

My Ref: MJ/MC/AMC

Please email:

amanda_carby@sandwell.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 569 8338

Please ask for: Michael Jarrett

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To whom it may concern

Re: Placement Sufficiency

I can confirm that there is currently a deficit in the availability of suitable placements, both fostering and residential, for children in Sandwell. This position is reflective of the national one where there has been a reduction in new foster carer approvals and an increase in carer deregistration.

There are currently approx. 11 children's homes in Sandwell, however only a small number of the available beds are occupied by Sandwell children. This is, in part, due to the high demand for placements nationally and other local authorities placing children they are responsible for in Sandwell.

Sandwell Children's Trust has commenced active engagement with providers to encourage them to accept Sandwell placements and will be procuring a block contract for the provision of up to 9 new beds for the exclusive use of Sandwell.

We welcome the creation of new homes in Sandwell that are of a high quality and can meet the needs of Sandwell Children.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Michael Jarrett
Director of Children and Education (DCS)

Michael W Jarrett MBE, Director of Children and Education (DCS)
CHILDREN & EDUCATION DIRECTORATE
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, The Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

Telephone: 0121 569 8338
Switchboard: 0121 569 2200
Email: michael_jarrett@sandwell.gov.uk
Web: www.sandwell.gov.uk