provide effective change.



4.6 Between January 2023 to January 2024 the meetings covered:

- 30 March 2023: Deep dive into safeguarding and stability for Children in Care
- 7 September 2023: Deep Dive into Access to Services Care Leavers Local Offer Review
- 16 November 2024: Assurance Report for Post 16 Pathway Plans
- 25 January 2024: Deep Dive into Education Skills Employment and Training Education: Sandwell Virtual School for Children in Care

5 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options that need to be considered. The report's purpose is to provide an update to Council in relation to the corporate parenting board.

6. Implications

Resources:	The nonrecurrent funding provides uncertainty and instability of delivery services and the ability to plan for long term programmes to make a sustained impact.
Legal and Governance:	N/A
Risk:	N/A
Equality:	Implications for equality (all aspects and characteristics) including how meeting Equality Duty, equality impact assessments
Health and Wellbeing:	If the services are not provided, it could likely lead to negative effects on the health and wellbeing of our communities.
Social Value:	N/A
Climate Change:	N/A
Corporate Parenting:	Without targeted service, Children in care and care leavers are more likely than their peers to have poor life outcomes and struggle with their long-term physical, mental health and emotional wellbeing.



7. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Board Minutes – Thursday 30 March 2023

Appendix 2 - Corporate Parenting Board Minutes – Thursday 7 September 2023

Appendix 3 - Corporate Parenting Board Minutes – Thursday 16 November 2023

Appendix 4 - Corporate Parenting Board Minutes – Thursday 25 January 2024

8. Background Papers

None

