

Cabinet

Report Title	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028
Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Report Author	Rosa DaSilva
Lead Officer	Mandip Chahal, Interim Assistant Director Commissioning, Partnerships and Improvement
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Children & Families
Why is this a key decision?	To be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.
Wards Affected	(All Wards);
Identify exempt information and exemption category	Open
Is the report urgent?	No
Reasons for urgency (only where applicable)	
Appendices (if any)	Corporate Parenting Strategy: 2025 – 2028 PDF

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Board Strategy 2025–2028 sets out Sandwell's strategic priorities for Children We Care For (CWCF) and Care Experienced Young People (CEYP). It aligns with the Sandwell Council Plan 2024–2027 and key partnership strategies and sets out 3-year pledges and actions across key areas: education and employment, physical health, emotional wellbeing and mental health, quality of care, and preparation for adulthood.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025 -2028.

3. Proposals – Reasons for the recommendations

- 3.1 Sandwell Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will discharge their roles as corporate parents as set out in [statutory guidance](#). It outlines how corporate parenting board will deliver its key priorities and improve outcomes for CWCF and CEYP and it is informed by the seven Corporate Parenting principles set out in the statutory guidance.
- 3.2 The Strategy outlines the Board's commitment to ensuring the CWCF and CEYP in Sandwell can thrive in the future. It has been co-produced by the CWCF, CEYP, and the Board and sets out the board's aspiration for Sandwell's children and young people to be safe, healthy, happy, and given the best opportunity to achieve their full potential.
- 3.3 The Strategy aligns with the Council's Corporate plan and supports the delivery of the strategic themes. It supports the Council's commitment to becoming a UNICEF UK Child Friendly candidate by aiming to respect and promote children's rights according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The strategy recognises and aligns with other strategies and initiatives:
 - Foster Friendly initiative
 - STAR Practice Model
 - The Working Together Strategy
- 3.4 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is underpinned by four distinct yet aligned delivery plans that will deliver the Board's Vision:
 - Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Physical Health;
 - Education Achievement and Employment;
 - Quality of Care; and
 - Transition to Adulthood.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 There are no alternative options. The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028 has been carefully considered with no other feasible alternative options.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 A robust collaborative approach was taken in producing the Strategy. It was coproduced with CWCF, CEYP and partners including Sandwell Children's Trust, the Designated Nurse, and the Virtual School. Both CWCF and CEYP approved the pledges, priorities and actions.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

7. Legal and Governance Implications

7.1 As the strategy includes delivery on statutory responsibilities as a core function of the Council, given its scope, it requires Cabinet approval for political oversight and ownership.

7.2 The rationale being:

a) those responsibilities reserved to SMBC and

b) identification of those responsibilities being discharged by partners.

Clarity on that split is important to be visible and accountable; a cabinet decision will achieve that.

7.3 The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028 ensures the Board and its partners continue to deliver the key seven Corporate Parenting principles as set out in statutory guidance.

8. Risks

8.1 There is no requirement to engage crime and disorder policies or risk assessment methods because of this report.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

9.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-2028 aligns with the Board's motion to make Care Experienced a Protected Characteristic.

10. Other Relevant Implications

10.1 **Corporate parenting** – Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025 - 2028 pledges, priorities and actions for improving outcomes for CWCF and CEYP.

10.2 **Health and Wellbeing** – The strategy aligns with the Healthy Child Programme which includes health promotion, early childhood development, and addressing health disparities among children and young people living in the borough.

11. Background Documents

11.1 None

12. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?

This report will support the delivery of the following Strategic Themes:-

12.1 Growing up in Sandwell –

- Children and young people are given the best start in life and are well prepared for school.
- Children and young people make good progress at school from preschool to when they leave school age 16 – ambition to reach national standard.
- Children and young people have good levels of attendance at school.
- Children and young people in Sandwell are able to grow up in a safe, stable loving home.
- Children and young people are supported to lead happy and healthy lives with access to a range of opportunities for positive activities, play and having fun.
- Children, young people and their families receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.
- All children and young people have the same opportunities to achieve their full potential and are supported by adults, including parents and carers, to establish high aspirations.
- Children and young people have the right skills and support to take the next step in their life and are well prepared for adulthood.