

Children's Services

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-2027



**Working
for Children
and Families**
in Solihull



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Foreword

We want Solihull to be a great place for children and young people to live and grow up. This is especially the case if you are a child or young person who has faced challenges in your life that have meant you have come into our care. We need to do the very best by you whilst you grow up and make sure you have the best chance of being safe, happy and productive when you leave care. Being a care experienced person should not get in the way of your success and so we must make sure we give you help and opportunities to you to make this a reality.

We know that across the country, and in Solihull as well, if you have been in care you are less likely to do well at school and go on to college or university, more likely to have difficulties in finding and keeping a job, and more likely to have struggles with your physical and mental health. All of this can affect you for the rest of your life and none of it is your fault. We need to find ways to make things fairer for you.

We want to be a good 'corporate family' for you as children and young people who are or have been in our care. This means making sure that we use every resource we can from within the council, our partners such as those in health, education and business and the wider community to give you the helping hand that you need and deserve to get on in life and not be disadvantaged because you have been in care.

We want to make sure that everyone in the community of Solihull knows that they have an important role to play in helping you to do well in life. We take our responsibilities seriously and will always ask ourselves 'would this be good enough for a child or young person in my family?' because that's how important you are. This strategy sets out how, along with our partners, we are going to deliver that ambition for you as our children and young people.

- Cllr Karen Grinsell, Lead Member for Children and Families
- Paul Johnson, Chief Executive, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Beate Wagner, Director Children and Families Services

Introduction

Welcome to Solihull's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-2027. Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a council and its partners to provide the best possible help, care and protection to children and young people who are in its care and young adults who have experienced its care.

This strategy is written to and for the people who it's designed to help – children and young people in Solihull who may need to come into care for any length of time and those who remain in care and enter adulthood as care experienced young people.

What is a corporate parenting strategy?

In February 2018 The Department for Education published statutory (legal) guidance for Local Authorities for applying corporate parenting principles for children in their care and care experienced young adults. As corporate parents, elected members (councillors) and council officers all have legal responsibility for the wellbeing of children in care and young adults who are care experienced. Elected members play a large part in making sure that council staff and partners in other agencies do what they say they will do as well as taking the corporate parenting role seriously themselves. People employed by the Council (even in jobs that don't involve working directly with children and young people) all have a part to play as well and so do the partner agencies we work with and the businesses in the local area and who the council works alongside.

This Corporate Parenting Strategy describes how the council and its partners, such as housing, health services, police and schools, will act as responsible parents to children and young people living within their care and then moving into adulthood and how the wider community including local businesses can do their part as well and recognise how important it is to do so.

Our vision and values

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's values are to be ambitious, open, honest and keep our promises. The overall vision is for our Borough to be a place where:

“Everyone has an equal chance to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous through growth that creates opportunities for all.”

Making services for children and young people better is an important part of the Council Plan.

In Children's Services, the way we work with you comes from our principles:



This means we want you to do as well as you can and live a safe and happy life. We will work with you and your family in away that offers you lots of help but also challenges you to do your very best as well.

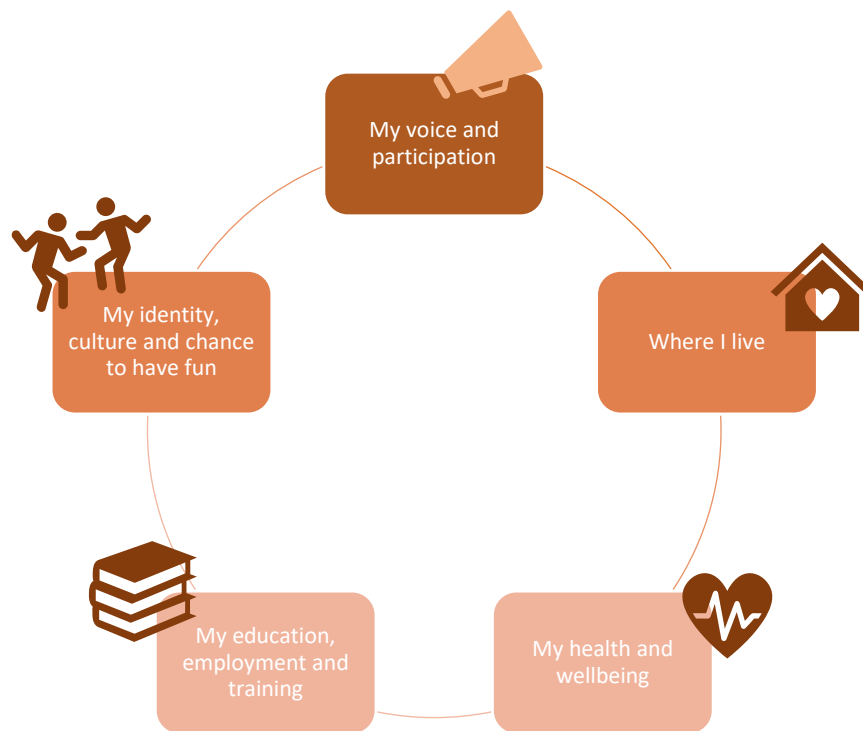
It is our responsibility to make sure that if you are a child or young person who is or has been in our care that we help you to feel safe, happy and secure, have stability in your life, and get the right help to do well into adulthood with a good income, supportive people who are there when you need them, and a place to live that works for you.

Our commitment to supporting our children in care is set out within the Solihull Promise and the support for care experienced young people is set out in our Local Offer.

About this strategy

This is a three year plan, overseen by our Corporate Parenting Board. The Board is chaired by an elected member and is a group of senior people from the council and its partners. It makes sure that work is being done that means the strategy is working and improving things for children and young people and that we are doing the things we say we will though the Promise and Local Offer.

There are five main priorities within this strategy. Each priority has a champions group led by a range of council officers and partners. The groups drive specific areas of work and development based on what you as children and young people have told us you need and want. These are:



The Corporate Parenting Board meets every three months and at each Board, at least one of the Champions Groups will report on progress. The chairs of the groups can expect to be asked questions and set challenges to make sure they are delivering what has been promised for children and young people.

This strategy has been shaped by what young people have told us at different meetings and events and through a survey that was sent to every child and young person in care or with care experience who is being supported by Children's Services and children and young person's own words are used to introduce each section.

How we will deliver this strategy successfully

We will do the following things to give the best chance of the outcomes of this strategy being delivered for children and young people:

- ✓ Making sure leaders are strong in driving things on and helping to sort out anything that gets in the way.
- ✓ Making sure that people working directly with you as children and young people have the right training and support and are challenged to do the very best for you and be ambitious for your futures.
- ✓ Make sure that you as children and young people stay involved in making this strategy work. We will do this by having young people as key members of Champions Groups and Corporate Parenting Board, using the expert knowledge of children and young people who are part of our Children in Care Council: Our Voice Our Services (OVOS), and giving all young people the chance to have their say regularly about how services are working for them.
- ✓ Working closely with our partners and elected members to make sure each Champions Group theme gets the priority it needs to achieve what it sets out to.

Corporate parenting awareness and commitments

We will continue to make sure that everyone who is a corporate parent knows it and does their part. Corporate parenting information is included in information packs provided to all new Council employees. We will also run more 'lunch and learn' sessions to help people from all parts of the Council understand their responsibilities and what they can do, whether that's helping to raise money for OVOS activities or offering work experience, apprenticeships and jobs to care experienced young people and support for them to succeed.

Regular training on what it means to be a corporate parent is also delivered for elected members (councillors). All newly elected members are asked to attend a session and all members encouraged to attend for a refresher of their knowledge so that they are keeping you in mind in all the decisions they make.

Through the Corporate Parenting Board we will ensure that the needs of children in care and care experienced young people are given priority when decisions are being made across all parts of the Council and partnership. This is helped by the fact that both the Council and the Integrated Care Board which manages health services have agreed to treat care experience like a 'protected characteristic'. This means that even more will be done to make sure that nobody of any age is treated differently, given fewer opportunities or less access to services and support because they have been in care.

Community parenting

In 2022, a national Independent Review of Children's Social Care took place. Among many recommendations was a drive to think beyond corporate parenting as the responsibility of those working for councils and their partner agencies and to look to wider communities to support their children in care and care experienced young people and realise that they have a lot to offer as citizens and employees of the future.

There is a strong business community in Solihull with many big employers operating here and keen to help. In November 2023 we held an event at the National Exhibition Centre which brought together care experienced young people, council staff and partners and representatives from local voluntary organisations and businesses. From this a number of

pledges were made and our new Community Parenting Board was formed and met for the first time in February 2024.

The aim of the Board will be to bring together the business community with the Council and its partners to provide tailor made training and employment opportunities for care experienced young people that recognise their experiences, abilities and support needs as well as drawing on resources to help enhance the lives of children in care and care experienced young people in all areas covered by this strategy.

Our priorities for you

Priority 1: Voice and participation

What you have told us

“I need to feel like someone wants to hear what I think and that they’ll do something about it.”

“There’s lots I can tell you about how it is to be in care and then try to make it in the world on your own. It could help other kids going through it now.”

Our vision

You as children and young people in care or with care experience will influence services that you receive from the Council and all of its partners.

We will listen to you and wherever possible act on what you tell us and so the way we do things will be informed by your views on what makes you feel happy, safe and most likely to do well in life.

You as the experts will help us to improve things that matter to you so that we can make a difference for everyone who comes into care.

What are the challenges?

Making sure that we hear your voices and views and make them count without you having to say the same things over and over again to different people.

Making sure that you have the right support (like from an advocate) to help you to have your say and understand your rights and that staff working with you have the right skills to help you share your views.

Following up on feedback from you and letting you know what happens next and why so that you can see that we listened and did something even if we can’t always make all of the changes you suggest.

Making sure that we hear the views of all children and young people no matter where they live, whether they are local or asylum seeking and whether or not they have special educational needs and disabilities.

Key partners for this strategic priority

- OVOS and children and young people
- National Youth Advocacy Service
- Independent Reviewing Officer Service
- Social Work Teams
- Partners in education, health and housing

What we will do

Make sure that the My Voice and Participation Champions Group involves the right people from the different services that may work with you so that all services are informed by your views and this is reported to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Deliver our new Participation Strategy and train staff to be confident in how to talk to you and find out what you think.

Make sure that you know about the Promise to Children in Care and the Local Offer for Care Experienced Young People, where to find these and how to tell us if you don't think we're sticking to them.

Support you to speak to an advocate to help you get your views across about things affecting your life and listen to and act on the feedback from the advocacy service to get a bigger picture of what is important to children and young people.

Develop new ways of finding out what you think and what ideas you have to make things better. This includes using the Mind of My Own app to tell us about your own life and asking all children and young people for their views via a yearly consultation. This will be done in a way that all young people can access whatever their age, ability or language.

Help the Children in Care Council, 'Our Voice Our Services'(OVOS), to represent all children in care and care experienced young people by influencing services and helping with important decisions.

Involve you as children in care and care experienced young people in providing training to staff and carers and interviewing and selecting new staff joining us.

Include at least one care experienced young person as a full member of each of the champions groups driving this strategy.

What success will look like

- ✓ There are system and process in place across the partnership and agencies to capture the voices of children and young people
- ✓ Children and young people are able to see that their feedback has helped to shape how we and others work with them
- ✓ We are able to gain the views of children and young people from different agencies
- ✓ We will reach out to children and young people who may not be currently living in Solihull so they are also involved in our work

What we want to see	How we will know how we're doing
Your views are making a difference to your own plans and the services that all children in care and care experienced young people receive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information showing numbers of children and young people using advocacy services, Mind of My Own and taking part in their reviews. • Children and Young People taking part in annual surveys and the results being used to improve services. • Care Plans and Pathway Plans show active involvement from the child or young person when files are looked at. • Children and young people involved in champions groups and Corporate Parenting Board and OVOS and we can show examples where things you have told us have made a difference. • Our Voice Our Services seeing more children and young people involved and clear examples of where this has made a difference.
Children and young people know their rights are given access to promise and / or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of children and young people who report that their current

local offer documentation by their workers and this is explained.	worker has given them the promise and local offer information and explained it to them. Measured by Independent Reviewing Officers at reviews.
Staff across the partnership are confident in finding out what a range of children and young people think and want.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies working with children and young people are able to share information on what feedback they are getting and what they are doing because of it and this is shared when each champions group reports to the Corporate Parenting Board. • The records that we keep about you show a range of different tools and ways of working are being used that suit your individual needs and abilities.
Things that you tell us are important to you are taken forward by the champions groups and Corporate Parenting Board and things get done as a result.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of how you have been listened to and change has happened. • You helping to decide what should be on the lists to be talked about at champions groups and the Corporate Parenting Board and this happening.

Priority 2: Where I live

What you have told us

A good place to live means: “Having a homely house and being around those who love you.”

“Feeling safe, protected and cosy.”

“I need help to talk to me carers if there are problems.”

“Money is hard when you get your own place so it’s important to get help with benefits as well as all the practical stuff you have to do to run your own home.”

Our vision

As a child or young people in Solihull you will be supported to live within your family. When this is not possible, we will provide a range of homes to meet your needs and will try to keep you in one place and not have to move a lot.

You will be cared for whenever possible within Solihull or very nearby so that you can live in a community you know and be close to people and places that are important to you.

When you are ready to leave care you will live in accommodation that is safe and suitable for you and where you can feel happy, settled and supported.

What are the challenges?

All over the country, and in Solihull as well there are a lot of children and young people in need of good places to live. This means it can be hard to make sure there are enough places to go around.

Often you will need extra help and support because of the things you have gone through. It isn’t always easy to find the right places and people to help you to settle and stay in one place especially if things get difficult. We want you to have a place where your needs are met and you are accepted and helped so that you don’t have to move around a lot.

When you’re ready to live in your own place it needs to be safe, affordable and in a place where you want to be and enough support to make it work. This isn’t always easy to find.

Key partners for this strategic priority

- OVOS and children and young people
- Solihull Community Housing
- Children's Commissioning Service
- Adults and Health Commissioning Service
- Social Work Teams
- Foster Carers and Fostering Service
- Children's Residential Services
- Independent Providers

What we will do

Carry on approving more foster carers in the local community in Solihull.

Get our own residential children’s homes up and running so that if you need this sort of care you can stay close to home, school and important people.

Help to make things work where you are living by giving extra support and working hard with lots of different people to try to stop things from going wrong and you having to move.

Make sure that before you leave care you have the skills to make a good home for yourself and keep a tenancy once you have a place of your own through a new independence skills programme and support from your Personal Advisor.

Work closely with Solihull Community Housing to make sure that the Care Leavers Protocol works well for you if you are ready for a place of your own in Solihull.

Help you to find accommodation outside Solihull if this is what's right for you when you're ready for a place of your own.

What success will look like

What we want to see	How we will know how we're doing
When you come into care you will be able to live in or close to Solihull if this is right for you.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children and young people living 20 miles or over from home • Number of children and young people living outside of Solihull • Number of fostering households available via Solihull's own fostering service.
If you need extra support this will be in a place as close to home as possible and where your needs can be met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children and young people living in Solihull's own residential children's homes. • Children living further away are doing so because their health, educational, wellbeing or cultural needs are better met than they could be in Solihull.
You will not have to move around a lot because we will give you and the people looking after you the right help to make things work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children and young people going through changes of places to live.
You will be ready with the skills you need when you move to a place of your own and this will be planned well in advance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of young people completing an independence skills programme. • Number of young people with a clear plan for when they turn 18 – seen at Sixteen Plus Panel.
As a care experienced young person you will have priority access to housing and support in Solihull and help to find a place somewhere else if that's better for you.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of young people beginning tenancies through the care leavers protocol. • Number of young people considered to be in suitable accommodation.

Priority 3: Health and wellbeing

What you have told us

“I like to get help to eat healthily and be able to exercise.”

“I’m getting therapy at the moment. It helps but it’s not always easy to find the right support.”

“Being able to socialise with friends and see family is really important to staying happy.”

“Getting help quickly is important if you’re not well in any way.”

Our vision

We are passionate and committed to ensuring we support children in care and care experienced young people to achieve the best physical, emotional and mental health.

We want to understand your individual journey and ensure you can access the right support at the right time to meet your physical, emotional and mental health needs to support a happy healthy lifestyle.

What are the challenges?

We know that you may experience more physical, emotional and mental health difficulties than children and young people who haven’t been in care and so need extra help and support.

Long waiting times can be difficult when you need help.

Accessing health services in areas outside of Solihull can be harder as we don’t have as much influence over services in other areas.

We know from talking to children and young people that you can feel judged and that your individual needs, are not always understood and this makes barriers to getting the right healthcare.

If you don’t get the right support at the right time this can lead to other areas of your life becoming more difficult and this can carry on right through your adulthood.

Key partners for this strategic priority

- OVOS and children and young people
- Designated Doctor
- Designated Nurse
- Social Work Teams
- Provider Health Teams
- Public Health and Family Hubs

What we will do

We will make sure you get the support for your health and wellbeing that the law says you should get.

We will help to make sure you are seen by health services without delay and wait no longer than any other child in a local area with the same health needs.

We will support you to have a good chance of enjoying good health for the rest of your life by making sure we help you to understand how to be healthy and well and to get fair access to

help and services. This will be helped by the locally agreed commitment to treat care experience like a protected characteristic.

We will work with health services to help them to understand the need of children in care and care experienced young people so you are less likely to feel judged or different.

We will develop trauma informed approaches to your care by trying to understand you as a whole person who has been formed by all of the experiences they have had and things they have had to deal with.

We will develop a specialist offer to meet the physical, emotional and mental health needs of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people.

We will listen and learn from your experiences and update you with how sharing your experiences has influenced and informed services.

We will use numbers and information (such as what we learn from health assessments and strengths and difficulties questionnaires and what we know about children and young people accessing care from dentists and opticians) along with feedback from you to help us to decide what services are needed and how to make them better.

What success will look like

What we want to see	How we will know how we're doing
<p>You will have a health assessment within twenty working days of coming into care (which your social worker will go to with you) and then every six months if you are under five and every twelve months if you are over five.</p> <p>These assessments will make a difference to you by learning how to stay healthy, getting the help you need at the right time from the right service.</p> <p>Health services to have an improved understanding of your individual needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of health assessments completed in time.• Number of Initial Health Assessments that Social Workers go to with the child or young person.• Number of children and young people having regular checks with a dentist and optician.• Examples of us supporting health providers to understand your needs and improve services.
<p>Your mental health will be seen as equally important as your physical health and services will be in place to meet your specific needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will use the Social and Emotional Ages and Stages questionnaire for age 0-4 years and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) for age 4-16 years will be completed for every health assessment and will be used to help us to support you and understand what children and young people need in general.• We will work with our partners to make sure you have access to a dedicated emotional and mental health service in Solihull.• We will support you to access emotional and mental health services if you live outside of Solihull.• Young people being given 'priority access' cards to use with GPs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care experienced young parents having access to specialised services that understand their needs and strengths.
It will be easier for you to get support for your health and wellbeing so you are not at a disadvantage because you are or have been in care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and Health staff to ensure health assessments inform Education Health and Care Plans so the right information is available and things don't have to be repeated. Children and young people working with Youth Justice Services will have access to specialist help. Health services will inform meetings about children who are at risk of or being exploited.
Children open to Youth Justice Service will access the health services they need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looked After Children's Nurses carefully following up needs from Initial Health Assessments and specialist health screening and no delays in help being arranged if problems are found.
Health professionals will understand and respond to the health needs of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people and how to access specialist services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people able to access a specialist mental health provision.
There will be clear pathways of support available to care experienced young people age 18-25 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of young people receiving a health summary at age 18 to ensure you have access to information about your health history and any health conditions. Smooth transitions planned early to adult services for young people with continuing needs with all agencies involved and the young person at the centre. Number of young people aged 16-25 years accessing free prescriptions that they are entitled to.

Priority 4: Education, employment and training

What you have told us

“I need extra help so that I can get into college.”

“I was excluded. I should have been given more chances.”

“I like extra help to revise at home and lots of good feedback.”

“I’m a parent now. I’ll need help to get back to some sort of work or training at some point.”

Our vision

As a child in care or care experienced young person from Solihull you will have the best help and opportunities to enjoy learning at the right level for you, do well at it and go on to lead a happy and positive working life without being disadvantaged by having been in care.

Education providers and the wider community will be strong and caring and will understand and provide the support that will work well for you.

We will be ambitious for you and help you to believe in yourself and achieve your goals.

What are the challenges?

We know that in Solihull, like in the rest of the country, children and young people in care don’t always do as well in school as those who aren’t in care. This is especially true for those of you who have special educational needs and disabilities or have English as a second or other language.

Children and young people in care have often gone through things that are emotionally really difficult and you tell us that this can make it hard for you to concentrate in school and believe you can do well. Some children and young people even end up being excluded from school and then something else has to be put in place that gives them the education they need and deserve.

Although we try to keep you living in the same place, some children and young people in care do end up moving around and this can make it really hard to stay at the same school or college and concentrate on learning.

It can be hard to find an employer who understands your background and needs if you’re care experienced. Often employers look for things like exam results that may have been harder for you to achieve and don’t see all the other qualities that you have that would make you a great worker.

Key partners for this strategic priority

- OVOS and children and young people
- Virtual School
- Employment and Skills Team
- Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Services.
- Social Work Teams
- Fostering Carers
- Residential and supported accommodation staff

What we will do

Make sure that you have a Personal Education Plan right from nursery through to college that is personal to you, helps you to do your best and be hopeful and excited for your future.

Listen to what you tell us about what makes it easy or difficult to learn, train and work and take action to help.

Arrange the extra help you may need to do well at school and catch up with anything you may have missed and to help with any additional learning or language needs.

Work very hard with you and your school to enable you to stay in the same place of learning and avoid school moves and exclusions by being creative even when things get difficult.

Use the resources of the Council, its partners and the local business community to open up avenues of opportunity for you to gain work experience, training, apprenticeships and employment.

Support you to follow your dreams including particular career paths and higher education at university.

Help you out if you find yourself without education, employment or training after you leave school by recognising your needs, understanding what you want to achieve and putting a plan in place to help you get there. Make sure that we then support you to do well and help you to keep on track.

Recognise and celebrate your successes with you.

What success will look like

What we want to see	How we will know how we're doing
The work of the Virtual School will mean that children and young people from early years through to further education will be supported to achieve the best they can and supported to overcome extra challenges they face.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact of Virtual School involvement in helping individual children and young people to stay in full time education and make academic progress.
The work of the Employment and Skills Team will mean young people understand their options for when they leave school and how to make that happen. Young people will then move on to education, employment or training that suits their circumstances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of young people referred to Employment and Skills team and getting into education, employment or training as a result.
Children and young people will be making at least if not better than expected progress in their schooling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results of tests and exams at important points in schooling and progress for individual children and young people shown in Personal Education Plans.
Children and young people will be in education, training or employment between the ages of 3-18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance figures.• Number of children and young people who have been excluded from school• Number of care experienced young people not in education employment or training.• Number of children and young people on a school role and with a full time timetable.

All children and young people of school age will have a good quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) that sets out how they will be supported to achieve their best and how they will be helped with extra needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children and young people aged 3-18 who have a PEP. • Regular review of the quality of PEPs.
Care experienced young people will be supported via their Pathway Plans to carry on learning or training and to enter the world of work once they leave school. This will include the possibility of going to university.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of care experienced young people attending university or equivalent level courses. • Number of care experienced young people in education employment or training from the age of 18-25.
Care experienced young people will gain work experience, apprenticeships, training and employment through opportunities offered especially for them from the Council, its partners and community parents from local businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of young people accessing opportunities from corporate and community parents and these having a positive impact.

Priority 5: Identity, culture and the chance to have fun

What you have told us

“My religion is very important to me.”

“Keeping in touch with my family is really important.”

“I like being treated like family by my foster carers.”

“Getting out and having fun is important but I feel nervous at times. Being shut away during the pandemic at a time when I would otherwise have been gaining more confidence and independence really had an impact.”

Things you have told us you enjoy doing: days out, seeing friends, playing games online, dancing, going to clubs like swimming, football and skating, reading, cooking, having pets.

Our vision

As a child in care or care experienced young person from Solihull, you will feel that you have a strong sense of your own identity and that this is celebrated and promoted by the people helping you.

You will have the same chance as anyone else to have fun, follow hobbies and interests and be involved in your community and there will also be opportunities for you to meet and have fun with other children and young people who have experience of being in care.

What are the challenges?

You may feel different because of your cultural, racial, religious or language background, your sexuality or gender identity, your disability or extra needs and / or just because you are or have been in care.

You may not feel confident to try new things or to join groups if you're not sure and don't want to have to promise to go all the time.

You have told us that you may still feel nervous about going out and having fun after being told to stay at home for so long during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fun activities can be expensive and this can be especially hard once you're living in a place of your own.

Key partners for this strategic priority

- OVOS and children and young people
- Social Work Teams
- Solihull Active
- Library Service
- The Core
- Solihull Music Service

What we will do

Work to make sure that your unique background and identity is recognised, celebrated and considered when providing you with services.

Make sure that you are able to celebrate important aspects of your culture and religion and have access to resources and people that help this to happen.

Recognise that many children in care and care experienced young people may have missed out on access to fun leisure activities and use the council's resources and partnerships to give you improved access to sports, culture and the arts.

Create opportunities social activities throughout the year made especially for children and young people in care or with care experience that are fun and free to access and give you the chance to try out new things that you might enjoy.

What success will look like

What we want to see	How we will know how we're doing
Culture and identity fully considered in Care and Pathway Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of plans we look at that have good information and actions.
Events to support children and young people to celebrate important festivals like Christmas, Diwali and Eid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events taking place through the year and numbers of children and young people taking part.
Access to sports, the arts and fun activities and any barriers to this like confidence or nervousness to be considered in Care and Pathway Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children and young people using leisure passes. Use of Solihull Active support for extra activities linked to sport and activity.
More young people involved in sport and leisure activity through the use of support from Solihull Active, free gym and leisure passes and special events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children and young people attending taster days and activities through the year.
All children and young people have a library card and libraries provide space for care experienced young people to meet and work and for younger children to access activities with their carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children and young people with a library card. Children and young people using libraries to meet and study. Activities taking place in libraries especially for children in care and their carers.
Children and young people given the opportunity to access theatre and performance through links with The Core.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities taking place and children and young people accessing tickets to events such as the annual pantomime at an affordable price or free of charge where possible.
Children and young people able to enjoy music through inclusive activities and sessions especially for them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities taking place and more children in care and care experienced young people accessing music making.
Children and young people have the chance to come together to have fun at events and activities through the year. Family Hubs to be used as a meeting place for care experienced young people once fully up and running.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events taking place through the year based on what children and young people tell us they want. Family Hubs being used on a regular basis for children and young people to come together to relax, socialise and have fun.

How we will make sure we are good corporate and community parents

We will make sure that we spread the word to everyone responsible for making this strategy work that it is important that they:

- ✓ Have a clear understanding and awareness of the issues for you as children in care and care experienced young people.
- ✓ Ask questions and expect things to be getting better all the time.
- ✓ Communicate directly with you as much as possible because you are the real experts.
- ✓ Make sure that you have a say in how decisions are made about the services that affect you and that you are able to influence those decisions positively.
- ✓ Make sure that they know about our Promise and Local Offer and challenge whether the Council and its partners are sticking to these.
- ✓ In all decisions that are being made about services, plans or possible income and help, think about what could be done to help children in care and care experienced young people.
- ✓ Always come back to the question 'Would this be good enough for a child or young person in my own family?' when making decisions and plans because that is how important you are and how much we care about getting things right for you.

Thank you for reading. If you have any questions or suggestions for how we can support you better, please speak with your Social Worker or Personal Advisor.

Appendices to follow