

Agenda

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

Monday, 21 March 2022 at 5.30 pm

At Council Chamber, The Council House, Freet Street, Oldbury, B69 3DB

This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting 5 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2022.

4 Additional Item of Business

To consider any additional item of business.

5 Temporary Accommodation Elm Tree Primary Academy at Connor Education Centre, West Bromwich 15 - 20

To consider and comment on the Cabinet Report.



6	Feedback from the SEND Operational and Strategic Boards and the Parent/Carer Forum	21 - 30
	To consider and comment on the role and responsibilities of the SEND Operational and Strategic Board, Partnership Engagement and Current Challenges and Available Support.	
7	Question and Answer Session with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services on Youth Services Provision	31 - 32
	That the Cabinet member for Children's Services provide an update on priorities of the administration in relation to Youth Services provision	
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10	Work Programme	79 - 82

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Interim Chief Executive
Sandwell Council House
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Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution

Councillor Shackleton (Chair)
Councillors W Gill, Chambers, Chidley, E A Giles, Hadley, Hinchliff, McVittie,
Millar, V Smith, J Webb, K Heeley and K Kujawa – Sogbesan

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Minutes of Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

**Monday 14 February 2022 at 5.00pm
in the Council Chamber, The Council House, Fleet Street, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Shackleton (Chair),
Councillors W Gill (Vice-Chair), Chidley, E A Giles, Hinchliff, Millar
and Webb.

Officers: Michael Jarrett (Director of Children's Services)
Sue Moore (Group Head Education Support Services);
Jacqui Smith (Chair – Sandwell Children's Trust)
Emma Taylor (Chief Executive – Sandwell Children's Trust)
Tariq Karim (Youth Service Manager)
Dawn Maleki (Youth Service Manager)
Matt Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and
Connor Robinson (Democratic Services Officer)

01/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Smith, McVittie and co-opted members K Heeley (Primary School Governor Representative) and K Kujawa-Sogbesan (Secondary School Governor representative)

02/22 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.



03/22 **Minutes**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 November were agreed as a correct record.

04/22 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider.

05/22 **Update on Youth Facilities Review**

Members questioned the timeframe of the implementation of the reviews recommendations. It was agreed that the recommendations would be added to the Boards Action tracker.

The Board received the update on the Youth Facilities Review and the Chair highlighted the following points:

- Members noted how the review had positively demonstrated the youth provision across Sandwell.
- Provision was understood not to be uniform across the six towns and in some instances only available once a week.
- The low number of youth workers was highlighted as a reason for the lack of availability of youth services across the Borough.
- The Review was praised by Members for its wide reach and inclusivity in its approach.
- The work of Youth Services had to adapt to the Covid-19 Pandemic ensuring those who accessed the services were provided with food parcels, laptops and education packages.
- There continued to be a lack of resources for youth work and it continued to suffer cutbacks and be reliant upon charity groups.

The Review was identified as an influential piece of work which would enable future planning for youth provision. Coneygre Youth Arts Centre was a good example of youth work and access to facilities should be encouraged.

The Youth Services managers thanked the Members who participated in the review and witnessed the breadth of provision within the service. While the six towns received equitable funding,



it did not necessarily translate into an equitable services and additional resources would always be well received.

Councillor Millar informed the Board that she was a Cabinet Advisor for young people and skills. She had worked with Youth Service managers to reach out to young people in the Borough to ascertain their aspirations and experiences during the national lockdown. It was noted majority of responses highlighted that social isolation from friends as one of the main concern for young people.

The Chair acknowledged the work that had gone into youth facilities over the pandemic, the work of Shafaq Hussain (Senior Youth Officer, Smethwick & Oldbury) was raised and the work that went into the Young People's Survey 2020.

The Director of Children's Services welcomed the progressed that had been made in Youth Services. It was noted that in future, there would be a particular focus on employment and skills of young people in order for them to prepare for the future.

Resolved:-

That, the Boards Action tracker be updated to include the recommendations from the Youth Facilities Review.

06/22

Update on the Performance of Sandwell Children's Trust

The Board received an update on the performance of the Sandwell Children's Trust (SCT) from the Chair of SCT, Jacqui Smith and the Chief Executive, Emma Taylor.

The Chair of SCT gave a brief introduction to the performance of the Trust since the last update at the Board.

The Trust's main objective remained to progress improvements across children's social care in order to improve its inadequate Ofsted rating which was received in 2017. It was hoped that an inspection would have taken place in 2020, however, due to the pandemic Ofsted inspections had been paused. It was anticipated that an Ofsted inspection would take place in the near future. The



Trust is continuing to progress its improvement plan in order to demonstrate that further progress has been made since the previous inspection.

In regard to monitoring visits, the Trust had an inspection of its Fostering Service in August 2021 which is now rated as good. In addition, a monitoring visit in November 2021 noted progress within the children in care service. Whilst the progress was encouraging it highlighted where there was a lot more work to do.

The Trust had worked with families to keep in touch with children during the pandemic. Corporately there had been a drive to continue improvements made such as chief officer appointments to the senior leadership team.

It was noted that national and regional issues continued to impact the Trust. The recruitment and retention of social worker shortages were a continuous challenge. The Trust had implemented a '12 reasons to work at Sandwell Children's Trust' campaign as a means promoting and improving the attractiveness the Trust.

The Chair of the Trust concluded that the organisation had prioritised its equality, diversity and inclusion programme. As part of this drive, staff development was identified as an important aspect of the Trust's improvement plan. She highlighted that staff development remained a priority in the Trust and would benefit the Trust's aim in ensuring the best provision for the children of Sandwell.

The Board then considered a presentation from the Chief Executive of SCT:

- There was a downward trajectory with referrals to the SCT over the last 12 months, referrals decreased from 70 to 582 per 10,000. As a result, the Trust had lower referrals compared to statistical neighbours.
- Re-referrals had reduced from 22.6% in 2021 to 19.5% in 2022. This rate was 3.5% lower than other similar organisations in West Midlands.
- The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 working days had fluctuated over the last 12 months and there was recognition that further work was required.



- There was a reported drop in Section 47 enquires based on a 12 month period for 2022 were 183 per 10,000 compared to 312 per 10,000 in 2018-19.
- Initial Child Protection Conferences in December 2021 were 78.5% completed within 15 working days which was slightly below statistical neighbours. The previous 12 months was 86.6% above statistical neighbours.
- Over the last 12 months there had been a reduction in children on Child Protection Plans (CPP) from 576 to 404. Between December 2020 to 2021 there were 465 new CCPs. However, over the same period, 664 CPPs were removed.
- There were 5 children on CCPs longer than two years which equated to 1.2% of the cohort. However, there were 41 children on CCPs that had not reached the two-year threshold.
- For the 2021 period, 160 children had been admitted into care. However, on 31 December 2021, 850 children were admitted into care. This represented a reduction from 888 in 2020.
- In terms of placement stability, 59 children had 3+ moves in the last 12 months which equated to 6.9%, which was lower than the statistical neighbours which on average was 8.3% and the West Midlands average of 8.1% and better than England average of 9%.
- In respect of care leavers, it was noted that out of 18-21 year olds 47% were Engaged in Employment, Education or Training (EET) and 53% were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). As a result, this resulted in the Borough being below statistical neighbours.
- The Ofsted inspection of the Fostering Agency highlighted several areas where progress had been made:
 - o Children felt safe and had positive relationships with their carers.
 - o There had been good partnership working with Council Education & Health Teams.
 - o Children know who to speak to someone if they wish to make a complaint.
 - o There is good management and quality assurance oversight.
 - o Communication and engagement with carers was positive.
 - o Robust safeguarding processes were in place.
- The service recommendations following the Ofsted inspection were noted as:



- Continued training for foster carers.
 - Continued support for disabled children.
 - Annual joint panel training
 - The development of a recruitment strategy for foster carers.
- An Ofsted monitoring visit on Children in Care resulted in a number of points:
- While tangible progress had been demonstrated, there remained a lot more to do to secure permanence for many children in care
 - Progress was evident in specific areas with respect to exploitation & missing children.
 - Increased drive and focus from leadership.
 - A noticeable clear commitment to improve.
 - Workforce feeling positive and valued.
 - Progress was continuing for the quality of Social Work practice.
 - There had been good use of interpreters and religious leaders.
 - There had been a continued focus on permanency with increased focus and prioritisation of plans and tracking.
 - Participation was highlighted as supporting children, allowing them a voice and feel listened to and valued.
 - The consistency of practice required improvement along with the wait for permanence plans and the need to stabilise the workforce.
- The Trust was working to stabilise the workforce, engage in critical reflection to improve outcomes and the consistency of performance.

Following comments and questions from members of the Board, the following responses were made, and issues highlighted:-

- Children's Services across the country would request additional resources if available. The Trust had continued to have a positive and instructive relationship with the Council.
- The development of the medium term financial plan specified areas which required additional funding to meet costing pressures. The Council and the Trust negotiated each year on the Contract Sum. However, both the Trust and the Council had a good working relationship.



- Due to the Trust's unique position as being operationally independent from the Council, it had the ability to access specific funding from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Government which had allowed the Trust to innovate in some areas.
- The recruitment and retainment of social workers remained one of the biggest challenges for the Trust. There had been some encouraging progress with more people wanting to move and work for SCT, however, there continued to be staff loses to other Councils who offered greater benefits. The idea of competing and increasing benefits to match competitors was not viewed as favourable to children. An increased focus on learning and development, career progression new roles and resources was deemed an appropriate means to attract and retain workers.
- There was no evidence to suggest that front line social workers had been attracted to their role because of the Trust's unique arrangement with Council.
- It was hoped that benefits such as learning and development and career progression would encourage social workers to choose Sandwell to work and build their career.
- The percentage of children being moved from placement to placement, comparatively was low considering the numbers in care.
- Placements were provided through a regional framework, any provider was subject to inspections by Ofsted. There was a saturated market and there remains a lack of choice unfortunately, it is usual now to accept the placement that is available. Due diligence and background checks was taken with any placement.
- There are 203 established social worker posts within the Trust, with not all posts filled. The number of children they manage would range across localities and specific roles.
- Case load reduction had been a focus with fluctuations over the past year, there was however a lower caseload rate now compared to when SCT was founded.
- There was an aim to be ambitious and move into the future with confidence to achieve and maintain continued improvement.
- An action plan had been implemented to ensure the recommendations of the Ofsted inspection of the Fostering Agency are implemented.



- There was a Strategic Partnership Board that worked with the SCT on continues improvement. There was also an Improvement Board chaired by independent appointed DfE consultant and an Operational Partnership Board (all attended by SMBC) to map progress and the Council was encouraged by the 'green shoots' of improvements. The Ofsted inspection when it takes place would cover the entirety of Children's Services not just SCT.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Trust for their attendance.

07/22

Cabinet Response to SEND Recommendations

The Board received the Cabinet response to SEND Transport Recommendations.

The Group Head Education Support Services informed the Board that Cabinet had acknowledged the recommendations by the Board and have subsequently tasked Children's Services with their implementation. The report set out the latest update with regards to the actions. Some of the actions had been implemented, there were other actions such as driver medical accreditation would be in place with the start of the new SEND transport contracts. The recommendations from the Board were regarded as timely and have been implemented alongside those from the internal and external review.

Following comments and questions from members of the Board, the following responses were made, and issues highlighted:-

- The increase in the number of those on the ASD spectrum was recognised as a growing issue nationally. The Council had a responsibility to provide the right provision at the right time at the right place. The cost was very significant to meet the growing demand on the service which often required a bespoke response. Dialogue and work continued with school leaders to ensure provision was located to meet the demands. The increase in demand was impacting the existing SEND transport service and it was required to deal with difficult logistics. There was a preference for shorter routes for children however, the service aimed to match the provisions of children with need.



- The reason for the increase in children on the ASD spectrum was not fully understood. However, there was an increase in the appropriate diagnosis of those on the ASD spectrum leading to a more focused and bespoke provision.
- The provision for places for children with SEND was part of an ongoing strategic plan that the service was moving forward with. The service was having to balance the cost of provision with the number of children who required the service. The service was working with schools to expand current places. Discussions had commenced on the on future provision and a new school was due to be opened in 2023.
- Children with ASD tend to be in the primary school setting when diagnosed. Once diagnosed, a specified provision would be identified to meet the child's need.
- Dyslexia and ASD were very similar on the spectrum and because of this may be hard to diagnose owing to it not been prevalent or visibly noticeable, owing to this it was therefore difficult to identify specific learning needs in many cases. The service was working with Early Years to bring forward diagnosis to identify those children who have dyslexia.
- There was provision for SEND children in Early Years to access provision.
- It was best practice to ensure children enter the right setting as soon as possible to meet their specific needs.
- There was a SENCO within all settings to identify those pupils who present as SEND and provide appropriate support.

Resolved:-

That, the Boards Action tracker would continue to be updated to include any update from the recommendations from the SEND Transport Review.

08/22

Forward Plan

The Board noted the Cabinet Forward Plan.

The Board agreed to consider the temporary accommodation Elm Tree Primary School at the next scheduled meeting.



09/22 **Work Programme**

The Board noted the Work Programme.

Meeting ended at 6.38pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk



Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

Monday 21 March 2022

Subject:	Temporary Accommodation Elm Tree Primary Academy at Connor Education Centre, West Bromwich
Director:	Director of Children and Education, Michael Jarrett
Contact Officer:	Rachel Hill, Project Officer, School Organisation and Development, Education Support Services rachel_hill@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments on the Cabinet report: Temporary Accommodation Elm Tree Primary Academy at Connor Education Centre.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 At the Scrutiny meeting on Monday 14 February the Board asked that the Temporary Accommodation Elm Tree Primary Academy report that would be going to Cabinet for a decision to be considered at the next meeting on Monday 21 March 2022.
- 2.2 The report with Cabinet approval would grant the Director of Children and Education, delegated authority to procure and award a contract for the refurbishment of part of the Connor Education Centre to be used as a two-form entry Primary Special School for Children with Autistic



Spectrum Disorder alongside other associated learning needs for one school year.

- 2.3 Capital funding for the refurbishment of the Connor Education Centre will be provided by the DfE. The DfE will require the council to sign a Work Funding Agreement to confirm it will accept all programme/costs risks.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>The recommendation in this report supports the desire of the council to focus resources on the specific needs and aspirations of the community. This contributes to the Council's Vision 2030 Ambition 1 – Raising aspirations and resilience, Ambition 3 – Young people to have skills for the future, Ambition 4 – Raising the quality of schools.</p>
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3 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The DfE approved the free school application for a Primary Special School on the former Phoenix Collegiate North Campus, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury to compliment the already approved High Point Academy Secondary Special School.
- 4.2 Elm Tree Primary Academy will provide 126 spaces for children aged 5 – 11 years old with Autistic Spectrum Disorder alongside other associated learning needs. The school will be run/sponsored by the Victoria Academies Trust and this proposal will enable the school to open in September 2022. Pupils must have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) that specifies Specialist Provision to be placed at the school. Allocation of school places are through an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment or Annual Review of a student's EHC Plan. The first cohort of pupils to be placed at the school in September 2022 has already been considered. Sandwell currently has very limited specialist places to meet the identified needs of these pupils within this age group.



- 4.3 The DfE is funding the development of a one storey building on Friar Park Road, Wednesbury. However, it failed to finalise the legal contracts to enable construction to begin this year therefore the building will not be completed for September 2022 opening.
- 4.4 It is a statutory responsibility of the council to ensure all children in Sandwell have access to a good school place. Despite the delay being the result of the DfE's actions it is the council's responsibility to ensure those 18 pupils have access to a school in September 2022.
- 4.5 Connor Education Centre is currently occupied by the council's Inclusive Learning Services and Special Education Needs Team. Several meetings have taken place between the council, DfE, Head Teacher of Elm Tree Primary Academy and members of the Victoria Academy Trust. Inclusive Learning Services and Special Education Needs team have agreed to reduce its occupation of the building for one year.
- 4.6 The school and Trust will sign a Licence to Occupy with the council. The freehold ownership of the centre will remain with the council.
- 4.7 The planned works will be limited to internal refurbishment. No structural changes will be permitted.
- 4.8 The refurbishment of Connor Education Centre will provide the local authority with further opportunities to extend specialist assessment, intervention and provision for pupils with SEND once Elm Tree Primary Academy has vacated the building.
- 4.9 Consultation with the Inclusive Learning Services and Special Educational Needs team, Corporate Asset Management. Officers group land and asset management group.
- 4.10 Letters have been sent to prospective parents and residents of Connor Road. Copies of those letters have also been sent to ward members.



5 Implications

<p>Resources:</p>	<p>Financial implications:</p> <p>Following a decision by the Director of Finance, Capital Appraisals for Town Team funding have taken priority to meet tight deadlines required to draw down funding. All other capital appraisals will therefore be undertaken retrospectively. The Cabinet approval is therefore subject to a capital appraisal being completed but should not prohibit progress with the proposed project.</p> <p>Department for Education is funding £375,000 for the refurbishment. Initial costs from the council's in-house Quantity Surveyors estimate a refurbishment cost of £296,000, £50,000 for professional fees, £29,000 for contingency.</p> <p>Significant increase in cost if children had to be allocated placements outside of the borough.</p> <p>Staffing implications: Management of the project will be covered from within existing staffing resources. Inclusive Learning Services and Special Education Needs staff will reduce office space for one year working remotely and from the remaining office space.</p> <p>Land implications: A Licence to Occupy will be agreed between the council and the school/Trust. The freehold ownership will remain with the council.</p>
<p>Legal and Governance:</p>	<p>The Trust/School will agree to a Licence to Occupy for 12 months.</p> <p>The council shall ensure that any procurement of contracts necessary for this proposal are undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.</p>



	The council will be required to enter into a Works Funding Agreement with the DfE to provide surety that the Authority will complete the project.
Risk:	<p>The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision / project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks.</p> <p>The risk is that if the school does not open on a temporary basis there will be a negative impact on children and their families if placed in a local school where their individual needs cannot be met. Unnecessary disruption to children if they have to move schools after 12 months.</p> <p>Rising prices – the Authority has experienced volatility with construction projects during the past 12 months. The DfE have confirmed that up to £25,000 contingency, included as part of the £375,000 allocation, will be made available if received tender prices exceed budget estimate.</p> <p>Upon appointment of a suitable contractor a project Risk Register will be jointly managed to reduce any delivery risks that might occur during the course of the refurbishment works.</p> <p>Following a recent decision by the Head of Finance for the need to prioritise the appraisal of capital allocations for Town Team bids above other capital projects, reports to Cabinet for approval to proceed with procurement are subject to a satisfactory appraisal score being awarded. Based upon the delivery of similar, but much larger school capital projects, there are no risks anticipated that would result in this project failing to achieve a satisfactory appraisal score.</p>
Equality:	An Equality Impact Assessment initial screening has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report.



Health and Wellbeing:	This proposal ensures that children can attend a school in Sandwell from September 2022 that meets their needs as planned.
Social Value	Ensuring every child has access to a school place, and that parents / carers continue to be able to indicate their individual preferences for school places.

6 Appendices

List appendices

7. Background Papers

None



Report to Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board

Monday 21 March 2022

Subject:	Feedback from the SEND Operational and Strategic Boards and the Parent/Carer Forum
Director:	Director of Children and Education, Michael Jarrett
Contact Officers:	Melanie Barnett, Group Head, Children and Education Directorate melanie_barnett@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon:




- The roles and responsibilities of the SEND Operational and Strategic Board
- Partnership Engagement
- Current Challenges and Available Support.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 To provide an overview for members to inform a discussion at the Scrutiny meeting on 21 March 2022.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people By ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That appropriate pathways for support are in place. • That children are ready for school. • That children benefit from a high-quality education. • By ensuring that vulnerable children receive the right support. • We work with partners to develop a multi-agency workforce development plan.
	<p>People live well and age well By ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support by providing good information, advice and guidance. • We provide opportunities for children in school holidays. • Wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do. • We work with partners and have a joined-up plan.
	<p>Strong resilient communities By ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We make sure our towns become welcoming places for young people and they have jobs, activities and facilities. • Families feel safe in their communities and have the ability to grow healthily and to achieve their ambitions. • We develop our workforce to be trained to support children that require additional support or protection.

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Background Information

Our vision for children and young people in Sandwell with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is that they will be able to:

- Achieve their aspirations for a healthy ordinary life through meaningful employment and fulfilling relationships within the community of their choosing.
- Have choice and control over decisions about their health, education, employment, friendships and relationships.



- Successfully participate in the community and access meaningful occupation, employment and life-long learning opportunities.

To improve provision for all pupils with SEND, as a partnership we are committed to:

- Using the data gathered to address the gaps identified by partners, parents and children/young people.
- Focussing on local resources to enhance the total provision so that children and young people can be supported in or close to the community where they live.
- Ensuring families report that there is a good and appropriate local choice for children and young people in all but the most exceptional cases.
- Further developing the joint commissioning processes and commissioning cycles across agencies at an individual child or young person, service and local area or regional level.
- Reviewing and re-modelling our resources so that they are sufficient to meet current and future needs.
- Ensuring that there is a transparent use and allocation of financial resources.
- Ensuring that we meet our statutory duties by ensuring that the SEND local offer is up to date and is communicated effectively across all partner organisations to raise awareness of the range of services (both commissioned and non-commissioned) that are available within the local area.

Since the introduction of the SEND Reforms in 2014, the number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) has nearly doubled. Sandwell Local Authority, currently maintain over 2700 EHCP's and this number continues to grow. If the current growth in population continues we predict that there could be an estimated 3500 children or young people, in Sandwell, with an EHCP by 2025. It is important to add that this increase is also being seen nationally.

4.2 Governance

4.3 SEND Operational Board

The SEND Operational Board meets monthly. The meeting is chaired by the Group Head for Inclusive Learning Services. The purpose of the



Operational Board is to:

- Improve the understanding of the SEND population and recent trends in Sandwell.
- To develop a plan and implement a coordinated programme of change which is based around Quality Assurance, Improving Provision, Improving Progress and Attainment and Workforce Development.

This will be achieved by:

- Meaningful engagement and consultation with parents and carers.
- Active participation of children and young people.
- Joint commissioning of services.
- Early integrated assessments and plans.
- A clear local offer of services and support for parents, children and young people.
- Having clear transition and progression arrangements to help our young people prepare for adulthood from the earliest years.
- The identification of workforce development needs.

The Board has responsibility for the delivery of the SEND Development Plan. Each board member is held to account for the delivery of the objectives, actions and outcomes identified in the development plan. The Board is accountable to the SEND Strategic Board.

4.4 SEND Strategic Board

The SEND Strategic Board meets bi-monthly. The meeting is chaired by the Director of Children and Education. The primary purpose of the strategic board is to ensure the delivery of the SEND Strategy and the associated action plan.

4.5 Partnership

The SEND Operational Board is made up of the following partnership members:

- Local Authority Education and Employment staff i.e. Inclusive Learning, Connexions, Employment, Virtual School and SEND Advisor.



- Local Authority Commissioning and Operational Staff from the Young Adults team.
- Sandwell Childrens Trust Operational, Youth Offending and Commissioning staff.
- School Staff from Special Schools and Focus Provisions.
- Health Staff i.e. School Nursing, CAMHS, Therapies Team and the Designated Clinical Officer.
- Parent/Carer representative.
- SENDIASS Coordinator.
- Senior Enterprise Manager from the Black Country Consortium.

The SEND Strategic Board is made up of the following partnership members:

- Director of Children and Education.
- Designated Medical Officer.
- Group Heads Inclusive Learning Services.
- Sandwell Children’s Trust – SEND Strategic Lead.
- Head Teachers of Special Schools in Sandwell.
- Parent/Carer Representative.
- Assistant Director of Adult Social Care.
- Principal Educational Psychologist.
- Public Health Consultant.
- Children and Education Strategic Partnership Commissioning Manager.
- Employment and Skills Service Manager.
- NHS Commissioner.
- Children’s Centre Services Manager.

The partnership is responsible for co-producing, planning, implementing and producing the self-evaluation framework and subsequent SEND Operational Board Development Plan, and ensuring that the pace of change will deliver the improvements identified. The priorities areas for development are:

- **Quality Assurance of Statutory responsibilities:**

Ensure that a multi-service integrated approach is used when working with children/ young people and their families to identify their needs and aspirational outcomes and provide the support required within a timely manner.



- **Workforce Development:** To ensure that we have a well-led and properly supported multi-agency workforce development programme so that the whole workforce have the knowledge and skills to support children and young people with SEND to reach their potential and realise their ambitions.
- **Improving Provision:** To promote alignment, collaboration and creative solutions across all services in the Local Area to make best use of available resources so that children and young people can be supported locally to achieve their aspirations.
- **Improving Progress and Attainment:** To identify and address key improvements in Sandwell that will help ensure children and young people are able to achieve their best possible educational outcomes leading to meaningful occupation, employment and life-long learning opportunities.

4.6 Parent / Carer Forum

Sandwell Parents Voices United was formed in January 2021. The forum is an independent group of parents and carers working together to raise awareness of, and improve outcomes, for children and young people with SEND in Sandwell. A representative from the forum attends the SEND Strategic and Operational Board meetings. The group is composed of several steering group members who are part of four individual teams which focus on administration, parent events, marketing and networking and social media.

The group are very active with partners and have had recent involvement in a number of areas of work including:

- The Local Offer.
- Send Transport.
- Liberty Protection Safeguards.
- Supported Internships.
- Preparing for Adulthood.
- Quality Assurance.



4.7 Current Challenges

In September 2019, the Government announced that a review of the support for Children with Special Educational Needs would be undertaken. The review aims are to improve the services available to families who need support, equip staff in schools and colleges to respond effectively to their needs. Due to the COVID pandemic the review findings have been delayed and at the time of writing the review has not been published. The current national challenges relating to the SEND system are well documents. The reminder of this section will summarise some of the local challenges.

- Sandwell is experiencing a significant strategic challenge due to an increase in demand on the SEND system which (amongst other issues) is affecting the availability of provision. The Local Authority is also experiencing an increase in requests for placement changes which is partially driven by the impact of covid on children and young people.
- The Local Authority is also experiencing increased referrals to inclusion support, from 250 referrals pre-covid to 660 referrals in the comparable time this year. Request for needs assessments have doubled and the number of needs assessment decisions has increased from 2,412 in 2021 to 2,752 January 2022.
- There has been an increase in the number of children moving into the Sandwell area who require a specialist service and provision.
- With the rise in population of students with SEND and increased need, some mainstream schools are struggling to meet the needs of the children.
- There is a lack of capacity within special schools / specialist settings.
- Due to the above increased pressures there is a significant impact on being able to meet the demand because of staff capacity.
- The Local Authority is increasingly having to access places from independent special schools. The independent sector can demand large funding requests which impacts negatively on the Local Authority budget.
- High Needs Funding is provided to local authorities through the High Needs Block (HNB) of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). The High Needs Block will balance at the end of this financial year (2021/22) but is likely to be in an increasing deficit position in the following years. The



Director of Children and Education is raising this point with the DFE policy team.

4.8 Available Support

In May 2021 the government published a study that estimated that around 1.4 million pupils in English schools have an identified special educational need (SEN). Four broad areas of need are identified in the SEND code of practice:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to develop a local offer and publish it on the website. This is to ensure that clear, comprehensive, accessible and up to date information about available provision and how to access it is provided. It also must make sure that the provision responds to local needs and aspirations.

The Sandwell Local Offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place. It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health and social care. The Local Offer provides information that is needed to make informed choices about services. This includes information regarding what to do if you think your child has special educational needs and /or a disability.

Please also refer to 4.3 which provides detail of the Sandwell SEND Strategy.



5 Implications

Resources:	<p>Details have been included within the report relating to the High Needs Block and the future funding implications given the continual increase in demand. As a result, there are implications for staffing i.e. the ability to manage expectations and the demands being placed on services in meeting our statutory responsibilities and ensuring the very best possible outcomes for all children and young people.</p>
Legal and Governance:	<p>The SEND Code of Practice contains details of legal requirements that must be followed without exception and statutory guidance that must be followed by law unless there's a good reason not to.</p> <p>It also explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools and colleges to provide for those with special educational needs under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.</p>
Risk:	<p>The risks relate predominantly to demand, provision and the associated financial implications. These areas are monitored and reviewed by the SEND Strategic Board and Schools Forum.</p>
Equality:	<p>Equality Act 2010 and SEND Regulations. Under the Equality Act, schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' so that all children can access their facilities and services. The SEND Code of Practice 2015 makes it clear in both the introduction and in chapter one, that education providers have a statutory duty to implement the Equality Act 2010 alongside the children and Families Act Part 3.</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	<p>There are no proposals relating to health and wellbeing within the report however it should be recognised that poor wellbeing or social and emotional health difficulties can be impacted by a child or young person's SEND.</p>
Social Value	<p>Community – Improving life's by creating aspirational and resilient communities.</p> <p>Wellbeing – Improving the lived experience of children and young people within the communities that they live.</p>



	<p>Inequalities – Challenging inequalities.</p> <p>Opportunities – Ensuring that Young people have opportunities to spend time with their peers outside of school and college. They are supported to develop and maintain friendships and relationships. They can access their community and feel safe and confident.</p> <p>Employment – Developing opportunities for work experience and employment.</p>
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6 Appendices

There are no appendices with this report.

7. Background Papers

Please see below sources of information and links:

Sandwell Local Offer - [Sandwell Local Offer | Family Information Service Hub](#)

SEND Strategy - [sandwell_send_strategy_2021-2024_final.pdf](#)
([openobjects.com](#))

Special Provision Plan June 2021- [special_provision_plan_june_2021.pdf](#)
([openobjects.com](#))

Sandwell Parent Voices United - [Sandwell Parents Voices United](#)
([squarespace.com](#))

Supporting SEND - [Supporting SEND - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Review into support for Children with Special Educational Needs - [MAJOR REVIEW INTO SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

SEND Code of Practice - [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Report to Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board

Monday 21 March 2022

Subject:	Question and Answer Session with the Cabinet Member for Children Services on Youth Service Provisions
Director:	Director of Children and Education Michael Jarrett
Contact Officer:	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Matt Powis Matt_powis@sandwell.gov.uk


1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That, the Cabinet Member for Children Services to provide an update on priorities of their administration in relation to Youth Service provision.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

To allow the Children’s Service and Education Overview and Scrutiny Board to question Executive Decision Makers on their portfolios.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people The Board will receive updates on the priorities of the administration as it relates to Children’s Service and Education.
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Part of the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Board is to hold the Council’s Executive to account. Therefore, it is within the Board’s remit to invite and question the relevant Cabinet Member on any particular matter relating to their portfolio.



- 4.2 As part of the Board's discussion, Members may wish to focus questions on:
- The administration's vision for the Youth Service
 - Current challenges
 - Current priorities
 - Notable activities or achievements
- 4.3 Following the session, if desired, the Board may choose to make any recommendation to the Cabinet, Committee or partner organisation in relation to any matter discussed during the question and answer session.



Overview and Scrutiny - Recommendation and Action Tracker

O&S - Overview and Scrutiny. DM - Decision Maker.
CM - Cabinet Member.

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

Title	O&S date	DM date	Responsible CM/Officer	Activity Log
Scrutiny Review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport Models				
(1) That the Director – Law and Governance arrange for the following recommendations to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration:	27/09/21	20/10/21	Cabinet	14/02/2022 - Update presented to the Scrutiny Board
(a) That the Cabinet reviews the administration of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport to ensure consistency of approach and that resourcing is adequate in light of increasing demand on the service.	27/09/21	20/10/21	Cabinet	14/02/22 - As the new procurement process is worked the service will continue to be reviewed to ensure consistency, transparency and robustness of service delivery and that there is a sustainable structure in place to support future demands.
(b) That the Cabinet ensures that the Parent Group for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is communicated and consulted with on any changes to the Transport service and, where possible, the views of affected children and young people are also sought.	27/09/21	20/10/21	Cabinet	14/02/2022 - Regular meetings with Parent Carers Voices United (SEND Parent Carer Forum) are in place and it has been agreed that a member of the Travel Assistance Service office will attend the forum.



(c) That the Cabinet ensures that Education Health Care Plan assessments are carried out without delay to ensure early identification of recommended provision, including Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport requirements. 27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - Not all children who have an EHCP are eligible for transport as detailed in the Home to School and Adult Learner Policy. In terms of EHC assessments once the LA has received a report from the Community Assessment Meeting (CAM) that a statutory assessment may be needed it will take that report to the next Assessment and Moderation Panel (AMP). At the AMP a decision will be made as to whether to accept the recommendation of the CAM to proceed with a statutory assessment. The process is the same if the LA has received a request directly from a parent or young person. Parents/Carers will be informed of the LA's decision within 6 weeks of receipt of the CAM report or the parent/young person request. If the decision at AMP is to proceed with a statutory assessment then the LA will begin the process of gathering information and advice which will inform its decision as to whether to issue an Education, Health and Care Plan. The assessment process will take about 10 weeks. Local Authorities then have a statutory duty to finalise and issue the EHCP within 20 weeks of the start of the process.

(d) That the Cabinet re-evaluates child to adult ratios for minibuses to ensure that they are appropriate and reflect assessed risks and needs on a case by case basis. 27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - This will form be reviewed as part of the new procurement exercise to ensure that the needs of the child are meet

(e) That the Cabinet continues, and seeks to increase, the Independent Travel Training Programme. 27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - Both SEN and the Travel Assistance Service will continue to promote the Travel Training Programme to parents/cares and schools to encourage take up and help provide life skills

(f) That the Cabinet refreshes awareness campaigns relating to Personal Budgets and the Independent Travel Training Programme to ensure all families are available. 27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - SEN will continue to promote both Personal Budgets and the Independent Travel Training Programme as part of the initial EHCP assessments and at the annual review.



(g) That the Cabinet reviews Early Years provision in each town, which may help reduce transport costs.

27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - The Early Years Transformation Academy (EYTA) is an intensive year long Leadership and Management programme set up by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) funded through the DfE to provide strategic vision in Systems Change Management using the theory of change model. The team was made up of a Public Health commissioner, Health Commissioner, Early Years lead for Public health, Health Visiting Lead, Children Centre Commissioner, Quality Early Years Manager, Inclusion Support Early Years Manager and Midwifery Lead. The team mapped the services and provision across the pre-conception to end of reception years, undertook 150 parent interviews with Sandwell families to understand what it is like being a family with young children living in Sandwell and completed the data analysis Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 0-5 Years. The key findings/actions taken from this piece of work were:

1. Speech, language and communication was a key feature of the needs of young children and a barrier to learning and good outcomes in adulthood.
2. There was a gap for children after the age of 12 months up to 2.5 years from universal services such as Health Visitors.
3. A Speech, Language and Communication Pathway was developed using existing pathways.
4. Additional funding was secured from Health for a consultant model for SALT - dedicated Speech and Language Therapist.
5. Wellcomm screening is available from 18months through Children Centres and day-care settings.
6. Re-visit developmental check on or before 18mths by a Health Visitor Team showing emerging delay in development.

In addition, there is involvement with the Black Country Outcomes project which is focussing on SLCN for all children. All of the above work will

(h) That the Cabinet re- journeys to ensure that needing to travel for m normal circumstances.



and inform place / monitored to ensure nes are kept to a



(i) That the Cabinet considers how place provision strategically located throughout the borough can be used to minimise journey times.

27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - Place provision is reviewed and where ever possible provision is strategically located in the borough. Projections for mainstream schools are produced by our Data Intelligence team to support the sufficiency analysis for new places. We predict that the number of children and young people with EHC plans within Sandwell schools will increase by an average of 5.3% each year over the next 5 years and the general population number of pupils will increase by 1.4%. This prediction estimates that there could be an additional 500 – 630 statutory school aged pupils with an EHC Plans within 5 years. This as well as other data is considered when planning provision.



(j) That the Cabinet considers the following in relation to the contracting of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport for February 2022:-

- (i) providers should ensure drivers and Passenger Assistants are trained, and accredited where appropriate, in First Aid, non-verbal communication, use of safety harnesses and manual handling. In addition there should be Advanced Passenger Assistants who are specifically trained to provide emergency medication on transport, including but not limited to administering pre-loaded EpiPens or pre-loaded buccal midazolam devices;
- (ii) a market position statement be prepared, encouraging competition from a wide range of suppliers;
- (iii) small and medium enterprises should be afforded opportunities to tender for the contracts;
- (iv) mainly whole school provision should be the preferred approach;
- (v) some harmonisation of provision should be considered to balance effective management of contracts whilst retaining a diversified group of providers;
- (vi) the model for provision should avoid the increased risk associated

27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - All new contracts (New framework) from September with require all drivers and all passengers assistants to have a first aid accreditation.

Where a child requires specialist support during the journey we will continue to enable their carer and/or nurse to travel with them on their own (single occupancy vehicle)

The new framework will build in greater financial and service resilience for the council by:

- increasing the total number of Lots awarded
- limiting the total amount of work a single operator can be awarded
- reserving the right not to accept the lowest tenderer for a respective Lot to ensure the most economic advantageous award of contract is made
- adopting an appropriate evaluation matrix to manage the equitable award of contracts to individual operators
- selecting a wide range of operators to minimise the risk of service disruption through the failure of a single operator
- securing satisfactory evidence of the ongoing financial resilience of the operators admitted to the Framework
- ensuring adequate contingency plans are in place to ensure continuity of service
- this will help to provide opportunities for existing and new SME operators



(k) That the Cabinet undertakes a trial scheme for providing Passenger Assistants in-house, or in partnership with schools, as part of the contracting of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport and that a full analysis is carried out on the trial scheme to determine its effectiveness. 27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - A pilot scheme to be developed to consider; • role and responsibilities of the passenger assistant • uptake of the role • the cost to the Council • Impact on children and their families • Impact for operators • how other Council who directly employ passenger assistants operate

(l) That the Cabinet investigates the feasibility of taking Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport provision in-house, this should include risks, costs, benefits, potential timescales and suitable performance indicators, and it should include the following options: 27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - This will be considered as part of a wider review of transport services in the Council and will consider;

- (i) full Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport service in-house;
- (ii) combined provision with existing Adult Social Care Transport;
- (iii) only Passenger Assistants service provided in-house.

- Cost
- Capacity
- Quality of provision
- Flexibility of service to meet demand
- Continued service improvement
- Alternative delivery models
- Ability to maintain a sustainable service
- Mitigation of risk



(m) That the Cabinet ensures that, however the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport service is provided in future,

Passenger Assistants:-

- (i) must be trained, and accredited where appropriate, in First Aid, communication with non-verbal children; and
- (ii) during their induction and onboarding a clear and strong emphasis should be placed on relationship building between the Passenger Assistant, the family, the school and the transport provider;
- (iii) also include Advanced Passenger Assistants who are specifically trained to provide emergency medication on transport, including but not limited to administering pre-loaded EpiPens or pre-loaded buccal midazolam devices;

27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - Covered in previous responses. The Travel Assistance Service will continue to promote and encourage the building of relationships between the child, their family, driver and passenger assistant to foster trust and ensure the journey is always a good experience .



(n) That the Cabinet investigates with partners 27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet how children with Autism Spectrum Disorders can receive earlier diagnoses which can help improve outcomes, including around transport needs, for that group.

14/02/2022 - Sandwell has a multi-agency assessment pathway for Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Multi Agency Assessment (MAA) pathway investigates whether a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder would be appropriate for a child or young person. The MAA is completed by three different agencies which will include a Consultant Paediatrician or Consultant Psychiatrist, a Speech and Language Therapist and a Specialist Advisory Teacher, it can also include an Occupational Therapist. Sandwell' autism diagnostic pathway is a partnership between Children's Therapies, Inclusion Support's Complex Communication and Autism Team and Early Years Team, The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Child Health – Paediatrics. Assessments are carried out with regard to the diagnostic criteria set out in the ICD 10/11. Best Practice guidelines are set out in the NICE Guidance- Autism spectrum disorder in under 19s: recognition, referral and diagnosis (CG128). The assessment period is around 30 weeks; Sandwell does not have a 'waiting list', children and young people are under assessment from the point that the referral is processed following the completion of the required NHS checks. In the academic year 2020-21, over 240 diagnostic assessments were completed. In the period July 2018- July 2021 there has been a 64% overall increase in Sandwell of the number of autistic children and young people. Our mainstream primary schools have seen a 112% increase. The MAA Pathway is held under review by the ASD Steering Group who monitor number of referrals and completion times. The Steering Group works to improve access to the pathway with information for parents and professionals. Information on the Local Offer is currently being revised and amended by the Steering Group. It is important to note that multi- agency partners do not have additional resources to provide this pathway. transport needs.



(o) That the Cabinet ensures that research relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is considered whenever it is available to identify potential areas of improvement in Sandwell’s service provision.

27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - The SEND strategy 2021-2024 details the Sandwell vision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities The priority area’ for development are: 1. Quality Assurance of Statutory responsibilities: 2. Workforce Development
3. Improving Provision 4. Improving Progress and Attainment The SEND Strategic Board is responsible for the governance and commissioning of services to support children and young people with SEND across the Sandwell Local Area and will be key to the delivery of this strategy. As a multi-agency group the latest evidence and research is constantly reviewed to inform and ensure improvements are continual.

(2) That the Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board is kept informed about the process for commissioning Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transport in Sandwell.

27/09/21 20/10/21 Cabinet

14/02/2022 - the Board would continue to receive updates as required.

(3) That Post-18 Provision for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities be included in the work programme for the Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board.

27/09/21 Scrutiny Board

Elective Home Education Working Group

(a)The EHE resource pack be reviewed and edited to make it more accessible to parents

29/11/21 12/01/22 Cabinet

12/01/21 - Agreed that the response to the findings would be submitted to the Scrutiny Board within two months.

(b) The EHE website be refreshed to provide information, guides and links to other information and links to EHE forums for advice and support

12/01/21 - Agreed that the response to the findings would be submitted to

(c) To identify resourc the council to facilitate

ould be submitted to



(d) That additional spaces and facilities be identified for EHE groups to meet and carry out activities, and that competitive rates for use of those facilities be negotiated for EHE group use
29/11/21 12/01/22 Cabinet

12/01/21 - Agreed that the response to the findings would be submitted to the Scrutiny Board within two months.

(e) That the Council develop a mechanism for resources to be shared for EHE, such as a hub for books or other educational material to be kept;
29/11/21 12/01/22 Cabinet

12/01/21 - Agreed that the response to the findings would be submitted to the Scrutiny Board within two months.

(f) That youth social networks, such as 'Just Youth', be promoted on the EHE website for users to find out what's on in Sandwell for young people and to encourage engagement;
29/11/21 12/01/22 Cabinet

12/01/21 - Agreed that the response to the findings would be submitted to the Scrutiny Board within two months.

(g) To raise awareness of the SEN and EHCP support available and access for children.
29/11/21 12/01/22 Cabinet

12/01/21 - Agreed that the response to the findings would be submitted to the Scrutiny Board within two months.

(h) That the Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life and the DCS, on behalf of the Council, be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Education, and to the Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry of Home Education, to register this council's findings from the Elective Home Education review which highlights the need for regulation and resources for Elective Home Education; and to endorse a letter from the Association of EHE Professionals which as consideration is being given to the legislation to provide further safeguards for children who are EHE.



ould be submitted to

Youth Facilities Review



A Partnership Framework (to include a Communications Plan and Multi-agency approach) is developed with young people, for young people and is specifically targeted to promote current activities and future opportunities using the experts within the council to provide a joined-up plan that compliments services across the local authority.

This should consider how we currently communicate, what we currently communicate and the most effective platforms to use across a range of media. A Youth Symposium should be held in early 2021 for all partners in the borough to help build a clear picture of what is available, build upon key themes arising from the Scrutiny Review, the multi-agency approach and develop closer partnership working for a joined-up offer for Sandwell. The youth symposium should draw together a joined-up approval to youth work and young people in Sandwell.

Youth Officers

14/02/2022 - Working with the Shape programme and Public Health, investment was secured in 2020 for an apprentice role to lead the work on communications and marketing both for the Shape Programme and for Just Youth. This has led to a range of improvements to the website and an increased usage of social media platforms resulting in increased traffic on the website and engagement with social media channels. The Black Country & West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group has provided funding to support ongoing development of the website with internal and external partners and promotion of this in community venues, as part of their ongoing commitment to the delivery of the Children & Young People’s Engagement Strategy and the Shape Programme. The Children & Young People’s Engagement Strategy has been developed with young people and stakeholders and was launched in April 2021. This brought together young people, stakeholders and enabled some key partners to showcase their youth offer. However, to do this justice and deliver a meaningful Youth Symposium a face to face event is required to explore what a co-ordinated and renewed youth offer would look like. Alongside the Strategy, a communications plan has been developed to ensure key messages targeted at young people are shared through existing social media channels. To develop this further young people have been trained as Digital Leaders and will be looking to lead the development of content on both the website and social media, including looking at TikTok.



Young people should be afforded safe, flexible, space of their own, with 'Wi-fi & Dry' as the basic offer in Sandwell. The council should take a strategic approach and consider modelling 'space options' across the Borough's 6 towns, these could test:

- i. Use of libraries within extended opening times – rethinking their use in the community
- ii. Mobile provision (through a bus or support vehicle).
- iii. Pop up shops and underused town centre units.
- iv. Leisure & Activity Centres.
- v. Other council properties and schools.
- vi. New build, where no existing options are deemed suitable.

Youth Officers

14/02/2022 - In terms of mobile youth provision, the Service has 2 youth buses (double decker and single decker). This provision has not been operational during Covid due to social distancing restrictions but has been much sought after by young people. The Council is currently pursuing funding to purchase a new electric double decker youth bus which will require an investment in infrastructure.

The Town's Fund programme has prioritised a number of projects that will provide young people with places to go including a new skate park and community hub in Britannia Park. In Smethwick additional multi use classrooms are to be added at the Ron Davis Centre and improvements made to outdoor sports facilities in Lewisham Park. Additionally, plans for West Bromwich include improved facilities at West Bromwich Town Hall and Library including the development of a Cultural Quarter.

After a successful pilot of sports based youth activity at Tipton Sports Academy, The Service is exploring the use of other Leisure Centre Facilities in Oldbury and West Bromwich, however these come with a cost that the Service is currently not budgeted for.

Not with-standing the restrictions imposed by Covid 19, the Service has been able to explore some alternative models of delivery where we have gaps in provision across the 6 towns. In addition to provision currently open in Tipton, West Bromwich and Smethwick (see Appendix 3 for current youth provision list), we are currently exploring options for open access youth provision within libraries particularly in West Bromwich, Oldbury and Rowley Regis. We have re-located our SEND youth club from the Meadows School to Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, our detached youth work wood House to



The council explores the option of providing free or concessionary public transport for young people to enable better access to local youth activities, opening up Sandwell and all it offers. Targeted provision should be considered in relation to vulnerable young people and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Youth Officers

14/02/2022 - Although there are some concessionary travel discount schemes for young people up to age 18 to support them with subsidised travel to education or work, none of these extend to leisure time use. This is a wider issue that needs to be championed with the West Midlands Combined Authority.

However, the development of the Metro site in Tipton, as part of the Strategic Transport Plan, is immediately adjacent to Coneygre Youth Centre. This will provide an opportunity for the council to develop the Coneygre Youth Centre as a 'hub' because young people will be able to get to it more easily, although there is still a cost attached. It may be possible to consider a scheme that would compensate the cost of travel to Coneygre and Malthouse.

Additionally, the Strategic Transport Plan prioritizes cycle routes, which will come through Sandwell and funding is identified from the Town's Fund to further develop infrastructure across West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis to support cycling.



The council should take a more strategic approach to funding and explore existing funding pots through a better use of regional partnerships and directories. Better alignment could be made to complimentary activity within the voluntary sector (such as SVCO's community grants) and to the corporate social responsibility objectives of local businesses

The Council should develop a renewed 'Youth Offer' which clearly identifies the very positive activities that are currently on offer and addresses those gaps which would enable a more bespoke approach. The National Youth Agency's Standard Quality Mark Framework should be used to measure the capacity, quality and sufficiency of youth facilities in Sandwell.

Youth Officers

14/02/2022 - The Service has been successful in getting funding for additional targeted work in West Bromwich through the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the Safer Streets Fund (SSF). VRU funding is targeted at addressing under 25's youth violence through detached youth work, mentoring and diversionary activity. The SSF is part of a more collaborative bid across the Council and with partners addressing issues of harassment and violence against women and girls. Additionally, the Government's Holiday Activity & Food programme has enabled holiday activity programmes for young people to be delivered during key school holiday periods. As part of the Government's Spending Review, a commitment has been made to the Youth Investment Fund over the next 3 years. This will provide capital and some revenue funding for youth provision in left behind areas, these are yet to be announced. The Children and Young People's Strategic Commissioning Partnership has facilitated a collaborative approach to funding bids, ensuring that partners work together when drafting and submitting bids for funding, a good example of this is the recent bid for Family Hubs funding that bought together the Council, CCG and Sandwell Children's Trust.

Youth Officers

14/02/2022 - During the Covid19 lockdown, the youth offer has been via detached youth work and online support, including a weekly agony aunt session on facebook. As Covid restrictions have eased some face to face open access youth provision has re-opened. In addition, we have continued to provide support to vulnerable young people through our Enhanced Youth Support team. Due to Covid19 it has not been possible to progress the NYASQMF. However, whilst plans are in place to progress this between April 2022-

change model for the Youth Service and
development for youth level 3 Award in Youth



A renewed youth offer would aim to close the gaps in provision and ensure sufficiency of youth facilities, but in order to do this would require an increase in capacity and therefore the resources required to deliver the provision would need to be reviewed.

Following the success of the Question Time session held during the review, it is recommended that quarterly Question Time sessions be scheduled into the Scrutiny Work Programme, with Shape forum the Cabinet Member / Champion for Children and Young People.

Youth Officers

14/02/2022 - The Council’s Corporate Plan and the budget setting process will consider this recommendation alongside other priorities for the council’s budget, aligned to the Corporate Plan.
 In the absence of any national statutory benchmark or guidance on what a sufficient youth service would offer, the National Youth Agency suggest each Local Authority (including any voluntary and Community sector provision) would provide at least two, full-time equivalent professionals who are JNC qualified youth workers be located in a secondary school catchment area, along with an equivalent team of at least four youth support workers, and trained volunteers, to ensure minimum access to quality youth services. Sandwell Youth Service currently employs 27 number of FTE and 7 of these are JNC qualified. It is difficult to assess what is currently available in the voluntary and community sector as this data is not captured.

Youth Officers

It had been hoped that this would be possible from autumn 2020, however, the ongoing Covid19 restrictions mean that a physical meeting is not possible at the current time.
 Contact with young people throughout this period has demonstrated that very few have access to the Teams environment and many are uncomfortable meeting in this way.
 With face to face meetings only resuming in September 2021, there is much work to be done in re-establishing the forum and getting everyone at a level of confidence to re-engage. It is proposed that the Question Time events are re-established to start in the 2022 summer term and then take place on a quarterly basis.
 Also, Scrutiny alongside the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Education and the Cabinet Advisor for Young People & Skills need to

Question Time



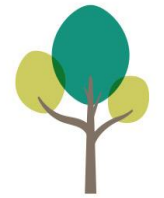
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The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive in public session:-

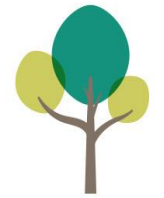
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
1	<p>Community Vaccination Champions</p> <p>Contact Officer: Katie Deeley/Anna Blennerhasset</p> <p>Director: Lisa McNally – Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		



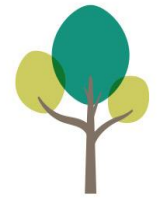
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
2	<p>Care Home Fees – Standard Rate 2022/23</p> <p>Contact Officer: Daljit Bhangal</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>23 March 2022 (private item)</p>		
3	<p>Liberty Protection Safeguards</p> <p>Contact Officer: Donna Patel/Graham Terry</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		



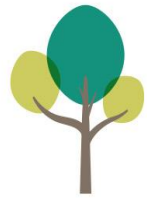
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
4	<p>Integrated Health and Social Care Centre Co-operative Working Agreement</p> <p>Contact Officer: Paul Moseley/Christine Guest</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
5	<p>Temporary Accommodation Elm Tree Primary Academy at Connor Education Centre, West Bromwich</p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett, Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022		



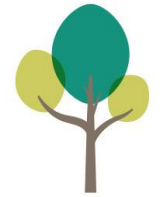
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
6	<p>Children’s Social Care – Social Workers’ Pay</p> <p>Contact: Michael Jarrett</p> <p>Director of Children and Education, Michael Jarrett</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022		Report
7	<p>Domestic Abuse Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Maryrose Lappin</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Community Safety (Cllr Piper)	23 March 2022		



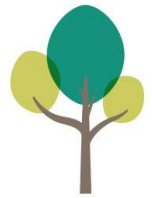
Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
8	<p>Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26</p> <p>Contact Officer: Tessa Mitchell</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Community Safety (Cllr Piper)	23 March 2022		
9	<p>Free Swimming 2022-23</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Ryan</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	23 March 2022		



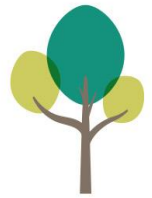
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
10	<p>Leisure – Future Delivery Arrangements</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Ryan</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		
11	<p>City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and Local Transport Capital Programme 2022/23</p> <p>Contact Officer: Andy Miller</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Environment (Cllr Bostan)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		



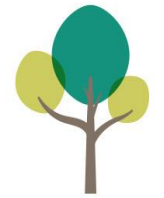
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
12	<p>Corporate Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jo Miskin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 March 2022		
13	<p>Vehicle tyres and related services</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gary Charlton</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 March 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
14	<p>Vehicle and grounds maintenance equipment spare parts and workshop</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gary Charlton</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 March 2022		
15	<p>Purchase of grounds maintenance plant and machinery</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gary Charlton</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 March 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
16	<p>Review of Revenues and Benefits and Housing Operating Model</p> <p>Contact Officer: Simone Hines</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		
17	<p>Revenues and Benefits Policy Framework 2022/23</p> <p>Contact Officer: Ian Dunn</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		



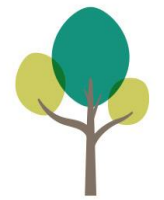
Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
18	<p>Provision of 15 new council homes at Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis</p> <p>Contact: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	23 March 2022		
19	<p>Refurbishment of Thorn Close</p> <p>Contact Officer: J Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director – Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	23 March 2022		Report



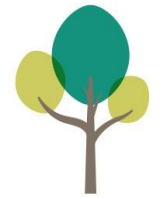
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
20	<p>Proposed Regeneration Pipeline of Investment in Borough 2022 to 2027 plus the Business Recovery/Support Action Plan</p> <p>Contact Officer: Tammy Stokes</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 March 2022		



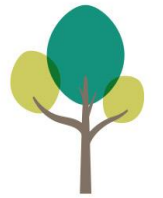
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
21	<p>Acquisition of Site Harvest Road, Rowley Regis</p> <p>Contact Officer: Stefan Hemming</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		
22	<p>Drug Strategy Grant: Enhanced Drug Treatment Provision</p> <p>Contact Officer: Mary Bailey</p> <p>Director: Lisa McNally – Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>13 April 2022</p>		



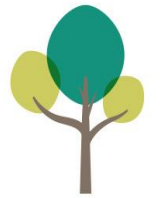
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
23	<p>Weight Management Service</p> <p>Contact Officer: Ricky Byrnes/Anna Blennerhassett</p> <p>Director: Lisa McNally – Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>13 April 2022</p>		



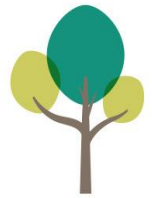
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
24	<p>Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy – Proposed Expansion</p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	13 April 2022		
25	<p>School Organisation Plan 2021/22</p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education/Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	13 April 2022	Tbc	<p>Report</p> <p>Appendices</p> <p>School Organisation Plan 2021/22</p>



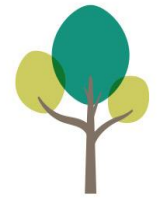
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
26	<p>Outcome of the Consultation on the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards</p> <p>Contact Officer: Tracy Hubball/Fiona Gee</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	13 April 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
27	<p>Hackney Fares Increase</p> <p>Contact Officer: Tracy Hubball/Fiona Gee</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)</p>	<p>13 April 2022</p>		
28	<p>Oracle Licence Renewals – April 2022</p> <p>Contact Officer: Rebecca Maher</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p>	<p>13 April 2022</p>		



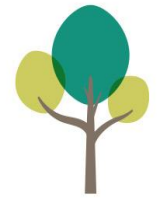
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
29	<p>2022-23 Asset Management and Maintenance investment Programme</p> <p>Contact Officer: J. Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director – Housing and Communities</p>	<p>Housing (Cllr Ahmed)</p>	<p>13 April 2022</p>		<p>Report</p>
30	<p>Disposal of Former Gas Showroom Site Lombard Street West/High Street West Bromwich</p> <p>Contact Officer: Stefan Hemming</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)</p>	<p>13 April 2022</p>		



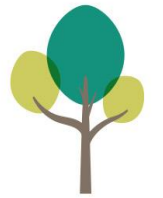
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
31	<p>Review of the Council’s Surplus Property Assets</p> <p>Contact Officer: Chris Hilton</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern, Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration & Growth (Cllr I Padda)	13 April 2022 (private item)	tbc	<p>Report</p> <p>Surplus Assets List (to be annexed to Cabinet paper)</p>



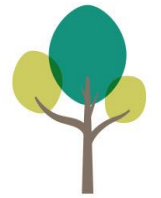
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
32	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between SMBC and Chance Heritage Trust re Heritage related regeneration in the Borough</p> <p>Contact Officer: Tony McGovern</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	13 April 2022		



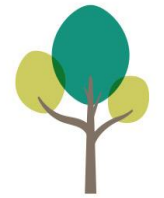
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
33	<p>Appropriation of Grafton Lodge, Grafton Road, Oldbury from General Fund into Housing Revenue Account</p> <p>Contact Officer: Lee Constable</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern, Director – Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	13 April 2022		



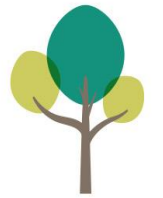
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
34	<p>Award of Minor Adaptation/ Handyperson Service 2022-2026</p> <p>Contact Officer: Charlotte Leadbeater-Chase</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop</p>	Adult Social Care	18 May 2022		Report to Cabinet
35	<p>Approval to Award a Contract for Highways Electrical Connections</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey - Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	18 May 2022	N/A	



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
36	<p>Adult Social Care Contributions Policy - Review Proposals</p> <p>Contact Officer: Kay Murphy</p> <p>Director of Finance – Simone Hines Director of Adult Social Care - Rashpal Bishop</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p> <p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	18 May 2022	N/A	<p>Joint report by</p> <p>Director of Finance and Director of Adult Social Care</p> <p>Appendices</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
37	<p>Street Naming, Renaming and Property Numbering Policy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/Barry Ridgway</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	June 2022		

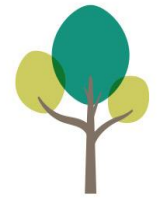


	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
38	<p>Friar Park Residential Development</p> <p>Contact Officer – Chris Hilton</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)</p>	<p>June 2022</p>		<p>Site Appraisals and MasterPlan</p> <p>Funding approval for support</p> <p>Approval for informal public consultation</p>

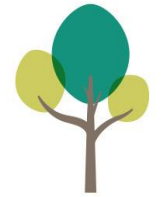


Annual Programme Reminder (these items are not added automatically)

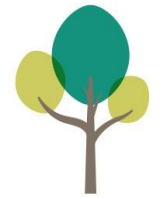
Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Review of Fees and Charges		January		
Determination of Admission Priorities for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools		January/February		
Schools Funding		December/January		
Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring		February		
Council Finances		February		
Financial Regulations		February		
Business Plans		February		
Highways Asset Management Plan		March		



Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Local Transport Settlement		March		
Revenues and Benefits Policy framework 2022/23		March		
Schools Capital Programme		April to June		
Financial Outturn		May		
Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules		July		
Review of Fees and Charges Sandwell Residential Education Services Centre Charges		May – July		
Childcare Sufficiency Report		July - September		

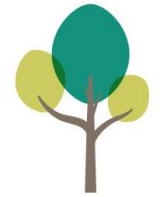


Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring		August		
Model Schools Pay Policy		October/November		
Winter Service Operational Plan		October/November		
Road Safety Plan		November		
Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring		November		
Council Tax Base Calculation		December		
Business Rates Retention Estimates		December		
Council Tax Reduction Scheme		December		



The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive in private session:-

Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Reason for Exemption	List of documents to be considered
<p>Review of the Council’s Surplus Property Assets</p> <p>Contact Officer: Chris Hilton</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern, Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Regeneration & Growth (Cllr I Padda)</p>	<p>13 April 2022</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p>	<p>Report Surplus Assets List (to be annexed to Cabinet paper)</p>
<p>Care Home Fees – Standard Rate 2022/23</p> <p>Contact Officer: Daljit Bhangal</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>	<p>Information relating to financial or business affairs</p>	







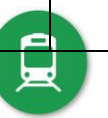








Work Programme 2021/22

Children's Services and Education

Scrutiny Board

Meeting Date	Item	Links with Strategic Aims	Notes
23 August 2021	<p>Sandwell Children's Trust Annual Review</p> <p>Regional Adoption Agency Monitoring Annual Report</p> <p>The impact of the lockdown on Children and Families - Review Scoping</p>		<p>Lesley Hagger (Executive Director for Children's Services)</p> <p>Emma Taylor (CEO of SCT)</p>
29 November 2021	<p>Elective Home Education (EHE)</p> <p>Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)</p>	 	<p>Melanie Barnett (Interim Operational Director Children and Education)</p> <p>Sue Moore (Group Head for Education Support Services)</p> <p>Samantha Harman (Play Services Manager)</p>
14 February 2022	Youth Facilities Review – Update		Tariq Karim (Area Manager Youth Service)



	Sandwell Children's Trust Annual Review		Emma Taylor (CEO of SCT) Michael Jarrett (Director for Children's Services)
21 March 2022	SEND – Support and access to Feedback from SEND Operational Board and Parent/Carers Board Discussion with the Cabinet Member – Councillor Simms. Temporary Accommodation at Elm Tree Primary – Sue Moore and Martyn Roberts	    	Michael Jarrett (Director for Children's Services) Melanie Barnett (Group Head Children and Education) Rachel Hill Martyn Roberts

Items to be scheduled

- Report on outcome of trial of 16+ provision at the Westminster School and The Meadows.



Scrutiny Review

The Impact of the lockdown on children and families

The review will look at educational attainment and narrowing the gap, the wider impact on families (increase in FSM) and support and opportunities to address.



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