

Children's and Education Cabinet Member Priorities 2026-27

Cabinet Member Children and Young People

Children and young people in Coventry deserve to have the best start in life with access to the right support at the right time to prevent escalation into statutory children's services. Where they need to be safeguarded and cannot remain within the family network as corporate parents we need to provide the best care in good quality homes.

Families First & Best Start in Life

Whole-scale reform delivery focused on early intervention and prevention, family-led decision making, and implementation of Family Help and Multi Agency Child Protection Teams — shifting the dial from late statutory intervention to early support so children can stay within families.

Sufficiency of Homes

Increasing the sufficiency of good quality homes for our children in care and care leavers in Coventry. This will be achieved through fostering, residential homes and supported accommodation.

Reunification & Family-Led Solutions

Supporting and enabling greater reunification and family led solutions for children to exit care, e.g. kinship care and adoption.

Foster Friendly Employers

Encourage and promote more organisations to become foster friendly employers as part of Child Friendly Cov.

Corporate Parenting Duties

Partnership responsibilities delivered in line with new corporate parenting duties identified in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

Cabinet Member Education, Skills & Equalities : Education Priorities

Children and young people deserve an education that enables them to flourish, now and into the future. The Coventry Education Partnership is committed to ensuring all children and young people feel they belong, can reach their full potential and maximise their life chances as they move into adulthood

SEND & Alternative Provision

- Deliver national reform and improve inclusion
- Improve experiences and outcomes for children and families
- Strengthen AP and education engagement
- Deliver financially sustainable SEND services
- Strengthen local area accountability through data and co-production
- Maximise Support Service offer

Enabling a self-improving education system through effective partnership, support and challenge

- Raise achievement
- Improve attendance and education engagement
- Reduce pupil suspensions and exclusions
- Strengthen inclusion, 'Belonging' and wellbeing
- Support young people's progression into sustained education, employment, apprenticeships and training
- Provision of high-quality traded services

Other local and national reform

- Maximise Education's Contribution to the Family First Partnership Programme
- Deliver the Best Start in Life for Children and Families
- Expand Access to Enrichment and Positive Activities
- Ensure sufficient, high-quality early years and education provision is available across Coventry to meet current and future demand
- Strengthen delivery of the Extended Duties of the Virtual School

Potential considerations for SB2 work plan for 2026-27

- Family First Partnership Programme
 - SEND & AP Reform
 - Kinship Strategy and Kinship Local Offer
 - Sufficiency of Children's Homes
 - Development of the Children's Social Care Academy
 - Recruitment, Retention and workforce planning
 - Child Friendly Gov/Family Valued Impact Reports
 - Inclusion and Belonging, Alternative Provision & Behaviour
 - Education Performance - across the key stages
 - Annual Reports (Fostering Annual Report, Adoption Service Annual Report, Safeguarding Annual Report)
 - Best Start in life, Early Help & Early years
 - Holiday Activities & Food Programme
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