



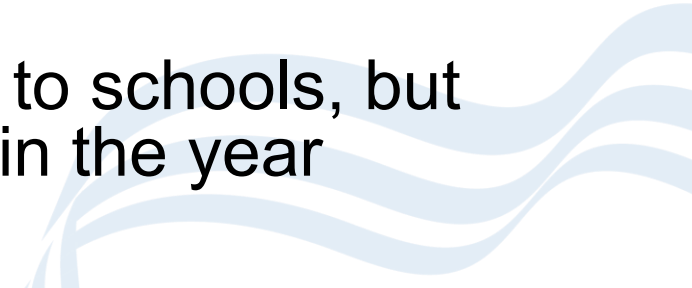
Schools Forum

09 July 2026

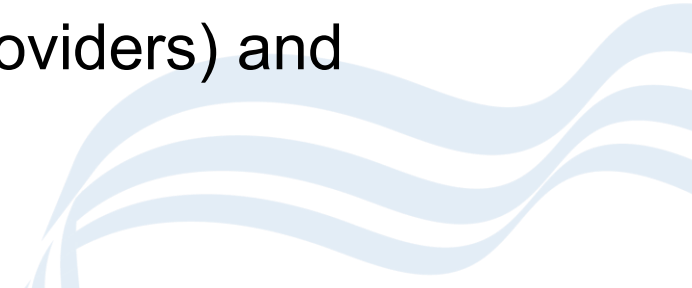


National Update

National Funding Formula (NFF)

- Normally in July/August the LA would receive details of the NFF for the following year E.G. what the factor values will be, what level the MFG has to be set at etc
 - For 2026/27, these details were provided in November 2025
 - We anticipate that a similar timetable to 2026/27 will be followed in 2027/28
 - This will not impact the LA distributing budget shares to schools, but it means we can't update budget forecasts until later in the year
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DfE Statement – 1st July 2026

- STRB: Teachers Pay
 - Sept. 2026 3.5% (5% for unqualified)
 - Sept. 2027 3.0%
 - Sept. 2028 3.0% (indicative)
 - The STRB recommendation is higher than what the government proposed (6.5% over next 3 years). Will be additional funding to support schools (£700m this year rising to £1,115m in 2027/28).
 - School Budget Support Grant 26 (pre-16 & high needs providers) and Early Years Teacher Pay Grant 26.
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DfE Statement – 1st July 2026

- Funding for 16-19 schools will be distributed via 16 to 19 allocations to support post-16 provision in schools and academies. Will also be funding for colleges and other FE providers.
- Within the Schools Budget Support Grant 26 there will be funding for local authority centrally employed staff.
- 2026/27 SBSG 26 calculator tool for mainstream school allocations was published 08/07/2026.



DfE Statement – 1st July 2026

Illustration of how staff pay increases will be funded in 5-16 schools in 2026-27		
<u>Teacher pay awards</u> 3.5% teacher pay award in 2026-27	<u>Support staff pay increases</u> 3.3% local government support staff pay offer	
Remaining 1.7% teacher pay increase	Remaining 1.5% increase in support staff pay	Additional funding for schools announced alongside the 2026 teacher pay announcement
0.8% teacher pay increase	0.8% support staff pay increase	Funding in schools' existing budgets, provided at the 2025 Spending Review, as per our affordability assessment (Schools' Costs Technical Note 26)
First c.1% of teacher pay	First c.1% of support staff pay	Maximising value in schools' budgets to cover the first 1% of pay costs in 2026-27
*Chart is for illustrative purposes only		

DfE Statement – 1st July 2026

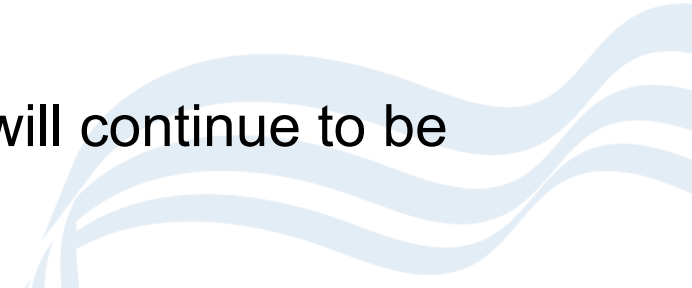
- TPS employer contribution rate decreasing from 28.68% to 17.68% in April 2027. Schools and colleges will see costs decrease by £3bn in 2027/28. Funding will reduce by same amount.
 - Mainstream Schools: adjustment will be incorporated into the NFF by reducing the basic entitlement, FSM6 & the lump sum factor values
 - A calculator was published 08/07/2026 detailing the adjustment required for academy GAG covering 01/04/2027 – 31/08/2027
 - Special & AP Schools: equivalent reduction applied via a reduction to LA high needs block allocations
 - For colleges and post-16 schools, the DfE will reduce payments accordingly via TPS Employer Contribution Grants
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Free School Meals (FSM)

- From September 2026 two categories:
 - Targeted FSM (existing eligibility thresholds)
 - Expanded FSM (new entitlement, households receiving Universal Credit)
- Current Funding:
 - Targeted FSM is funded via NFF (inc. Early Years)
 - Topped up by Universal Infant FSM Grant



Free School Meals (FSM)

- Future Funding (September 2026):
 - Targeted FSM is funded via NFF
 - Introduction of FSM Expansion Grant to fund Expanded FSM (to be rolled into NFF in 2027/28)
 - Introduction of Early Years FSM Expansion Grant (school based nurseries) to fund Expanded FSM
 - Topped up by Universal Infant Free School Meals grant (but this individual funding stream will reduce as more children are already eligible)
 - Other FSM linked funding:
 - Widened eligibility criteria only relates to meals
 - Disadvantaged funding (e.g. FSM Ever 6, Pupil Premium) will continue to be based on Targeted FSM eligibility
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FSM Transitional Protection

- Since April 2018 all existing FSM claimants have continued to receive FSM while universal credit was rolled out. This applies regardless of any change in household circumstances
 - These protections end summer 26
 - Pupils who stop being eligible for FSM when transitional protections end will still receive disadvantage funding through the pupil premium & the NFF as they will still form part of the FSM Ever 6 cohort.
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PE & Sport Grant

- Creation of new PE and School Support Partnerships Network, which will bring national sporting expertise into every primary and secondary school
- A national delivery partner will provide a mixture of universal and targeted support to schools based on their needs
- Fully up and running from Spring Term 2027, the Network will replace the existing PE and Sport Premium
- One-off £100m* payment to support primary schools during transition year

*Since the presentation, the government has written to schools to announce a 50% increase to the previously announced £100m transition funding & implementation delayed until April 27

Inclusive Mainstream Fund & Experts At Hand

- Final allocations have now been published
- Inclusive Mainstream Fund
 - Primary schools receiving an average allocation of £19k
 - Secondary schools receiving an average allocation of £56k
 - Maintained schools will receive payment this week.
 - Academy schools will receive payment from the DfE in early July.
- Experts at Hand & SEND Transformation
 - Coventry LA allocation is £3m



Early Years Inclusion Funding

- Early Years version of the inclusive mainstream fund.
 - Support the EY sector to become more inclusive of children with SEND
 - It is upfront funding intended to:
 - Help providers adopt setting-wide practices
 - Reduce reliance on individual child based-funding applications
 - Enable early intervention for children with SEND
 - The LA is following the DfE's recommended allocation methodology which is to mirror the early years funding formula of a base rate & a deprivation rate.
 - Indicative setting based allocations were circulated in May
 - Final allocations will be circulated by the end of August
 - Payments will be made by the end of September.
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Early Years Funding Consultation

- Early Years funding consultation published 06/07/2026
 - The DfE are hosting webinars next week which the LA will be attending
 - Response deadline 14/09/2026
 - An update will be provided at the next Schools Forum meeting
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2025/26 DSG Outturn & Reserves

Overview Outturn & Reserves

- Coventry LA presented an overspend on DSG of £0.2m in 2025/26
 - Due to a High Needs overspend of £1.2m offset by a £0.8m underspend on Early Years and an underspend of £0.2m across the growth fund, de-delegation and other services.
- This left a £15.9m DSG reserve closing balance
- After 2026-27 reserve contributions this leaves £5.6m



DSG Outturn Block Analysis

Block	(Under)/overspend £000	Comments
Schools	-114	Growth Fund Underspend
Early Years	-836	Activity levels not as high as budgeted
High Needs	1,168	Budgeted for £1.8m overspend
De-delegated	-28	Underspends on both the New Arrivals Fund & Teacher Statutory Parental Payments
Central	-0	
Total	190	

Early Years Underspend

- Take up of Early Years places was lower than budgeted for in 2025-26

	Budget Setting PTE	Actual PTE	Difference
3 & 4 Year Olds	20,833	20,472	-361
Early Learning 2 Year Olds	2,479	1,952	-527

- This means less was paid out to providers than was budgeted for, causing an underspend of £0.8m
- The reduction in the January 26 census also means we are forecasting the LA will receive a significant reduction to our 2025-26 DSG allocation, which is estimated to be ca £1.1m & will be seen as a cash reduction to our 2026-27 DSG allocation

High Needs Outturn

- Overspend of £1.2m
 - Budgeted overspend of £1.8m

High Needs Area	(Under)/overspend £000's
High Needs Top up - Mainstream	-1,056
EOTAS	978
High Needs Top Up - Special Schools	676
High Needs Top Up - Further Education	573
Enhanced Resource Provision	-250
Other Local Authority Placements	141
Independent Specialist Placements	84

DSG Reserve Position

	DSG £m
Opening Balance as @ 01/04/25	-16.1
Outturn 2025/26 - use of reserves	0.2
Closing Balance as @ 31/03/26	-15.9
Budget Setting 2026/27	9.2
2025/26 Early Years Adjustment	1.1
Remaining Balance	-5.6
General	-5.4
Earmarked: De-delegated	-0.2



2025/26 School Balances

School Balances – Summary by Phase

- As at financial year end
 - 31st August 2025 for academies
 - 31st March 2026 for maintained schools
- Where academy trusts only provide trust level cash balances, balances have been split per school on the basis of pupil numbers

Total Reported Balances by Phase Including Academies

	23-24 Balance	Change	24-25 Balance	Change	25-26 Balance	25-26 Balance % of budget
School Type	(£000's)	(£000's)	(£000's)	(£000's)	(£000's)	
Primary (inc Nursery)	30,741	-1,945	28,797	-3,128	25,669	13.2%
Secondary	20,242	-1,424	18,818	+618	19,436	11.3%
Special & PRU's	5,217	+375	5,593	-1,176	4,417	12.7%
Total	56,201	-2,994	53,207	-3,686	49,522	12.3%

School Balances as % of Budget Shares

Reported balances as a % of school budget shares across 3 years

	<5%			5% - 10%			>10%		
School Type	23-24	24-25	25-26	23-24	24-25	25-26	23-24	24-25	25-26
Primary	8	8	7	22	36	36	57	43	44
Secondary	3	5	6	6	6	6	12	10	9
Special & PRU	1	1	3	1	1	1	7	7	5
Total	12	14	16	29	43	43	76	60	58

Schools with reductions & increases

Schools showing a reduction in reserves vs an increase in reserves

School Type	Total Movement (£000's)	Number of Schools with increased balances	Number of Schools with reduced balances	Total amount of annual increases (£000's)	Total amount of reduced balances (£000's)
Primary (inc Nursery)	-3,128	38	49	+3,069	-6,197
Secondary	+618	13	8	+3,159	-2,541
Special & PRU's	-1,176	4	5	+530	-1,706
Total	-3,686	55	62	+6,758	-10,443



SEND Reform Plan

Data & Finance Template

- Alongside the reform plan, a wide range of data and financial information was requested by DfE. This included estimates of high needs block expenditure through to 2027/28.

Financial Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Outturn DSG expenditure	69.8	78.0	-	-
Forecast DSG expenditure	-	-	89.5	96.0
Total expected DSG income	70.3	76.9	81.6	83.2
Total in-year surplus (+) or deficit (-)	0.5	-1.2	-7.9	-12.8

Data & Finance Template

- The impact of these projections on Coventry's financial position is unclear.
 - 2027/28 High Needs Block allocations are unknown
 - Government has confirmed a financial mechanism will operate for future deficits, but they have not confirmed whether funding will continue to be based on 90% consistent with High Needs Stability Grant.
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Data & Finance Template

- From 2028/29 future funding implications will be managed within overall government spending.
- Outside of the DSG, also had to provide estimated spend for SEND Home to School Transport, Experts at Hand and Capital.

Calendar Year	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total number EHC plans	3,483	3,931	4,322	4,664	5,029

National Priorities

Earlier support,
closer to home

Stronger
inclusion in
mainstream
education

Better access to
specialist
expertise and
provision

Clearer
accountability
and financial
sustainability

A simpler, more
consistent
experience for
families



National Timeline

Short Term

February

- Schools White Paper sets out SEND reform proposals

June

- EAH guidance issued (Year 1 delivery model)
- Reform Plan Submitted to DFE (19 June)

September

- Feedback on plans shared by the DFE.
- Implementation begins in earnest.

Longer Term

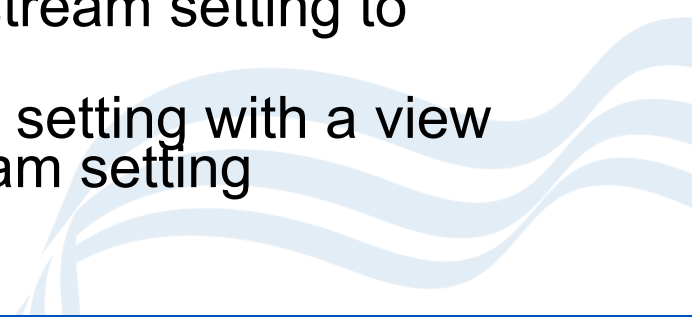
2026–2029: Phase 1

- Experts at Hand
- Specialist / inclusion bases

2029 - onward: New legislation

- Introduction of Individual Support Plans
 - Gradual transition of EHCPs
 - Safeguarded transition (no loss of support)
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Experts at Hand

- The Experts at Hand offer must make available additional health professionals (including therapists, support workers, and assistants) and specialist education professionals (including trainees and assistants). The offer will:
 - supporting teachers to provide individual support, through observation, light touch assessment and advising on strategies for individual children and young people
 - jointly delivering time-limited group of whole class interventions.
 - jointly developing resources and workshops for parents.
 - They will also deliver special school and AP outreach at the following levels:
 - Tier 1: support for children and young people in their mainstream setting to prevent issues escalating
 - Tier 2: extra help or temporary direct support in a specialist setting with a view to integrate the child or young person back into a mainstream setting
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Experts at Hand

School Offers	System Offers	Bespoke Offer
Clinical Offer	Workforce Development Offer	To be identified during Year 1 of reform plan delivery.
Experts by Experience Offer	Network Offer	
Outreach Offer	“Experts Online” Offer	
Selected AP (?)		

Experts at Hand | Next Steps

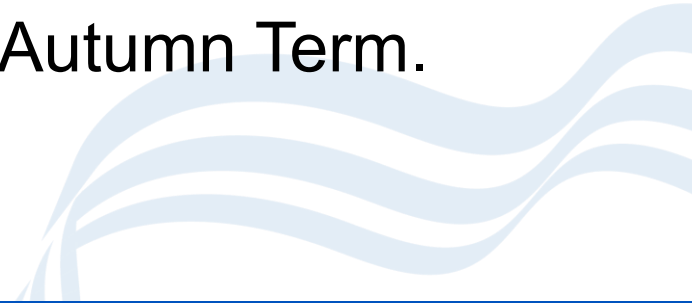
- Workshop 1 | Introduction and guiding principles
 - 8 June
 - Workshop 2 | 'Coventry Café' – Developing the expert offers
 - 2 July
 - Recruitment | for Coordination and Delivery
 - July – October
 - Steering Group | Plan, Do, Review
 - Autumn
 - Launch
 - Autumn
- 

Specialist Bases

	Status	Type	Delegation
Primary			
Aldermoor Farm	Open	AS	School
Alderman's Green	Open	AS	School
Whittle Academy	Open	CL	School
Hearsall	Open	CL	School
Courthouse Green	Open	CL	School
Henley Green	Jan-27	CL	School
John Shelton	Jun-26	CL	School
Pearl Hyde	Aug-26	CL	School
Courthouse Green	Open	SL	School
Howes	Open	HI	LA
Secondary			
Blue Coat	Open	CL	School
Westwood	26-Sep	CL	School
President Kennedy	Open	SL	LA
Stoke Park	Open	HI	LA



Specialist Bases | Next Steps

- Three Primary bases nearing completion.
 - One secondary base expanding and another in construction.
 - Application Criteria and Process in place.
 - Inclusion
 - Location
 - Capital Feasibility
 - Cost
 - Applications for 2026-27 cohort under consideration.
 - Next round of Applications (2027-28) will open in the Autumn Term.
 - Setting-Led Partnership Group established.
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Coventry Goals

CYP with SEND
achieve, belong and
thrive locally.

Families have
confidence in the
SEND system.

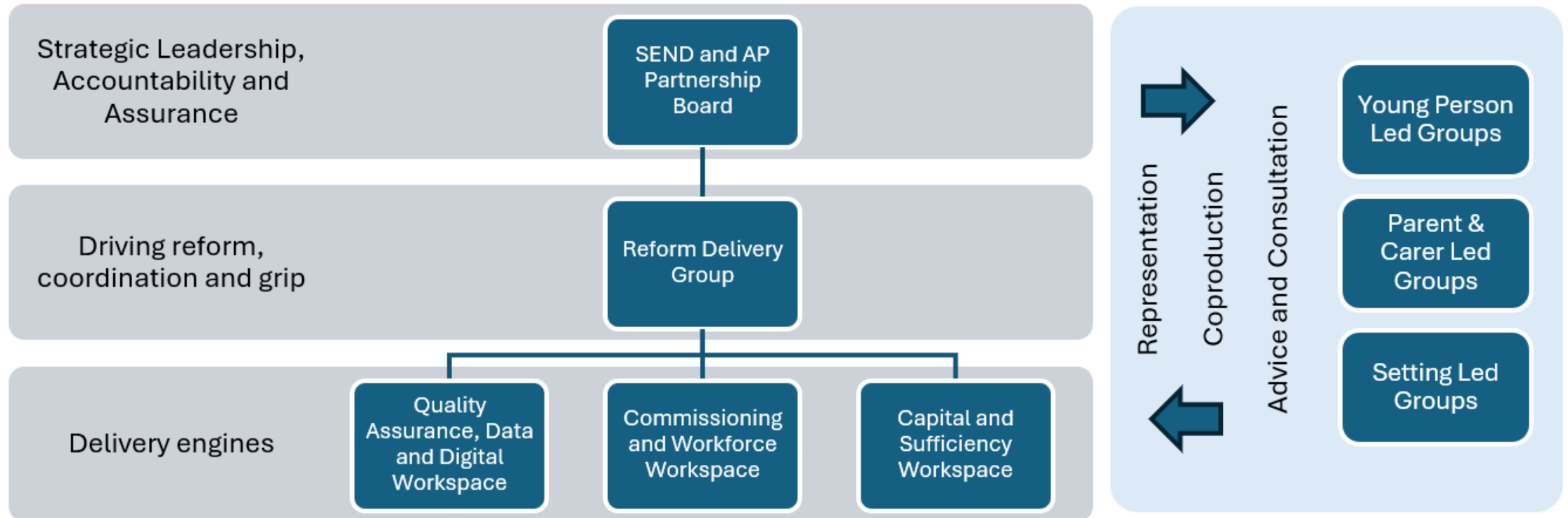
Mainstream settings
are confident and
supported to meet
need early.

Coventry has a
sustainable, high-
quality local SEND
and AP offer.

A strong partnership
drives continuous
improvement.



Governance



Engagement and Coproduction

SENDCo Network

Inclusion Generic Group

Special School Partnership Group

Post 16 Partnership Group

Specialist Base Partnership Group

Support Base Networks





Families First Partnership Programme & Best Start in Life

Families First Partnership Programme

Working together, with children, families and communities at the heart, we are building a fairer, healthier, Child Friendly Cov where every child feels safe, loved, supported, and able to thrive.

Decisions are made together — with children, families, communities, and professionals working in equal partnership.

We listen, learn, and adapt — using lived experience and evidence to meet the evolving needs of children and families.

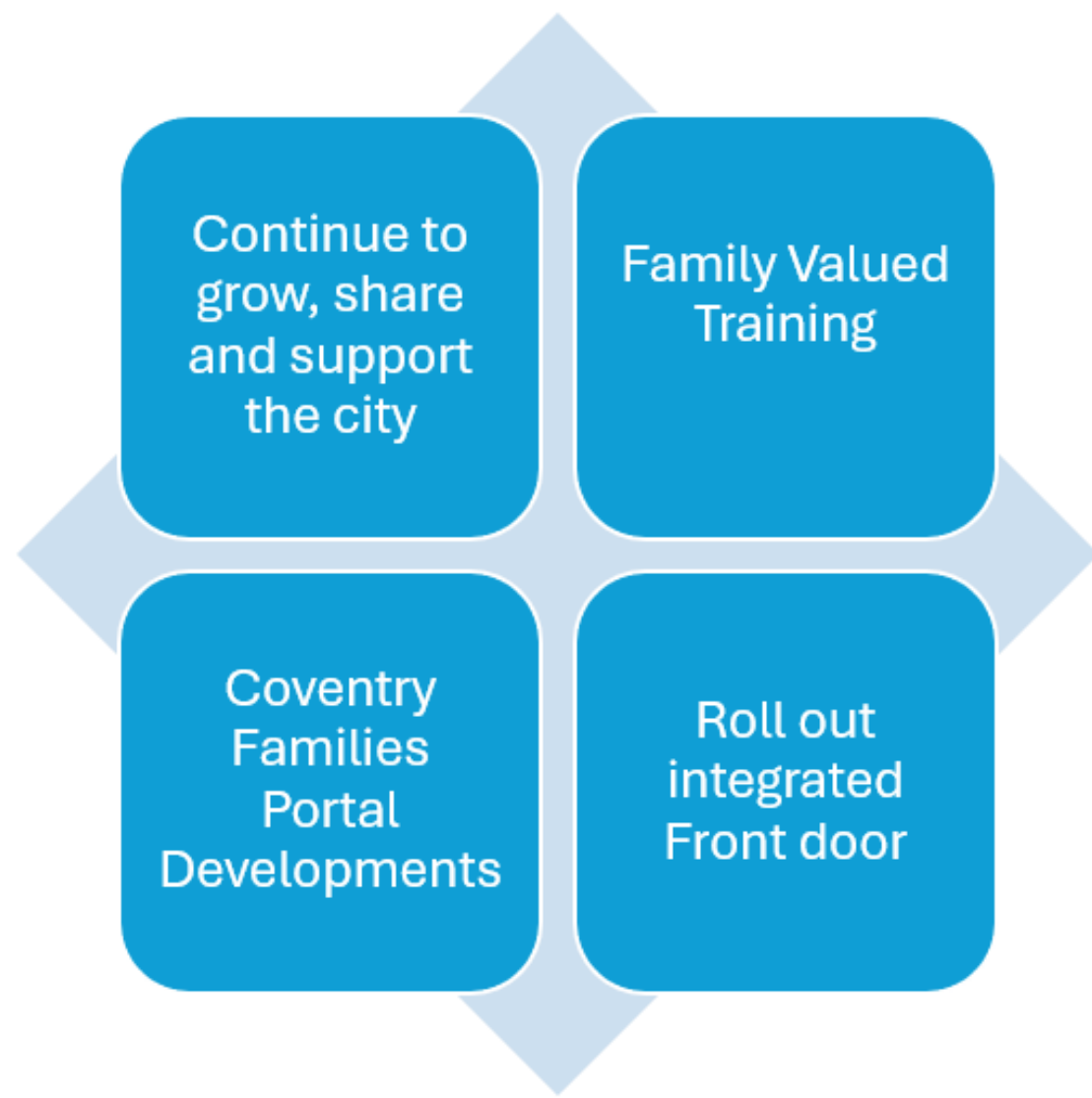
We use data to understand need and drive change — guided by Marmot principles to reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing.

We invest in confident, compassionate teams who work collaboratively to make a difference in children's lives.

We recognise and build on strengths of families and communities — not assuming that professionals have all the answers.

Circa £5.8M per annum 26/27 and 27/28 and £4.7M in 28/29

Education Whole City Continued Development Summer 2026



East Pilot – Big Picture



**Family
Help
Teams**

June 2026

**Multi Agency
Child
Protection
Teams**

September 2026

East Pilot-Offer to Schools

Profile Building
with Schools in
the East

Locality
conversation

Specific
training offer
for schools

Enhanced
Supervision
offer

Connected
Offer

Team around
the school

Best Start in Life

- [Best Start in Life – Coventry City Council](#)
 - Strategy and local plan published
 - Circa £2.5M per annum until 28/29
 - 6 delivery priorities
 - Reduce Early Inequalities in Health, Development and Safety
 - Identify Need Early and Strengthen **SEND** Pathways
 - **Increase Access, Engagement and Inclusion in Early Education**
 - **Strengthen the Quality of Early Education and Practice**
 - Strengthen the Home Learning Environment and Family Resilience
 - Use Data and Locality Working to Drive Equity and Impact
- 



Membership Update

Membership Update

- Review of Schools Forum membership carried out
 - Just an update ahead of October at this stage
 - Structure based on May 26 census, not available yet.
 - Not anticipating any structural changes
 - Currently, one vacancy Mainstream Academies
 - Full membership report at October meeting as usual
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Membership Update

Respresented sector	Current Membership	Updated Membership	Structural Changes	Vacancies at Sept-25
Primary Schools	6	6	0	0
Secondary Schools	0	0	0	0
Mainstream Academies	12	12	0	1
Special Schools	2	2	0	0
Special Academies	1	1	0	0
Maintained Nursery School	1	1	0	0
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	1	1	0	0
Non School Group	5	5	0	0
Total	28	28	0	1