

# Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

**22 February 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	SHAPE Survey and Youth Summit Feedback and Future Youth Involvement in Scrutiny
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Public Health Lisa McNally
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	SHAPE Programme Manager Neesha Patel <a href="mailto:Neesha_Patel@sandwell.gov.uk">Neesha_Patel@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations



- 1.1 That the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board considers and comments upon the SHAPE Survey 2023 results and Youth Summit feedback and the recommendations for engaging children and young people as part of the scrutiny process.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Following the Review of Youth Facilities in Sandwell in January 2020, the working group made a recommendation for young people through SHAPE Youth Forum (Sandwell's boroughwide young people's forum) to be engaged and consulted in the democratic processes for future scrutiny work. This report outlines a proposal of how this action can be taken forward using the themes and feedback from the SHAPE Survey undertaken in 2022 and the recent Youth Summit which took place in February 2023.



### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	People live well and age well – Sandwell Council has made a commitment to ensure that wellbeing and healthy lives are promoted to young people and there is a range of local provision available for their needs
	Strong resilient communities - Sandwell Council has made a commitment with SHAPE forum to engage with them to ensure towns become welcoming places for young people and that they have jobs, activities and facilities to give them a part in the local community

### 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Two consultation and engagement activities have taken place over the last six months with children and young people in Sandwell. The results and feedback from both the SHAPE Survey and Youth Summit can be used to consider themes to be further explored by Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board through consultation with SHAPE Youth Forum.

#### 4.2 SHAPE Survey 2022 Results

The SHAPE Survey is an annual consultation mechanism for children and young people aged 8 – 18 years old. It allows council members, senior leaders, officers and partner agencies to understand the experiences, issues and views of young people in Sandwell.

The questions covered all the SHAPE themes of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic wellbeing.

The survey highlighted that although children at a primary age enjoyed their life as a child, they faced some challenges, however at a secondary age, the young people found life difficult, facing a lot more challenges. Some of the key findings included:

- Issues affecting young people are gangs and youth violence, knife crime, school/college work and exams, drugs and substance abuse, what to do after GCSEs and being bullied.
- Young people feel Sandwell Council should resolve issues such as littering and making Sandwell safer with less crime. They also felt



that ensuring better job prospects or higher education opportunities would retain young people in the Borough.

- The aftermath of the pandemic is still affecting young people in secondary education in terms of their academic achievements and their mental health and wellbeing.
- Young people feel that schools could do more to support their mental health and wellbeing within their educational settings.
- There is a lack of education in schools on important life skills such as money management and taxes.
- Bullying was highlighted as an issue throughout the report affecting all ages. Children and young people are often faced with bullying due to their appearance or sexual orientation. They felt that harsher sanctions should be in place for the perpetrators.
- Young people wanted to be able to voice their views and were keen to have someone to talk to about the issues they face. However, they feel adults don't listen.
- Although there are many diversionary activities in Sandwell, young people were interested in increasing and improving youth provision in parks, increasing sporting activities such as football and basketball and ensuring youth activities were located close to them.

### 4.3 Youth Summit Feedback

The Create Your Future Youth Summit was held in February 2023 for young people at the cusp of exclusion or at risk of exploitation. Working with the secondary schools in Sandwell, the SHAPE Team in partnership with Youth Services and West Midlands Police, met to deliver the summit to meet the needs of the schools and young people.

West Midlands Police led on a World Café discussion on the issues young people are facing. They stated substance misuse was an issue particularly having easy access to drugs. Gangs and violence and poverty were also issues highlighted.

Young people felt they were influenced by friends and bad role models around them, including people they were being bullied by. They also felt poverty was an influence as they needed money and media outlets such as music and gaming also influenced them.



The Police also delivered a Stop and Search workshop, with case studies allowing the young people to debate on whether the Police were the right powers to stop and search in each case.

The afternoon focussed on showcasing diversionary activities for young people to engage in, either in school or out of school settings. The young people were interested the most in activities to do with music, football, motocross and cycling.

4.4 It is recommended that the Board considers the above feedback and themes to be discussed with SHAPE Youth Forum through a quarterly Question Time. This could also be widened to involve representatives from other youth forums or groups.

## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	The young people from SHAPE Youth Forum will be supported by staff from the SHAPE Team when engaging with the Board
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	No implications
<b>Risk:</b>	No implications
<b>Equality:</b>	The young people involved through the consultation process will be diversely representative of Sandwell's youth population
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	No implications
<b>Social Value:</b>	Young people will have their voices heard increasing social value
<b>Climate Change:</b>	No implications

## 6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – SHAPE Survey 2023

Appendix 2 – Youth Summit Feedback

