

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board 2022/23					
Scrutiny Board Date	Agenda Item Title	Action/Recommendation	Responsible Director /Body	Activity Log as at 23 June 23	Update
20 March 2023	The 16+ provision at the Westminster School	That the Cabinet Member for Children and Education give a response to the Children's Scrutiny Board on his plans to increase the number of inclusive apprenticeships offered by Sandwell Council and its contractors	Cabinet Member	Added to the work programme – to be considered at the November meeting.	Sally Giles
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 – to be considered at the January meeting.	Sally Giles
		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 – to be considered at the January meeting.	Paul Smith & Julie Andrews
		That, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board is requested to	Democratic Services	Discussions had with clerk to the	

		undertake a review and monitors the recovery strategy of mental health services within the Borough.		Board about adding it to the Health and Adult Social Care work programme.	
		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	SCT presents a 6-month performance review to the Board which will include an update on workforce.	
		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 – to be considered over future meeting.	Sally Giles

Recommendations Approved by Cabinet on 15 February 2023					
		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		Julie Andrews
		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	Regular meetings in place with the DfE Attendance Advisor Training for staff to be showcased with other Councils as exemplar practice	Julie Andrews
		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;	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education		Julie Andrews

		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.	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education		Julie Andrews
		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		Julie Andrews
		that the Director of Children and Education reviews the Council's partnership working with education providers and the Sandwell	the Director of Children and Education Michael		Julie Andrews

		Children's Trust to ensure that actions, outcomes and best practice work are shared to ensure we are working cohesively together.			
		<p>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:-</p> <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; 	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education		Sally Giles

		e) supporting and championing the new Eco Bus with young people's involvement.			
		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;	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education		Sally Giles
		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		Julie Andrews