

Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

11 September 2023

Subject:	The Cost of Living and its Impact on Attainment and Attendance
Director:	Michael Jarrett – Director of Children's Services and Education
Contact Officer:	Democratic Services Officer, Connor Robinson connor1_robinson@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board consider and agree on the scope of the review into the cost of living and its impact on educational attainment and attendance in Sandwell.
- 1.2 That subject to 1.1 the Board to consider and agree the establishment of a working group and nominate seven members to undertake the review and feedback any findings and recommendations to a future Board meeting.


2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board has agreed to carry out a review of the cost of living and its impact on attainment and attendance in Sandwell. The scope document (appendix 1) sets out the rationale and suggested way forward for the review to progress.
- 2.2 The scope document (appendix 1) sets out the proposed areas of inquiry for the cost of living and its impact on attainment and attendance review, together with a description of range of methods that could be used to gather evidence including council officers, Sandwell Children's Trust



partners, education partners, school leadership, and corporate parent partners. Views may also be sought from parents, pupils and other stakeholder organisations.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>Sandwell Council want children to be ready for school and for schools to be ready for children. Families and communities being able to support that readiness are vital, the Council want to ensure the right measures are in place for children and young people and to prepare them for adult life with the necessary skills and development.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The review aims to gather evidence to inform current understanding and potential service provision going forward as it relates to educational attainment and attendance. Sandwell Council is committed to ensuring every Sandwell resident has the best start in life and that every available provision is being put in place to secure the best educational outcomes.
- 4.2 The review will gather evidence from stakeholders, the Council and partners, evaluate findings and options and make recommendations to influence strategies with regard to increasing the attainment and attendance in the borough.

5 Implications

Resources:	There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.
Legal and Governance:	The Scrutiny Boards remit extends to all of the functions of the Council as an authority under the Education Acts, School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time (i.e. pre-school, statutory and post 16 education); as well as any other education related services for children and young people, and services for children, young people and families.
Risk:	There are no associated risks with this report.



Equality:	There are no specific equality implications arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no specific health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.
Social Value:	There are no specific social value implications arising from this report.
Climate Change:	There are no specific climate change implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting:	The review will consider the attainment and attendance of those children in care and will seek to engage with the corporate parenting board.

6 Appendices

Scrutiny Review – Scoping Document

