



# West Smethwick Enterprise Family Centre

---

West Smethwick Enterprise was established in 1984 by the West Smethwick Methodist Church, Its initial aim was to provide a child care facility at the church for local residents.

It subsequently opened three further Centres in Smethwick providing similar support to children and families.

Smethwick, which is a district of the Borough Council of Sandwell, is one of Britain's most deprived communities with high levels of inward migration from across the world, high unemployment and extreme levels of poverty.

It has achieved a strong reputation for quality services and received numerous accolades including being classified as a Centre of Excellence by the U.K's Care Quality Commission..

In 2018 it became a new Charity and Limited Company and ended its formal association with the Methodist Church who felt that they didn't have the resources and skills to manage an organization of the size and complexity of WSE.

To this end a new Board of skilled and experienced Directors were appointed and its administrative H,Q moved from the Methodist Church to the Council House in Smethwick retaining only a Child Care centre at the Church.

In 2020 additional appointments were made to Board to reflect a major programme of expansion which include the taking over of a large Community building in Ladywood, Birmingham and a new professional association with Birmingham City University who will be using WSE as a core training base for its students in Health and Social Care funded through ESF.

WSE employs upwards of 30 staff in variety of roles including the provision of a Contact service for parents and children from whom they are separated through domestic breakdown.

The current turnover of income is c. 600,000 Euros likely to increase once the Covid pandemic is under control and the new Centre officially opens. This income is largely derived from local authority grant aid and Government Child care subsidy with significant enhancement from grants from Charitable Trusts including the National Lottery