

Report to the Council

26 January 2021

Subject:	2019-20 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report
Director:	Executive Director of Children's Services, Lesley Hagger
Contact Officer:	Charlotte Moriarty, Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator charlotte_moriarty@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council considers the 2019-20 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and makes any recommendations as necessary.
- 1.2 That Council considers the amendments to the Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Annual Report highlights the work of the Corporate Parenting Board during the academic year September 2019 to August 2020. The report goes on to identify feedback from young people.
- 2.2 The Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference have been amended to reflect changes to the structure of Corporate Parenting Board meetings and workstreams.



2.3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

2.4 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 and care experienced young people.
- 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.

3 How Does This Deliver Objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>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. This is relevant to the Council's Vision 2030 and in particular:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>People live well and age well</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Background

4.2 The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2019-20 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.

4.3 Section 1: Background – Introduces the background to the Annual Report. This details the current Corporate Parenting Strategy and the commitment made by the Corporate Parenting Board to the Corporate Parenting Pledge in 2019. These documents detail how Councillors, Council Officers, Partner Agencies and children in care and care experienced young people will assist with the delivery of these outcomes.



- 4.4 Section 2: Context – Provides the context behind the Annual Report. This specifically includes Activity and Performance Information with regard to: Social Care, Health and Education.
- 4.5 Section 3: Coronavirus – Describes the varied responses to COVID-19 from key partners of the Corporate Parenting Board to support our children and young people in care and care experienced young people.
- 4.6 Section 4: Corporate Parenting Board – Provides information surrounding the Corporate Parenting Board, including its structure and role. It also provides the top priorities identified by our young people through an engagement session in January 2020.
- 4.7 Section 5: Achievements – Provides information specific to the key achievements of the Corporate Parenting Board in this reporting period.
- 4.8 Section 6: Participation – Provides information surrounding the feedback received from children in care and care experienced young people and examples of the work completed by our young people throughout the year.
- 4.9 Section 7: Feedback – Provides some feedback received from Ofsted during the Care Leavers Monitoring Visit in February 2020.
- 4.10 Section 8: Glossary of Abbreviations.
- 4.11 **The Current Position**
- 4.12 The Annual Report was approved at Corporate Parenting Board on 29 October 2020.
- 4.13 The Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference were approved at Corporate Parenting Board on 29 October 2020.
- 4.14 Corporate Parenting Newsletters for Councillors and Council Officers continue to be delivered, these provide updates on Corporate Parenting within Sandwell MBC and encourage a more active role wider than the Corporate Parenting Board itself.
- 4.15 The landing page on Sandwell MBC's Intranet continues to be utilised as the base for the Corporate Parenting Newsletters and as an area to read the latest updates and news, and information on ways for Officers to get involved in their role as Corporate Parent.



- 4.16 Shadow Corporate Parenting Board meetings were established with Directors within Sandwell MBC. These meetings were utilised to establish the SMBC actions on the Corporate Parenting Board Action Plan 2020-21 and to provide updates on these throughout the year. The meetings were also utilised as a space to recognise where there may have been an opportunity to promote and encourage corporate parenting responsibility and to take ownership of that responsibility within each Directorate.
- 4.17 **Consultation (Customers and Other Stakeholders)**
- 4.18 Sandwell Children's Trust has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.
- 4.19 The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.
- 4.20 The Executive Head of the Virtual School has contributed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.
- 4.21 Children in Care and Care Leavers have agreed to the content of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report.
- 4.22 The Annual Report was agreed by the Corporate Parenting Board on 29 October 2020.
- 4.23 The Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference were approved by the Corporate Parenting Board on 29 October 2020.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 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.



6 Implications

Resources:	There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. The formulation of the Annual Report was met from existing resources. The post of Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator was created in September 2019.
Legal and Governance:	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.
Risk:	There is no requirement to engage crime and disorder policies or risk assessment methods because of this report.
Equality:	An equality impact assessment is not required for this proposal.
Health and Wellbeing:	The work of the Corporate Parenting Board supports the health and wellbeing of children in care and care experienced young people.
Social Value	The work of the Corporate Parenting Board provides a platform for the voices of our children in care and care leavers to be heard and acted upon, allowing our young people to help shape the services that are delivered for them.

7. Appendices

7.1 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2019-20.

7.2 Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference.

8. Background Papers

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

