

# Children's Services and Education and Skills

Overview of focus and  
priorities for the year ahead

## Information Pack

Scrutiny Board 2

6<sup>th</sup> July 2023



# Children's Services and Education and Skills

## Context



# Wider context – Children’s Services



- On 2 February 2023 the government published its strategy and consultation on children’s social care, Stable Homes, Built on Love Children’s Social Care Reform 2023, Children’s Social Care National Framework and Dashboard Indicators, and proposals for the child and family social work workforce. This was the Government response to the recommendations made by:
  - The independent review of children's social care: final report
  - The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson
  - The competition and Markets Authority (CMA) review into children’s social care placements.
- Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) – amendment includes additional Judgement on Care Leavers
- Introduction of Regulatory Framework for Supported Accommodation overseen by Ofsted including Quality Standards Implementation March – October 2023

# Wider context –Education and Skills



## Education

- National drift in addressing SEND system - ‘SEND and alternative provision improvement plan’ – significant demand pressures across the system (including behaviour)
  - SEND and AP inspection
- Tackling inequalities and locality prototypes
- Recruitment and retention
- Strike action and funding challenges
- School Ofsted inspection regime
- Attendance reforms (part of the former Schools Bill)
- Increased in-year demand for school places

# Wider context –Education and Skills



## Skills

- Funding pressures - grant funding hasn't increased in line with increased costs
- Economic situation - both cost of operating/living for businesses & residents (especially from deprived backgrounds) make engagement with skills more challenging (esp. apprenticeships)
- Planned changes to funding - increased focus on skills

# Children's Services and Education and Skills

## Vision



# One Coventry Plan priorities



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

# One Coventry Plan

2022-2030



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 2023-2026

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



# Coventry Education Partnership 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 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

# Coventry Skills Strategy

Coventry's first ever Citywide Skills Strategy, which provides a 'framework for action' across all educational stages. Working collaboratively to get the best skills outcomes for our residents, from early education through to lifelong adult learning.

The Skills Strategy sets out 8 Priorities, being actioned through 4 collaborative action groups. These involve more than 30 partnership organisations and over 80 individuals bringing in various expertise and professional knowledge:

## 1: Raising Overall Skills Levels

For all residents at all levels – LV1, LV2, LV3 and above

## 2: Raising Aspiration

From primary school to Lifelong Learning

## 3: Progression Pathways

Clear line of sight for progress through Coventry Skills System

## 4: Community

A skills system which works for all Coventry communities

## 5: Inclusion

Fully representative of our diverse city

## 6: Highest Needs

Provides the right support to all learners

## 7: Skills for Business

Providing the current and future skills required by Coventry businesses

## 8: Social Value and Green Skills

Supporting business on social value commitments and developing 'Green Skills' pathways

# Children's Services and Education and Skills

## Areas of responsibility



# 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
- 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 Children Missing Education
- Ethnic Minority Achievement

### Traded

- Coventry Outdoors
- 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 and Education and Skills

## What we do



# 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 and family assessments 76% and Section 47 enquiries 95% completed in 2022/2023 were within timescale.
- Work in a timely manner to **support children and families**. In 2022/23, 89% 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 co-ordinate the **Coventry schools system** of 116 schools (primary, secondary and special) with c.52,800 on roll– 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 Directors)
- 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. 1,073 2-year-old funded places, 5,291 3 and 4 year-old universal funded places and 2,111 3 and 4 year-old funded places
- 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 **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.4,400 children) secondary schools (c.4,800 children) annually and in-year primary (c.4,100) and secondary (c.2,100)
- 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 – (22/23 92.3% to date)
- Commission alternative Education provision through the Coventry Extended Learning Centre provision including (school), Work-Related Learning activities (c.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 2,816 children with Special Educational Needs – new plans and annual reviews, with an additional 361 cases under assessment by the Statutory Assessment Service (as at June 2023).
- 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** c.£5m of education traded services from the local authority (education division)



# 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.
- Appropriate body - **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. Coventry Music supports c.4,800 pupils (27.5% SEN and 29% FSM) and supported 93.3% of Schools on 1 or more of the Core Music Education Hub roles.
- Development of **Coventry Outdoors (in-city) provision** and bespoke enrichment activities for various groups including vulnerable learners.
- Deliver c.38,000 outdoor education session per year through our **Coventry Outdoors** provision at **Plas Dol-y-moch**,
- Provide **Governor Support services** to c.95 schools including generic and bespoke training package
- Lead and co-ordinate the **Coventry Holiday Activities and Food** programme benefitting over 4,000 children and families

# Education and Skills – what we do



Lead the **Coventry skills agenda** including:

- Leading skills strategy implementation across the city, with four Skills Strategy Action Groups working collaboratively to achieve our priorities.
- 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.

# Education and Skills– what we do



Offer learning opportunities for adults and young people aged 16 and over via the Adult Education Service with over 4,400 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.
- Developed 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. Increasing from 10 to 28 places from September;
- Expanding our Changing Futures Together supported internship programme for young people with SEND and an EHCP. Employers include Coventry City Council, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire and CV Life. Increasing from 8 to 16 places from September.

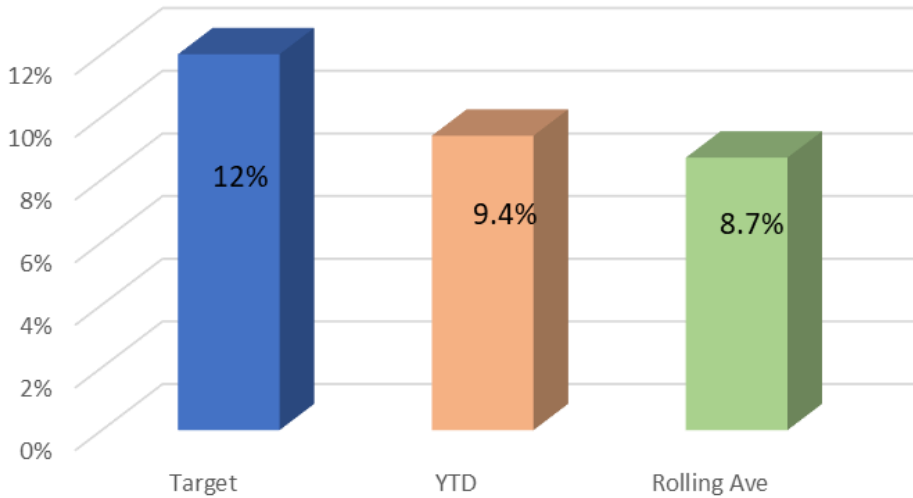
# Children's Services and Education and Skills

## Key statistics

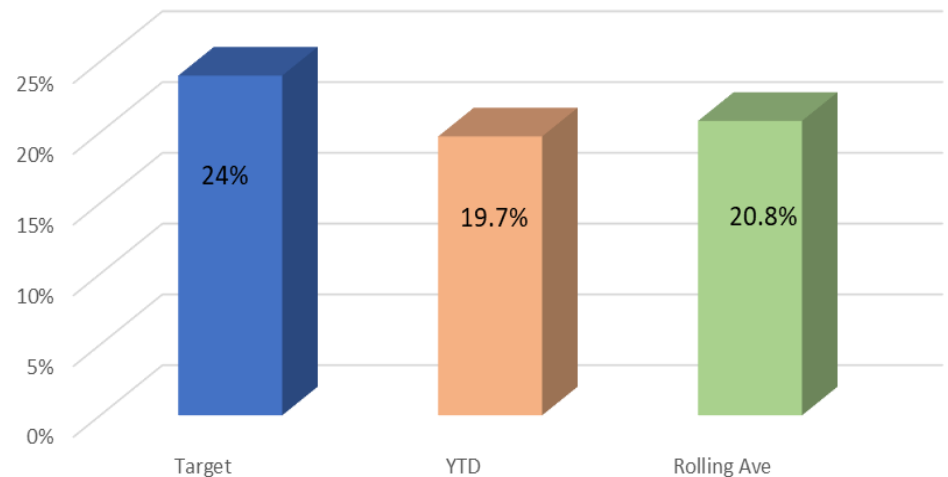


# Impact: Referrals and CP Plans

% repeat Child Protection Plans (March 2023)

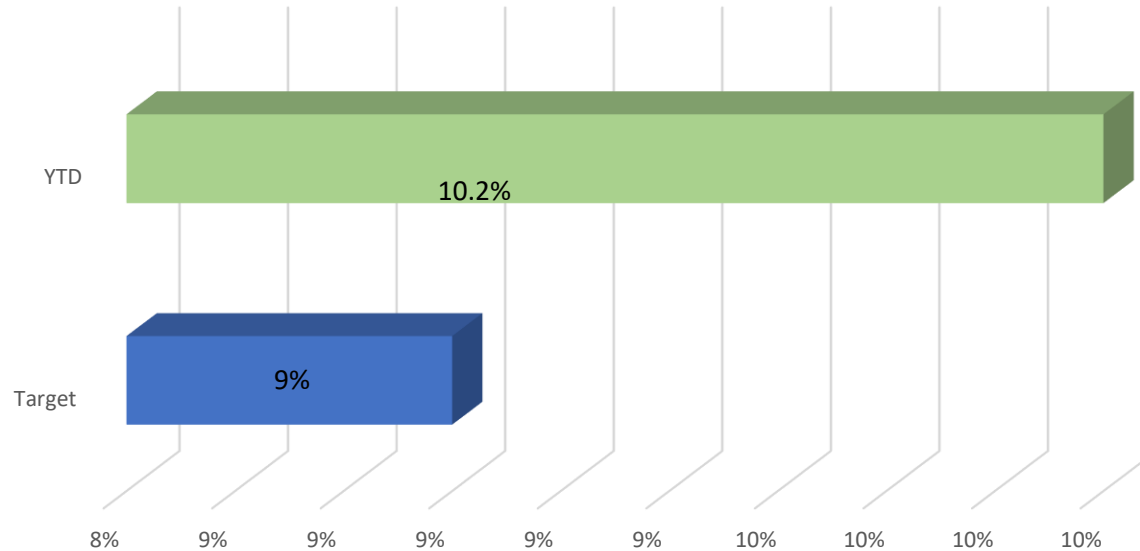


% ReReferrals (Referrals started within 12 months of a previous referral start date (March 2023))



# Impact: Looked after children

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



Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
% long term stability	72.00%	66.00%	66.00%	71.00%	73.00%	66.00%
Statistical Neighbours	72.00%	70.90%	68.10%	69.40%	N/A	N/A
West Midlands	68.00%	68.00%	69.00%	71.00%	N/A	N/A
All England	70.00%	69.00%	68.00%	70.00%	N/A	N/A

# Coventry Ofsted Profile



## Proportion of pupils attending good or outstanding schools (as at 2/6/23)

Phase	City %	Statistical neighbours (SN)	National
Early Years*	96.6%	Above SN (96.3%)	Above national (96.2%)
Primary	89.4%	Below SN (92.6%)	Below national (92.5%)
Secondary	76.4%	Below SN (84.7%)	Below national (85.7%)
Special	77.1%	Below SN (90.9%)	Below national (94.1%)
Overall	84.1%	Below SN (89.3%)	Below national (89.6%)

*\*Statistical neighbours and national figures are as at 31/08/22.*



# Annual NEET and Not Known

Annual NEET and Not Known rates	2020 (16-17-year olds)			2021 (16-17-year olds)			2022 (16-17-year olds)		
	Com- bined figur e	NEE T	Not Known	Com- bined figure	NEE T	Not Known	Com- bined figure	NEE T	Not Known
Coventry	5.0	3.0	2.0	4.4	2.3	2.1	3.9	2.1	1.8
England	5.5	2.7	2.8	5.5	2.8	2.7	4.7	2.2	2.6
<u>WMids</u>	5.3	2.3	3.0	5.7	2.6	3.1	5.0	2.2	2.7

## Commentary

Coventry's 2022 combined figure of **3.9%**:

- is an improvement on the last four years' performance and an all-time low;
- remains **below (better than)** both national and West Midlands;

# Children's Services and Education and Skills

## Achievements and Priorities



# Coventry Children's Services Priorities 2023 - 24



- **Our Workforce:** By recognising that creating the right conditions for good practice to succeed and supporting Children's Services colleagues to be the best they can be will have a positive impact for children
- **Our Partnership:** Ensuring Strong Partnership working will help support the best outcomes for children
- **Our Quality of Practice:** Our children deserve the very best. Focusing on the quality of the work undertaken will ensure children get the right help, in the right way, at the right time

# Childrens Services Achievements



- Rated as Good by Ofsted August 2022 and Youth Justice Service rated as outstanding by Ofsted 2023
- Social Workers Academy won Guardian Public Service Awards workforce learning and development category in 2019 The Academy is at the leading edge of innovative recruitment of social workers
- Transforming a fostering service which has increased fostering capacity and established a connected carers service
- Involvement with Channel 4 to produce Superkids (2018) and Kids (2023)
- Establishing one of the first regional adoption agencies nationally
- Developing a nationally acclaimed Local Offer for care leavers
- Establishing Horizon- a service that protects children from exploitation

# \*School improvement - 2022/23 priorities and progress



Coventry education improvement priority	Progress/commentary June 2023
<p>Secure an ambitious and relevant curriculum that is designed to give all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life</p>	<p>There has been a renewed and re-energised focus on curriculum-focused school improvement across the partnership. However, we have seen a slight reduction in children and young people attending good or better schools and settings.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>As a result of increased need/demand, there has been a significant partnership focus on improving SEND provision. Actions and impact are a continuing focus for Coventry Monitoring Officer (CMO) review work.</p>
<p>Ensure early years provision is effective in increasing the number of children who achieve a good level of development and provides children with successful foundations for learning</p>	<p>The proportion of children attending a good or better EYFS provision has been maintained. Summer GLD data (Good Level of Development – a measure of Age Related Expectations) will be evaluated when available (although a high level of need in this cohort has been well-documented).</p>

# School improvement - 2022/23 priorities and progress



Coventry education improvement priority	Progress/commentary June 2023
<p>Manage behaviour well so that schools and settings are calm, safe and supportive environments which children and young people want to attend and where they can learn and thrive</p>	<p>Challenging behaviour has been a consistent theme across Coventry and the country over the past two years. There are, however, plans in place across the partnership to address and provide improved behaviour support..</p>
<p>Recognise that attendance is an important area of school improvement, with each school and setting offering a clear vision for attendance, underpinned by high expectations and core values</p>	<p>Current attendance is 92.3%; Persistent absence is 24.1% (an average across Primary and Secondary schools). Both of these figures are below national. Significant partnership focus on improving attendance with some excellent practice being shared.</p>

# Coventry Education Partnership

## Achievements



- Continued strengthening of school to school support, through school improvement partnerships (Primary and Special Networks and Secondary Collaborative)
- One Coventry locality prototype – working with schools around early intervention and prevention – right help, right time
- Attendance work underway to pilot and deliver local authority duties under attendance reforms including work linked to locality prototypes
- Schools continue to embed work from cost of the school day project
- Successful return to assessment – Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, 2022/23

# Coventry Education Partnership Achievements



- Post pandemic support for Early Years – school readiness and SEND
- Continued partnership working to respond to capacity pressures
- Delivery of the One Strategic Plan and capital programme to deliver sufficiency of places
- Successful delivery and expansion of Coventry Outdoors
- Continued investment to support violence reduction
- Continued successful delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food programme across Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays



# Planning for Coventry education improvement priorities



- We are currently working with colleagues from across the Coventry Education Partnership to identify 2023/24 priorities within a longer term framework of core improvement strands
- Priorities from the past two years have been broad – this has reflected the context of the partnership resetting school improvement journeys following the pandemic
- From September 2023, we will return to smarter targets with key performance indicators in place
- Although these have not yet been set, they will be identified from the core strands focussed on: curriculum provision, SEND & inclusion; early years education; behaviour; attendance
- Discussions and findings at this point strongly indicate that SEND & inclusion will be a key priority strand for 2023/24, with a focus on right help, right place, right time

# Potential areas for SB2 consideration



- One Strategic Plan and SEND/Inclusion Strategy
- SEND and AP inspection
- Out of sight children (including attendance, Elective Home Education, Children Missing Education and Exclusions)
- Skills Strategy implementation
- Early Years expansion of statutory provision
- Coventry Family Valued
- Children's Services workforce
- Sufficiency – including residential strategy
- Regulation of Supported Accommodation
- Best start in Life