

**Scrutiny Review – Scoping Document**

**Appendix 1**

<b>Review Title:</b>	Youth Facilities
<b>Scrutiny Board:</b>	Children’s Services and Education
<b>Date of Review:</b>	January-March 2020

**Reasons for undertaking the review:**

In April 2019 the All Party Parliamentary Group published its report from the inquiry into the role and sufficiency of youth work and in July 2019, the government launched a review into how the statutory guidance for Local Authorities on providing youth services can be more useful for local youth service provision and young people themselves. Sandwell should have its own view about local provision.

As a result of austerity and budget reductions, Sandwell’s youth service and the facilities that it offered to young people was reduced. The impact of this change has not been assessed.

Sandwell has been approached by the organization Onside Youth Zone with a view to establishing a facility in Sandwell that is similar to The Way, in Wolverhampton, but we don’t know if young people want a facility such as this.

Facilities for young people are not only provided by the local authority – there are many activities provided by voluntary and community sector organizations, and companies such as Sandwell Leisure Trust, but there is no information available through which to assess whether the provision meets need.

The last Scrutiny review into youth matters was in 2011 and looked at young people’s relationships with the police, and diversionary activity. A review of youth provision is overdue.

The SHAPE forum, and other young people’s groups have said that they want to have a say in local decision-making and a Scrutiny Review would be an ideal way to respond to their request.

The Council’s review of Scrutiny arrangements has welcomed a range of new approaches to the way in which ‘scrutiny’ activities are carried out and so a task and finish review is well-timed.

**Intended Outcomes:**

- a) To understand the needs and wants of Sandwell’s youth population (taking account of a broad age range);
- b) To understand the current levels of activity and provision on offer to young people across Sandwell;
- c) To assess whether the level of provision, either directly provided or grant-aided/procured, by Sandwell Council is sufficient to meet the needs and wants of young people across the Borough;
- d) To identify any gaps in current provision and how those gaps might be filled, or any over-sufficiency in provision;
- e) To produce a robust and coherent report, informed by young people, setting out a ‘sufficiency strategy’ for youth provision in Sandwell.

**Questions**

- a) What do young people want?
- b) What is the current provision?
- c) Does the current provision meet the needs of young people?
- d) What do we not do and what more could we do?

**Officer Group  
(including partners):**

Core Group

Tariq Karim, Youth Service  
Dawn Maleki  
Denise Hooper, Neighbourhoods/Communities  
Manny Sembhi – Community Services  
Neesha Patel, SHAPE  
Steve Walker, Youth Service

Wider Group

VCS partners  
John Grant or reps from Children & Young People’s Forum  
Jon Hewitt, WM Police  
Rob Lake, Albion Foundation  
Sandwell Leisure Trust  
Sandwell Children’s Trust  
Youth Offending Service

**Links to Vision 2030:**

Yes

**Scoping undertaken  
by:**

Lesley Hagger  
Executive Director of Children’s Services

<b>Council Chief Officer (or partner equivalent):</b>	Lesley Hagger Executive Director of Children's Services
<b>Existing data available for consideration:</b>	
DfE and Home office research and data; Scholarly research; List of past and current youth service provision; List of voluntary sector provision. Feedback from SHAPE Conference & SHAPE Survey 2019	
<b>Potential witnesses</b>	<p><u>Young People's Group</u> SHAPE representative Youth Service Representative Looked After Young People Board representative Young Carers representative</p> <p><u>Parents/carers Group</u> Sandwell Parents of Disabled Children Kitchen Table Talks Parents of Youth Service Young People</p> <p><u>Professionals</u> Sandwell Youth Workers VCS youth workers Police National Youth Agency</p> <p>Cllr Danny Millard, Cabinet Member for Skills and Employment Cllr Joyce Underhill, Cabinet Member Best Start in Life</p> <p><u>Programme of visits and meeting young people</u> Youth Service building based activities Youth Service mobile activities VCS activities The Way, Wolverhampton The Factory, Birmingham Youth Service Portway Lifestyle Centre</p>
<b>Review Work Programme: see Project Plan</b>	