

# Children's Services and Education and Skills

Overview of focus and  
priorities for the year ahead

Scrutiny Board 2

21 July 2022



# Wider context – Children’s Services, Education and Skills



- Post-Covid system recovery
- Funding – implications of National Fair Funding, significant pressure on High Needs/ Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Government Schools White Paper (Opportunity for All) - school improvement, behaviour, attendance, academisation, Local Authority established Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), Education Investment Areas)
- Government Green Paper: SEND Review: Right Support, right place, right time – consultation, context of nationally challenged SEND system
- Skills for Jobs White Paper
- Levelling up White Paper
- Independent Care Review
- Changes to inspection frameworks alongside ongoing inspection

# One Coventry Plan

2021-2030



Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region



Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities



Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change



Continued financial sustainability of the Council



Council's role as a partner, enabler, and leader

# Our vision

As champions of children:

- Successful partnership working enables children, young people and adults to access high quality education and learning, develop resilience, make positive life choices and contribute to a vibrant Coventry city
- Lift the cloud of limitation for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and enable their entitlement to an ordinary life
- Working to ensure that Coventry is a place where children and families matter and are valued and are at the heart of everything we do

# Our Vision 2019-2022

## One Coventry: together children and families are at the heart of everything we do

1

**Children are at the heart of everything we do**



Children and young people are involved as key partners in planning and decision making and help us to shape services.

We will work with children, young people and their families with openness and honesty to ensure we hear their views.

Our approach allows children and young people to receive help and support that makes a difference to their lives and allows families to be empowered.

The outcomes we achieve for children and young people compare favourably with high performing local authorities.

2

**Working with children and families and services around them**



We aim to deliver top class early help services, to optimise prospects for the best start in life for all children and young people.

We provide excellent help and support to our families. We work with them to understand the skills they have and need to raise their children in a loving, happy, healthy and safe environment, which enables them to become confident and responsible adults.

We listen to what our children and families say and build our support around them to enable families to remain together whenever possible.

When children and young people cannot remain with their families, they are able to live in or near to Coventry in the most appropriate placement to meet their needs.

3

**High quality child centred effective services that are reflective and responsive to change**



We deliver high quality, child centred, effective help and support to children and young people, their parents/carers and family at the right time and in the right way.

Our services reflect and respond to the changing needs of Coventry's diverse population of children, young people and their families.

Our quality assurance and reflective learning provides evidence of continuous improvements.

4

**Our One Coventry approach**

**ONE  
COVENTRY**

We are committed to One Coventry working with our partners and communities to ensure that our residents get the very best that the city can offer.

Our partnerships are mature, trusting and effective at both strategic and operational level. In our partnership work, the focus remains on the child or young person.

We have arrangements with our partners and communities that mean we can adapt and be dynamic in our response to emerging issues/need at strategic and individual level.

We are fully engaged with partners who share our vision and actively contribute to enhance the local authority offer.

5

**Committed sustainable workforce**



Our workforce is stable, skilled, motivated and committed to delivering excellent services to children and young people in Coventry.

We have a confident leadership team, with staff having confidence in leaders and feeling trusted and empowered to make decisions and are confident and clear about their role and accountability.

Social work practice will flourish.

We are recognised as a centre for excellence.



# Coventry City Education Partnership

As champions of children:

- Successful partnership working enables children, young people and adults to access high quality education and learning, develop resilience, make positive life choices and contribute to a vibrant Coventry city.
- Lift the cloud of limitation for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability and enable their entitlement to an ordinary life.



Children and Young People and their families at the heart of everything we do

Strength in partnership – cultural change from client to co-deliverers

Open and transparent

Collective moral purpose and accountability

Co-design and production

High quality demand-led services

High quality, committed work force with relevant skill set

Efficient & effective, value for money, outcome driven

# Children's Services

## Overview – main areas of responsibility



- Early Help
- Family hubs
- MASH
- Youth Justice
- Children in Need
- Child Protection
- Looked after children
- Fostering
- Adoption
- Children's Homes
- Care Leavers
- Participation
- Safeguarding Partnership
- Risk Management
- Prevent
- LA Designated Officer
- Commissioning
- Professional Support

- Family Valued project
- Reunification project
- House project
- FGC
- LifeLong Links
- Adolescent support project

*Statutory basis: Children Act 1989, Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Adoption and Children Act 2002, Children Act 2004, Education and Inspections Act 2006, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Children and Young People Act 2008, Equality Act 2010, Children and Families Act 2014, Care Standards Act 2000*

# Education and Skills

## Overview – main areas of responsibility



### Statutory

- School Improvement
- Early Years sufficiency
- Looked After Children (Education)
- Elective Home Education
- Alternative Provision (inc. Pupil Referral Unit, Hospital Education)
- Library Service
- SEND (statutory assessment & review, Information & Advice Services, Early Years)
- School Organisation (Admissions, Pupil Place Planning)
- Assessment & Moderation
- Early Career Teacher Appropriate Body
- Adult Education
- School attendance and exclusions
- Ethnic Minority Achievement

### Traded

- Outdoor Education Service
- Coventry Music
- Governor Support Services
- Work Related Learning
- SEND support services
- Coventry Interpretation
- School Attendance
- Ethnic Minority Achievement

### Other provision

- Employment and Skills provision
- Holiday Activities and Food Programme

*Statutory basis: Education Act 1996, School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Education Act 2002, Education and Inspections Act 2006, Children and Families Act 2014*



# Children's Services– what we do



- Deliver **Early Help** on a multi agency basis including health partners, police, education and a variety of other services to ensure that families can access services at each family hub and receive targeted support through family intervention.
- Work effectively in **collaboration with partners** to provide a coordinated approach and support better outcomes for children and families.
- Offer **support and advice** to professionals and the public who have concerns regarding a child, young person, or a family through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- Identify children in need of **help and protection**.
- Encourage a **learning culture** through monthly interface meeting between social work teams and Early Help to generate ideas for best practice and learning from referrals. Re-referrals have reduced as a result of these.
- Co-ordinate and deliver an **out of hours emergency response** for people in Coventry

# Children's Services– what we do



- Undertake thorough **child protection enquiries** which lead to timely action and reduce the risk of harm for children. The vast majority of child social work assessments (84%) and Section 47 enquiries (98%) completed in 2021 were within timescale. Both over the national and statistical neighbour average.
- Work in a timely manner to **support children and families**. in 2021, 90% of child protection conference were completed within 15 days of a strategy discussion and 96% resulted in a child protection plan.
- Set expectations in the Social Work Academy to **support consistency** in practice.
- Embed a **strengths- based approach** to interventions with children and families.
- **Manage allegations** against professionals to ensure that these are addressed swiftly and proportionately.

# Children's Services– what we do



- Complete regular auditing, dip sampling, practice observations and moderation and review of Quality Assurance checklists. The senior leadership team and Lead Member for Children and Young People undertake quarterly Quality Assurance visits and twice-yearly Service Performance Reviews.
- Co-ordinate a programme of activity to support the participation of children and young people in designing services and incorporating their views.
- Utilise technology such as the **Mind of My Own** and **Leaving Well** apps to allow children and young people to participate and engage in their planning and relationships in the way that suits them.
- Promote an **advocacy service** where children in care and those subject to a child protection plan are offered an advocate and opt out rather than opt in. Advocacy is also available to children who are generally working with Children's Services.
- Use **feedback from families** to develop and improve services.
- **Tailor interventions** to best suit the needs of the child or young person.

# Children's Services– what we do



- **Coventry FDAC** (Family Drug and Alcohol Court) team provides support for families where one or more parent suffers from substance or alcohol abuse.
- Provide a **multi-faceted response to domestic abuse** referrals in the MASH and a dedicated workstream as part of the Coventry Family Valued programme to support sustained change to reduce and avoid repeat child protection plans.
- Work closely with **children and families with disabilities** to ensure they can access the right support for them.
- Prioritise **contextual safeguarding** to address the prevalence of gang affiliations and knife crime affecting young people in Coventry.
- Ensure **oversight of children who go missing from care** to ensure that they receive a well-coordinated response to reduce the risk of harm.
- Act as a **committed corporate parent** to support children who are looked after and care leavers.

# Children's Services– what we do



- Offer a **strong Edge of Care** service which means that children only come into care when it is in their best interests to do so.
- Ensure that children are not subject to S20 legal status inappropriately through **robust oversight of Legal Planning and the new Admissions Panel**.
- **Prioritise reunification** where it is in the young person's best interest through a dedicated Reunification team.
- Encourage children and young people to participate in their reviews so that their wishes and feelings are at the centre of planning.
- Provide a **strong participation offer** for looked after children who are encouraged to participate in the design of services and provide feedback. There are four key young people led groups which they can be involved with.
- **Celebrate the achievements** of our children and support them with education, employment or training.

# Children's Services– what we do



- Deliver new **Tier 2 Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service**, recommission **LAC CAMHS** service, redesign of **Speech and Language service**.
- Manage external relationships with **placement providers** with regular contact and **quality assurance visits**.
- Continue the **growth and development of Coventry's Fostering** service to ensure that more Coventry children can be placed with Coventry foster carers.
- Support young people until they are 25. Young people work with their Personal Advice (PA) until they choose to end the relationship.
- Oversee living arrangements of young people placed in **supported accommodation** to ensure that this arrangement meets their needs.
- Commitment to a **strong safeguarding partnership** to ensure that there are effective safeguarding systems to deliver the best outcomes for children and families in the city.

# Education and Skills – what we do



- Lead and provide the enabling infrastructure for **Coventry's education system** of early years providers, 116 schools (primary, secondary and special) and 2 FE Colleges with over 58,400 children – Coventry Family of Schools and work in partnership with schools to **deliver improved education standards**
- Manage **external relationships** on behalf of LA/Coventry schools (Department for Education, Ofsted, Regional Schools Commissioner)
- Work in partnership with other local authorities to **share good practice** – including co-ordination of the West Midlands Education, SEND and Skills network
- Ensure there are **sufficient quality nursery places** for early years' children and that these are taken up. c.1,100 2-year-old funded claims, c.5,100 3 and 4 year-old universal 15 hours claims, c.2,000 3 and 4 year-old 30 hours claims
- Work with schools and external stakeholders to enable **sufficient school places** for Coventry pupils, establishing robust future projections to ensure all available section 106 contributions and grants are fully maximised.

# Education and Skills – what we do



- Oversee, plan and delivery of Coventry's £105m **education capital programme** for maintained schools including SEN and Alternative provision through the One Strategic Plan approach.
- Co-ordinate the **annual admissions processes** for entry into Coventry primary and (c.4,500 children) secondary schools (c.4,300 children) annually and in-year primary (c.2,600) and secondary (c.1,300)
- Work with schools and families to improve and **maximise attendance** and **inclusive practice** including supported transfers, reduction in exclusion practice and use of early intervention bespoke packages
- Deliver Alternative Education provision through the Coventry Extended Learning Centre provision including (school), Work-Related Learning activities (circa 160 pupils) and the Hospital Education and Outreach Service



# Education and Skills – what we do



- Identity children residing in the area who are not receiving suitable education - **Children Missing Education** and provide challenge/support
- Oversee schools approach to **keep children safe** in Education
- Manage the **statutory assessment process** (Education, Health and Care plans) for over 2,700 children with Special Educational Needs – new plans and annual reviews
- Deliver a wide range of **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support** (Education Psychology, Social, Mental Health, Sensory and Complex Communication) to schools for children with special educational needs
- Oversee delivery of **travel assistance support** for eligible children and young people (including eligible children with Special Educational Needs)
- **Schools buy-in** £4.1m of education services from the local authority

# Education and Skills – what we do



- Oversee and promote **quality education provision** for 454 **looked after children** per annum through the “Virtual School” including enrichment activities, support for additional needs and challenge on progress and attainment targets
- Provide focused support for newly arrived children into Coventry schools through the **Ethnic Minority Achievement** service.
- Co-ordinate the **Early Careers Framework**
- Oversee work with young people who **are Not in Employment, Education and Training**

# Education and Skills – what we do



- Lead an inclusive, high quality **Coventry Music** education offer for Coventry students across a diverse range of genres and styles. This enables over 4,200 children to benefit from weekly music provision (over 31% FSM and over 23% SEN).
- Deliver c.38,000 outdoor education sessions per year through our **Outdoor Education** provision at **Plas Dol-y-moch**, development of **Coventry (in-city) provision** and bespoke enrichment activities for various groups including vulnerable learners
- Provide **Governor Support services** to c.105 schools including generic and bespoke training package
- Lead and co-ordinate the **Coventry Holiday Activities and Food** programme benefitting over 2,000 children and families
- CPAG (**Child Poverty Action Group**) – cost of the school day (poverty proofing work)

# Education and Skills – what we do



Offer learning opportunities for adults and young people aged 16 and over via **Adult Education Service** with over 4,000 learners a year. This offer includes:

- Accredited and non-accredited learning in a wide range of subject areas, provision from beginners to Level 5; Study programmes; Apprenticeships (including developing apprenticeships for young disabled people with Warwickshire County Council); Family Learning, working with schools in areas of highest need;
- Pre-Employment Training (PET) via Sector-Based Work Academy Programme (SWAPs) and Sector Gateways (short programmes developed for employers with guaranteed interviews to fill vacancies); classroom based, Online and Workplace learning;
- Developing new Step into Work alternative SEND provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) – study programme with additional employment support;
- Expanding our Changing Futures Together Supported Internship Programme for young people with SEND, with an EHCP. Employers include Coventry City Council, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, CVLife, Riverbank Academy and University of Warwick.

# Education and Skills – what we do



Lead the **Coventry skills agenda** including:

- Leading skills strategy development across the city
- Leading on the Council's approach to secure UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funds for People and Skills priorities Managing Coventry's flagship Job Shop and creating a Hub & Spoke model to continue our community place-based delivery model
- Delivering the remaining £14m of European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) grant programmes with partners across the city, working with young people and adults to address barriers to work;
- Creating effective pathways to good quality jobs for Coventry's most vulnerable residents.
- Challenging and supporting local employers to develop and offer good quality jobs for local people;

# Impact: Referrals and CP Plans

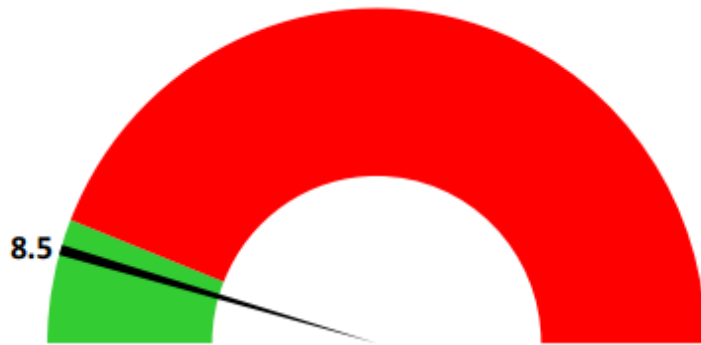
% repeat Child Protection Plans- within 2 years

YTD

6.0%

Rolling Average

8.5%



Target

12%

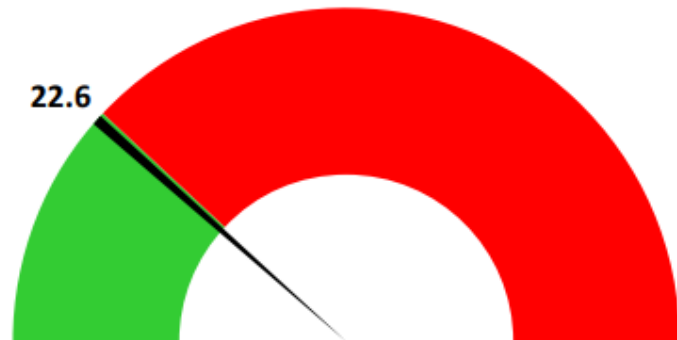
% Re-Referrals (Referrals started within 12 months of a previous Referral start date)

YTD

22.6%

Rolling Average

23.7%

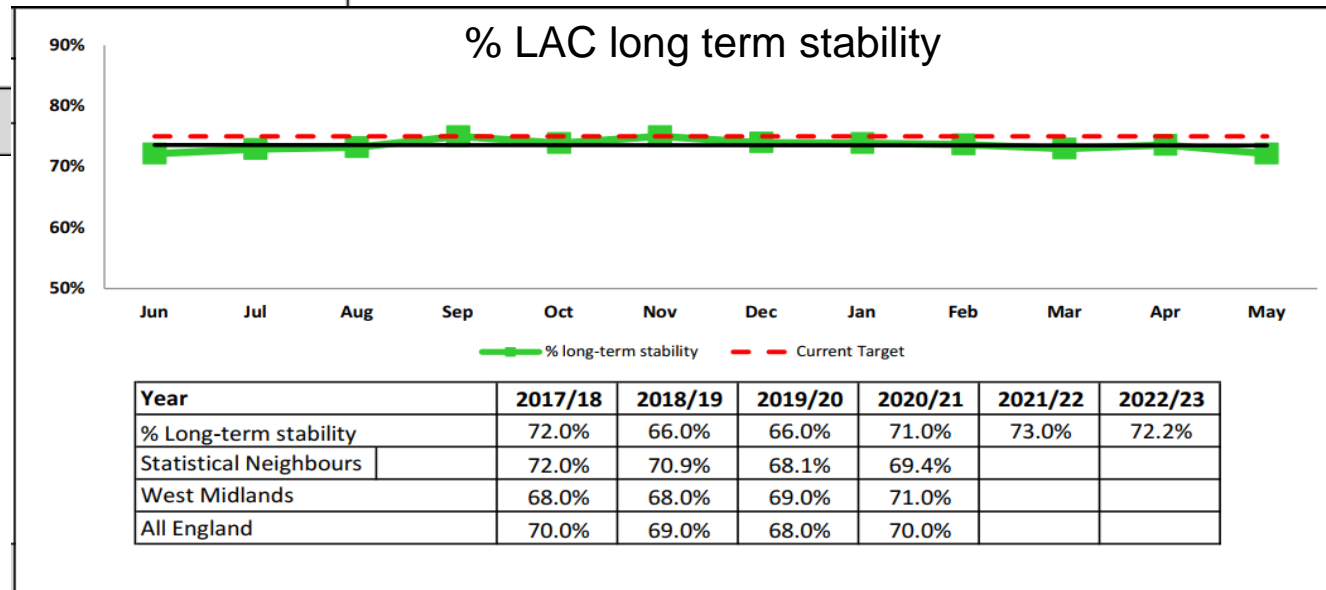
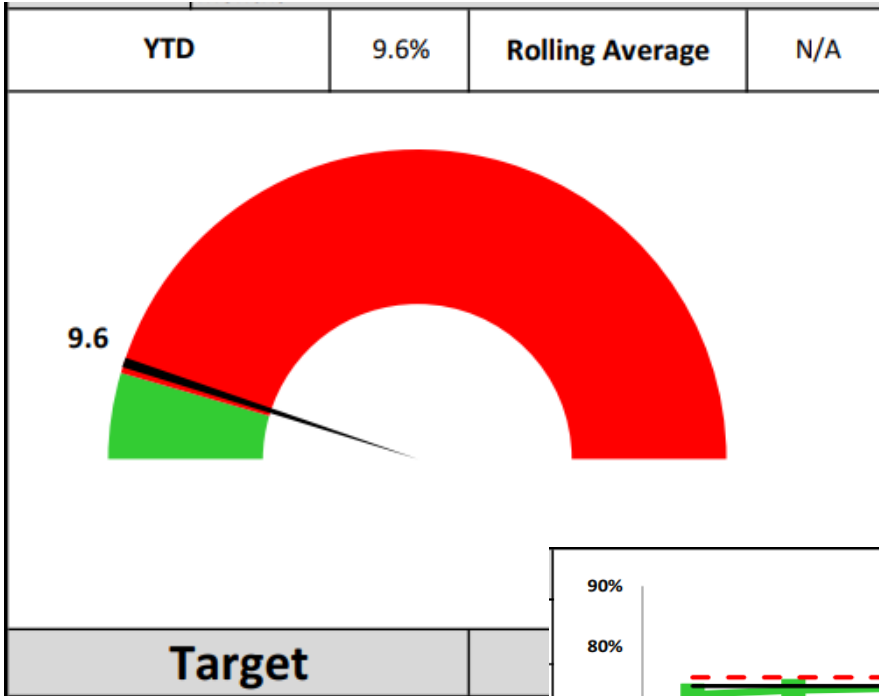


Target

24%

# Impact: Looked after children

% LAC with 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months



# Impact: Coventry Ofsted Profile



<b>Proportion of pupils attending good or outstanding schools (as at 1/7/22)</b>			
<b>Phase</b>	<b>City %</b>	<b>Statistical neighbours (SN)</b>	<b>National</b>
Early Years*	98.6%	Above SN (97.1%)	Above national (97.6%)
Primary	91.4%	Below SN (91.7%)	Below national (91.8%)
Secondary	86.4%	Above SN (81.6%)	Above national (85.7%)
Special	78.6%	Below SN (87.6%)	Below national (94.1%)
Overall	89.2%	Above SN (87.6%)	Above national (89.3%)

*\*Statistical neighbours and national figures are, as at 31/08/21. Note latest city % is 98.7% (as at end of Spring Term).*



# Help and Protection Priorities 2022/23



- Continue the development of pre proceeding work
- Develop a pathway across Early Help and Help & Protection for unborn babies
- Strengthen response to children identified at risk of exploitation
- Grow Family Group Conferencing offer across the whole service
- Strengthen the response to 16 & 17 year olds presenting as homeless
- Improve recording on children's case records that align with relational practice and Coventry Family Valued
- Improve the quality of supervision and ensure records reflect the wealth and depth of conversations
- Establish mechanisms for maximising claims against supporting Families Programme

# Looked After Children and Permanence Priorities 2022/23



- Growth of Next Steps Fostering specialist scheme alongside continued stability for children in placement
- Promotion of permanence through improved special guardianship offer
- Continued promotion of permanence through long term fostering
- Improved timeliness of children moving to adoptive families once the court makes a placement order
- Improved performance for adopting black and ethnic minority children
- Development of new specialist homes for children with disabilities
- Consider placement sufficiency in light of challenges and recommendations in CMA report
- Review and further develop local offer for care leavers
- Further development of House Project

# Quality Assurance, Commissioning and Partnership Priorities 2022/23



- Sufficiency – ongoing work both with developing internal provision and to engage with external providers to develop cost effective good quality placements for our most vulnerable children and young people.
- Coventry Safeguarding Children’s Partnership: - three priorities: Child Sexual abuse, Exploitation and Making the system work.
- Support children & young people, where appropriate, to challenge issues impacting them and to get involved with young people led groups to inform policy and practice.
- Support the involvement of children and young people as trained inspectors of services they access (Young Inspectors).
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service – maintain effective relationships with children in care and care leavers; ensuring children in care achieve permanence and have their needs meet.
- Child Protection (CP) Chair Service – establish and embed a restorative/relational model of child protection conference arrangements.
- Family Group Conference Service - further increase and embed Family Group Conference provision and opportunity for families to address unmet need within their extended families and friend networks at the earliest point.
- Risk Management Team – LADO awareness training with partners, Safeguarding in Education (SIE) - development and expansion of training package and safeguarding audit service to schools. Prevent have a clear understanding of current national and local risks regarding extremism and terrorism, partners and LA are clear how to make a referral and how to access support.

# Workforce Priorities 2022/23



- Explore further innovative recruitment and retention initiatives to increase the supply of experience social workers and additional benefits to retain experienced social workers to address the current workforce issues
- Evaluating the impact of the Social Work Academy has had upon the establishment and workforce position to plan for the future of the Social Work Academy to support the workforce stability through a permanent workforce
- To further assess the impact on retention and quality of practice as student's progress on "grow our own" programmes through their social work career
- Strengthen further the career development pathways from years 2-3 and years 3-4 to further support retention and stabilisation of a more experienced workforce
- Embedding an inclusive and engaging culture alongside Coventry Family Valued
- A robust training offer for all staff and foster carers
- A comprehensive wellbeing offer for all staff

# Coventry Family Valued Priorities 2022/23



- An evaluation took place at the end of year one to inform priorities in year two
- Share and celebrate progress
- Continue to strengthen culture, relationships and joint working
- Improve practice around identifying and engaging families from the earliest contact and in assessment and plans
- Improving use of FGCs and family led decision-making
- Expansion of the reunification project
- Ensuring that we can reach a sustainable position

# Coventry Education Partnership

## Priorities: 2021/22



*Our Coventry Education Partnership Priorities for 2021/22 included the following. These are reviewed every year and will be reviewed moving into 2022/23. For 2022/23 there be a particular focus on behaviour and attendance.*

- Further develop the **Coventry Education Partnership** to enable successful and effective:
  - induction and support for new headteachers
  - succession planning
  - school-to-school support that impacts positively on school improvement
- Using a range of **attendance** strategies ensure all pupils are motivated to achieve high levels of school attendance so that educational inequalities are reduced
- Ensure that **early years** practitioners working with children and professionals supporting families are resilient well trained, knowledgeable and confident to deliver high quality services
- Develop children and young people's **mental and physical health and wellbeing** so that they develop confidence, resilience and independence

# Coventry Education Partnership

## Priorities: 2021/22



- Develop and embed a broad, equitable and well-planned **curriculum** that enables pupils to take advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- Ensure that curriculum planning:
  - accounts for delays and gaps in learning as a result of Covid-19
  - is sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before and towards its clearly defined end points
  - allows reading to be prioritised so that pupils are able to access the full curriculum offer
- Be ambitious for **children and young people with SEND** and effective in the provision that we make for them so that their educational outcomes improve across all key stages, including in the early years
- Develop an environment in which pupils **feel safe**, and in which bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual violence – online or offline – are not accepted and are dealt with quickly, consistently and effectively whenever they occur

# Coventry Education Partnership

## Priorities: 2021/22



- Pandemic recovery
- Continued maintenance and improvement of Ofsted profile
- Early Years – embed 0-5 strategy
- Early Years Quality to impact on Good Level of Development (GLD) and school readiness
- School violence reduction
- SEND strategy – Green paper impact
- Out of sight pupils – focus on attendance
- Development of outcome Education and in-city offer



# Achievements



- Continued strengthening of school to school support, through school improvement partnerships (Primary and Special Networks and Secondary Collaborative)
- Continued maintenance of OFSTED profile
- Return to assessment – Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, 2022
- Post pandemic support for Early Years – school readiness and SEND
- Establishment of the Holiday Activities and Food programme across Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays within a short timeframe
- Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) – cost of the school day
- Extension of Free School Meal (FSM) holiday vouchers to include (Early Years Pupil Premium Plus)
- Sufficiency of additional places in both secondary and specialist sector

# 2022/23 focus



Our focus will include:

- Services to schools
- Implementation of Schools White Paper (behaviour, attendance, LA-established Multi-Academy Trusts)
- Out of sight children (including attendance, Elective Home Education, Children Missing Education and Exclusions)
- Post-16 destinations and Not in Education Employment and Training (NEETs)
- One Strategic Plan and SEND Strategy
- Developing in-city outdoor education offer
- Integrated services
- AEC (Association of Education Committees) locality pilot

# Potential areas for SB2 consideration



- Out of sight children (including attendance, Electively Home Education, Children Missing Education and Exclusions)
- Education Improvement Area implications for Coventry: opportunities and challenges
- Skills Strategy implementation
- One Strategic Plan and SEND Strategy
- High needs block – distribution and impact

# Potential areas for SB2 consideration



- Self-assessment and position statement
- Children's services strategic plan and actions following recent Ofsted inspection
- Family Valued
- House Project
- Readiness for significant legislative change

**Thank you**

**Questions and comments**