

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board				
22 Feb 2023	Scrutiny Engagement with Youth Services SHAPE Board	Following feedback from the SHAPE Survey and Youth Summit. Further consideration would be given to future engagement with children and young people. All scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs to consider possible future workshops with young people.	Democratic Services	All scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs have been asked to consider a workshop.
20 March 2023	SEND Post-16 Provision	“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 the Council and its contractors”	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education	Report considered in November 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	Report coming to the January 2024 meeting.
	Impact of Lockdown on Children and Families	That representatives of the SEND Strategic Board/SEND Operational Board report to the Board on the services and support provided to SEND	Democratic Services	Report scheduled for January 2024 meeting.
	Impact of Lockdown on	That the Chair of the Children’s Services and Education Board writes to the Chair of the	Democratic Services	Report to be coming to the March 2024 meeting.

	Children and Families	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.		A workshop had been arranged with young people to hear challenges and successes.
	Impact of Lockdown on Children and Families	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	The council submitted an application for a Free School earlier this year but the application was unsuccessful. The bid window for subsequent rounds is yet to be published but will form the basis of the SEND Transformation Programme.
	Impact of Lockdown on Children and Families	that the Council joins the Department for Education's 1-2-1 attendance mentoring pilot to monitor issues in schools across the Borough.	Director of Children and Education	Regular meetings in place with the DfE Attendance Advisor Training for staff to be showcased with other Councils as exemplar practice
	Impact of Lockdown on Children and Families	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	Sandwell is part of the Government's Priority Education Investment Area along with 23 other priority LAs. The programme submission has been approved by the Minister and the interventions with schools commences in the spring term 2024. At the end of the programme, July 2025, the partnership board expects an increase in educational attainment levels to at least national levels if not above.
	Impact of Lockdown on	that the Cabinet Member for Children and Education writes to the Secretary of State for	Cabinet Member for Children,	The DCS will work with the Cabinet Member to confirm a letter to the government.

	Children and Families	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.	Young People and Education	
	Impact of Lockdown on Children and Families	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;	Director of Children and Education	The DfE have provided a range of guidance and interventions aimed at closing the attainment gap as a result of the pandemic. The DCS has shared all these resources across the sector and school improvement colleagues are working with schools to implement interventions as appropriate.
	Impact of Lockdown on Children and Families	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.	Director of Children and Education	The DCS sits on the Joint Executive Group for education providers across Sandwell and has senior leadership representation on all other education governance provision. Partnership working is integral to these partnerships and the Children's Trust provides reports and updates to JEG as required.
	Impact of Lockdown on	That the Cabinet Member for Children and Education investigates ways to connect with	Cabinet Member for Children,	A) Created a role within Youth Service to develop leadership and mentoring

	Children and Families	<p>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; e) supporting and championing the new Eco Bus with young people's involvement. 	Young People and Education	<p>opportunities for young people for next 12 months.</p> <p>B) Reviewed and refreshed the youth offer to provide young people with opportunities to engage in a wide range of activities through both our core offer and external funding opportunities including Holiday Activities & Food, Violence Reduction Partnership, Adventures Away from Home, West Midlands PCC funding and Safer Streets Fund.</p> <p>C) The Employment and Skills team continue to work with local employers to increase the numbers of apprenticeships available in the borough and are delivering a range of engagement activities such as Accelerate to encourage young people to apply</p> <p>D) Continue to work in partnership with a range of partners, including the voluntary, community sector, Youth Organisations in Uniform West Midlands and Council departments to promote and deliver a holistic youth offer.</p> <p>E) Young people have been engaged in developing the specification for 2 x new youth buses, including developing a brief for the exterior design and fit out for the interior, including equipment and activities. A wider group of young people will be given the opportunity to vote for the final exterior design.</p>
	Impact of Lockdown on	that the Cabinet Member for Children and Education writes to the Secretary of State for	Cabinet Member for Children,	Letter has been drafted and will sent in due course.

	Children and Families	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;	Young People and Education	
	Impact of Lockdown on Children and Families	That, the Director of Children and Education works with multi-agency partners to support, engage and monitor the stability within the early years settings;	Director of Children and Education	The Lead Early Years Manager for Sandwell has taken this action forward and works with all early years provision. The annual sufficiency assessment is used to identify and address capacity challenges and to focus on funding requirements across the sector.