

NEWS FROM SANDWELL COUNCIL

SANDWELL HERALD



SUMMER 2026



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SUMMER FUN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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Sandwell is 'open for business'

We want to help businesses make their ideas happen and flourish.

Sandwell offers plenty of affordable opportunities for start-ups and for businesses to grow.

If you are looking for a commercial site or property to rent here, please contact our Business Growth Team. Whether you are an established or growing business, or an entrepreneur, we look forward to learning more about you.

With 11,465 businesses, a talented workforce, and with an annual economy worth £7.3billion, Sandwell has great connectivity by road and rail across the UK.

Our export sector is super active, and our manufacturing sector punches well above its weight generating £1.519billion per year.

Sandwell is 'open for business' – so we want to hear your enterprising ideas and your business plans and visions for development.



Please message our team at **business_growth@sandwell.gov.uk** and we can take it from there.

Where did Wembley get its arch?

While cheering on England at the FIFA World Cup this summer, we've also taken time to celebrate how Sandwell played its part in the construction of our national team's home ground, Wembley Stadium.

Did you know that Tipton-based company Angle Ring put the curve into the iconic Wembley Arch?

Angle Ring provided steel components for the famous arch, bending 800 metres of 300x300mm square hollow section (SHS) for the rings which help give the arch its shape. Angle Ring also completed work on White Horse Bridge adjacent to the stadium.

A third-generation family-owned business established in 1951, Angle Ring supplies sectors around the world including energy, defence, architectural and construction.

Sandwell's unique industrial past is a cornerstone to what its industries benefit from today – it's where industry met innovation and where creative thinking comes up with solutions that keep Sandwell making for businesses around the world.

Whether it's engineering and metalwork, glass, surface engineering and coatings, aerospace and automotive supply chains, or innovations in sustainable industry, renewables and robotics – Sandwell has had a part to play in manufacturing throughout its history.

Go to **www.sandwellstory.com** to find out more about Sandwell's industrial legacy and how innovation drives forward industry today.

Talking of this year's World Cup, we were thrilled to see that Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory in Tipton unveiled a special beef vindaloo pie for the occasion, inspired by the hit song Vindaloo released for the 1998 tournament! Nah-nah-nah, nah-nah-nah!



Stronger businesses, thriving communities



Sandwell Council is passionate about supporting your business to grow in a way that ensures people and communities benefit too.

That's what Sandwell Business Growth is all about. When Sandwell businesses thrive, they create jobs, raise aspirations, boost skills and generate wealth for our local economy.

They are Sandwell's lifeblood – and so our Sandwell Business Growth Team is here to champion Sandwell's businesses at every stage.

The Sandwell Business Growth website is packed with resources to help businesses achieve your ambitions.

Thanks to a pro-business council, a skilled workforce and excellent transport links, Sandwell is an ideal place to do business.

Go to **sandwellbusinessgrowth.com** to find out more about how the team can support you and your business.



A member of Dodd Group's Smethwick team working on a project in Sandwell

WINNER!

Sandwell wins LGC Most Improved Council Award



Sandwell Council has been named the Most Improved Council at this year's Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards.

The Most Improved Council category recognises authorities that have successfully led major organisational change to deliver genuine improvement.

Shokat Lal, Sandwell Council's Chief Executive, said: "We're really proud of the progress we've made in recent years.

"Our adult social care services have been rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission, and Ofsted judged children's services in Sandwell as 'Good' through our partnership with Sandwell Children's Trust. We are proud to be ranked best in the West Midlands and fourth in the country for the condition of our roads.

"This is just the start, and we are committed to making real changes which will benefit our residents and our borough for generations to come.

"We know there's more to do to achieve this and are focused on meeting our ambition to become an outstanding council."

Sandwell Council Leader Councillor Ray Nock said: "This is a superb achievement which shows there is a lot to be proud of in Sandwell. Alongside my new Cabinet we're totally committed to making our borough an even better place to live and work."

Crackdown on crime, illegal sales and anti-social behaviour

Our Trading Standards officers seized counterfeit goods with an estimated value of more than £1million from a warehouse in Smethwick.

The seizure – carried out in partnership with West Midlands Police and brand protection officers from WRI Group – followed an investigation into the use of TikTok to advertise fake products for sale.

Items recovered included trainers, watches, scarves, perfumes and electronic goods. Brands affected included Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Apple, Canada Goose, Moncler, Rolex, Burberry and Nike.

Evidence suggests the goods were imported from China and Hong Kong. Investigations are ongoing to bring the perpetrators to justice.

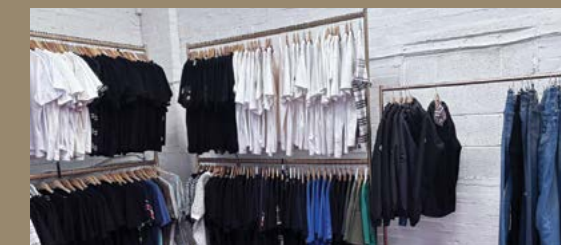
Trading Standards warn that counterfeit goods are not victimless, often linked to organised crime and exploitation, including child labour. Fake goods also pose significant safety risks.

Advice to consumers:

- Buy only from reputable retailers.
- Be aware of safety risks associated with counterfeit goods.
- Report concerns to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service online at **www.citizensadvice.org.uk** or by calling **0808 223 1133**.

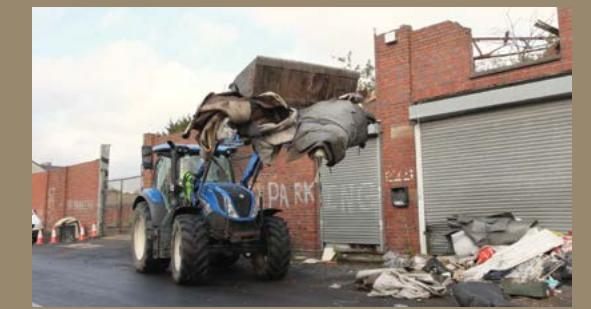
Sandwell Council is working closely with the police and other partners to tackle crime and illegal sales of knives, alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes and vapes in high streets, to protect residents and shoppers and to support law-abiding businesses.

At the same time, investment to tackle anti-social behaviour is being more than doubled, creating a stronger, borough-wide service to respond quickly and stop issues in their tracks.



And when it comes to fly-tipping in Sandwell, people face £1,000 fines. Residents are also reminded that anyone who hands waste to an unlicensed removal firm can often be traced and held responsible if that waste is fly-tipped. Offenders face £600 fines – even if they did not carry out the fly-tipping themselves.

Sandwell Council is investing in helping residents recycle and dispose of waste properly, while taking tough action against fly-tipping and illegal waste dumping. This includes new CCTV cameras for fly-tipping hot spots and more officers focused on tracing and enforcing fly-tipping.



REPORT IT

Please report fly-tipping incidents, with any evidence of who is responsible, at **www.sandwell.gov.uk/flytipping** or by calling **0121 368 1177**.

Safer 6 campaign takes action across all six towns

Sandwell's Safer 6 campaign has brought six weeks of targeted action to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and other community concerns across the borough, focusing on making neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and stronger.

Running from 8 June and finishing on 19 July, the campaign has delivered a coordinated programme of activity in each of Sandwell's six towns – Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Wednesbury, West Bromwich and Tipton, with activity currently underway in Smethwick during this final week.

The campaign has brought together the council, police, fire service and partners to take visible, joined-up action on the issues that matter most to residents. Across Sandwell, teams carried out enforcement activity, tackled anti-social behaviour and environmental issues, and worked with young people to raise awareness of crime and safety.

Each week focused on a different town, providing increased patrols, clean-up activity and opportunities for residents to speak directly with local services.

Now, with activity taking place in Smethwick, residents will continue to see a strong local presence and action based on what matters most to their communities.

Safer 6 builds on the work that takes place year-round, showing that we are listening to residents and taking tough action.

Through the Safer Sandwell Partnership, this joined-up approach is delivering real results. Knife crime has fallen by 26% over the past two years, while serious youth violence and knife-enabled crime have dropped by 45% from peak levels, with the most harmful offences reduced by up to two-thirds. Go to **www.sandwell.gov.uk/safer6** for details of activities held across our six towns.



Please report all incidents. Your voice is vital in keeping Sandwell safe. Reporting concerns helps target action where it's needed most.



Call **999** in an emergency, or **101** for non-emergencies or online at **www.westmidlands.police.uk**

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111 or **www.crimestoppers-uk.org**

Sandwell Council Community Safety:
www.sandwell.gov.uk/community-safety

Sandwell Council ASB Team:
0121 368 1166 (option 4) or **www.sandwell.gov.uk/asb**

Thank you to everyone who supported Safer 6. Together, we can continue to make Sandwell safer.

Your Sandwell Herald:

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There is a lot to be proud of in Sandwell

I was born in Sandwell and have lived and worked here all my life, so it is an honour and a privilege to be elected as the new Leader of Sandwell Council.

There is a lot to be proud of in Sandwell and, alongside my new Cabinet, we are totally committed to making our borough an even better place to live and work.

We are going to work hard for all our residents and to bring our community together.

Sandwell Council has just been named the Most Improved Council in the country, and I want to thank the council officers working hard for people in our borough.

We want to build on this, and will focus on the issues that matter to people in Sandwell: creating jobs, boosting our town centres and high streets, and helping with the cost of living.

I'm very proud of our community in Sandwell, and we will celebrate what makes our six towns great. Alongside that, we want to take tough action against those who are caught fly-tipping or engaging in anti-social behaviour and let everyone else down.

In the coming months you will see more about how the council is working to make things better for you.



Councillor Ray Nock
Leader of Sandwell Council

Sandwell's new Cabinet



Councillor Ray Nock

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth

Small and medium size businesses are the lifeblood of Sandwell's economy, and we want to help businesses to grow and prosper.

I've seen first-hand the difference that getting the right education makes, and we want to set people up for success by helping them get the right skills to benefit from the new jobs and opportunities being created by regenerating our towns.

We will represent Sandwell on the regional and national stage, bringing in investment and making sure our voice is heard and that we have a seat at the table when fighting for what Sandwell needs.



Councillor Mona Khurana

Cabinet Member for Children and Families

I want to keep building on the recent Ofsted judgement that our children's services are rated 'Good'. Our young people are the future of our borough and we want every child in Sandwell to have the right support from birth through to becoming a young adult.

We will ensure children in Sandwell are safe and protected, and we are working hard to continue to improve the support we provide to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



Councillor Bob Jones

Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement

I want to create a borough where residents feel safe as they go about their lives, knowing that they can live, work and shop in low-crime neighbourhoods.

We will invest in making our borough greener by maintaining our parks and open spaces. We will pursue those who commit environmental crimes such as fly-tipping, ensuring that those who let Sandwell down are brought to justice.

We will make our streets and towns safer, and we will continue to invest in having some of the best maintained roads in the country.



Councillor Ritchie Massey

Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing

I want to build on the recent CQC judgement that our adult social care services are rated 'Good' and oversee services that support people when they need it.

Working with the NHS and our partners, we want to provide the right care, at the right time and in the right place for those who need it, including older people and those with disabilities.

We'll continue to put the spotlight on the issues that affect people's health, like our award-winning men's mental health campaign, 'You ok, mate?' Too many people in Sandwell suffer from poor health early in their lives and die too soon as a result. By focussing on prevention, we will invest to stop problems before they start, or at the earliest possible stage, so that people here are enabled to live longer and healthier lives.



Councillor Jack Sabharwal

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Sandwell has one of the youngest populations in the UK, which means we have huge potential to grow the workforce of the future and set people up to succeed. I look forward to harnessing the skills, talent, ideas and enthusiasm of all our young people.

We will keep the focus on running good schools and help all parts of the community to leave school with the qualifications that will give them the best chance in life.

We are working with employers, and creating opportunities so that young people can move confidently from education into good-quality jobs.



Councillor Gary Dale

Statutory Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services

I wanted to become a councillor to make sure that every penny of public money is spent on the things that matter.

By managing our public finances responsibly, we will protect vital services. At the same time, we will drive changes across the council to be more efficient and make sure we are providing the right services in the right way for our residents.



Councillor Ken Parsons

Deputy Leader (Political), Cabinet Member for Housing

Sandwell has one of the largest council housing stocks in the country, and I want to ensure that local tenants live in safe, well-maintained homes with responsive customer support.

We are making big changes to the way we manage repairs and making sure that tenants have a say in the issues that affect them.



Councillor Michael Cooper

Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Neighbourhoods

By working directly with councillors and residents, I want to improve day-to-day services and resolve issues before they develop into larger problems. By working with our communities on the things that matter to them, we can improve daily life for everyone in Sandwell.

We want to provide consistently good customer service, so that the way you contact the council works for you and, no matter how you get in touch, you get the support you need.

We will celebrate Sandwell's rich heritage and culture, helping to make it a great place to live and work through our programme of council events and our network of libraries, museums and archives.

Improving parks and green spaces

Sandwell Council continues to invest in parks and green spaces across the borough.



You have told us how much these sites mean to you, and we are building on recent improvements to ensure residents have access to safe, welcoming and high-quality outdoor spaces. We are proud to have 16 Green Flag-awarded parks and green spaces across Sandwell's six towns.

Work has now started on a brand-new community pavilion at Hydes Road Playing Fields, representing an investment of £1.25million (supported by Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership). The new facility will include modern changing rooms and flexible community space for local people and sports groups to enjoy.

Residents will also see improvements at Lightwoods Park, where upgrades to the popular play area and bandstand are being delivered through a further £100,000 investment.

At Dartmouth Park, £25,000 of refurbishment works to the pavilion are underway, including repainting and improving toilets. In addition, improvement works to the park's water play area are progressing, with the facility expected to reopen this summer following a £30,000 upgrade.

Across the borough, further investment of around £500,000 will soon deliver a range of improvements to local play areas, helping create more attractive and inclusive spaces for children and families.

Meanwhile, works are planned at Charlemont Playing Fields, where £90,000 is being invested to improve parking facilities and entrance points to the site.

The government's Pride in Place funding will also support parks and green spaces.

Did you know? You can hire out meeting rooms and facilities at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, Dartmouth Park and West Smethwick Park for events and activities?

To find out more and make a booking, email visitor_services@sandwell.gov.uk or call **0121 569 3070** for Sandwell Valley, and wsp_project@sandwell.gov.uk or **0333 188 2229** for Dartmouth Park and West Smethwick Park.

Finally, please keep everyone safe and protect our natural habitats by not having fires or barbecues in our parks and open spaces. Please take your litter home or use bins provided to help us keep these places tidy for everyone, reduce fire risks and protect wildlife from harm.



www.sandwell.gov.uk/pspos

Open water warning – please stay safe!

Stay safe this summer and please only swim in purpose-built, supervised swimming pools.

Lakes, pools, ponds, canals and rivers may seem inviting on a warm summer's day, but please don't be tempted to swim in them.

People can often misjudge their swimming ability. Even in hot weather, water can be icy cold a few feet beneath the surface and very quickly cause severe cramp and hypothermia.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/watersafety for more advice.



New mayoral team launches charity appeal

Councillor Margaret Sutton is the new Mayor of the Sandwell and Councillor Nathan Williams is the new Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Sutton, who represents Great Barr, Tamebridge and Yew Tree ward, will be raising money for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and Sandwell Victim Support. Her Mayoress for the year is Zoe Gallagher.

On becoming Mayor, Councillor Sutton praised her family for their support and encouragement, and she highlighted the importance of family and how much people are shaped by their parents and upbringing.

She said: "It is a huge honour, and I am looking forward to meeting many people and visiting many organisations and groups which work so hard in our communities. I look forward to representing all our residents and celebrating all that makes Sandwell the place it is today."

The Mayor is the first citizen of the borough. While the role is non-political, the Mayor presides over meetings of the council, attends events across Sandwell and also represents the borough at functions outside Sandwell.

Email mayors_parlour@sandwell.gov.uk or call 07388 386 459 for details on how to invite the Mayor to an event or how to make a donation to the Mayor's charities.



Careers website

Sandwell Careers Service's website is designed to make it easier for young people to explore their career ideas, the wealth of opportunities available to them and take the next step in their careers journey.

Sandwell Careers Service provides pathways into education, employment (including apprenticeships) or training.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/CareersService to find out more.

Sandwell
Careers Service

Sign up to our e-newsletters

Get news, events and information about everything from health to bin collections with our email updates.

We have also recently launched town newsletters with dedicated news for each of our six towns and a SEND e-bulletin to keep everyone updated on Sandwell's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Programme.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates for more information on how to sign up.



Here to help 24/7 with MySandwell

You can request council services and report problems to the council 24/7 with MySandwell –

www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwell

Pay your rent or Council Tax, apply for benefits, report anti-social behaviour, apply to join the housing register, report a housing repair, book an appointment at the tip, ask about school places and much more. Going online can save you time and money on phone calls or travel costs. Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk to find out more.

You can also pay bills online at www.sandwell.gov.uk/paybills or by phone, by credit or debit card on 0300 456 0514.

New council phone number coming soon!

We're making it easier for you to get in touch with us by phone when you need to. Soon we'll be launching a new, single telephone number for most enquiries.

Look out for more information on our website and social media channels soon. For now, please keep using the numbers below.

Adult social care or urgent help for someone vulnerable: 0121 569 2266
Births, marriages, deaths and Register Office: 0121 368 1188
Children's services or to report a child at risk: 0121 569 3100
Council Tax and benefits: 0121 368 1155
Education benefits: 0121 569 8186/8189
Housing enquiries (including homelessness and rough sleepers): 0121 368 1166
Housing repairs: 0121 569 6000
Highways, bins, recycling and other environmental services: 0121 368 1177
Pay bills (by debit or credit card): 0300 456 0514
Welfare Rights Team: 0121 569 3158



Sandwell Police update

Chief Superintendent Kim Madill KPM*, Sandwell Police commander, gives an update on policing and partnership work.

"This summer has seen the return of Safer 6 which has highlighted the work that we are doing day in, day out.

Our key focuses have been joint enforcement operations, tackling anti-social behaviour, engaging with local community groups and keeping your roads safe by cracking down on vehicle crime.

The campaign has emphasised our partnership working with Sandwell Council and other organisations that we continue to maintain throughout the year.

We've been taking tough action against high street stores in our community which are funding organised crime through sales of illicit goods and fuelling anti-social behaviour and violence.

Suspected drug dealers have been arrested and counterfeit tobacco and illegal vapes have been seized as we work with partners including Trading Standards, HM Revenue & Customs and UK Visas and Immigration.

Throughout the summer months, we will continue to have a presence on our high streets, and we would urge you to keep speaking to us about any issues in your local area. If you tell us about any suspicious activity or any problem areas, then we will act on it.

Our main aim is to keep Sandwell safe and welcoming for everyone, but our message is clear – we do not tolerate any criminal behaviour in the borough."

Stay updated by following the 'Sandwell Police' Facebook page or by signing up at www.wmnow.co.uk for free email updates.

*In the King's Birthday Honours List this year, Kim received the King's Police Medal (KPM) through her inspirational leadership and dedicated service across almost three decades within the force.



If you're worried about a child, speak out

Children living with domestic abuse are not just witnesses – they are victims in their own right. As a community, we all have a role to play in keeping them safe.

In Sandwell, we are asking residents, neighbours and organisations to be the eyes and ears for children who may be at risk. Changes in behaviour, frequent absences from school, signs of fear or unexplained injuries can all be warning signs that a child needs help.

We must also remain alert to hidden harms, including forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), which can place children at serious risk of harm. These issues may be difficult to see, but early action can save lives and protect futures.

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts. You don't have to be certain – raising a concern could make all the difference.

By working together and looking out for one another, we can help ensure every child in Sandwell grows up safe, supported and free from abuse.

In Sandwell, support is available for anyone affected by domestic abuse.

Help is available from **Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA)** on 0121 552 6448 (24/7).

For specialist support, call Ask Marc (for men and boys) on 0121 289 6402, Birmingham LGBT Centre on 0121 643 0821 or Sandwell Council's Housing Solutions Team on 0121 368 1166, Option 2.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/domesticabuse for more information.

To report a child at risk, call 0121 569 3100.



Stay vigilant this summer

This summer, Counter Terrorism Policing West Midlands are reminding you to stay vigilant when you head out with your family and friends.

Our region has another great summer of events planned, including music festivals, food festivals, World Cup fan zones and many more. We want you to enjoy those events safely, which is why we're encouraging you to stay alert and report suspicious behaviour. We're asking you to look out for each other and, if you see or hear something that doesn't feel right, report your concerns to police or security where you are straight away.

You can also report in confidence at gov.uk/ACT Always call 999 in an emergency.

Let's keep each other safe this summer.



Action on hate crime

Work to end hate crimes across Sandwell continues.

You can report hate crimes – as either a victim or a witness – to police by calling 101 or at www.westmidlands.police.uk

Phone 999 only if a crime is in progress, offenders are nearby or a life is in danger.

If you do not want to talk to the police, you can go to any of 47 hate crime reporting centres across Sandwell. These include community centres, Family Hubs and all Sandwell libraries.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/hatecrime to search for your nearest centre. Trained staff will listen to you without judgement and share information with police for them to investigate and to record official crime statistics.

By sharing your experience, you may stop others from becoming a victim.

Help mark 40 years of support with Black Country Women's Aid

This year, Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA) is proudly marking 40 years of supporting individuals and families affected by domestic abuse and violence across our communities.

We're inviting people across Sandwell to be part of BCWA's '40 for 40th' campaign. There are lots of ways to get involved, from taking on a summer skydive and joining the 'Cut Out Abuse' canal walk, to hosting a cake sale or creating your own 40-themed fundraiser.

Funds raised through the campaign will directly support BCWA's Children and Families Service, helping to provide vital support to those who need it most.

Email fundraising@blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk or call 0121 553 0090 to get involved.



Be the difference a child needs – foster with Sandwell

Across the country, more children than ever need safe and loving homes – but there simply aren't enough foster carers. Here in Sandwell, we want to change that.

We know that deciding to become a foster carer is a big decision. Most people tell us they've been thinking about it for a long time – which is completely understandable. It often starts with a conversation or just a feeling, when you realise you could make a real difference.

That's what happened with Katy. After years of thinking about it, and a life change at work, she took that step and it changed her life.

Katy started off talking about fostering with her family, but it was a conversation with one of the parents at the school where she worked that really convinced her.

Katy explains:

“She said, ‘it’s the best job ever – it’s brilliant’, and she explained a bit about what she did and we decided to go for it.

“So, we went to an information evening run by Sandwell Children’s Trust, and it was fab! We met some foster carers, chatted to a social worker and we knew then what the journey would look like for us as foster carers.”



If you've been thinking about fostering with Sandwell, you will get all the support and training to become part of Sandwell's biggest family.

To find out more, visit www.fostersandwell.co.uk and select 'Enquire about fostering today' to start your journey. Or you can email hello@fostersandwell.co.uk or call **0800 358 0899**.



You can also hear more of Katy's inspiring story in her own words by visiting the Foster Sandwell homepage at www.fostersandwell.co.uk to listen to the Black Country Radio fostering special podcast.

Katy's whole family are now committed to life as foster carers and have welcomed several children into their home, which Katy is convinced has also had a beneficial effect on her own children, as they have learned to share and understand why some children behave differently.

Of course, the first child they cared for will always be a memory for Katy.

Katy says: **“She was this tiny timid thing when she came to stay with us. When she left, she had become a confident little girl. When she came to us, she could hardly step down steps. When she looked around the playground it was just like, ‘what do I do with these things?’.**

“And by the end she was jumping, running, climbing trees, all sorts. And that is why it’s just the most rewarding thing that you can do.”

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FOSTERING?

Let's have a chat!

 **Foster**
Sandwell
fostersandwell.co.uk
0800 358 0899



Pride in Place regeneration programmes across Sandwell

PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

Regeneration efforts are gathering pace across Sandwell, with new Pride in Place programmes worth a potential £60million in total now underway in Smethwick, Friar Park and Tividale.

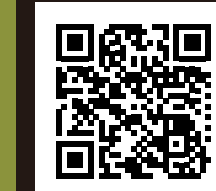
Each programme is worth up to £20million and designed to put local communities at the heart of long-term improvements.

Smethwick

Following government approval of a 10-year Regeneration Plan in April 2026, the Smethwick Partnership Board has moved swiftly to begin delivering investment.

The Board launched its first funding round on 1 July, inviting applications from local groups and organisations for projects that will benefit Smethwick communities.

Grants ranging from £500 to £25,000 are available to support initiatives that make a positive difference locally.



Find out more and to apply,
visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/smethwickpfn
or scan the QR code.

Friar Park and Tividale

Elsewhere in Sandwell, the Pride in Place programmes for Friar Park (announced September 2025) and Tividale (announced February 2026) are now starting to take shape.

Neighbourhood boards have now been established in both areas, putting local people at the heart of decision-making and giving them a leading role in driving the regeneration process.

A key focus across all three programmes is community engagement.

Over the summer and autumn months, the Friar Park and Tividale Neighbourhood Boards will work closely with residents to understand what matters most to them. This feedback will play a central role in shaping each area's 10-year regeneration plan, ensuring investment reflects local priorities and delivers lasting benefits.

Details of upcoming engagement activities will be shared on the Regenerating Sandwell website, giving residents opportunities to have their say and help shape the future of their communities.

Improved Friar Park Millennium Centre

Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership continues to deliver with the reopening of Friar Park Millennium Centre.

The centre in Friar Park Road officially reopened earlier this month.

The renovated and extended building now offers more facilities for the community, including a community café, a dedicated youth space and a library. The centre also provides additional space for local people to connect.

Residents are encouraged to contact the centre directly for booking information and details of available activities.

In other Levelling Up Partnership projects:

Wednesbury Town Centre:

A building improvement scheme is in its final stages.

Hydes Road Playing Fields:

Construction has started on a new pavilion, which is scheduled to open in 2027. The facility will include changing rooms and a community space.

Friar Park Urban Village:

Preparations are underway for the remediation phase of works. Subject to planning permission, these preparatory works are expected to begin on site in 2027. Details of housing proposals are expected to be ready later this year.



Check out our new-look regeneration website at:
www.regeneratingsandwell.co.uk

Many of our regeneration projects are supported by UK Government funding.

 **Funded by UK Government**

Students name new Tipton apartments

Students from Q3 Academy, Tipton, competed to name two new blocks of council apartments currently being built either side of Union Street.

The winning names were Beacon House and Harmony Court.

In total, Sandwell Council is building 70 new affordable homes for rent in Tipton town centre. Contracts for delivering apartments on the old Flour Mill site have now been let, with work set to begin there this autumn.

Meanwhile, improvements to public spaces along Owen Street are almost finished. Businesses remain open as usual through these works, and we encourage everyone to shop local and support traders. Free parking for up to two hours is available at Albion Street and New Cross Street car parks.

Thanks to residents, businesses and shoppers for their co-operation during these works, which are due to finish by the end of July.

The improvements provide more and improved pedestrian crossings, resurfaced roads and footways, new street lighting, relocated bus stops and a 20mph zone.

The council plans to work with Tipton Shopping Centre, Unity Walk, on ways to improve lighting and introduce greenery through the precinct.

Overgrown trees and vegetation along the canal walkway, off Union Street, will be thinned or removed to promote a safer, attractive route and discourage any anti-social behaviour.

The Tipton Town Centre Regeneration Scheme is supported by £20million of government funding, alongside investment from Sandwell Council.



Artist impression:
ONE Creative environments (ONE)



Central Saint Michael's Sixth Form

AIM HIGHER

FREE TRAVEL FOR ALL STUDENTS

Enrol From 20 August 2026

see. www.centralstmichaels.ac.uk Central Saint Michael's Sixth Form, New Square, West Bromwich B70 7PG

Summer of fun

FOR SANDWELL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A summer full of fun, friendship and new experiences awaits

Sandwell Council's Youth Service is gearing up for another exciting summer, delivering a wide range of free activities for young people across all six towns.

With support from the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, there will be plenty of opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 (up to 25 for those with SEND) to stay active, try something new and connect with others.

This year's programme includes a mix of outdoor and on-the-move activities, from multi-sports and creative sessions to gaming, street art and much more. The Youth Bus will be out in communities, offering a safe and engaging space packed with technology and interactive experiences. We will also have popular features such as skate park coaching and competitions (at Brunswick Park, Britannia Park and Victoria Park, Tipton) alongside the mobile climbing wall for those looking for a challenge.

Activity days in parks

- Wed 22 July and Thu 23 July, 4pm-8pm: Brunswick Park, Wednesbury WS10 9HH
- Wed 29 July and Thu 30 July, 4pm-8pm: Red House Park, Great Barr B43 6NA
- Wed 5 Aug and Thu 6 Aug, 4pm-8pm: Britannia Park, Rowley Regis B65 9HH
- Wed 12 Aug and Thu 13 Aug, 4pm-8pm: Victoria Park, Smethwick B66 3QB
- Wed 19 Aug and Thu 20 Aug, 4pm-8pm: Lion Farm Playing Fields, Oldbury B69 1EA
- Wed 26 Aug and Thu 27 Aug, 4pm-8pm: Victoria Park, Tipton DY4 8SW

Go to www.justyouth.org.uk for full details.

Alongside the summer programme, youth workers will continue to be out in neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces, providing support, advice and positive opportunities. Evening youth clubs will remain open, offering safe places for young people to meet, develop skills and build confidence.

Bigger adventures await those seeking a challenge!

For those wanting a bigger adventure, young people can take part in activity days and residential experiences at Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre in Tipton, where they can try canoeing, climbing, abseiling and archery in a supportive environment.

Celebrating young women

As part of our wider offer, a special young women's event will take place at Oak House Museum in West Bromwich on **Thursday 20 August**. This event will provide a safe and welcoming space for young women to join together, celebrate their achievements and take part in creative and wellbeing-focused activities.

It will also offer the chance to meet support services and connect with the 'Girl Code' group, which meets regularly to build confidence, friendships and support networks.

Memories, Friendship, Fun

ACTIVITIES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Explore, Create, Connect

ACTIVITIES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Welcoming, Accessible, Fun

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Families can look forward to an exciting summer with the Sandwell Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, offering free holiday activities across Sandwell. From sports and games to arts, drama and family sessions, there is something for everyone along with nutritious meals to keep children fuelled for the fun.

HAF is all about helping children and young people stay active, try new things, build confidence and make new friends during the school holidays. With safe, welcoming activities designed for different ages, interests and needs, every child can feel included and have a great time.

Parents and carers can feel confident knowing their children are safe, supported, learning new skills and making happy summer memories.

To find out more about eligibility, local providers and how to book a place, visit the HAF website. Don't miss the chance to be part of a fun, active, HAFastic summer in Sandwell.

holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk



Scan for info

This summer, we're celebrating the power of play in everyday life.

Play can happen anywhere and it transforms children's happiness and wellbeing.

Join in with Go Play sessions for fun, **free** activities all summer, to spark imagination and turn everyday spaces into places to play. Help us create inclusive, child-friendly communities where every child belongs.

Get involved and be part of a more playful Sandwell. Give children the time, space and freedom to play – here, there and everywhere.

Ready to play?

Scan the QR code to check out our **free** summer events.



GOPlaysandwell.co.uk

GOPlay_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk



Provided By Sandwell Council Play Service

Sandwell Best Start Family Hubs

Families can make the most of the summer holidays with a wide range of free activities offered through Best Start Family Hubs, including support for expectant parents and families with babies.

Designed to support children, young people and parents, the programme includes fun sessions such as arts and crafts, stay and play, storytelling, baby groups and family fun days.

Friendly staff and partner agencies are on hand to provide advice on pregnancy, early development, childcare, health and family wellbeing, helping parents feel supported throughout the school break.

Whether you're looking to keep little ones entertained, connect with other parents-to-be, meet local families or access practical support, there's something for everyone. Sessions are welcoming, inclusive and tailored to all stages of family life, making it easy to drop in and join the fun.

To find out what's happening near you, visit your local Best Start Family Hub or Family Hub Spoke.

Visit www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com to find out more.

Information for families

Sandwell Family Information Service (FIS) offers free, impartial information to families with children from birth to 19 years (or up to 25 years with a special educational need or disability), young people and professionals.

FIS can support you to help find the right childcare provider, help with childcare applications and answer any other childcare-related queries.

Visit the FIS Hub fis.sandwell.gov.uk for national and local services, activities and advice pages.

The hub includes the Sandwell All Age Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Directory which provides a wide range of local, regional and national support services for children, young people and their families.



FREE

activities

for Sandwell families with children aged 5-12

LEARN EXPLORE PLAY DISCOVER IMAGINE WITH Choices

Nature walks, arts and crafts, growing food and gardening, cooking, fishing, sports games and lots more!

LIMITED SPACES, BOOK NOW!

www.healthysandwell.co.uk/choices

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council HEALTHY SANDWELL

READ to the BEAT

Summer fun at Sandwell libraries

Sandwell Libraries celebrate in style this summer with our Read to the Beat Summer Reading Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages repeated visits to libraries across the summer holidays, with fun incentives and stickers for taking part and a certificate and medal for all children who complete the challenge. Aimed at children aged 4+, Read the Beat incorporates the magic of music with the joy of reading.

For younger audiences, all libraries will be holding interactive Play, Talk, Read sessions and, if you are lucky, you may see our very own Sandy Bear as he tours around the libraries. We will also be running a special Summer Reading Challenge for under 4s.

Every library will have a packed programme of storytelling, games and crafts – fun for all the family.

Contact your local library for their full programme – find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/librariesonline and www.visitsandwell.com and search 'Sandwell Libraries' on Facebook.

Read to the Beat artwork © The Reading Agency 2026



Visit www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for more information on the Summer Reading Challenge.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/librariesonline to find out more.

Summer fun at Sandwell Museums

Sandwell Museums has a season of great family fun this August with free and affordable activities – from getting dirty with archaeology fun to arts and crafts, dancing, drumming, star spotting and loads more.

Find full details and listings at www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums and follow us on social media @sandwellmuseums.



Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums to find out more.

Highlights include:

- National Playday event with Go Play: Bromwich Hall** – Monday 3 August, 12 noon to 4pm
- African Drumming Workshop: Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery** – Wednesday 5 August, 11am to 3pm (booking essential)
- Bollywood Dance Workshop: Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery** – Wednesday 12 August, 11am to 3pm (booking essential)
- Wonder Dome Planetarium: Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery** – Thursday 20 August, 11am to 3pm with shows throughout the day (booking essential)
- Big Family Performance Showcase: Haden Hill House and Park** – Sunday 16 August, 12 noon to 4pm

A great day out in Sandwell

Visit Forge Mill Farm and Sandwell Valley Country Park this summer.

Enjoy local outdoor fun and make lasting memories at Sandwell Valley Country Park, which spans over 1,800 acres.

Follow us at @SandwellValleyCountryPark and @ForgeMillFarm for the latest updates, news and events.

Explore attractions such as Forge Mill Farm, the Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, an adventure playground, cycling trails and scenic walks.

Meet the animals, explore and play at Forge Mill Farm with four new 'Have a Go' zones and a summer full of fun!

It's a fantastic educational destination for families and school groups, offering farm trails, interactive activities, Rare breed animal including sheep, donkeys, alpacas and Highland cows and a farm shop.



Go to www.visitsandwell.com to check out all the activities and events on offer at Sandwell Valley Country Park and across Sandwell.

Leisure centres and free swimming

There's lots of summer fun on offer at our leisure centres – with Kore Sandwell (formerly Sandwell Leisure Trust) and Places Leisure.

Check out a wide range of children's activities, including free swimming – which is available for Sandwell children aged 18 and under during designated sessions in school holidays. For Kore Sandwell centres – Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Tipton Leisure Centre and Wednesbury Leisure Centre – go to www.korewellness.co.uk or call 0300 012 0121.

For West Bromwich Leisure Centre, go to www.placesleisure.org and search 'West Bromwich Leisure Centre' or call 0121 580 6430.

WHATEVER THE EXAM RESULTS, WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Not sure what to do next? Better or worse results than you expected?

Get specialised careers information, advice and guidance on weekdays: Thursday 13 August to Friday 28 August, 10am to 4pm
Not including Bank Holiday Monday 24 August
www.sandwell.gov.uk/CareersService
careers_service@sandwell.gov.uk
0121 569 2955

GET IN TOUCH



SANDWELL COLLEGE

A CAREERS COLLEGE

FUTURE READY SKILLS

**FREE
TRAVEL
FOR ALL
SCHOOL
LEAVERS**

[Sandwell.ac.uk/enrol](https://sandwell.ac.uk/enrol)

ENROL FROM **20 AUGUST**

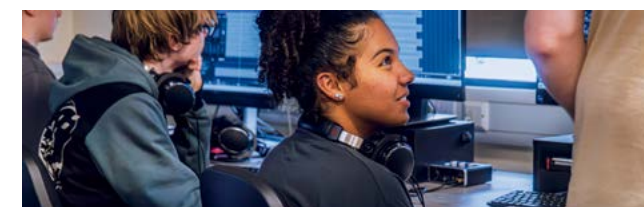


KING EDWARD VI COLLEGE
STOURBRIDGE

Open Events 2026

Thursday 15 October (5pm - 9pm)

Saturday 17 October (10am - 3pm)



**38
SUBJECTS**

Select 3 or 4 subjects to create your own perfect combination



Bespoke support for Oxbridge, medicine and other selective routes



More 1st class degrees gained at university than state or independent schools



99.1% pass rate 2025



Award winning careers guidance



Amazing trips around the globe



College transport for remote areas with insufficient public transport



Over 80 enrichment clubs and societies



Top industry guest speakers



Top 50 Sixth Form in the UK



Discover Your Place

SANDWELL COLLEGE
A CAREERS COLLEGE

ADULT COURSES

ENROL NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

OUR RANGE OF COURSES:

ESOL & Essential Skills

English & Maths

Management Training

Health and Social Care

Hair & Beauty

Construction & Trades

Teaching, Counselling & Mentoring

And more...

FIND OUT MORE: [SANDWELL.AC.UK/ENROL](https://sandwell.ac.uk/enrol)

Discover new walks in Sandwell!

Enjoy local walks at your own pace!



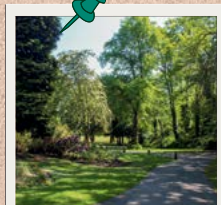
Oldbury



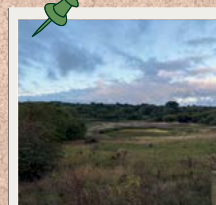
Rowley Regis



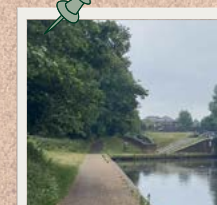
Smethwick



Wednesbury



West Bromwich



Tipton

Whether you're looking for a new park or greener routes near home, there's a walk for everyone.

For more information about walking, visit:
www.healthysandwell.co.uk/walking
 or scan the QR code!



GET PROTECTED AGAINST MEASLES



VACCINES ARE FREE AND SAFE

All children over the age of one year should have **two doses** of the MMR vaccine. The first dose is usually given at one year of age and the second dose is now given at 18 months.

If you didn't have the MMR vaccinations as a child, older children and adults can still have the vaccine, as long as there is a one month gap between the two vaccinations.

You need 2 doses of the MMR vaccine for lifelong protection.

Call your GP practice to book your vaccine!

For more information about vaccines, visit:
www.healthysandwell.co.uk/vaccines
 or scan the QR code!



Cancer screening saves lives

Screening can detect cancer early, often before symptoms appear.

Early detection usually means simpler treatment and better outcomes, giving people a stronger chance of recovery.

Local health teams are making screening more accessible, with trained staff ready to support anyone with concerns.

If you're invited for screening, please take up the offer.



Don't carry the worry
of cancer with you

Clear on
cancer Help us
help you

Sandwell Council has been awarded Campaign of the Year at the 2026 Local Government Chronicle Awards for its impactful public health men's mental health campaign, 'You ok, mate?'

Built on real stories from local men, the campaign has reached over two million people, helping to open up conversations around men's mental health across Sandwell.

Thank you to everyone involved, particularly to the men who bravely shared their stories and our partners for helping us take this message into the community.

www.healthysandwell.co.uk/youokmate



Do you or does someone you know need support with mental wellbeing?



Go to www.healthysandwell.co.uk/mental-health-services-directory for details of support available.

For urgent mental health support, call NHS 111 and select option 2.

Get help with drugs and alcohol

If you are concerned about your drug use or your relationship with alcohol, support is available.

Adults aged 18+ can access advice, treatment, and ongoing support through Cranstoun, including help from Recovery Navigators based in community settings who can connect you to activities and peer networks.

You can self-refer via the Cranstoun website www.cranstoun.org, email sandwell.referrals@cranstoun.org or call 0121 553 1333.

For under 18s, DECCA provides tailored one-to-one counselling, advice and guidance. Referrals can be made by you or a professional via DECCA's website www.ourguideto.co.uk, by phone 0121 569 2203 or by text 07781 472 746.

Where would you go with £2,730?

That's the **average saving in 6 months*** for a smoker who successfully quits.

Quitting is tough, but with our **FREE to access expert help**, you are **3x more likely** to succeed.

Our programme is for people aged 12+ who live, work or are registered with a GP in Sandwell, and includes:

- Personalised 1-2-1 support
- Access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy
- Flexible appointments
- Access to the StopForLife app

*Based on smoking 20 cigarettes a day at £15 per pack

Stop
For
Life
Sandwell by ice

Whether it's your first quit or you've tried before



StopForLifeSandwell.org

0800 612 4580



Stay safe in the hot weather



Stay hydrated and drink plenty of water throughout the day



Stay in the shade and cover up - especially between 11am and 3pm when the sun is strongest



Use sunscreen before going out and reapply every 2 hours while you are out in the sunshine



Check in on family and friends - particularly anyone who is isolated, ill or very young

For more information about staying safe in the sun, visit:
www.healthysandwell.co.uk/hot-weather
 or scan the QR code!



Top tips to keep your family healthy and happy

1 Sugar swaps

Swap fizzy drinks, juice drinks and flavoured milks for water, lower-fat milks and no added sugar drinks.



2 Me-sized meals

Remember kids are smaller than adults so give them a smaller portion to begin with, if they're still hungry they'll ask for more.



3 Snack smart

Sugary snacks can all add up! When choosing packaged snacks, stick to two a day max. But remember, fruit and vegetables are always the best snack.



4 Eating out

When eating out look for child-friendly options that include fruit and vegetables. Try to avoid bigger portion sizes such as "go large" or "supersize" deals.



5 Get going every day

Kids need 60 active minutes each day. This can be in short 10 minute bursts throughout the day, try scootering to school, skipping to the shops, or dancing to a song. Keep track of screen time - many parents find it helpful to set a daily limit.



Want more tips to help you stay healthy and happy?

Search **Change4Life**

change
4 life

A shared strategy for a healthier tomorrow

Focussed on improving health outcomes for the people of Sandwell, the Trust that runs the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital has launched a new NHS group healthcare strategy for patients across the Black Country as the group encompasses Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust and The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

Adam Thomas, Group Chief Strategy and Digital Officer, explained:

Fit for the Future is our collective commitment to improving health, wellbeing, and access to care for the Black Country communities we serve. Over the past year, our two organisations have united behind shared leadership and aligned priorities, working together to tackle challenges that no single organisation could solve alone. Since adopting a Group model in April 2026, we have been combining our expertise and resources to deliver better outcomes for local people.

We know the pressures on the NHS continue to grow. Rising demand, increasingly complex needs, and financial constraints mean that standing still is not an option. Fit for the Future sets out how we will build a modern, resilient, and sustainable NHS for our communities.

Our population has told us what matters most to them, namely timely access, clear pathways, compassionate care, and services designed around specific needs. Our strategy responds directly to this and aligns with the national 10-year plan, focusing on three major shifts, moving care closer to home, prioritising prevention, and embracing digital innovation.

These changes are already underway. SWB NHS Trust has introduced pioneering innovations, including the region's first Aquablation therapy to remove excess prostate tissue with minimal side effects and England's first AI-supported radiology referral vetting system, whilst The Dudley Group's virtual ward programme has supported more than **2,200** patients at home, freeing up thousands of bed days and reinvesting **£200,000** each month into patient care. Additionally, the Black Country Lung Cancer Screening Programme is being recognised nationally for transforming early cancer detection, with hundreds of lives already being saved. Already across both Trusts, we have detected **144 lung cancers (90% of those were detected at stage 1 or stage 2), and 35 'other' cancers** including breast, renal and urological. And in total so far, we have **completed 33,352 lung health checks leading to 13,589 baseline scans.**

Our strategy is built on four commitments: Community First, Prevention Through Partnerships, Focus on People and Culture, and Make Money Matter. Through these, we will redesign services, strengthen our workforce, and work with partners to create healthier neighbourhoods.

Check out www.swbh.nhs.uk and follow on socials to find out when we are next hosting a conversation locally. Make an appointment by contacting the booking teams on the following telephone numbers Sandwell: **0121 817 5449** or Dudley: **01385 884384.**



To lead by example, an accessible society without barriers

SANDWELL DEAF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Support Services

Our Specialist Deaf Complex Needs Service supports independence, stability, and wellbeing. From short-term crisis help to long-term care and support, we empower people to live full and independent lives in their community.

www.sdca.co.uk

✉ info@sdca.co.uk

☎ 07885 913225



Registered charity number 1124084



Plea to #CutItBack to help blind and partially sighted people

Sandwell Visually Impaired (SVI) is urging residents to do their part in keeping local pavements and footpaths safe, as overgrown hedges and trees continue to pose daily hazards for blind and partially sighted people.

The charity is supporting the national #CutItBack campaign, led by Sight Loss Councils and the Thomas Pocklington Trust, which encourages everyone to take simple steps to make streets more accessible. SVI says that vegetation blocking pavements can cause injuries and, in some cases, force people with sight loss into the road.

Residents can help by cutting back their own hedges, speaking to neighbours about overgrown greenery, and reporting concerns through their MySandwell account or by calling **0121 368 1177**.

Sandwell Council's grounds maintenance team carries out an annual hedge cutting programme between September and February – avoiding the bird nesting season – covering around 350 hedges across the borough. The service also responds to reports throughout the year, prioritising cases where public safety or access may be affected.

The council's highways team investigates concerns about vegetation on private land, contacting owners to ensure it is cut back. So far this year, 150 reports have been investigated, with 123 letters issued and six formal notices served where no action was taken.

SVI hopes the campaign will encourage everyone to play their part in keeping Sandwell's streets safe and accessible for all.

Find out more about Sandwell Visually Impaired at www.sandwellvisuallyimpaired.org.uk or by calling **0121 525 4810**.



Photo courtesy of Sight Loss Councils

A new, simpler way to get support

We're making it easier than ever for residents to get the right help, at the right time.

Our new Adult Social Care Connect service is now the single front door for all adult social care enquiries. When you get in touch, our team will listen and connect you with the most appropriate support, service or information.

Whether you're looking for advice for yourself, a family member or someone you care for, Adult Social Care Connect is here to guide you.

📞 Call 0121 569 2266 (Option 4)

✉ or email asc_connect@sandwell.gov.uk

We've refreshed our Adult Social Care webpages at www.sandwell.gov.uk/adults to help you find information quickly and easily. From understanding what support is available to exploring ways to stay independent at home, everything is now clearer and easier to navigate.

One of the new features we're excited to share is our Virtual House – an interactive tool that lets you explore different rooms and discover equipment that can help you live safely and independently.

Our 24/7 Community Alarms service fits alarms and telecare sensors in the homes of vulnerable and disabled people. Find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/communityalarms or call **0121 569 6800**.

We're committed to making adult social care more accessible, more responsive and easier to understand for everyone in our community.



You can also now apply for or renew a Blue Badge online at www.sandwell.gov.uk/bluebadge

This makes the process faster and more convenient. For anyone who may struggle to apply online, call the Community Offer service on **0121 612 2934** for free support.

Adult Social Care in Sandwell rated 'Good'

Sandwell Council's Adult Social Care service plays a vital role in supporting people to live independently, safely and with dignity.

The service has been rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This rating is testament to the way our staff support and provide care to 4,500 residents in Sandwell.

The CQC inspection highlighted strengths in:

- Care provision, integration and continuity
- Partnership working
- Safeguarding
- Safe systems, pathways and transitions
- Governance, management and sustainability
- Learning, improvement and innovation

The report highlighted strong safeguarding arrangements, visible leadership, effective governance and a clear strategic focus on reducing inequalities.

To build on this 'Good' rating, we are addressing areas for improvement through a detailed action plan, and we are committed to listening to people with lived experience of our services and continuing to improve.



Support for you

Alongside the improvements we're making, we're strengthening the support available in the community.

Our Community Offer service can meet you face to face anywhere in Sandwell to talk through your needs and help you access local activities, wellbeing support and practical help. Visit www.murrayhall.co.uk/ **community-offer** or call **0121 612 2934**.

We've also introduced a new Carers Service to ensure unpaid carers get the advice, support and recognition they deserve. Visit www.sandwellcarers.org.uk or call **0121 798 2372**.



Case study – "this wasn't just a job for her"

Here is just one example of how Sandwell residents are being helped by our Adult Social Care staff:

"I called Adult Social Services for support, and a lovely woman introduced herself as Pally. She was so empathetic, the way she interacted with my dad was just amazing.

Watching her with dad was just phenomenal, you could tell that this wasn't just a job for her, it is a vocation. By the end of her visit, it was as if she and my dad had known each other for years.

I really wanted to let you know that we appreciate EVERYTHING that Pally has done for dad."



FREE JAZZ & BLUES EVENTS IN SANDWELL

Thursday 23 July - Sunday 2 August

WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/JAZZANDBLUES

You can pre-book free tickets to library concerts at www.ticketsource.com/sandwell-libraries-and-archives

Visit Sandwell

BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

SANDWELL

Sandwell

Thursday 23 July	12:30pm	Wednesbury Library	Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band
Friday 24 July	7pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	West Bromwich Indoor Market Blackheath Library Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery	The Sax Pistols Alan Barnes Quartet Playing Django
Saturday 25 July	12 noon 1pm 7:30pm	Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre West Bromwich Central Library	Jump, Jive & Wail Alan Barnes Quartet Tipitina
Sunday 26 July	2pm 2pm	Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath Red Lion, West Bromwich	Slide Boy Roy Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band
Monday 27 July	1pm 7:30pm	New Square, West Bromwich Great Bridge Library	Jake Leg Jug Band Hit Parade Heroes
Tuesday 28 July	7:30pm	Wednesbury Library	Andres Roots (Estonia)
Wednesday 29 July	7:30pm 7:30pm	Cradley Heath Library Red Lion, West Bromwich	The Sax Pistols Andres Roots (Estonia)
Thursday 30 July	7:30pm	Great Barr Library	Django Chutney
Friday 31 July	7pm 7pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	West Bromwich Indoor Market Dartmouth Central Club Bromwich Hall, West Bromwich Bleakhouse Library, Oldbury	Just Doin' It Swing Café The Sax Pistols John Hemming & The Jazz Lobbyists
Saturday 1 August	12 noon 7:30pm	Bromwich Hall, West Bromwich West Bromwich Central Library	Florence Joelle Bruce Adams Quartet
Sunday 2 August	12 noon 2pm 6pm 7pm 7pm	Oak House, West Bromwich Red Lion, West Bromwich Lightwoods House, Bearwood Thimblemill Library, Smethwick Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre	Stuart Maxwell's Blues Raiders Ben Toury (France) Al Nicholls Quartet Smokin' Ade Wakelin Blues Band <i>(Free tickets available on TicketSource)</i>

These listings are correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change.

Learn to Swim

From First Splash to Life Skill

Build confidence in the water
Learn essential life skills
Make friends and have fun

Lessons from baby & preschool through to adult

Locations across Sandwell
Sandwell Aquatics | Portway Lifestyle | Wednesbury Leisure | Tipton Leisure

Find out more at korewellness.co.uk/activities/swimming-lessons



Stay safe in pool and at the beach this summer

KoreSANDWELL

In partnership with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Apprentice Grace takes on new teaching role

A 20-year-old fitness enthusiast from West Bromwich has secured an exciting new role teaching one of the fastest-growing workout trends after completing her apprenticeship.

Grace Espinosa is now a Reformer Pilates instructor at Wednesbury Leisure Centre, part of Kore Wellness, where a £130,000 investment recently introduced a purpose-built studio.

Reformer Pilates delivers low-impact strength, mobility and posture benefits, while the centre's Pilat3s concept enhances sessions with lights, music and screens.

Grace joined Kore as an apprentice in late 2024 and quickly embraced the opportunity. After completing specialist training, she now leads weekly classes, including Align and Power, focusing on flexibility, recovery, strength and endurance.

Previously earning qualifications as a lifeguard, swim teacher and gym instructor, Grace has rapidly developed her career. With a background in dance, she brings passion and energy to her role, reflecting Kore Wellness's commitment to nurturing local talent and creating career opportunities.

Discover the benefits of Reformer Pilates at Kore Wellness and take your fitness to the next level. Visit www.korewellness.co.uk/reformerpilates or call 0300 012 0121 to find out more and sign up today.

YOUR SANDWELL COUNCILLORS

YOUR OLDBURY COUNCILLORS

Bristnall



Liane Winsper
07785 701 805



Amolak Singh Dhariwal
07811 583 956



Jonathan Fox
07785 721 212

Langley



Tuli Zefi
07785 723 225



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Luke Cotterill
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Connor Marshall
07785 777 885



Karl Leech
07785 774 094

Oldbury



Rizwan Jilil
Rizwan_Jilil@sandwell.gov.uk



Suzanne Hartwell
07814 862 104



Nagi Daya Singh
07811 583 817

YOUR ROWLEY REGIS COUNCILLORS

Blackheath



Mona Khurana
07770 483 120



David Williams
07785 700 658



Michael Cooper
07770 470 860

Cradley Heath & Old Hill



Nathan Williams
07785 704 075



Craig Morris
07785 778 565



Mark Johnson
07785 766 778

Rowley



Jeet Taheem
07785 696 056

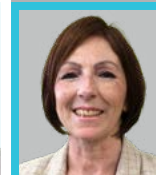


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Tividale



Lou Yates
07785 722 586



Maria Crompton
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YOUR SMETHWICK COUNCILLORS

Bearwood



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John Tipper
07501 066 202



Hilary Grandey
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Smethwick



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Luke Davies
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Soho & Victoria



Mohammed Jalal Uddin
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Farut Shaeen
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St Paul's



Charn Singh Padda
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YOUR TIPTON COUNCILLORS

Great Bridge



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Mark Webb
07785 696 868



Keith Edge
07785 695 770

Princes End



Geoffrey Sutton
07785 793 196



Neil Shirvington
07785 695 950



Gary Dale
07770 494 839

Tipton Green



Matt Lloyd
07785 772 525



Tim Hordley
07785 763 115



Richard Jeffcoat
07442 879 919

YOUR WEDNESBURY COUNCILLORS

Friar Park & Stone Cross



Jack Sabharwal
07770 483 966



Lisa Weaver
07785 695 977



Nick Fawcett
07785 723 552

Hill Top



Aaron Khuttan
07785 772 489



Amaan Husen
07785 766 174



Dean Hollowood
07785 735 207

Wednesbury



Paul Snape
07785 696 141



Owen Nelson
07785 778 737



Jeremy Handley
07785 733 747

YOUR WEST BROMWICH COUNCILLORS

Charlemont & Grove Vale



Rachael Mitchell
07785 771 385



Ray Nock
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Bob Jones
07770 483 903

Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree



Margaret Sutton
07785 696 825



Michaela Allcock
07977 729 107

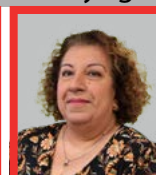


Connor Horton
07380 334 497

Greets Green & Lyng



Jackie Taylor
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Pam Randhawa
07951 861 263



Mohammed Ahad
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Hateley Heath



Stephen Fellows
07785 723 554



Amardeep Singh
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Paul Moore
07969 138 038

Newton & Valley



Elaine Giles
07785 405 486



Kenny Jinks
07785 765 645



Keith Allcock
07970 202 313

West Bromwich Central



Harpal Kaur Tiwana
07861 388 299



Liam Preece
07515 354 967



Tirath Singh Dhatt
07874 660 324

Key to councillors' political parties

- Reform UK
- Labour
- Green
- Independent

Your councillors ARE HERE TO HELP

Your local ward councillors are here to support you.

If you need to check which ward you live in, and search for your local councillors, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/councillors

For more information on councillors, email members_services@sandwell.gov.uk



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council



We know many of our residents are struggling to make ends meet.

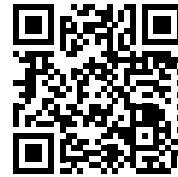
We have a range of support and advice available to support you at www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell

Supporting Sandwell – there's help here if you need it

Our Supporting Sandwell information hub has lots of advice and resources if you're struggling with the cost of living.

Find out more about the help and support we can offer, including:

- Where to find Welcoming Spaces, where you can sit, chat and join in free activities
- How to get help if you're struggling to pay your bills
- How to save money on your water bill
- What to do if you're worried about debt
- Not letting your rent get out of control
- Checking what financial support you maybe entitled to with our Benefits Calculator
- Where to donate a winter coat for someone who needs one.



Get help and advice by visiting our online information hub at www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell



Sandwell Bereavement Services – here to help at the most difficult of times

Sandwell Bereavement Services offer a range of services for the bereaved including:

The Sandwell Funeral Service
Cremation: £1,999

This service includes:

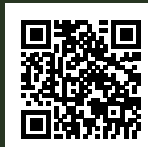
- Your loved one being taken into the care of our funeral director partner, Trinity Funeral Services
- Provision of a coffin and cremation fees paid
- Funeral service at either Sandwell Valley or Rowley Regis Crematorium – chosen by family
- Minister to conduct the service and music choices for the service

Direct Cremation: £1,168

Your loved one will be collected by our funeral director partners Trinity Funeral Services who, with our bereavement service team, arrange for an unattended cremation to take place at one of our crematoria.

Pet Funeral Services

- We provide a special sanctuary where families can say goodbye, as we realise losing a pet can be a very emotional time, with landscaped gardens, burial plots and a range of memorials available.



For more information on all the above or to discuss a burial, please call us on 0121 569 6700 or email us at bereavement_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/bereavement for further information about our services.

Free support | Friendly advice | No wrong door

Smethwick Advice Centre



Open from 1 July at Smethwick Library B66 1AA
Every Wednesday, 9.30am – 2.00pm

Struggling with different issues and wondering where to find support?

Help with money, benefits and jobs – all in one place.

✓ Worried about bills or debt?

✓ Need help with benefits?

✓ Looking for work or training?

Come and talk to us

★ WORDSEARCH ★

★ Win a cream tea for two at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre Tea Rooms, plus a family ticket for Forge Mill Farm (2 adults and 3 children) and a free bag of food for each person to give to the animals. ★

One of the words in the list below cannot be found in the wordsearch.

BUSINESSES
HOLIDAYS
PLAY
FOSTERING
PARKS
SUMMER
JAZZ
BLUES
WALKS
EXAMS
FAMILY

Send us this word along with your name, contact number and address including postcode to:
The Editor, Sandwell Herald,
Communications Unit, Sandwell Council, Oldbury B69 3DE, or you can email the word along with your details to: herald_competition@sandwell.gov.uk by Friday 14 August 2026.

Courtesy of <https://thewordsearch.com>

S	J	Y	N	N	K	U	I	F	S	A	L	A	F
I	A	M	M	U	M	S	O	G	K	A	I	S	O
N	M	M	M	U	N	F	U	O	R	N	O	P	S
S	B	A	Z	S	L	A	I	E	E	H	S	M	T
K	M	E	B	I	F	P	R	X	M	S	M	I	E
L	J	P	U	L	E	L	T	A	M	D	I	L	R
A	R	M	S	I	I	A	S	M	U	D	G	A	I
W	Y	B	I	S	J	Y	S	S	S	O	P	M	N
W	L	M	N	I	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	G
Z	I	S	E	A	L	I	J	Y	A	S	M	E	A
R	M	K	S	U	S	J	S	N	I	T	O	Z	H
S	A	R	S	S	O	A	S	Y	M	P	H	H	P
S	F	A	E	M	A	Z	L	A	R	E	H	D	M
M	H	P	S	A	K	Z	E	E	D	Z	M	L	S

MISSING WORD

NAME

ADDRESS

.....POSTCODE.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

All information will be processed in accordance with UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 and held only for the purposes of this competition. www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotice

First correct entry out of the hat wins the prize.
One entry per person.
Entrants must live or work in Sandwell.
Congratulations to our Sandwell Herald Spring 2026 Wordsearch winner:
Erica Hughes from Smethwick

SAVE FOOD, REDUCE WASTE

PLAN WISELY

- ✓ Check the fridge, cupboards and freezer first as **meals can be planned** around what needs using up.
- ✓ Once you know what's on the menu, **make a shopping list** so you'll buy only the things you need.



FOOD WASTE SAVING TIPS



SHOP SMART

- ✓ Check **special offers**. It's not a bargain if you aren't going to use it before it goes off.
- ✓ If possible, **buy fruit and veg loose** so you take just what you need.

STORE RIGHT

- ✓ Check the packaging for **how to store foods**, most now say where best to put it.
- ✓ If you aren't going to eat foods before they go off, **pop them in the freezer** for another day.



EAT EVERYTHING

- ✓ Love your **leftovers**. Last night's dinner could be lunch the next day.
- ✓ Regularly **check your fridge and cupboards** to see what needs using up. Transform them using recipes online!

- ✓ Find more tips and recipes at www.sandwell.gov.uk/reducewaste or scan QR code



STOP THROWING MONEY IN THE BIN!



YOU COULD SAVE UP TO

£1,000

PER YEAR



Find simple tips to save money and
reduce food waste on page 23 or visit

www.sandwell.gov.uk/reducewaste

serco