

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board 2022/23				
Scrutiny Board Date	Agenda Item Title	Action/Recommendation	Responsible Director /Body	Activity Log as at 10 March 23
20 March 2023	Impact of Lockdown on Children and Families	That the Chair of the Thrive Board presents a report to the scrutiny Board outlining its work and the impact of, in relation to the impact of the pandemic on students' mental health and well-being.	Democratic Services	Added to the work programme
		That representatives of the SEND Strategic Board/SEND Operational Board report to the Board on the services and support provided to SEND children and the impact, including attainment data.	Democratic Services	Added to the work programme
		That the Director of Children and Education reports to the Board on the progress and outcomes of the national review into the covid-19 response in so much as it relates to education and children's services.	Democratic Services	
		That, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board is requested to undertake a review and monitors the recovery strategy of mental health services within the Borough.	Democratic Services	

		The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Board writes to the Sandwell Children's Trust to request details of their plans to address the challenges of recruitment and retention of social workers.	Democratic Services	
		That the Chair of the Children's Services and Education Board writes to the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board to request details of their plans to address the challenges faced by children in care and care leavers and to understand how the pandemic has impacted them and what has been done to address this.	Democratic Services	Added to the work programme – CPB to come to Children's Scrutiny to address issues raised.
		That the Director of Children and Education reports to the Board, providing an update on the Councils' Covid-19 Recovery Plan, in as much as it relates to education and children's services.	Democratic Services	

Recommendations Approved by Cabinet on 15 February 2023				
		that the Director of Children and Education is proactive in working with schools in the area to consider the creation or adoption of multi-academy trusts;	Director of Children and Education	
		that the Director of Children and Education is proactive in considering suitable locations in the Borough for specialist sixth-form free schools which are funded by central government;	Director of Children and Education	
		that the Council joins the Department for Education's 1-2-1 attendance mentoring pilot to monitor issues in schools across the Borough.	Children and Education	
		that, the Cabinet Member for Children and Education pledges to improve and increase the Borough's educational assessment data in line with the national average by 2027, in line with the aims and objectives of Vision 2030;		
		that the Cabinet Member for Children and Education writes to the Secretary of State for Education, to request that the Government actively engages with		

		education practitioners to understand the long-term problems caused by the national pandemic and prepare appropriate resources to help children and young people recover academically, socially and psychologically.		
		That the Director of Children and Education encourages and supports schools in the Borough to provide sports programmes and extracurricular activities to help children catch up in all areas of lost learning and experiences and to improve mental and physical health;	the Director of Children and Education	
		that the Director of Children and Education reviews the Council's partnership working with education providers and the Sandwell Children's Trust to ensure that actions, outcomes and best practice work are shared to ensure we are working cohesively together.	the Director of Children and Education	
		That the Cabinet Member for Children and Education investigates ways to connect with young people and offer extra support, mentoring and encouragement including, but not limited to:-		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establishing a peer mentoring programme; b) encouraging social youth work, sports, drama, and outdoor activities; c) engaging with local businesses to improve the number of available apprenticeships; d) supporting a holistic youth services experience which accompanies physical and digital offer; e) supporting and championing the new Eco Bus with young people's involvement. 		
		<p>that the Cabinet Member for Children and Education writes to the Secretary of State for Education, to lobby for recurrent yearly funding which will allow for consistent support to address young people's emotional wellbeing and (low level) mental health as we recovery from COVID and the impact that it caused, whilst supporting the Council's ambition to improve academic performance, socialisation, conversation, mental health and wellbeing;</p>		

		That, the Director of Children and Education works with multi-agency partners to support, engage and monitor the stability within the early years settings;	the Director of Children and Education	
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