

Corporate Performance Report 2025/26

Rag Rating

Green	On or better than target
Amber	Worse than target but within target tolerance
Red	Worse than target and outside the target tolerance

Growing up in Sandwell											
CP & D reference	CP Indicator	Value (Bigger is better or smaller is better)	Target	Target Tolerance	Q1 Performance	Q2 Performance	This Time Last Year (Q2 2024/25)	Benchmark	Commentary		Directorate
Children and young people are given the best start in life and are well prepared for school											
G2	The number of good quality childcare places, for children aged 0-4 of working parents, to enable them to take up their 30 hours funded place by September 2025. (Explanatory note provided)	Bigger is better	457 (September 2025)	5%	352	473	NA	N/A	At the end of Quarter 2, the target for this measure has been achieved. The Department for Education (DfE) provided funding for the provision of some new places. At the end of Q2, we have 283 non-grant funded places that have been created and are open and 190 DfE grant funded places have also been created. We are awaiting a further 131 places which have been delayed due to Council commissioning of LA sites, Ofsted registrations not yet being received and also contractors being allocated to building work.		Children and Education
G3	The number of 'wraparound' childcare places to enable all working parents of children aged 4-11 to have access to childcare during term if they require it, by September 2025. (Explanatory note provided)	Bigger is better	1444 (September 2025)	5%	252 full places and 57 extended places	311 full places and 57 extended places	704 (prediction as no funding was allocated at this point)	N/A	Since the target was set, funding from the DfE has been scaled back because of the lower than predicted demand for wraparound care places in the borough. The target set is therefore not what we were working towards, therefore no RAG rating has been provided. At the end of Quarter 2 (September) we had 311 full wrap around places with 57 extended places (where a setting has extended the existing provision). The predicted number of places was higher in Q2 last year because this was based on government funding and anticipated demand, which has since been revised down significantly. The figure for Q1 has also been revised,as this was based on incorrect information from some schools who provided the total number of places instead of new places. There are still 100 new wraparound placed to be operational, so the 268 figure will increase over the next few months.		Children and Education
Children and young people make good progress at school from preschool to when they leave school age 16 – ambition to reach national standard											
G4	Educational Attainment: percentage of all pupils in Sandwell schools attaining the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) (Explanatory note provided)	Bigger is better	60% (AY 2024/25)	2ppts	Annual	61% (AY 2024/25) (Provisional)	59% (AY 2023/24)	2024/25 AY Provisional: Regional: 60% National: 61% Stat Neigh: 60%	Based on provisional KS2 2024/25 Academic year data, performance exceeds the target, is in line with National and exceeds regional and statistical neighbour comparators.		Children and Education
G5	Educational Attainment: percentage of all pupils in Sandwell schools achieving a Grade 5 (strong pass) or above in both English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11). (Explanatory note provided)	Bigger is better	36% (AY 2024/25)	0ppts	Annual	34% (AY 2024/25) (Provisional)	35% (AY 2023/24)	2024/25 AY Provisional: Regional: 41% National: 45% Stat Neigh: 38%	Based on provisional KS4 2024/25 Academic year data, performance is 2 percentage points (ppts) below the target but within tolerance. Performance is 11ppts below national, 7ppts below regional and 4 ppts below the average for the statistical neighbour group. Published data indicates that Sandwell school performance at KS4 English and Maths at grade 5 or above still remains below National figures, with the gap similar to previous years (currently -11%). Performance in English was at grade 5 or above was 55%, 17% above that in maths at 38% , with outcomes in English demonstrating an improving trend. Improving attainment in both subject areas remains a priority, but particularly in maths. The service has plans in place (subject to funding being approved) to improve performance, including: Peer to Peer support for schools is being continued into 2025/26, with a specific strand for maths and 121 peer support for Headteachers, a continuation of the Teaching and Learning Network, and support for vocational subjects at KS4, which is recognised as an area that needs to be improved.		Children and Education
G27	Educational Attainment: percentage of disadvantaged pupils in Sandwell schools achieving a Grade 5 (strong pass) or above in both English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11). (Explanatory note provided)	Bigger is better	24% (AY 2024/25)	1ppt	Annual	23% (AY 2024/25) Provisional)	23% (AY 2023/24)	2024/25 AY Regional: 25% National: 26% Stat Neigh: 24%	Based on provisional KS4 2024/25 Academic year data, performance is 1 ppts below the target but within tolerance. Performance is 3ppts below national, 2 ppts below regional and 1 ppts below the average for the statistical neighbour group. Performance for the disadvantage group is relatively stronger when compared to performance for the KS4 cohort overall.		Children and Education

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G26	Educational Attainment: percentage of disadvantaged pupils in Sandwell schools attaining the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6)	Bigger is better	49% (AY 2024/25)	2ppts	Annual	50% (AY 2024/25) (Provisional)	48% (AY 2023/24)	2024/25 AY Provisional Regional: 49% National: 47% Stat Neigh: 51%	Based on provisional 2024/25 Academic year data, performance for the disadvantaged group at KS2 exceeds the target and National and regional Comparators. Performance for the Statistical neighbour groups is 1ppts higher.	Children and Education
G6	Placeholder for replacement for '% of Schools 'Good' or 'Outstanding' OFSTED rating All Schools' (OFSTED is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills)	Bigger is better	NA	2ppts	NA - measure discontinued and alternative under review	NA	88% (31 Aug 2024)	N/A	This measure has been discontinued and alternative is under review. New Ofsted Framework will commence 10 November 2025, The new judgements are completely different from the old judgements and it isn't clear how data could be summarised yet. Some schools may not be inspected on the new framework for 5 years.	Children and Education
Children and young people have good levels of attendance at school										
Children and young people in Sandwell are able to grow up in a safe, stable loving home										
G9	Rate of Children on a Child Protection Plan at the end of each quarter (Rate per 10,000) (Explanatory note provided)	Smaller is better	45	<55.0%, >45.0	46.4	47.2	46.6	March 2024/25: Regional:44.7 National:41.6 Stat Neighbour: 61.2	The number of Children on a Child Protection Plan as of the 30th September 2025 is 410. This equates to a rate of 47.2 per 10,000 which is below Statistical Neighbour average of 61.2 and slightly above regional and national averages. Operational Service and Quality Assurance Service continue to ensure Children on Plans for over 15 months are reviewed, currently we have just two children on a plan for over 2 years	Children and Education (SCT)
G10	Rate of Children in Care at the end of each quarter (Rate per 10,000 children) (Explanatory note provided)	Smaller is better	94	<100.0, >94.0	94.7	93.05	95.2	March 2024/25: Regional: 90 National: 70 Stat neighbour: 108.7	The number of children we care for has decreased to 808 (816 the last month). The current rate of children we care for is now at 93.05 per 10,000 which is below Statistical Neighbour average of 108. We currently have 40 Separated Young People (formerly Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) open.	Children and Education (SCT)
G11	The percentage of children and young people we care for, who have had 3 or more placement moves (Foster, Family, Residential or other) in the last 12 months.	Smaller is better	9%	<12.0%, >9.0%	8%	8.7%	10.60%	March 2024/25: Regional: 10% National: 10% Stat Neighbour: 9.5%	The number of Children with 3 or more moves in the last 12 months remains below all our comparators, as of 30th September 2025, 70 Children we Care for have had 3 or more moves in last 12 months (1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025)	Children and Education (SCT)

CP & D reference	CP Indicator	Value (Bigger is better or smaller is better)	Target	Target Tolerance	Q1 Performance	Q2 Performance	This Time Last Year (Q2 2024/25)	Benchmark	Commentary	Directorate
Children and young people are supported to lead happy and healthy lives with access to a range of opportunities for positive activities, play and having fun										
G12a	Number of children and young people engaging in council led activities across Sandwell via Go Play, HAF, SHAPE and Child Friendly Sandwell Activity (Explanatory note provided)	Bigger is better	Go Play - 3414 (10% aged 6-12 in each town - unique) HAF - 23,500 (30% eligible population (FSM) - unique) SHAPE - 11,894 (10% annual target population 4-25yrs - attendances)	5%	GP 1708	GP 1463	GP 5,478	N/A	The targets provided are annual, there are no quarterly targets, but a quarterly position will be reported this year against the annual target. There were a large number of Go Play sessions delivered in Q1. Qtr. 2 Child Friendly activity was incorporated into HAF and Go Play activity there was no stand alone child friendly activity over Qtr. 2 period. SHAPE engagement has predominantly been through the SHAPE Summer Fest which saw an attendance numbers of 4000 children and young people, SEND reference groups, youth forums and co-production sessions.	Children and Education
					HAF 4846 (589 SEND)	HAF 7800 (1121 SEND)	HAF 12,519			
					CF 30 Shape-743	SHAPE - 6594	SHAPE 4,719			
G12b	Number of children and young people engaging in council led activities across the Youth Service (Explanatory note provided)	Bigger is better	Reach - 2220 (7% of target population) SEND - 290 (7% increase on last year) Detached - 12,134 (7% increase on last year)	5%	Reach of Young People: 645	Reach of Young People: 937	Reach of Young People: 592	N/A	The targets provided are annual, there are no quarterly targets, but a quarterly position will be reported this year against the annual target. Performance across all three areas is better compared to last year for a number of reasons. The new youth bus was out during Q2 and as a result we have seen increased engagement in our detached sessions, which the bus supports. The better weather has also meant that we have had increased engagement during the summer in our Holiday Activity and Food Parks programme. The service also had increased funding for additional detached youth work sessions from the Violence Reduction Partnership in targeted neighbourhoods during the summer which has helped increase engagement. Finally, we have seen an increase in declared SEND in universal settings and a second session of MARVEL Youth Club is due to start in Quarter 3.	Children and Education
					Reach of Declared SEND Young People: 93	Reach of Declared SEND Young People: 91	Reach of Declared SEND Young People: 41			
					Engagement of Young People through detached Youth Work: 4088	Engagement of Young People through Detached Youth Work: 4,401	Engagement of Young People through detached Youth Work: 2,984			
G13	The number of physical and electronic items including books, audiobooks, magazines and comics issued by libraries to children under the age of 16 year old	Bigger is better	56,784	5%	49,419	57,112	49,601	N/A	The target for this quarter has been achieved and exceeded by 328 (1%). This is due to an increase take-up of electronic books and magazines, possibly as a result of buying fewer physical books due to budget limitations.	Place (Environment)
G14	The take up of free activities that are available in libraries for children under the age of 16 years old	Bigger is better	2,212	5%	2,111	2,344	2,190	N/A	Free activity for children and families is one of our primary objectives, especially where we can link it with borrowing books to improve literacy. We are using external funding (Covid) to pay for activities, which will end in 2025-26.	Place (Environment)

CP & D reference	CP Indicator	Value (Bigger is better or smaller is better)	Target	Target Tolerance	Q1 Performance	Q2 Performance	This Time Last Year (Q2 2024/25)	Benchmark	Commentary	Directorate
Children, young people and their families receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time										
G18	The number of children and young people receiving Early Help intervention (providing support to children, young people, and families as soon as a problem emerges or before a problem escalates)	Within the range	900-1200	<>10%	798	727	838	Q4 2024/25: Regional average: 1,295	<p>The Additional Family Help Operational Group is analysing data to understand the recent decline in Early Help Assessments (EHAs), noting that many schools have not yet submitted their information. Early findings from the new school safeguarding audit suggest an increase in single-agency support, with delays in reporting partly due to DSL changes. More data is needed to gain a full picture across partners.</p> <p>The group continues to promote the value of multi-agency EHAs, which have been effective—75% of families supported this way do not need further help within a year. Partners have been reminded to advocate for multi-agency working, and three promotional events in November aim to boost EHA awareness and usage. This effort aligns with the Families First reform, emphasising early, coordinated support to prevent escalation and improve outcomes for children.</p>	Children and Education
G19	Out of the total number of Single Assessments completed (a process where a social worker evaluates a child's needs and the family's capacity to meet those needs), the percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days from the referral date.	Bigger is better	85%	>70.0%, <85.0	87.94%	75.90%	73.30%	March 2024/25: Regional: 83.4% National: 84.5% Stat Neighbour: 82.9%	<p>The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 working days is 75.9%. In September 2025 performance in relation to new assessments is at 77.7% (206/265), with review assessments on current open children at 68.3% (43/63). This is below the England (84.5%), Statistical Neighbour (82.9%) and West Midlands Average (83.4%). Although performance over last 6 months is 87%. Reasons for the decrease include changes to staffing and the summer holiday periods. Moving forward with a full complement of staff performance is expected to improve.</p>	Children and Education
All children and young people have the same opportunities to achieve their full potential and are supported by adults, including parents and carers, to establish high aspirations										
G22	Educational Attainment: Percentage of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Sandwell schools achieving the expected standard or above in reading, writing, and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6)	Bigger is better	8% (AY 2024/25)	1ppts	Annual	5% (AY 2024/25) (Provisional)	7% (AY 2023/24)	2024/25 AY Provisional: Regional: 7% National: 9% Stat Neigh: 7%	Based on provisional KS2 2024/25 Academic year data for pupils with an EHCP, performance is 3 ppts below the target. Performance is 4ppts below national, 2ppts below regional and 2 ppts below the average for the statistical neighbour group.	Children and Education
G23	Educational Attainment: Average Attainment 8 score for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Sandwell schools at the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11). (Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils across eight GCSE or equivalent qualifications.)	Bigger is better	14.0 (AY 2024/25)	1 points	Annual	15.4 (AY 2024/25) (Provisional)	12.8 (AY 2023/24)	2024/25 AY provisional: Regional: 13.3 National: 14.8 Stat Neigh: 11.7	Based on provisional KS4 2024/25 Academic year data for pupils with an EHCP, performance is 1.4 points above the target. Performance is 0.6 point above the national, 2.1 points above regional and 3.7 points above the average for the statistical neighbour group.	Children and Education
G25	Educational Attainment: Percentage of pupils receiving Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support in Sandwell schools achieving the expected standard or above in reading, writing, and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6).	Bigger is better	31 (AY 2024/25)	1 point	Annual	28.2 (AY 2024/25) (Provisional)	28.6 (AY 2023/24)	2024/25 AY provisional: Regional: 32.6 National: 33.7 Stat Neigh: 30	Based on provisional KS4 2024/25 Academic year data for pupils with receiving SEN Support, performance is 2.8 points below the target. Performance is 5.5 points below national, 4.4 points below regional and 1.8 below the average for the statistical neighbour group.	Children and Education
G24	Educational Attainment: Average Attainment 8 score for pupils receiving Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support in Sandwell schools at the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11). (Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils across eight GCSE or equivalent qualifications.)	Bigger is better	22% (AY 2024/25)	1ppts	Annual	24% (AY 2024/25) (Provisional)	21% (AY 2023/24)	2024/25 AY Provisional: Regional: 25% National: 28% Stat Neigh: 27%	Based on provisional 2024/25 Academic year data, performance for the SEN Support group at KS2 exceeds the target and is 1ppt below regional Comparators. Performance is 4ppts below national and 3ppts below Statistical neighbours. The gap to national performance has closed from 5ppts last year to 4ppts this year.	Children and Education

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G28	The percentage of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) completed within 20 weeks, excluding agreed exceptions for all age groups, from referral date	Bigger is better	50.3% (National average 2024)	5ppts	41.57%	15.65%	N/A	2023 calendar year: Regional: 48.4% National 48.4% Stat Neigh: 53.7%	<p>Timeliness in assessments dipped in Q2 mainly due to increased demand and system changes. Previously, Sandwell had very low rates of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children aged 0–5, which meant many started school with unmet needs and later required plans in primary school. A redesigned early-years pathway has now made it easier for younger children with significant needs to receive EHCPs earlier, resulting in a sharp rise in assessments from both early-years and primary-age groups.</p> <p>Clearing the historic backlog in August also caused temporary disruption, as staff were moved back into the main statutory team and workflows were reorganised. Timeliness has further been affected by slow returns of statutory advice—health and social care return around 90% on time, while education returns only about 18%. New tracking systems, streamlined processes, and extra educational psychology capacity have been introduced to address these delays.</p> <p>Although timeliness has dipped, improved data quality compared to last year now allows the service to identify issues earlier, adapt pathways quickly, and prevent future backlogs while managing higher demand, especially among younger children</p> <p>Of plans issued in the period, 118 of 164 (71.95%) in July and 94 of 126 (74.60%) in August were backlog assessments. This has had a significant impact on our timeliness rate and the average time taken to finalise plans in the quarter. When backlog plans are excluded, the timeliness rate for this period increases to 39.81%, and the average time to finalise decreases to 22.10 weeks.</p>	Children and Education
G38	The average number of weeks taken for a statutory assessment to determine if a child or young person requires special education needs (SEN) support.	Smaller is better	20 weeks	5%	41.11	57.82	NA	NA		Children and Education
Children and young people have the right skills and support to take the next step in their life, and are well prepared for adulthood										
G29	The percentage of 16 and 17 year olds not in employment, education or training/ or with an unknown activity status (not known) (NEET/NK)	Smaller is better	6.0%	5%	2.40%	4.50%	5.90%	13.4% England 11.8% West Mids 12.1% SN 9.0% Black Country	Q2 performance of 4.5% NEET/NK is significantly better than the same quarter last year (5.9%). The figure consists of 1.7% NEET and 2.8%NK. The Q2 %NK element is our best performance in five years. Our overall Q2 performance is 2 or 3 times better than our comparators. We are on track to be in the top quintile again this year.	Children and Education
G30	The number of work experience placements delivered in the Council	Bigger is better	275 (Annual)	5%	90	129 (total to date 219)	87	N/A	The request for school placements shifted from quarter one to quarter 2 in 2025. We are on track to meet our target for the full year.	Children and Education
Contextual Measures										
G31	Proportion (percentage) of children in Reception (usually aged 4 to 5 years old) who are overweight or obese on measurement of their body mass index (BMI) (explanatory note provided)	Smaller is better	N/A	N/A	Awaiting latest data	Awaiting latest data (Due Nov 2025)	24.2% (2023/24)	2023/24: Regional: 23.4% National: 22.1%	National analysis has highlighted the persistent inequalities that exist in child obesity with children from the most deprived areas of England being twice as likely to be living with obesity compared with those from the least deprived areas. With regards to ethnic group, there continues to be considerable variation in obesity prevalence across ethnic groups. The Public Health Team are taking a proactive, evidence approach to reducing obesity in local communities focused on improving healthy eating and encouraging exercise. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework	ASC and Health (Public Health)
G32	Proportion (percentage) of children in Year 6 who are overweight or obese on measurement of their body mass index (BMI) (explanatory note provided)	Smaller is better	N/A	N/A	Awaiting latest data	Awaiting latest data (Due Nov 2025)	44.6% (2023/24)	2023/24: Regional:38.4% National: 35.8%	National analysis has highlighted the persistent inequalities that exist in child obesity with children from the most deprived areas of England being twice as likely to be living with obesity compared with those from the least deprived areas. With regards to ethnic group, there continues to be considerable variation in obesity prevalence across ethnic groups. The Public Health Team are taking a proactive, evidence approach to reducing obesity in local communities focused on improving healthy eating and encouraging exercise. Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework	ASC and Health (Public Health)
G33	The number of 18-24 year olds in receipt of Universal Credit (a monthly benefit that can be claimed by those on a low income, out of work or those who cannot work, for support with living and housing costs).	Smaller is better	N/A	N/A	10.3% (June 2025)	11% (September 2025)	9.7% (September 2024)	September 2025 Regional:8.1% National: 5.8%	The 18-24 claimant count has increased since last quarter and has increased since this time last year. This mirrors the picture regionally and nationally, both of which have increased since this time last year from 7.3% (regional) and 5.2% (national), although the increase has been steeper in Sandwell. Source: Nomis	