

# Report to Children Services and Education Scrutiny Board

6 January 2025

<b>Subject:</b>	Statutory Youth Offer in Sandwell
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Children & Education Services, Sally Giles
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Youth Service Managers, Tariq Karim <a href="mailto:Tariq_karim@sandwell.gov.uk">Tariq_karim@sandwell.gov.uk</a> Dawn Maleki <a href="mailto:Dawn_maleki@sandwell.gov.uk">Dawn_maleki@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1. That the Board considers and comments upon the statutory youth offer in Sandwell and how this is delivered across the six towns of Sandwell.

## 2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1. Considering the strengthened statutory duty placed on local authorities to secure a sufficient youth offer for young people, the Council considers whether the current offer meets this duty.

### 3. How does this deliver objectives of the Council Plan?

Growing up in Sandwell	Young people have access to high quality youth work and youth provision in their towns and neighbourhoods, providing them with something to do, somewhere to go and someone to talk to, enabling them to thrive and achieve their full potential.
Healthy in Sandwell	Young people are supported to relate to their communities and to have healthy and fulfilling lives, providing them with activities and services that help to improve their wellbeing.
Living in Sandwell	Young people feel that our towns become welcoming places for them where they have access to activities and facilities that enable them to feel part of their community.
Thriving Economy in Sandwell	Our youth facilities and activities are accessible to all young people in the Borough and support young people to make a successful transition into adulthood.
One Council One Team	We work across the Council to ensure young people are supported to fulfil their potential and have access to the support they need.

### 4. Context and Key Issues

4.1. The Government places a statutory duty on local authorities under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996, updated in 2008, which tasks them *‘...to secure, so far as is reasonably practical, access to sufficient services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, for the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their well-being and personal and social development’*. The statutory guidance<sup>1</sup> was updated in September 2023 and now includes several musts local authorities are required to deliver against. Some of the key ones are:

- Educational leisure-time activities and associated facilities which must include sufficient services which are for the improvement of young

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<sup>1</sup> [The Statutory Guidance](#)

people's personal and social development (traditionally known as youth work)

- Engagement with young people to determine their needs
- Sufficient level of activities and facilities to meet need
- Publicise what is available and keep this up to date

4.2. The National Youth Agency (NYA) defines youth work as '*a distinct educational process adapted across a variety of settings to support a young person's personal, social and educational development. Youth work is an educational process that engages with young people in a curriculum built from their lived experience, and their personal beliefs and aspirations. This process extends and deepens a young person's understanding of themselves, their community and the world in which they live and supports them to proactively bring about positive changes. The youth worker builds positive relationships with young people based on mutual respect.*' (Vision for Youth Work in England to 2020). During Covid youth workers were given essential key worker status in recognition of the role they provide to young people. The function of youth work therefore goes beyond the delivery of 'activities' or a 'service'.

4.3. It is helpful to recognise youth work as an approach with multiple variables that supports young people where they engage voluntarily. The NYA suggest a sufficient youth service would provide at least two, full-time equivalent professionals who are JNC qualified youth workers be in a secondary school catchment area, along with an equivalent team of at least four youth support workers (level 2/3 qualified), and trained volunteers, to ensure minimum access to quality youth services.

The full current Youth Service staffing resource is equivalent to:



- 4.4. There is a growing body of evidence nationally of the impact and benefit of youth work on young people and society.
- 4.5. A report by UK Youth and Frontier Economics<sup>2</sup> estimates that *‘the return on investment (ROI) for youth work can be considered ‘high’ to ‘very high’.* This means that for every pound the government invests in the youth sector, this generates between £3.20 and £6.40 in benefits to the taxpayer.’
- 4.6. The YMCA report 'Out of Service'<sup>3</sup> highlights that youth services exist to provide a sense of belonging, a safe space, and the opportunity for young people to enjoy being young. However, for almost a decade, local authorities have struggled under the weight of funding pressures, meaning youth services are being forced to endure continued and damaging cuts.
- 4.7. Institute for Fiscal Studies<sup>4</sup> report has found that austerity-induced youth club closures in London meant young people performed 4% worse in exams at age 16 and became 14% more likely to commit crimes.

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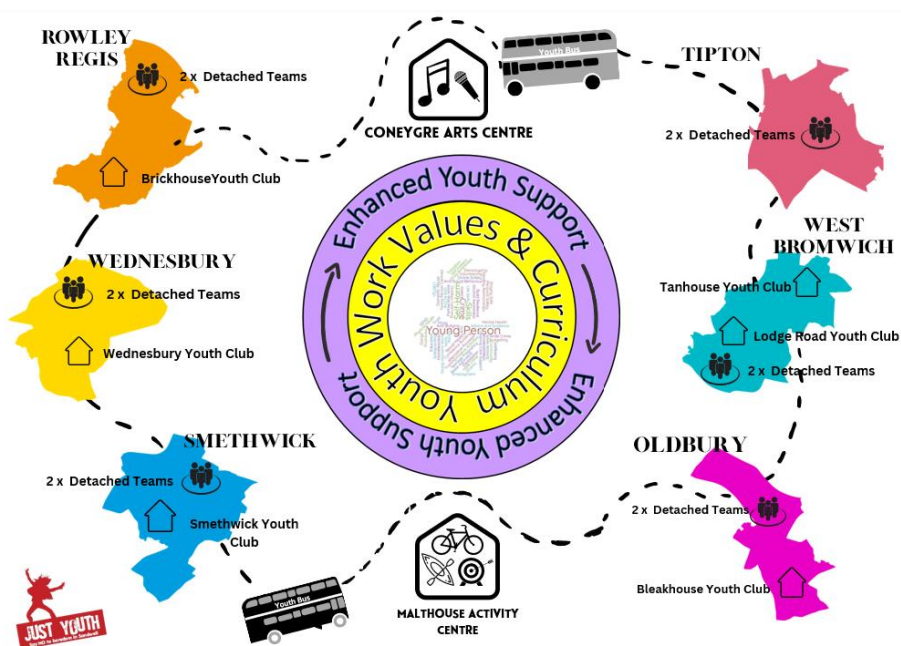
<sup>2</sup> [Untapped: The Economic Value of Youth Work](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Out of Service, YMCA Report](#)

<sup>4</sup> [The effects of youth clubs on education and crime](#)

## 5. The Sandwell Youth Offer

- 5.1. Sandwell fulfils its statutory duty by providing young people access to a youth work offer that meets their needs, within the resources available. This offer provides a mix of universal and targeted provision and youth workers address some of the key issues affecting young people.




- 5.2. The current youth offer in Sandwell, can be encompassed within four broad areas of delivery.



### Universal Open Access Youth Clubs and Centres



There are currently open access youth clubs and two centres (Coneygre Arts Centre and Malthouse Stables Outdoor Education Centre) operating across Sandwell. These youth clubs operate two sessions per week and the centres provide open access and targeted programmes throughout the week. They provide young people opportunities to engage voluntarily in positive activities with something to do and somewhere to go, allowing them to build trusted relationships with youth

	<p>workers over a sustained period. This enables the early identification of risky behaviours and gives the opportunity to offer support and intervention at the right time before it has a negative impact.</p> <p>Open access provision, whether leisure or recreational, that includes youth work provides a gateway to specialist, targeted support for young people without stigma. Open-access services provide early help as an essential part of a public health approach for young people's well-being. This includes community-based support and prevention in areas such as youth violence, school exclusions and mental health, and providing a vital bridging role between families, multi-agency working, wider partnerships and community groups.</p>
<p><b>Detached Youth Work &amp; Mobile Youth Provision</b></p> 	<p>Detached and mobile provision offers a more targeted approach that enables youth workers to engage with young people who are unlikely to attend building-based provision.</p> <p>Working with partners, such as the police, community safety, schools and Violence Reduction Partnership, detached youth work teams can be targeted to areas to enable interventions and prevent causes of concern from escalating. Discussions around deployment of detached teams are undertaken at town tasking meetings, informed by intelligence from a range of partners. This is considered by the Service before teams are mobilised into areas.</p>



	<p>The Youth Buses complement the delivery of detached youth work and provide a mobile youth provision for young people in areas where there is no building-based provision. Currently the bus is deployed during the evenings to support detached teams and support youth focused events during the day and at weekends. There are plans in place to increase use with schools and voluntary sector groups.</p>
<p><b>Targeted one to one support and group work</b></p> 	<p>For young people who are vulnerable and at risk of disengaging from statutory services or who require additional or alternative support. Young people can be stepped up from universal youth work to targeted one-to-one and/or group work and vice versa. Where concerns are identified, and the young person would benefit from a more targeted youth work intervention or support, youth workers will undertake home visits, work with young people on specific issues, attend meetings with partners as part of the young person support plan and engage them in positive activities.</p>
<p><b>Youth Voice Work</b></p> 	<p>Young people are afforded the opportunity to have their voice heard through the delivery of the Council's corporate Shape programme. A range of opportunities are provided for young people to engage in youth voice and decision-making activity with the Council and partners.</p>

- 5.3. In Sandwell the offer is delivered through both a town-based and targeted approach. The town-based offer includes a youth club/ youth facility in each town (2 in West Bromwich), delivered in partnership through a range of facilities including libraries, museums and community centres,

including some where we must pay to hire the facilities. In addition, we deliver 2 detached youth work teams complemented by youth bus sessions in each town. Two Senior Youth Officers, responsible for three towns each manage this provision and have strengthened the imbedding of the Service in partnership working in each town. See (Appendix 1) for a detailed breakdown of the current youth offer.

- 5.4. The Service works across Council directorates, Sandwell Children's Trust, and other strategic partners. For example, through our detached work in West Bromwich we are working with the Violence Reduction Partnership, West Midlands Police, Community Safety, Town/ Borough Tasking, Horizons, Sandwell College, DECCA, West Bromwich Town BID team to respond to issues around youth violence, drugs, gangs and Violence Against Women & Girls. Additionally, we are working with colleagues from Regeneration & Growth in the engagement of young people in Towns Funds/ Levelling Up projects.
- 5.5. The remaining 3 Youth Officers are providing a borough wide youth offer. This is delivered through 2 dedicated boroughwide facilities for young people at Coneygre Arts Centre and Malthouse Outdoor Education Centre providing access to cultural, arts and outdoor education opportunities. These facilities work with a range of partners and young people from Pupil Referral Unit's, Elective Home Education, Strengthening Families Teams, Youth Justice Service, Special Schools, National Teaching and Advisory Service, Sandwell Cultural Education Partnership, and the voluntary and community sector. Both Coneygre and Malthouse work closely with the Borough Economy Directorate in supporting and providing activities at community events, e.g. climbing wall at Armed Forces Day or young people performing at key events. The mobile youth bus provision is also managed by the Youth Officer responsible for Coneygre Arts Centre.
- 5.6. Our targeted work is delivered through our Enhanced Youth Support team who receive referrals from a range of partners including the Police, Strengthening Families Teams, Schools, Horizons, Family Hubs, amongst others to undertake home visits and one to one intervention with individual young people. We are a key partner delivering multi agency



family help, regularly attending Team Around the Family (TAF), Children in Need, Child Protection and core group meetings, attending the Harm Outside the Home Board and supporting young people 18+ with their support plans. Where appropriate, we also take the role of lead professional but mostly co-work with other professionals. The team also provide 2 boroughwide young women's groups and a dedicated youth provision for young people with SEND. In addition, we are funded by Sandwell Children' Trust to provide youth work support to care experienced young people in training flats. Referrals are received from a range of partners to provide one to one and group work support in a range of settings. The Service can step down young people into universal youth work and other provision through this work.

- 5.7. Our current youth offer, which is equally split between targeted and universal provision provides access to all young people and those who may need additional support. Open access universal youth provision is less likely to be stigmatised and is part of a continuum of support. It has wide and popular appeal and engages with young people regardless of socio-economic status or where they live. It provides the opportunity for personal development as a key part of a young person's education and socialisation, which supports skills for life and work, and mental and physical wellbeing. Crucially, it includes a range of safeguarding and early intervention support services which are vital to many vulnerable or disadvantaged young people and ensures we provide the right support at the right time.
- 5.8. The local youth offer which as part of the statutory duty, needs to be publicised widely and includes information advice and guidance for young people. It is publicised through the Just Youth website and social media channels including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Since the employment of a Marketing and Communications apprentice by Shape in November 2020, we have seen a 130% increase in users to the website. The Service has also started a quarterly newsletter to share good news and successes through youth work with elected members, Council officers and partners.

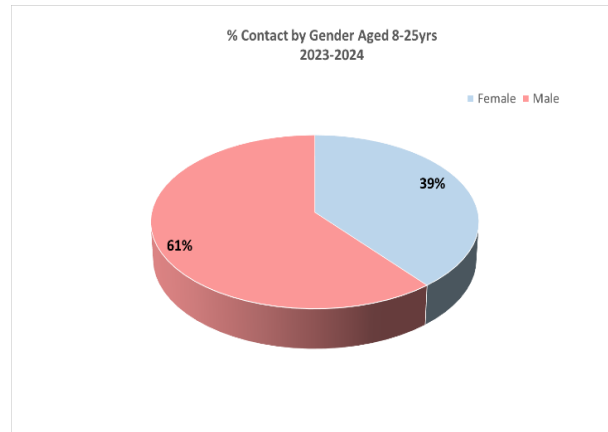
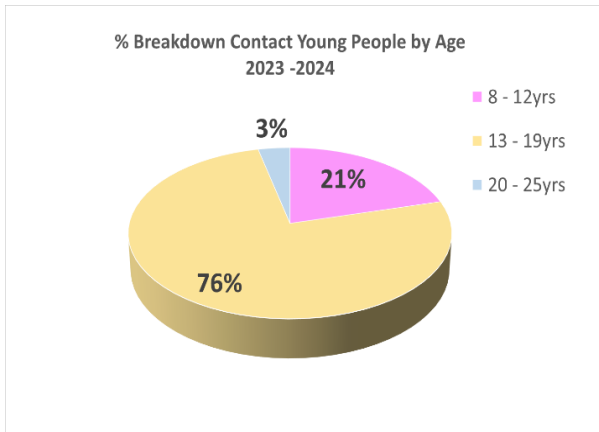
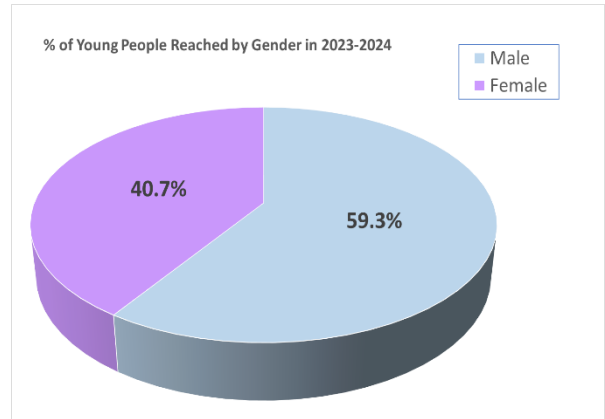
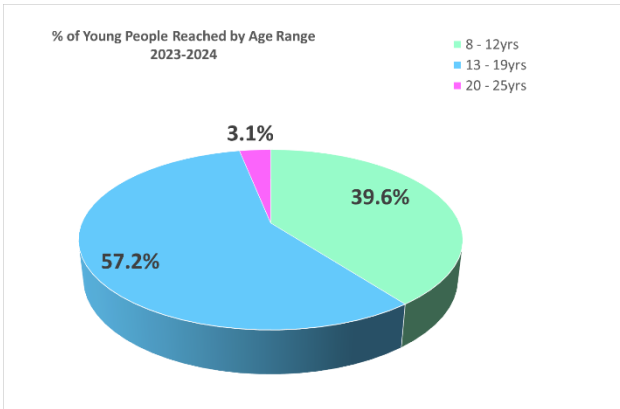
## **6. Partnership Work**

- 6.1. The Youth Service has developed strong relationships with partners including Community Safety, Sandwell Police, the Domestic Abuse team, the Violence Reduction Partnership and this has led to increased demand in requests for detached work and targeted work with young women. Likewise, there is an increased demand for youth bus and youth work sessions from young people, as evidenced in several recent surveys. In addition, there are more calls for advice and support from other professionals and demand for direct work with young people. Malthouse has seen an increase in demand for outdoor education sessions, especially from SEND schools.
- 6.2. The Youth Service plays a significant role in supporting key Council agendas such as youth violence, gang-related activity, child and criminal exploitation, domestic violence and SEND support.
- 6.3. An area of work that has recently seen a significant increase is around under 25's youth violence and knife crime and the Service has been working closely with partners to help develop individual school violence reduction plans, with a view to helping schools deal with situations more effectively as they arise. We have increased the presence of detached teams in areas where there have been increases of or a fear of youth violence or knife crime through Violence Reduction Partnership funding, for example in Victoria Park, Smethwick, Lion Farm, Oldbury and West Bromwich town centre. Recently, we have supported Community Safety partners to raise awareness around knife crime, including issue-based programmes in youth provision and visits to the Knife Angel and organised an anti-knife crime t-shirt design competition, supported by our social value team and funded by a local business.
- 6.4. The youth service is also playing a key role in supporting young people and families through the Council's cost of living work by providing warm, safe, spaces, a food and life skills offer and advice, support and guidance from a trusted adult.

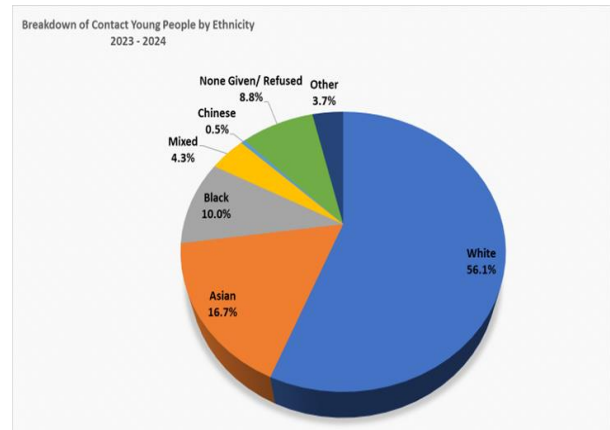
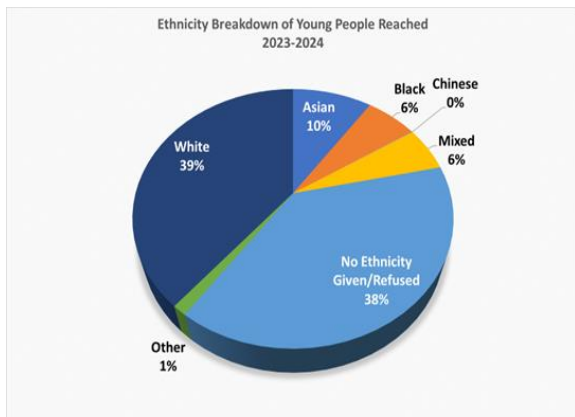
- 6.5. The Service is integral to the delivery of the Holiday Activity & Food programme to young people. We have delivered a successful open access offer, targeted in one park in each town. There has been an additional boroughwide offer at Coneygre and Malthouse Stables offering dance, school of rock and outdoor education activities. Our Enhanced Youth Support team provided a targeted offer for young women offering a range of activities and life skills development. A total of 3,787 young people engaged during the programme during 2021-2024.
- 6.6. The Service is also a key player in the Council's approach to youth engagement, working in partnership with Public Health to support delivery of the council's corporate Shape programme and the evolving Child Friendly Sandwell initiative, providing young people with the opportunity to have their voice heard. With SHAPE we help to facilitate Youth Forums, youth conferences and surveys, national Anti-Bullying Week, Shape Your Talent and the annual Shape Youth Festival.

## **7. Demographics**

- 7.1. The Service currently captures the following demographic data, which includes reach - number of individual young people and contact – number of attendances. Due to the nature of detached youth work, we are only able to capture contacts when a trusting relationship has been established with groups of young people where they feel able to disclose personal details. In 2023-24 the Service reached a total of 2077 individual young people (reach) and 25,262 number of attendances (contact).



Our reach and contact figures show that a substantial number of young people accessing our service are within our target age range of 13-19yr olds.



We recognise a lot of young people refuse or do not state their ethnicity when completing registration forms and this is where the service needs to do further work. We currently operate a paper-based system and have piloted digital based systems this year. However, due to constraints around digital access in our provisions it is difficult to embed this.

## **8. Impact**

- 8.1. One of the area's that we need to develop further is demonstrating the impact of our work. This is an issue for the youth sector more generally and we are part of a Regional Impact Network which is exploring ways we can improve and imbed this. A comparative study of youth service providers from across the West Midlands has found that systems and processes for capturing quantitative data are well established but qualitative and impact measures or systems require development, and the network are working on developing a toolkit to support this.
- 8.2. Alongside our demographic data, one of the ways we currently capture impact is through case studies (Appendix 2).

## **9. Volunteering**

- 9.1. Over the past 12 months the Youth Service has developed a volunteering programme, as recruitment has been an issue since Covid 19. Since starting the programme, 42 people have expressed an interest in volunteering with 24 becoming active volunteers. Those that have gained experience through their volunteering, have successfully moved in to paid employment both within the Service and within other allied professions e.g. teaching assistants and apprenticeships (see Appendix 2 for case study).

## **10. Emerging Needs and Policy Developments**

- 10.1. **National Youth Strategy** - The Government has committed to a National Youth Strategy<sup>5</sup> that will prioritise delivering better coordinated youth services and policy at a local, regional and national level. It will make sure decision-making moves away from a one-size-fits all approach, handing power back to young people and their communities, and rebuilding a thriving and sustainable sector. This will help deliver on the government's missions, spreading opportunities,

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<sup>5</sup> [New National Youth Strategy](#)

making our streets safer and taking pressure off health services. An initial £85 million from government and £100 million from the Dormant Assets Scheme has been committed to improving youth outcomes but no detail is yet available around this funding.

- 10.2. **Young Futures Hubs** are still an evolving picture. The Young Futures Programme<sup>6</sup>, which aims to tackle knife crime and address rising mental health issues among young people, was first announced at the Labour Party Conference in October 2023.
- 10.3. According to the party's manifesto, the government will "intervene earlier to stop young people being drawn into crime, creating a new Young Futures programme<sup>7</sup> with a network of hubs reaching every community". It adds: "These hubs will have youth workers, mental health support workers, and careers advisers on hand to support young people's mental health and avoid them being drawn into crime."

The Young Futures Hubs programme now sits with the Department of Education, who are taking a lead on the development of the model.

- 10.4. There are several emerging needs for young people, as follows:
- Increases in incidents of serious youth violence and the impacts of criminal exploitation. Recent work on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment shows a 7.9% increase in knife crime and growing concerns around Youth Violence, especially in hot spot areas.
  - Many young people have faced new challenges since Covid, including negative impacts on their mental and physical health, their social interaction with peers and on their education. According to the Covid-19-mental-health-and-wellbeing-surveillance-report<sup>8</sup> by Government, disadvantaged children and young people have had

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<sup>6</sup> [JUST ANNOUNCED: Labour will launch Young Futures programme to tackle knife crime](#)

<sup>7</sup> [The Labour Party Manifesto 2024](#)

<sup>8</sup> [COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance: report](#)



poorer mental health and wellbeing outcomes than those with more advantage.

- Impact of cost of living – Many young people we work with are worried about the energy costs and the impact this is having on their family, and many are looking for part time jobs to support their families.

10.5. Consultations undertaken with young people through the annual Shape surveys have identified the following recurring themes:

	2023	2022	2020	2019	2017	2015
1	School work & Exams	Gangs & Youth Violence	School/College work & Exams	Knife Crime	What to do after year 11	School work and exams
2	Vaping	Knife Crime	Physical Appearance	School/College work & Exams	School work and exams	Gangs & youth violence
3	Gangs & Youth violence	School/College work and exams	Being Bullied	Gangs & Youth Violence	Getting college course/ apprenticeship	What to do after year 11
4	Knife crime	Drugs and substance abuse	Impact of covid 19	Being Bullied	Gangs and youth violence	Being Bullied
5	Drugs	What to do after GCSEs Being Bullied	What to do after GCSEs	What to do after GCSEs	Nothing worries me	Being Healthy
6	What to do after GCSEs					
7	Getting a Job					
8	Being Bullied					

The issues identified by young people are addressed in universal settings through our youth work curriculum, through partnership working and by providing targeted interventions on a 1-2-1 or group basis.

10.6. A review undertaken by the Children & Education Scrutiny Board (March 2020) on the Youth Offer, recommended the following:

- Young people should be afforded safe, flexible, space of their own, with ‘Wi-fi & Dry’ as the basic offer in Sandwell.
- Young people want to access youth provision locally, delivered by trusted adults who can support them.

- The council should take a more strategic approach to funding to ensure better alignment to complimentary activity within the voluntary sector.

## **11. Future Youth Offer**

11.1. The current youth offer provides an appropriate balance between universal and targeted support. It remains however a limited resource and can find itself stretched between open access and targeted activity. Whilst further funding would be required to close the gaps in provision and ensure sufficiency of youth facilities across the 6 towns (including the increased use of detached teams) a review of the youth offer could:

- Focus more effectively on corporate priorities such as young people's skills and employment and youth violence and exploitation.
- Strengthen the enhanced youth support offer to undertake more targeted work with vulnerable young people, aligning more closely with the Family Help Strategy.
- Align local provision to the new family hubs in each town, ensuring there is a joined-up offer for 0-19-year-olds.
- Work towards increasing the arts, cultural and outdoor education offer.

11.2. Any revisions to the offer should ensure that it still meets the needs and aspirations of young people and that young people's voices are embedded and integral to co-producing the new offer. It should also ensure access for young people from diverse communities and be underpinned by our recently co-produced 'theory of change' youth work curriculum which sets out the outcomes that young people want to achieve from a sufficient youth offer.

## 12. Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	Depending on the outcome of the review and any new funding from Government as part of the National Youth Strategy, resources may need to be re-aligned, or additional funding secured to meet the priorities and needs of young people.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	There is a statutory requirement for the Council to do all that is reasonably practicable to secure and publicise a sufficient local offer for young people that meets their needs.
<b>Risk:</b>	If the universal youth offer is reduced, then there is a risk that this may lead to an increase in demand for more targeted early help and statutory services, increasing the spend on more statutory interventions.
<b>Equality:</b>	There are no specific equality issues arising from this report. Having a sufficient youth offer across the Borough will ensure there is an equity of opportunity for all young people to access good quality youth work and youth provision.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	Providing access to youth activities and youth provision has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of young people.
<b>Social Value</b>	The youth service provides opportunities for young people to volunteer and engage in positive activities within their neighbourhood.
<b>Climate Change</b>	The closer provision is to young people, the less reliance they will have on transport that would have a negative impact on climate change.
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	Ensuring all care experienced young people have access to youth provision.

## 13. Appendices

- 13.1. Appendix 1 – Current Youth Provision List
- Appendix 2 – Case Studies

## 14. Background Papers

- 14.1. [Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board: Youth Facilities Review – Findings of the Working Group](#)

## APPENDIX 1 – Youth Provision List

<u>Provision</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Times</u>
<b><u>Detached Teams</u></b>			
Oldbury	Lion Farm Estate	Monday & Wednesday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
<i>Oldbury</i>	<i>Lion Farm Estate - funded by VRP</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>3.45pm - 5.45pm</i>
Oldbury	Burntree / Tividale	Wednesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Rowley	Blackheath / Britannia Park	Monday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Smethwick	Cape Hill	Tuesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Smethwick	Lightwoods Park	Tuesday & Wednesday	5.30pm - 7.30pm
<i>Smethwick</i>	<i>Victoria Park - funded by VRP</i>	<i>Wednesday Saturday</i>	<i>3.00pm - 5.00pm 1.00pm - 3.00pm</i>
Tipton	Great Bridge / Jubilee Park	Wednesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm

<u>Provision</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Times</u>
Tipton	Tibbington Estate	Tuesday	5.30pm - 7.30pm
Tipton	Victoria Park / Owen Street	Wednesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesbury	Bilston Road	Tuesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesbury	Myvod Road / Brunswick Park	Tuesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
West Bromwich	Stone Cross	Wednesday & Thursday	5.00pm - 7.00pm
<i>West Bromwich</i>	<i>Town Centre - funded by VRP</i>	<i>Monday &amp; Thursday</i>	<i>3.00pm - 5.00pm</i>
<b><u>Open Access Youth Provisions</u></b>			
Oldbury - Bleakhouse Youth Club	Bleakhouse Library, Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury, B68 9DS	Tuesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Rowley - Youth Club	Brickhouse Community Centre, Dudhill Road, B65 8HS	Monday & Wednesday	6.00pm - 8.00pm



<u>Provision</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Times</u>
Smethwick - Youth Club	Smethwick Family Hub, Corbett Street, Smethwick, B66 3PX	Tuesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Tipton - Coneygre Drama Group	Coneygre Arts Centre, Sedgley Road East, Tipton, DY4 8UH	Monday	5.00pm - 8.00pm
Tipton - Coneygre Music For Life	Coneygre Arts Centre, Sedgley Road East, Tipton, DY4 8UH	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	5.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesbury - Youth Club	Friar Park Millennium Centre, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury, WS10 0JS	Monday & Wednesday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
West Bromwich - Lodge Road Youth Club	Lodge Road Community Centre, Lodge Road, West Bromwich, B70 8PJ	Tuesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
West Bromwich - Tanhouse Youth Club	Tanhouse Community Centre, Hamstead Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5EL	Tuesday & Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
<b><u>Youth Bus</u></b>			
Tipton	Tibbington Estate	Tuesday	5.30pm - 7.00pm
Wednesbury	Bilston Road	Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Smethwick	Victoria Park	Wednesday	4.15pm - 5.45pm

<u>Provision</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Times</u>
Smethwick	Reginald Road	Wednesday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Oldbury	Lion Farm Estate	Thursday	4.15pm - 5.45pm
Rowley	Britannia Park / Brickhouse	Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
<b><u>Enhanced Youth Support (Referral Only)</u></b>			
Young Women's Group	Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre, Hurst Lane, Tipton, DY4 9AB	Monday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Young Women's Group	Oak House Museum, Oak Road, West Bromwich, B70 8HJ	Wednesday	6.00pm - 8.00pm
<i>EYS Referrals (one-to-one)</i>			
<i>Leaving Care Referrals. Funded by Sandwell Children's Trust</i>			
<b><u>Inclusive Services (Referral and Term-Time only)</u></b>			
Marvels Youth Club	Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre, Hurst Lane, Tipton, DY4 9AB	Thursday	6.00pm - 8.00pm

<u>Provision</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Times</u>
<b><u>Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre</u></b>			
Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre	Hurst Lane, Tipton, DY4 9AB		
<i>Activities pre-bookable please call 0121 569 4400 Activities include abseiling, archery, camping, canoeing, climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, orienteering, raft building and team games. Mobile Climbing Wall also available to hire.</i>			
<i>For more information, please contact Sandwell Youth Service on 0121 569 2899 or email <a href="mailto:youngpeople_services@sandwell.gov.uk">youngpeople_services@sandwell.gov.uk</a></i>			

## **APPENDIX 2 – Case Studies**

### **Detached Youth Work in Targeted Areas**

The Service has been successful in securing external funding from Violence Reduction Partnership to deliver additional detached youth work sessions in youth violence and Police priority impact areas. The intelligence from this work is shared with a range of partners internally and externally including, through a weekly partnership meeting, town and borough tasking, Harm Outside the Home Board, through Prevention of Violence & Exploitation and Reducing Reoffending & Serious Organised Crime and Safer Sandwell Partnership. This provision has supported partners to make areas safer for young people, providing reassurance and addressing issues affecting young people and is also an example of how youth work as an approach can be effective in promoting and developing community cohesion.

*“I see the team work very hard & relationships have been built with a lot of young people in Sandwell, they help to redirect young people away from negative & into positive activities thereby reducing potential violence or anti-social behaviours & increasing opportunities & protection for children. Therefore, from a violence reduction view the team are contributing well to the U25 violence prevention model.”*

Violence Reduction Partnership Navigator, Sandwell

*“The service has been a useful part of town tasking in terms of responding to concerns portrayed by young people across the town, working with them to build rapport and encourage their participation into other and diversionary activities. An example would be around addressing ongoing issues of ASB and nuisance behaviour by young people on the Lion Farm Estate which has decreased through diligent work by the ASB Team and the engagement by Youth Services to encourage youths into participating in various activities through the running of the HAF programme and regular detached sessions.”*

ASB Lead, Oldbury

## **Westminster School Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme – Canoeing Expedition – Scotland**

The group of Special Educational Needs young people from Westminster School decided they would use canoeing as their mode of transport for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition and started their journey just after Easter 2023 at Malthouse Stables.

Over the next year they attended the centre weekly and went from complete novices to becoming very competent canoeists, forgetting all about their low confidence and self-doubt at the start, and learned everything they needed to know to be self-sufficient on their journey and expedition. They also went to Plas Gwynant in North Wales to do their practice expedition.

For their final expedition they had chosen: The Great Glen Canoeing Trail in Scotland and they did this In June this year. This trail takes you along the Caledonian Canal and through the lochs of: Loch Lochy, Loch Oich and Loch Ness. During the week completed 40 miles of canoeing through areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The learning achieved included experimental learning and building their self-confidence, resilience, overcoming challenges, activity skills, perseverance, patience, commitment, self-reliance, teamwork and communication skills, social and environmental awareness and development of many personal qualities.

A great partnership piece of work between Westminster School / Malthouse Outdoor Centre and Plas Gwynant, Sandwell Residential Education Service.



## **Leaving Care Service Referral**

YP1 is a care experienced young woman aged 19. She had moved into independent accommodation in the training flats and was being supported by her PA who referred her into our service.

YP1 was struggling with her confidence and was afraid to be alone in her flat, especially overnight. She had no positive support networks and friendships that she made could be toxic. She also suffers from anxiety, low confidence and low self-esteem. Youth workers arranged two out of hours visits per week and maintained regular contact by phone and text message.

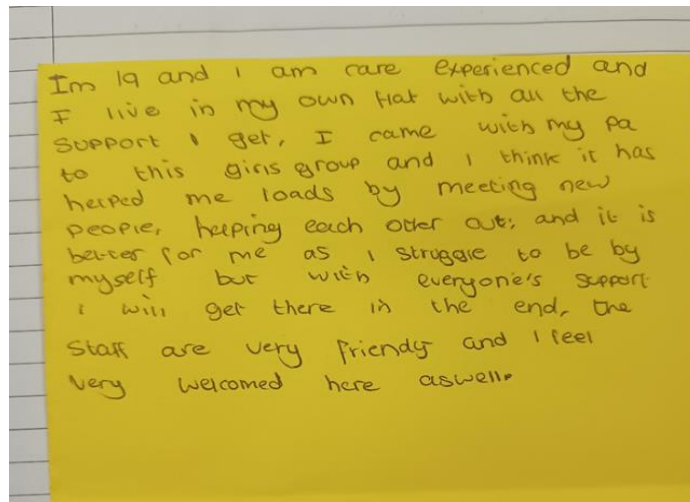
YP1 welcomed the visits and built a relationship with the youth workers. They have supported her with issues around her utilities, confidence building, routines etc. They also worked with her around coping strategies for when she is home alone and how to deal with her anxiety. She has been supported around her college and work placement her attendance is now excellent.

The Enhanced Youth Support targeted girl's group was offered to YP1. Her PA agreed to bring her along to the initial session to introduce her to everyone. YP1 really enjoyed the session and expressed a wish to attend on a regular basis. Barriers to engagement that were initially identified including lack of confidence for independent travel and leaving the flat alone in the hours of darkness were overcome with the support of youth workers by maintaining phone and text contact during her journeys and meeting her at the bus stop on arrival. We also walk her to the bus stop at the end of the session and maintain contact till she is safely home.

These measures have ensured that YP-1 now attends all Girl group sessions, and her confidence is growing. She has now spent several nights in her flat alone. She has begun to make positive peer support networks from her involvement in the group.

Also, YP1 also volunteered to help at the Knife Angel closing ceremony, in an anti-knife crime arts activity and has shared that she wishes to be involved in the Youth Service volunteer scheme.





## Rowley Youth Club

Rowley Youth Club opened in January 2023 in Brickhouse Community Centre following extensive detached youth work on the Brickhouse Estate and the regular engagement of a core group of young people that identified the need for a safe space on the estate. The youth club opened for one session per week initially, but it continued to grow and proved such a success that the young people quickly requested a second session. Luckily, we were able to secure the use of the centre and started the second youth club night at the end of June 23.

The young people attending Rowley Youth Club have had some amazing opportunities and developed a partnership with one of our other youth provisions in Smethwick. The 2 groups did a joint visit to Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre as a get to know you session, before heading off together on a 3-day residential experience to Frank Chapman Residential Centre as part of the summer HAF activities. 15 young people attended from Rowley Youth Club, and for some, this was their first time staying away from home without their families. The young people took part in some fantastic activities including a High Ropes Course, Bushcraft, Climbing, Abseiling, Orienteering and a night walk. Residentials are a great way to develop young people's confidence, self-esteem, and builds resilience. Experiencing this independence in a safe and positive environment is essential for young people's personal and social development, allows new friendships to develop and new challenges to be faced.

The Youth Club has continued to go from strength to strength and is also the first youth provision in Sandwell to have its own local sponsor – Thomas Howse Paints in Cradley Heath, as part of their corporate social value commitment. This fantastic company have so far donated the funds for a new Smart TV,

provided support for the Warm Hub offer through the Winter, and for a reward activity for the young people for Christmas.

## **Youth Work Volunteer**

Karen became a Youth Worker volunteer because she wanted to make a difference. She had always wanted to work with children and young people, but the time was never right.

She received an email advertising for Youth Worker volunteers and an invitation to an open evening, so came along. She said, *'I was impressed with what I saw and signed up straight away'*.

She became a volunteer in February 2024 and did both centre-based and detached youth work and enjoyed both immensely, getting a deep sense of satisfaction interacting with young people.

She stated *'One of the most rewarding aspects of working with young people is knowing that I can help with any issues they may be experiencing, or just by listening to them.'*

*Volunteering as a Youth Worker is a wonderful way to do something positive for the community. Spending time with young people allows you to build connections and friendships with them.*

*No day is the same, as we do a variety of activities and take young people on trips that both youth workers and young people enjoy.*

*Overall, being a volunteer betters yourself, and it is a terrific way to support young people in the community, meet new people, and help others.'*

Due to the experience gained during her volunteering, Karen has been successful in getting a youth worker post with the Youth Service.