

Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board
15 March 2023

Report Topic:	Children's Services Update
Contact Officer:	Michael Jarrett, Director of Children's Services and Education
Link to board priorities	<p>Please include in your report how your work links to one or more of our board priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will help keep people healthier for longer 2. We will help keep people safe and support communities 3. We will work together to join up services 4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services
Purpose of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide members of the Health and Well-Being Board with an update of the current issues and priorities across children's services.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members note the update.
Key Discussion points:	<p>This update covers a number of the board priorities, namely; (3) We will work together to join up services and (4) We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services as indicated below.</p> <p>SEND area inspections; In January 2023, Ofsted launched a new inspection framework requiring all LA areas to implement across their partnerships. The new framework incorporates priorities 3 and 4 in relation to whole system working and integration.</p> <p>Attendance; Following the successful 'Attendance is Everybody's Business' event held 29 September 2022, the Children and Education Directorate has launched a borough-wide campaign to strengthen and improve attendance and address the persistent absence rates across Sandwell. Addressing attendance will contribute to improved educational outcomes and fulfill priority 4 of the HWBB.</p> <p>Educational attainment – Education and Priority Investment Areas; Sandwell is one of the 55 Education Investment Areas and</p>

	<p>one of the 24 Priority Investment Areas launched by the DfE to address educational attainment across all phases. Sandwell sits just below national rates for all phases of education and across the partnership (HWBB priority 4) we are determined to address this priority.</p> <p>Family Hubs; Sandwell was one of the 75 LAs named in the government roll out of the best start in life – Family Hubs programme. An implementation plan has been approved by the DfE and programme governance arrangements is in place. This programme contributes to priorities 3 and 4 of the HWBB.</p> <p>Youth provision inc outreach; The youth service is undertaking a service review / redesign. This will include the delivery of targeted outreach services to combat community priorities. The replacement youth buses will provide a reliable offer and promote opportunities for young people to engage with youth workers and partners. The work contributes to priority 4 of the HWBB.</p> <p>SEND and Education, Health and Care Plans; Sandwell has seen a 48% increase in the number of children and young people with education, health and care plans. This increase is placing obvious pressures across the system requiring services to adapt to meet need. The projections continue to rise which will require a systemic approach to addressing this priority which also contributes to priorities 3 and 4 of the HWBB.</p>
<p>Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)</p>	
<p>There are associated implications across statutory functions including; SEND, attendance and education with financial implications associated with capacity pressures across the system and also the attraction of grant funding from the DfE in relation to the Education and Priority Investment Areas and Family Hubs Programme.</p>	
<p>What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?</p>	<p>Across all aspects of children’s services there is well developed governance processes and widespread partnership support and engagement.</p>

