

# Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

**Monday 14 February 2022**

<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Youth Facilities Review
<b>Director:</b>	Director Children's Services and Education, Michael Jarrett
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## 1 Recommendations





- 1.1 That the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board receive an update on progress on the recommendations made in the Youth Facilities Scrutiny Review 20 June 2020 and make any comments and recommendations as necessary.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board requested regular update reports on the progress made against the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review into Youth Facilities.



### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p><b>Best start in life for children and young people</b> -We will ensure every young person has access to high quality youth work and youth provision in their towns and neighbourhoods, providing them with something to do, somewhere to go and someone to talk to, enabling them to thrive and achieve their full potential.</p>
	<p><b>People live well and age well</b> – We will support young people to be connected with their communities and to have healthy and fulfilling lives, providing them with activities and services that help to improve their wellbeing.</p>
	<p><b>Strong resilient communities</b> – We will ensure that our towns become welcoming places for young people where they have access to activities and facilities that make them feel part of their community.</p>
	<p><b>A connected and accessible Sandwell</b> – We will aim to ensure our youth facilities and activities are accessible to all young people in the Borough.</p>

### 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Between January and March 2020 a review was undertaken by the Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board into what young people have, want and need in regards youth facilities in Sandwell.

The purpose was to gather information to inform a youth facilities sufficiency strategy for Sandwell.

4.2 The Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board made a set of recommendations which were agreed by Cabinet on 22 July 2020 and an Executive response was presented to Scrutiny Board on 21 September 2020, which included an update on progress made against the recommendations.

4.3 During the time the recommendations were made, the Service had to re-prioritise the focus of its work due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

In partnership with other services, the Youth Service targeted its resources into detached youth work, working in areas of the Borough where young people were continuing to gather during lockdowns and



restrictions, rather than social distancing and following government guidance, and encouraged them to change their behaviours.

Youth workers also supported education colleagues with support for individual children and families by providing welfare contact by telephone and home visits, delivering food parcels and laptops and delivering education packs to Children Missing Education.

The Youth Service, being one of few Services, still able to deliver face to face work with young people conducted a survey into the impact of Covid which was completed by 509 young people.

The feedback from the Young People's Service Covid Survey Report (see Appendix 1) re-enforced the recommendations made in the Youth Facilities Scrutiny Review.

- 4.4 The update on the recommendations is attached at Appendix 2 for consideration of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board.

The current Youth Service offer is attached in Appendix 3.

## 5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Review into Youth Facilities was to consider whether the current offer meets the needs of young people and to explore alternative options.



## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	There continues to be increasing demands for youth provision and facilities without an increase in resources.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	There is a statutory requirement for the Council to do all that is reasonably practicable to secure and publicise a sufficient local offer for young people.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no risk implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	Having a sufficient youth offer across the Borough will ensure there is an equity of opportunity for all young people to access good quality youth work and youth provision.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	Providing access to youth activities and youth provision has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of young people.
<b>Social Value</b>	The development of a range of youth facilities will encourage cross sector (voluntary sector and private business) working together to provide a sufficient youth offer for young people.

## 7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Sandwell Young People’s Services 2020 Covid Survey Report

Appendix 2 - Update on Recommendations

Appendix 3 - Youth Service Provision List

## 8. Background Papers

Scrutiny Working Group Report

