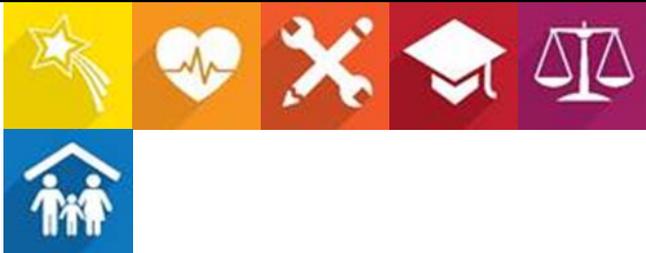


Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

14 January 2020

Subject:	2018-19 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report
Director:	Executive Director of Children's Services, Lesley Hagger
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Charlotte Moriarty, Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator charlotte_moriarty@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Considers the 2018-19 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and makes any recommendations as necessary.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Annual Report highlights the work of the Corporate Parenting Board during the academic year September 2018 to August 2019. The report goes on to identify feedback from young people and an action plan for the next year.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The work of the Corporate Parenting Board, and the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report, provides a transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services for the children in Sandwell's care and care experienced young people (previously called Care Leavers). This is relevant to the Council's Vision 2030 and in particular:

Ambition 1: Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.

Ambition 2: Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.

Ambition 3: Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy.

Ambition 4: Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.

Ambition 5: Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

Ambition 8: Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2018-19 is a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board in delivering improved outcomes for the children in Sandwell's care and care experienced young people (previously called Care Leavers).
- 3.2 Section 1: Introduces the background to the Annual report. This details the current Corporate Parenting Strategy, its outcomes and how Councillors, Council Officers, Partner Agencies and Looked After Children and Care Experienced Young People will assist with the delivery of these outcomes.
- 3.3 Section 1.1: Provides the context behind the Annual Report. This specifically includes Activity and Performance Information with regard to: Social Care, Health and Education.
- 3.4 Section 2: Provides information surrounding the Corporate Parenting Board, including its structure and role.
- 3.5 Section 2.1: Provides information surrounding key information about the meeting frequency and structure of those meetings, including priorities and groups linked to those priorities.

- 3.6 Section 2.2: Provides information specific to the key achievements of the Corporate Parenting Board in this reporting period.
- 3.7 Section 2.3: Provides information surrounding the feedback received from children in care and care experienced young people and how this will continue to be received and acted upon.
- 3.8 Section 2.4: Provides information on the expected next steps of the Corporate Parenting Board throughout the next reporting period.
- 3.9 Section 3.0: Provides a Glossary of Abbreviations.

4 **THE CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The Annual Report was approved at the Corporate Parenting Board on 28 November 2019.
- 4.2 Two Corporate Parenting Newsletters have been developed; one for Councillors and one for Council Officers to provide updates on Corporate Parenting within Sandwell MBC and encourage a more active role wider than the Corporate Parenting Board itself.
- 4.3 A landing page on Sandwell MBC's Intranet has been developed providing an overview of the role of the Corporate Parent with Officer contact details for more information, all issues of the Corporate Parenting Newsletter, an area to read the latest updates and news, and information on ways for Officers to get involved in their role as Corporate Parent.
- 4.4 Prior to each full Council meeting there is a display or activity relevant to Corporate Parenting, and the Mayor makes reference to the role of all Councillors as Corporate Parents in her opening address.
- 4.5 Future versions of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report will include and make reference to the voice of the young person throughout the document including content and structure.

5 **CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)**

- 5.1 Sandwell Children's Trust has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.
- 5.2 The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.
- 5.3 The Executive Head of the Virtual School has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.

5.4 The Annual Report was agreed by the Corporate Parenting Board on 28 November 2019.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report is considered to be the most effective way of communicating the work of the Corporate Parenting Board to the Council.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 The formulation of the Annual Report was met from existing resources.

7.3 The post of Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator was created in September 2019.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 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.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 An equality impact assessment is not required for this proposal.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 There are no data protection implications arising from this report.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

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

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 The work of the Corporate Parenting Board is monitored yearly, and this is presented through the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 The work of the Corporate Parenting Board supports the health and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers.

14 **IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND**

14.1 There is no impact on Council managed property or assets.

15 **CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

15.1 It is recommended that Members consider the:

- Areas of positive work referred to within the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report, particularly the evidence that the Corporate Parenting Board has directly contributed to improving the outcomes for children and young people in care.
- Corporate Parenting Board's commitment to continue to develop its delivery of the Council's statutory responsibilities to children in care and care experienced young people and their parents/carers.
- Corporate Parenting Board's commitment to using the content of the Annual Report to inform the ongoing work of the Corporate Parenting Board in raising outcomes for children in care and care experienced young people in Sandwell.

16 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 Corporate Parenting Matters Landing Page:
https://intranet.sandwell.gov.uk/info/20171/childrens_services/3239/corporate_parenting_matters

17 **APPENDICES:**

Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2018-19

Lesley Hagger
Executive Director of Children's Services