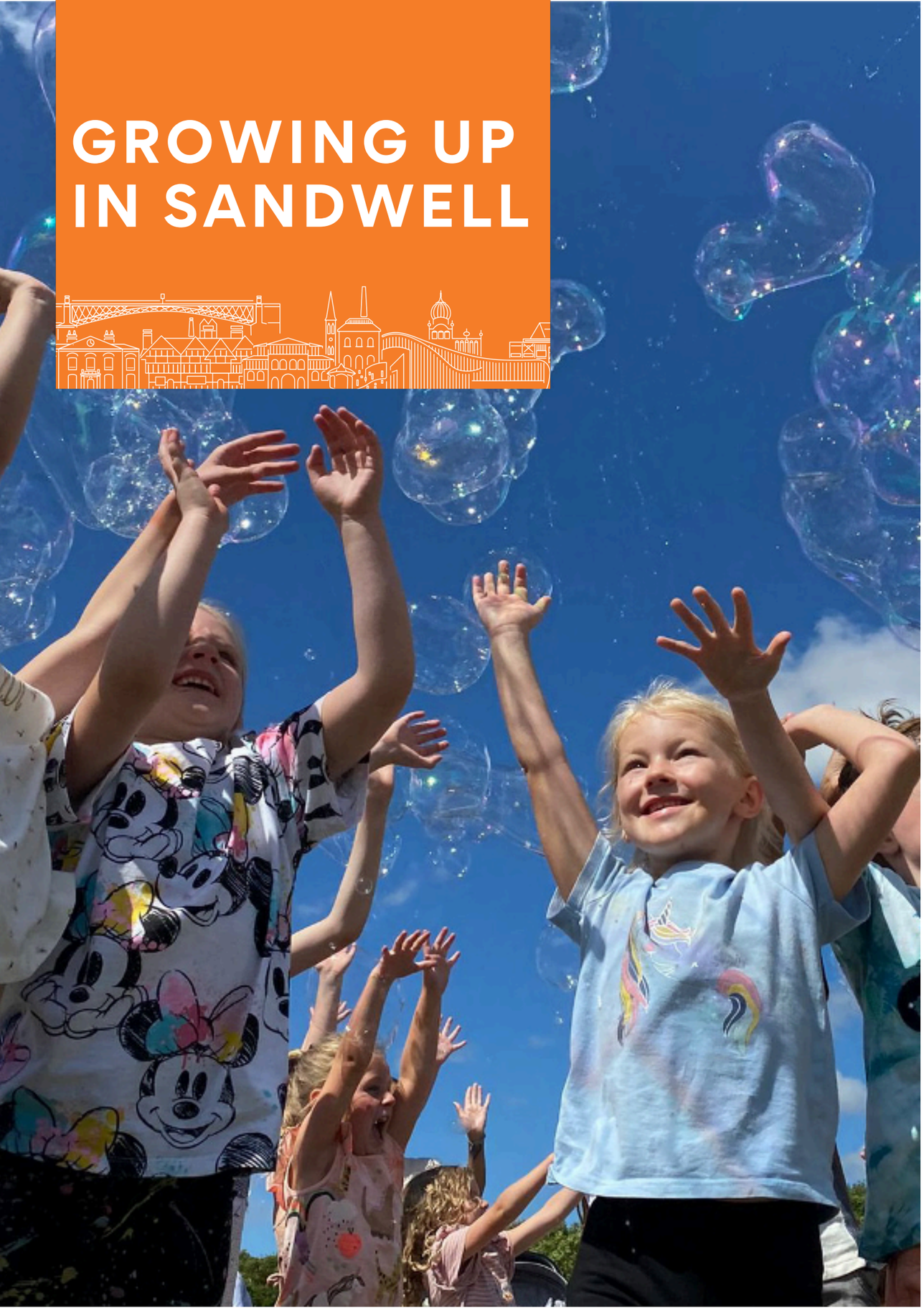
Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

# Performance Spotlights 2026/27



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# GROWING UP IN SANDWELL




Moat Farm Primary School received an exceptional rating for behaviour and attendance under Ofsted's new inspection framework. The achievement highlights the school's high standards and the commitment of staff, pupils and families. Strong attendance and positive behaviour continue to support success both in and out of the classroom.





Sandwell's secondary schools continue to perform strongly, with both permanent exclusions and suspensions remaining below target and outperforming regional, statistical neighbour and national averages. Permanent exclusions are low at 0.2 per 100 pupils, while 7.23 per 100 pupils received one or more suspensions. This strong performance reflects the effective work of schools to support pupils, keep them engaged in education and help them achieve their full potential.

Sandwell's STEPS service has been shortlisted for the 2026 Children & Young People Now Awards for its work supporting parents and carers. Through its Community Class and Parent Induction Programme, hundreds of families have gained skills, confidence and support, helping them become more involved in their children's education and local communities.



More children in Sandwell are starting school with the skills they need to thrive. The percentage achieving a good level of development rose from 62% to 67.5%, exceeding the council's 64% target. This positive result reflects the hard work of schools, early years settings and families working together to support young children.

# LIVING IN SANDWELL



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Sandwell Council has ordered a tenth shop in Cradley Heath to close as part of its ongoing work to tackle the sale of illegal goods. The action helps protect residents and supports honest local businesses. By cracking down on illegal trading, the Council is helping to make local communities safer and more welcoming, and town centres more attractive places to visit and shop.

Sandwell is celebrating a record-breaking achievement after receiving 17 Green Flag Awards. The borough successfully retained 16 existing awards and welcomed Britannia Park in Rowley Regis to the list for the first time. Green Flag status recognises Sandwell's high-quality parks and green spaces and the work that keeps them clean, attractive and accessible for local communities.






For six weeks this summer, communities across Sandwell came together as part of the Safer 6 2026 campaign. The initiative brought together Council services, emergency services, health partners, community organisations and residents to address local priorities. Together, they focused on creating cleaner, safer and stronger communities across the borough.

# HEALTHY IN SANDWELL



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More people are getting the support they need through Adult Social Care, in a timelier way. For example, the Occupational Therapy waiting list reduced significantly from 850 people in March 2025 to 368 in March 2026. In addition, of the 10,000 items of equipment requested during 2025/26, 95% were delivered within the expected timeframe.






Health check delivery has exceeded target, with 1,364 checks completed against a target of 1,070 following the introduction of a new delivery model with local GP practices. The improved approach has strengthened access to preventative healthcare, helping more residents identify and manage potential health risks earlier.

Adult Active Lives Survey data shows a significant increase in the proportion of adults who are physically active, rising from 48.5% in 2023/24 to 56.3% in 2024/25. This represents a 7.8 percentage point improvement and highlights the positive impact of efforts to support healthier, more active lifestyles. While performance remains below the West Midlands benchmark (63.4%) and national benchmark (67.3%), work continues to close the gap and drive further improvement.



# THRIVING ECONOMY IN SANDWELL





Sandwell Council has won a national road safety award for improvements to the A4030 in Smethwick and Bearwood. The award recognises measures including safer crossings, improved cycling facilities, wider pavements and lower speed limits. The scheme is helping to reduce road danger and make the route safer for people walking, cycling and travelling through the area.

Friar Park Millennium Centre has officially reopened following a major refurbishment and expansion funded through the government's Levelling Up Partnership Programme. The improved centre now includes a community café, youth space and permanent library, offering more opportunities for residents to learn, develop skills and take part in community activities. The investment has transformed the centre into a modern community hub for people of all ages.






Improvement works on Owen Street, Tipton, have been completed as part of a £20 million regeneration programme, enhancing roads, pavements, lighting and public transport facilities. The project also supported local jobs and apprenticeships, with the improvements designed to boost footfall, support businesses and encourage investment in the town centre.

# ONE COUNCIL ONE TEAM







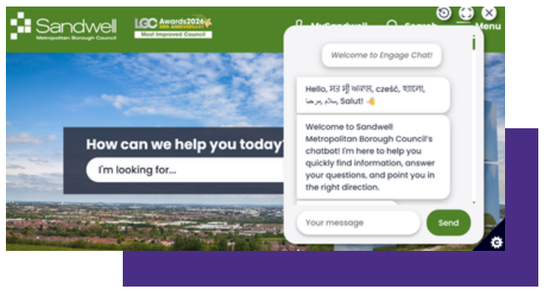




Sandwell Council has been recognised as one of the UK's leading apprenticeship employers, ranking 48th in the 2026 Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list. As one of only three local authorities in the top 50, the ranking highlights the success of the Council's apprenticeship programme and its commitment to developing skills and creating career opportunities.

A new single contact number has been introduced for most Sandwell Council services, making it easier for residents to access support through one point of contact. The change simplifies customer access, introduces improved call-handling features, and aims to enhance the overall customer experience, particularly for those who need to speak directly with council services.




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Following an upgrade led by the Revenues and Benefits team, chatbot support is now available across all Council webpages. In the first quarter, it helped more than 15,500 customers access information and services quickly, complementing the existing Live Chat service.