

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 12 July 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

AGENDA

1. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests
2. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

Minutes

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th June 2017 (Cab.12.7.2017/3)
(Pages 3 - 6)

Items for Noting

4. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.12.7.2017/4) (Pages 7 - 8)

Petitions

5. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.12.7.2017/5)

Items for Decision/Recommendation to Council

Overview and Scrutiny Report

6. Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18 (Cab.12.7.2017/6)
(Pages 9 - 14)

People (Safeguarding) Spokesperson

7. Review of the Council's Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers
(Cab.12.7.2017/7) (Pages 15 - 40)
8. Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel - 2016/17 (Cab.12.7.2017/8)
(Pages 41 - 62)

People (Achieving Potential) Spokesperson

9. Access to Early Help Through the Family Centres Network (Cab.12.7.2017/9)
(Pages 63 - 104)

Communities Spokesperson

10. Carers' Strategy 2017 - 2020 (Cab.12.7.2017/10) (Pages 105 - 116)

To: Chair and Members of Cabinet:-

Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Miller and Platts

Cabinet Support Members:

Councillors Franklin, Frost, David Griffin, Lamb, Pourali and Saunders

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Chair of Audit Committee

Diana Terris, Chief Executive
Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director People
Matt Gladstone, Executive Director Place
Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Communities
Julia Burrows, Director Public Health
Andrew Frosdick, Executive Director Core Services
Alison Brown, Service Director Human Resources
Neil Copley, Service Director Finance
Katie Rogers, Communications and Marketing Business Partner
Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer
Ian Turner, Service Director, Council Governance

Corporate Communications and Marketing
Labour Group Room – 1 copy

Please contact Ian Turner on 01226 773421 or email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Tuesday, 4 July 2017



MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 28 June 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Andrews BEM (Chair), Bruff, Cheetham, Frost (for Miller), Gardiner, Howard and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors Lamb, Pourali, Saunders, Sheard and Spence

27. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Pourali declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 37 in her capacity as a Berneslai Homes Board Member.

28. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 14th June, 2017 had been called in.

29. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th June, 2017 (Cab.28.6.2017/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June, 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

30. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.28.6.2017/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the weeks ending 16th and 23rd June, 2017 were noted.

31. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.28.6.2017/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

Deputy Leader

32. Revision to Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference - Public Questions (Cab.28.6.2017/6)

RESOLVED that the revision to the Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board to incorporate procedural arrangements for the public to ask questions at the Board's meetings, as set out in the appendix to the report, be approved.

Communities Spokesperson

33. Selective Licensing of Private Rented Properties - Consultation Methodology and Timeline (Cab.28.6.2017/7)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Selective Licensing of Private Rented Properties consultation methodology and outline fees, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved;
- (ii) that the consultation process be implemented with effect from 5th July, 2017 with a minimum ten week period to bring a report to Cabinet with the consultation outcomes for a final Cabinet decision to implement/decline all or area specific designations; and
- (iii) that consideration of an Additional Licensing Scheme/s be held in abeyance until further research can be undertaken and current proposed legislative changes have been enacted, expected in October 2017, pending further consideration regarding smaller Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs), not covered by Mandatory Licensing.

34. Barnsley Council Annual Customer Feedback Report, Complaints, Compliments and Comments - April 2016 to March 2017 (Cab.28.6.2017/8)

RESOLVED that the Barnsley Council Annual Customer Feedback Report on Complaints, Compliments and Comments for the period April 2016 to March 2017 be noted.

35. Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as described by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, as follows:-

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Type of Information Likely to be Disclosed</u>
36	Paragraph 3
37	Paragraph 3

Communities Spokesperson

36. Independent Living at Home Service - Progress Report (Cab.28.6.2017/10)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to make dormant the Independent Living at Home Service Local Authority Trading Company (LATC), and the staff be TUPE transferred back to the Council;

- (ii) that the financial position of the company for 2017/18 be noted, and the recurrent financial risk from 2018/19 onwards which, based on the current operating model is estimated to be £300,000 per annum; and
- (iii) that the pricing options outlined in Appendix 1 for Assistive Living Technology (ALT) be noted, and the recommended option to increase the weekly price set out at paragraph 4.3 of the report be approved.

Place Spokesperson

37. Housing Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) Procurement Strategy (Cab.28.6.2017/11)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the proposed key stages, scope, structure and outline programme of the Housing Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership (PRIP) Procurement Strategy, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved; and
- (ii) that further reports be submitted to Cabinet for approval at the end of Stages One (Options Appraisal) and Three (Recommendation of Preferred Contractor); and
- (iii) that the completion of activities at Stages Two and Four be delegated to the Executive Director Place on behalf of the Project Board.

.....
Chair

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET SPOKESPERSONS' DECISIONS

Schedule of Decisions taken for week ending 30th June, 2017

<u>Cabinet Spokesperson</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Decisions</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
1. Without Portfolio	Rural Conference 2017	that Councillor Paul Hand-Davis be authorised to attend the Rural Conference on 5 th – 6 th September, 2017 in Cheltenham.	L. Glanville Tel. 773078

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BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (BMBC)

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director Core Services

PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2017/18 MUNICIPAL YEAR

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To outline the proposed work programme for 2017/18 for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and its 3 Task and Finish Groups (TFGs).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the proposed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18 as outlined in section 5 of this report, whilst acknowledging that this is subject to change should any urgent issues arise.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves for the OSC Chair to continue to identify and invite 'Expert Participants' to scrutiny on a topic by topic basis.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Scrutiny was introduced in the Local Government Act 2000 (following the abolition of the old committee structure) as a means to hold the new council cabinets to account for its decisions. Since then, subsequent acts of parliament have bolstered Scrutiny by extending its remit (and its statutory responsibilities) beyond the council to the work of partner organisations as well. Much of this legislation was consolidated in the Localism Act 2011. This includes Overview and Scrutiny having a specific role in exercising the Authority's powers in relation to the scrutiny of health services and the crime and disorder partnership in the Borough.
- 3.2 In the current climate, the need for sound effective decision making has never been more important. Elected members who sit on Barnsley's scrutiny committees have a vital role to play as 'scrutineers', providing a valid mechanism of challenge to monitor decision making, tackle poor performance and to ensure value for money is delivered.
- 3.3 Barnsley Council's Scrutiny arrangements incorporate an OSC which has continued to maintain a specific safeguarding workstream further to a recent review (Cab.3.5.2017/15); as well as 3 Member-led TFGs which carry out in-depth investigations. The OSC and its TFGs are responsible for not only holding the Council to account but also for scrutinising the performance of both the Council and its partners and whether they are delivering the intended outcomes or not.
- 3.4 Area Councils have also had an increasing performance monitoring role. This has been done through performance monitoring the services and contracts that are commissioned by the Area Councils. Area Councils can undertake local investigations and invite internal and external services to discuss any concerns. The

Area Councils can also feed any areas of concern and recommendations to the OSC and its TFGs.

4. Consideration of alternative approaches

4.1 The topics proposed in section 5 of this report are a reflection of input into the work programme from a variety of sources and stakeholders to identify the key issues requiring scrutiny during the 2017/18 municipal year. It is important to note however that the programme is draft and may be updated on an ongoing basis.

5. Proposal and justification

5.1 It is important that the Scrutiny work programme is developed to ensure effective scrutiny of local services to help improve outcomes for our communities. Forward planning is undertaken to identify key issues which require scrutiny during each municipal year, as well as allowing for the work programme to be reactive and evolve should issues require scrutiny at short-notice. Therefore it is important to note that the proposals below remain subject to change and each suggested investigation will need to be scoped in more detail.

5.2 The table below shows the proposed work programme for the OSC:

Meeting Date	Topics
2017/18 Municipal Year	
Wed 31 st May 2017 2pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q4 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2016/17 – Future Council Strategy Progress (& Organisation Improvement Strat.) 2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2017-18 3. Private Member Briefing - Children’s Social Care [instead of 02.05.17]
Wed 21 st June 2017 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) (12 months on)
Wed 12 th July 2017 2pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intermediate Care Services 2. Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2016/17 3. Private Member Briefing - Children’s Social Care [instead of 21.06.17]
Tues 12 th Sept 2017 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016-17 2. Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016-17 3. Private Member Briefing - Children’s Social Care
Wed 27 th Sept 2017 2pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q1 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2017/18 – Barnsley’s Cultural Offer and Visitor Economy 2. For information: Update on progress since 2012 and 2014 Ofsted Inspections
Tues 17 th Oct 2017 1pm (safeguarding topic focus)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Self-Assessment and Plan 2. Private Member Briefing - Children’s Social Care
Tues 5 th Dec 2017 2pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NHS Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STP) (1 year on) 2. Q2 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2017/18- Educational achievement across the Borough as well as a specific report on Looked After Children

Tues 9 th Jan 2018 3pm (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Children's Social Care Quality Assurance Framework 2. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care
Tues 30 th Jan 2018 3pm	1. Safer Neighbourhood Services 2. Highways Services Review
Tues 6 th March 2018 3pm (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Update on the 0-19 Service 2. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care
Wednesday 28 th March 2018 2pm	1. Q3 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2016/17 – Suicide Prevention 2. Norse and Norfolk Property Service (NPS) Barnsley
Tues 24 th April 2018 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Adult Social Care Local Account 2017/18 2. Provision of Domiciliary Care and Support to Live at Home Service 3. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care
2018/19 Municipal Year	
Tues 5 th June 2018 1pm	1. Neighbourhood Services Review 2. Q4 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2017/18 3. Scrutiny Work Programme 2018-19
Tues 19 th June 2018 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	1. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) (12 months on) 2. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care

5.3 The table below shows the proposed topics for the TFGs:

TFG	Topics
TFG 1	Community Engagement & Development of The Barnsley Deal
TFG 2	Public Health Strategy 2016-18
TFG 3	Asset Management Strategy

5.4 To assist the OSC and its TFGs with their investigations, as per Cabinet agreement (Cab.27.7.16/6), on occasion 'Expert Participants' have been invited to contribute to meetings. This is to be able to both advise Members as well as ask questions of their own to witnesses in relation to topics where they have particular expertise, either by profession or service user experience. Over the last year, 'expert participants' have attended meetings and contributed positively to investigations, such as Foster Carers attending regarding Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). On other occasions where 'expert participants' have been unable to attend, they have provided information to Members in support of their challenge to services. The committee therefore plans to continue this practice as appropriate on an ongoing basis.

6. Implications for local people / service users

6.1 By undertaking scrutiny of the topics in the work programme, this will contribute to the continued improvement of services for local people / service users.

7. Financial implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report, however recommendations could be made by the OSC/TFGs as part of their investigations which would require assessment of financial implications by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or partnership agencies.

8. Employee implications

- 8.1 There are no specific employee implications arising from this report, however recommendations could be made by the OSC/TFGs as part of their investigations which would require assessment of employee implications by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or partnership agencies.

9. Communications implications

- 9.1 It is noted that the work of Scrutiny keeps under review the performance of the Council and other relevant organisations in providing services to Barnsley communities. Proactive communication about these services and activities takes place on a regular, planned basis as part of the communication strategy for each directorate of the Council and on occasion will be requested to be undertaken by other relevant organisations. In addition, the Communications Team promotes publication of the papers and attendance at the meeting via social media channels.

10. Consultations

- 10.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Wayne Johnson OSC Chair, Members of the OSC, The Leader of the Council and the Council's Senior Management Team.

11. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

- 11.1 The work of Scrutiny contributes to the achievement of and improvement in services in relation to a number of outcomes identified in the Council's Corporate Plan Performance Report. The OSC work programme is scheduled around the quarterly performance reports which enable the Scrutiny work programme to be reactive to issues requiring consideration.

12. Tackling health inequalities

- 12.1 Tackling health inequalities and ensuring the wellbeing and safeguarding of our adults and children continues to be a priority for the Council and its partners. The work of Scrutiny contributes to this work in highlighting issues and ensuring appropriate plans are in place to address them.

13. Risk management and health and safety issues

- 13.1 The Council's Scrutiny arrangements form an important part of the overall governance and internal control framework. The appetite of the Council to have meaningful and constructive scrutiny of its decisions makes a significant contribution to the transparency and accountability of Council activities.
- 13.2 The development of an agreed work-programme provides a great deal of focus and control to risks currently logged in the risk register for Business Unit 15, such as risk 3450 ('Failure to advise, support and coordinate the statutory Scrutiny functions for the Council').
- 13.3 Furthermore, an effective Scrutiny function provides a great deal of control when considering other risks within the Council's risk profile. This will be considered

further as officers are asked to update their own service and operational risks as part of the established Risk Management framework.

- 13.4 The flexibility built into the work programme (see section 11) provides a robust mitigation in the event of new or emerging issues requiring Scrutiny attention during 2017/18.

14. Promoting equality, diversity, and social inclusion

- 14.1 The Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to pay due regard to the impact of their services, policies, functions and decisions on diverse groups (called “people with protected characteristics” in the Act). For Scrutiny this means ensuring that as part of their investigations they consider how the services or policies affect people from these groups, and ideally ensuring that people with direct experience have an opportunity to have their voices heard. Scrutiny should also seek to understand what steps services have taken to proactively assess the likely equality impact of their service design and delivery and how they have sought to monitor the actual impact once implemented. Each item of the work programme 2017/18 will therefore be assessed for potential equality impact and key lines of enquiry proposed.

- 14.2 By using ‘Expert Participants’ (see paragraph 5.4) the committee will be able to utilise a range of representatives to ensure appropriate challenge to services which will include those from minority groups. This work will require the engagement of the Equality and Inclusion Team and will be coordinated with the Network of Equality Forums, as well as exploring the options for other expert participants from within the community, when appropriate.

15. Reduction of crime and disorder

- 15.1 As part of Scrutiny’s role in performance management and service improvement, work is specifically undertaken in relation to the reduction of crime and disorder through the consideration of particular services and work with partners. During 2017/18, it is proposed that the OSC will consider the new policing model and safer neighbourhood services.

16. Background papers

- Council’s Forward Plan of Key Decisions 26th May 2017:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=150&RP=135>
- Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31st May 2017 regarding the Work Programme for 2017/18:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s20735/Item%205%20-%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Work%20Programme%202017-18.pdf>
- Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Safeguarding Workstream Cabinet Report 15th May 2017:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s19783/Review%20of%20the%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20Safeguarding%20Workstream.pdf>

Officer Contact: Anna Marshall Telephone No: 01226 775794 Date: 30th June 2017

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a key decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director (People)
to Cabinet

(12th July 2017)

REVIEW OF THE BARNSELY PLEDGE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

1.0 **Purpose of This Report**

1.1 To inform Cabinet of the progress, development and promotion of the Barnsley 'Pledge' to children and young people in care and care leavers.

2.0 **Recommendation**

2.1 **That the progress made against the desired Outcomes within the Council's 'Pledge' to children in care and care leavers, is noted.**

2.2 **Cabinet recommends that this report be referred to a future meeting of Full Council, as part of renewing its commitment, as the Corporate Parent, to the values and principles within the 'Pledge'**

3.0 **Background**

3.1 The Barnsley Pledge to the Children and Young People in Care (*please see Appendix 1*) was created in partnership with the Care4Us Council. It was approved for adoption by Cabinet, at its meeting held on 10th February 2016.

3.2 Since then, the Care4Us Council continues to meet to ensure young people in care and care leavers have their views heard on the decisions that affect their lives. The Pledge is reviewed annually and is now part of the Children's Services Continuous Improvement Plan, involving children and young people in care being consulted and contributing to the review and services providing evidence of implementing the Pledge.

3.3 The Pledge is a key strategy within the People Directorate Business Unit 3, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Business Plan 2017/2018.

4.0 **Barnsley Pledge to Children and Young People in Care – Performance**

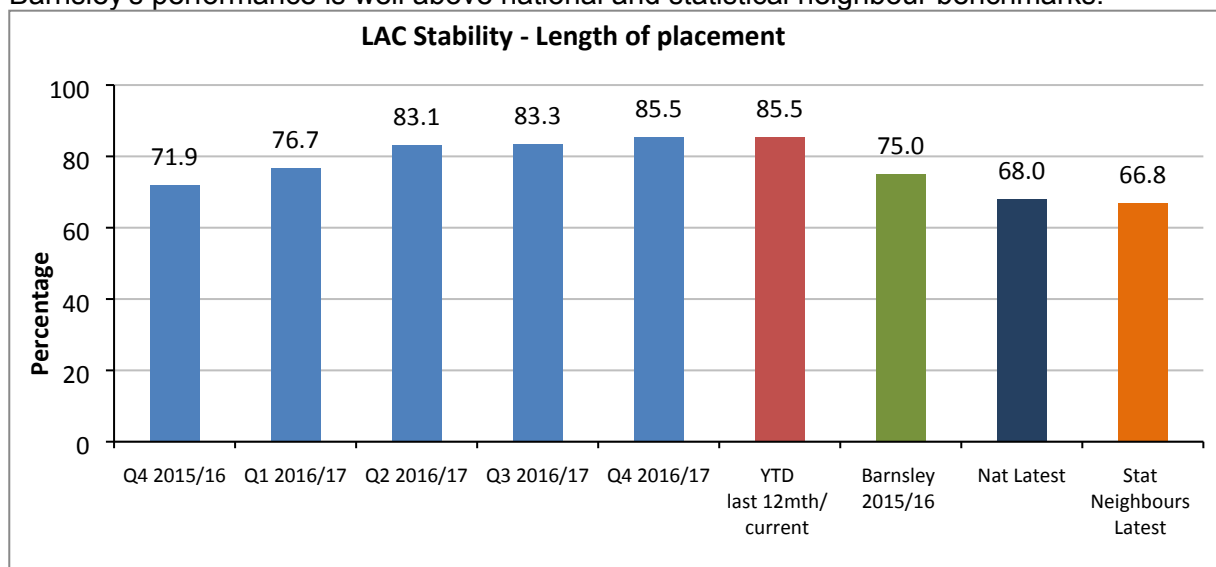
4.1 The following examples demonstrate how we have responded to the challenges laid out within the six 'Outcomes' of the Pledge. Figures used within this report are the annual figures for 2016/17¹, where available.

Outcome 1 - We'll look after you in a safe and caring home

- The percentage of children in care reviewed within timescale is 96.6% which is comparable to the 96.9% reported for Barnsley in the 2015/16 statutory return.
- Children in Care being visited within timescale reached 91.4% as a 12 month average, but had improved to 93.1% in March.

¹ Year ending 31 March 2017.

- The percentage of children with 3+ placement moves remains low at 2.7%. At the end of March, there were 8 looked after young people who have had 3 or more placement moves since entering care.
- The percentage of those looked after children who are in the same placements for 2yrs+ increased by more than 10 percentage points to 85.5% at the end of 2016/17². Indeed, Barnsley's performance is well above national and statistical neighbour benchmarks.



- All of the twenty young people currently placed in Children's Homes reside in Ofsted-rated 'good' or 'outstanding' placement provision.
- The number of reported missing from care episodes increased to 267 at the end of 2016/17, having been 212 at the end of 2015/16. In March, there were 20 episodes, relating to 10 individuals (2 of whom accounted for four episodes each). It is important to note that, in the majority of cases, the whereabouts of these children are actually known.
- The Placement Sufficiency Oversight and Resource Panel (PSORP) has been created to provide an increased scrutiny of placements of Children in Care. The panel has close links with the Virtual School to ensure that education attendance is considered when making placement decisions.
- Robust safer recruitment and arrangements for the management of allegations against people who care for or work with children are in place.

Outcome 2 - We'll promote and support and respect your identity

- Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Services aim to place children in care with carers within the borough. Local placements provide continuity for the children and ensure that they are cared for within a familiar and known environment. It also enables children to retain their cultural identities, social relationships and family attachments as much as possible. Equally, placing children within the borough ensures that services delivered by key partner agencies, such as health and education, are more consistent due to close partnership working.
- As of 31 March 2017, there were 291 Children in Care³; most (85.9%) placed in Barnsley or in neighbouring authorities. Our local performance remains above the national (74.7%) and statistical neighbours' (84.3%) averages.
- The number of Barnsley looked after children placed outside the Borough at year-end was 93, compared to 99 the previous year. Just 24 were placed further than twenty miles away.

² Performance at the end of 2015/16 was 75.0%.

³ This figure fluctuated roughly between 280 and 300 in any calendar month during the 2016/17 reporting period.

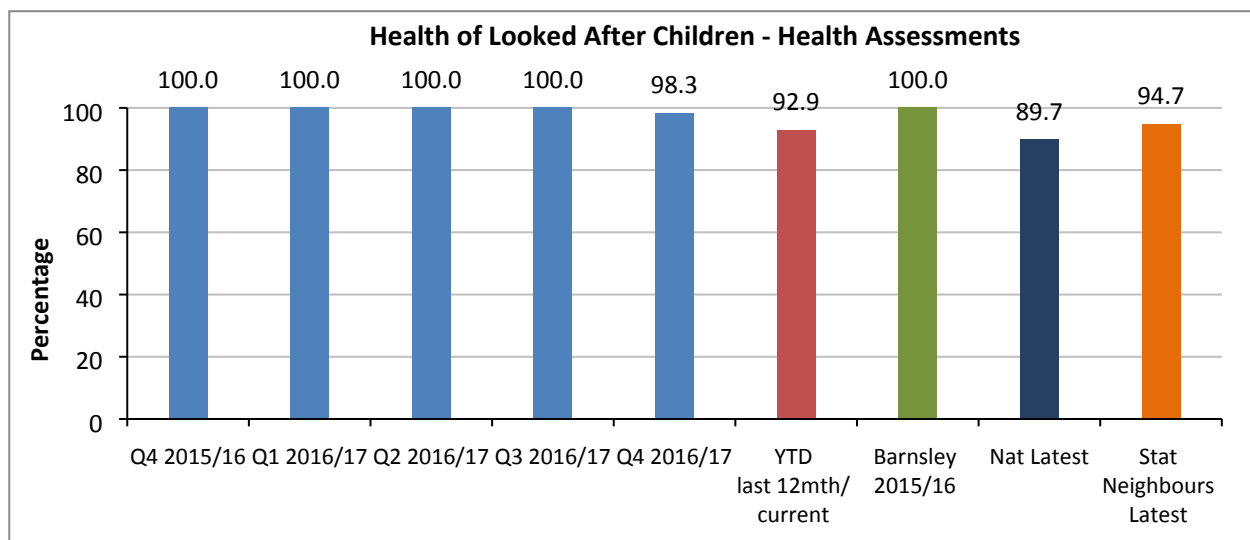
- To support our children in care obtain an understanding of their life story, we currently have 177 Life Story Books within the Children in Care team all at various stages of completion. We have completed 63 Life Story Books this year.

Outcome 3 - We'll ensure you receive a good outcome

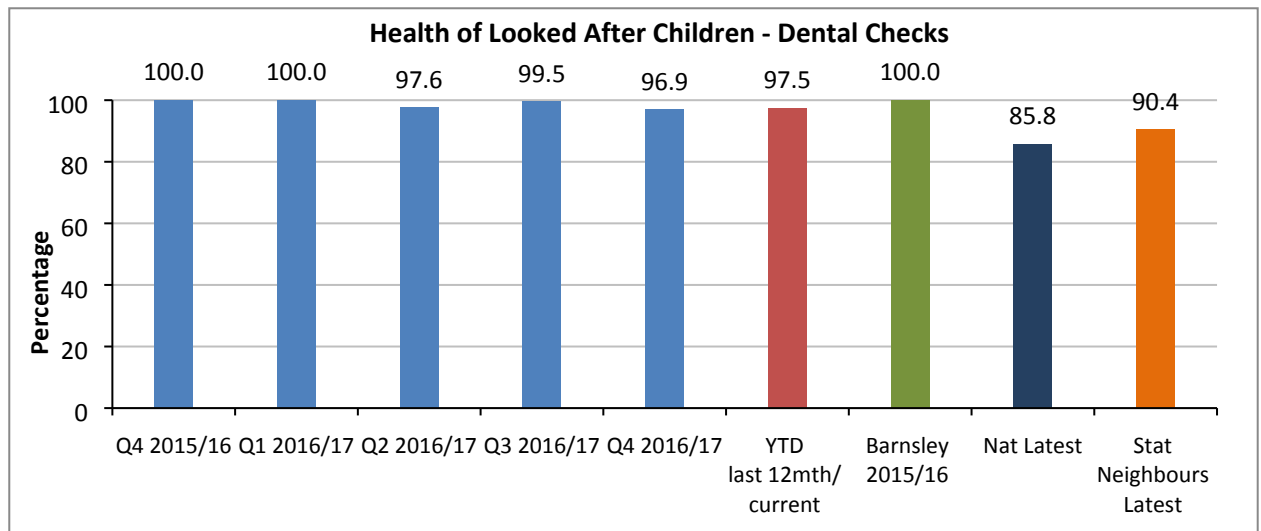
- 88.3% of Children in Care are placed in 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted-rated Schools.
- All children in the care of BMBC are supported to fulfil their educational potential through high quality personal education planning. The newly introduced termly personal education planning procedures (TPEPs) ensure that the education plans for each child are monitored closely and linked to effective use of any Children in Care Pupil Premium funding (additional funding granted by the government to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities).
- A review of PEPs / TPEPs recently undertaken found that compliance is good (95%+).
- Designated teachers in Barnsley schools receive regular training and professional development through the designated teacher network.
- Through termly data collections, the Virtual School monitors the attendance, exclusions and achievement of all its children. The attendance data is not available at the time of writing, but will be included in the next report.
- The annual Children in Care Awards continue to promote and celebrate the achievement of our Children in Care. The 2016 Awards received 261 nominations for 178 young people. 87 young people attended the event with 25 nominated guests; 65 Foster carers; 20 Social workers; 20 VIPS and 16 other staff making a grand total of 233 in the room.

Outcome 4 - We'll support you to be healthy

- The proportion of health assessments for looked after children completed on time dipped to 92.9% year-ending March 2017. This indicator is usually subject to a time lag due to recording and notification issues. Performance figures for April 2017 (97.9%) suggest that improvements are being made against this indicator.



- 97.5% of children looked after for 12 months or more had a dental check year-ending March 2017. Barnsley remains above the most recent national and statistical neighbour comparators for both of these indicators.



- Audit shows we are good at ensuring children and young people are given opportunity to be seen alone for their health assessment and that the majority of health assessments take place at home so education is not disrupted and they are not singled out from their peers.
- Strengths Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) for emotional health and wellbeing are completed at 3 months after entering care as a baseline and then each year after that to inform the health assessment the recognition of emotional health and wellbeing and to support referral to specialist services.
- Joint working with CAMHs to provide Children in Care weekly consultation clinics has reduced waiting times to within 6 weeks. A revised 'Children in Care CAMHs Pathway' will be launched in June 2017 which will highlight an enhanced support and consultation service.
- The Children in Care Jogging Club has commenced again in April and will carry on until the clocks go back later this year. They are hoping to partake in this year's Park Run Event at Locke Park.

Outcome 5 - We'll prepare you for the future

- The Children's Commissioner National Takeover Challenge promotes participation, is in line with Barnsley's Pledge to Children and helps prepare young people into the world of future employment. Barnsley's involvement during 2016 in the Takeover Challenge was to:
 - Put our children in care and care leavers into decision-making positions;
 - Provide opportunities for our organisations and businesses to hear their views;
 - Allow young people to gain an insight into our working world; and
 - Inspire our young people by their experiences.
- Barnsley achieved a Gold Commendation from the Children's Commissioner for work carried out for the Takeover Challenge in November 2016.
- Suitable Accommodation for Care Leavers in April was 97.6%. This was because 2 care leavers were in custody.
- The number of young people on Staying Put arrangements has increased to 15.
- Over the last 12 months the proportion of our 18, 19, and 20 year-old care leavers engaged in education, training or employment (EET) has remained fairly constant throughout the year; currently running at around 45%. This remains below our target of 65%. We also remain under target for employment opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.
- We have refined our management and oversight Education, Training and Employment (ETE) for Care Leavers.

The numbers of Care leavers in ETE in May 2017

	18	19	20	Total
Total	21	18	26	65
Number in ETE	8	9	11	28
Percentage	38%	50%	42%	43%

This is a priority improvement area for us in 2017.

- There are currently 7 Care Leavers in higher education.
- We currently have 4 Care Leavers who have taken up apprenticeships.
- Although Contact for children is arranged on an individual need basis, contact is key to promoting children's future needs. Maintaining contact and community links is encouraged, we know that children often return to their birth families and we want to ensure that they have the relationship skills and resilience to manage this more positively once they have left our care
- The newly created termly personal education planning procedures (TPEPs) ensure that the education plans for each child plans their journey into adulthood with a close focus on their educational, employment and training requirements.
- Young people are involved in their own Needs Assessment which informs their Pathway Planning which in turn prepare and supports young people into adulthood.

Outcome 6 - We'll involve you in making it happen

- The Care 4 Us Council continues to develop. An annual development plan / work programme has been created to allow a clear sense of direction for the Council members.
- During 2017 the Care 4 Us Council will receive reports from internal and external services on how they are supporting the Pledge.
- A Care 4 Us Council Marketing and Communication plan has been created to support the greater awareness of the Council and the Pledge.
 - The development of a monthly Care 4 Us Newsletter which will be made available to all children in care and care leavers.
 - Development of Poster / Leaflets to promote the Care4Us Council / Pledge
 - Development of a Care4Us Council website to ensure that other young people in care are aware what the Council is doing and the Pledge.
- A key action has been the setting up of a Social Workers / Training "what matters to children and young people" survey.
 - Creation of the "top" ten issues of importance to children and young people in care and care leavers.
 - Development of a training package for social workers of the "top 10" issues of importance to children and young people in care and care leavers.
- The Care 4 Us Council is to receive a presentation and report on June 14th 2017 from the Children in Care service in response to the Council's work regarding the "top 10 issues" which they want their social workers to understand. Areas for discussion include:
 - Coming into Care,
 - Looked After Reviews,
 - Family Contact,
 - Consistent service response,
- It is intended to create and launch a training package for all social workers and foster carers "what matters to children and young people. The Pledge will be an integral part of this training package.
- These findings and the proposed training package will be presented to the Social Care Development Forum on July 28th 2017.
- Independent Visitors are provided to Children in Care who request this service. Currently we have 32 young people being supported in this way.

4.2 Promoting the Pledge

- 4.3 To support the Barnsley Pledge with the aim of further ensuring it is incorporated within all aspects of our service delivery for Barnsley's children in care and care leavers the following oversight and connections have been instigated over the past 12 months:
- 4.4 Posters of the Pledge have been distributed across services within the People Directorate Business Unit 3. All staff have signed their support to the Pledge and it is regularly discussed within team meetings and in individual supervision.
- 4.5 The Business Unit 3 Continuous Service Improvement Plan (CSIP) has been updated and now includes a specific Barnsley Pledge section to ensure that the impact and influence of the Pledge within strategic policy and decision making is understood and monitored. This oversight will place great emphasis on interaction with children in care and care leavers and monitor that they are regularly consulted on how to improve the support that they receive.
- 4.6 Within the Barnsley Pledge section of the CSIP one of the key monthly actions is to report findings from any review or test of the Pledge to Corporate Parenting and Care 4 Us Council.
- 4.7 The CSIP actions are discussed at the monthly Business Unit 3 Performance Group meetings to ensure that the Pledge objectives are monitored at the same time as the Service Performance reports. This new initiative will be further expanded within the actions during 2017/2018.
- 4.8 Additional actions are to be incorporated during 2017/2018 to support the Barnsley Pledge to the Children and Young People in Care. These actions have been incorporated to enhance the awareness of the Pledge and to enable an increased understanding, and therefore reporting of how Services and Partners are supporting the Pledge.
- 4.9 This year's Team Objectives (work plan) for services within Business Unit 3 incorporate and include references to the Pledge within the Delivery Plan, objectives and Team actions.
- 4.10 Social Care Development Forum - Children's Social Care Excellence Awards. The awards nominations are to be cross referenced with the Pledge objectives to celebrate staff achievements and the promotion of the Pledge.
- 4.11 An additional Barnsley Pledge section to be incorporated into the Corporate Parenting panel report template. All reports will be required to state the impact and connection to the Pledge's 6 objectives.
- We'll look after you in a safe and caring home,
 - We'll promote and support and respect your identity,
 - We'll ensure you receive a good outcome,
 - We'll support you to be healthy,
 - We'll prepare you for the future,
 - We'll involve you in making it happen.
- 4.12 The Development of a Barnsley Local Offer for Care Leavers – DfE Keep on Caring Supporting Young People from Care to Independence, July 2016.

- 4.13 All the above actions will further improve our ability to meet the challenges set out within the Barnsley Pledge to children and young people in care.

5.0 Proposal and Justification

- 5.1 The progress made against the six outcomes in the 'Pledge' demonstrates the Council's commitment to improving the potential and life chances of children in care and care leavers. This will be reinforced through adherence to the provisions in the Children and Social Work Act (2017) concerning functions in relation to looked after children and care leavers up to the age of 25 which local authorities must have regard to.
- 5.2 Our Pledge to children in care and care leavers accords with the Council's corporate priority of people being able to achieve their potential through improving their wellbeing. Ensuring children in care and care leavers are able to attend a good school and receive targeted support remain key strategic objectives of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan.
- 5.3 The 'Pledge' also supports the Council's commitment towards improving the health of children in care and care leavers, upon which performance in relation to receiving regular health and dental assessments, continues to be stable.
- 5.4 In order to maintain progress and standards of performance against the outcomes in the 'Pledge' the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service will, at every review, ensure that a child in care has a current copy of the Pledge and evaluate how the child feels his or her social worker are delivering the ambitions of the Pledge as part of the check and challenge process.

6.0 Implications For Local People and Service Users

- 6.1 Ensuring progress against the outcomes in the Pledge will enable children in care and care leavers across all communities in the Borough to thrive in the knowledge that they are able to maintain good health, remain safe, improve their educational achievement and participate in a growing local economy.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The resources for delivering outcomes against the Pledge form part of the budget / funding within the Children Social Care and Safeguarding Business Unit. The budgeted spend by Children Social Care for 2017/18 is £24M, of which £16M (67%) relates to spend on Children in Care and Leaving Care services (mainly in relation to placement costs). The funding for 2017/18 includes additional investment of £2.9M to cover increased cost of children in care placements.

8.0 Employee Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct employee implications arising through this report.

9.0 Communications Implications

- 9.1 Every child who newly enters care will receive a copy of the Pledge. The document will continue to be reviewed annually and children and young people in care will continue to be consulted and contribute to the review. A copy of our Pledge is placed on the Council's Website, following every review and is accessible to a range of stakeholders.

10.0 Consultations

10.1 The 'Pledge' is developed and refined, following each review, through extensive consultation with children and young people in care and care leavers; senior managers and staff across the local authority, health and Third Sector services, together with elected members on the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Council's Senior Management Team.

11.0 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

11.1 Please see Paragraphs 5.2 – 5.3.

12.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

12.1 One of the outcomes sought through the 'Pledge' is to "*Promote, support and respect (a child or young person's) identity*". This is a commitment to ensuring the Council identifies, understands and meets the specific needs of children in care and care leavers that relate to disability, gender, culture, religious belief and sexual orientation.

13.0 Tackling the Impact of Poverty

13.1 The number of children in care engaged in education, employment and training, stood at 43% as at May 2017. This is below our local target of 65% but with the measures, currently in place, we hope to improve the number of young people in care who are participative in education, employment or training, including accessing higher education, as part of improving their potential and life chances and of shielding them from the effects of deprivation.

14.0 Tackling Health Inequalities

14.1 By April, this year, the percentage of children in care, in Barnsley, who were receiving regular health and dental assessments each stood at 98% and this was above both the Regional and National Average. This is an encouraging outlook as we strive to continually close the gap between the health and wellbeing of children in care and their peers.

15.0 Reduction Of Crime And Disorder

15.1 The commitment towards keeping children safe in a caring home; to foster their aspirations and to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing, through the 'Pledge' can make a crucial contribution towards diverting them from risky and harmful behaviour that can not only impact on them but also upon their communities.

16.0 Risk Management

16.1 There are no unanticipated risks emerging through consideration of this report.

17.0 Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience

17.1 There are no implications arising through this report.

18.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

18.1 The Council's commitment to improving the life chances of children and young people in care and care leavers, through the 'Pledge' accords with the Articles and Protocols of the Convention, particularly in promoting the right of a child to be safeguarded from harm.

19.0 Conservation Of Biodiversity

19.1 There are no implications for the local environment or the conservation of biodiversity in this report.

20.0 Glossary Of Terms And Abbreviations

20.1 Not applicable.

21.0 List Of Appendices

21.1. Appendix 1: 'The Barnsley Pledge To Children And Young People In Care'

22.0 Details Of Background Papers

22.1 Background papers used in the production of this report are available to view by contacting the Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Service, People Directorate, Barnsley MBC, PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 9GG

Officer Contact: Mel John-Ross (Service Director: Children's Social Care and Safeguarding)



Tel. No. 01226 773665 or e-mail melaniejohn-ross@barnsley.gov.uk

Financial Implications/Consultation
.....
(to be signed by senior financial services officer where no financial implications)

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The Barnsley



PLEDGE TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

MY SOCIAL WORKER'S NAME

MY SOCIAL WORKER'S PHONE NUMBER



Page 25

BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

HERE'S **WHAT** *you can* **EXPECT**

from us...

1 We'll look after you in a safe and caring home



2 We'll promote, support and respect your identity

3 We'll ensure you receive a good education



4 Well support
you to be
healthy



5 Well
prepare
you for
the future



6 Well involve
you in
making it
happen



WE'LL LOOK AFTER YOU **INA** **SAFE** AND CARING HOME by...

Doing our best to provide you with a high quality foster placement or residential home which is in or very close to Barnsley, unless there's a good welfare reason for not doing so.

Doing all we can to place you with any brothers and sisters who are also coming into care at the same time, unless there's a good welfare reason for not doing so.

Making sure that wherever you're living, your carers are supported to understand and meet your needs and **Page 28** feel safe.

Asking for and listening to your views about the type of placement you'll have.



Providing you with information about **your placement** and an introduction to your carers before you move in, unless you have to move in an emergency.

Doing all we can to place you as quickly as possible after **coming into care**, in a placement that can and will last until you **leave care**.



WE'LL **PROMOTE,** **SUPPORT AND RESPECT** your **IDENTITY** by...

Helping you to keep in contact with your **family and friends** if it's in your best interest, or if it's not possible we'll explain the reasons

Providing you with a **'life story book'**



and helping you to keep it up-to-date

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Making sure



we understand any needs you have that are to do with **disability, culture, religion, gender or sexuality** and providing extra services if they can help you.



Supporting and encouraging you to take up and develop your own **interests, hobbies, activities, sports and talents** both inside and outside of school.



Supporting and encouraging you to get involved in your **community** through **volunteering** work and helping others if you want to.



WE'LL **ENSURE** YOU RECEIVE A GOOD **EDUCATION**

by...



Making sure you have a place at a **good school** that is local to where you live, unless it's agreed that there's a more suitable school to **meet your needs**.

Making sure you know who the designated **teacher for children** in care is, and that they take an active role in **supporting you**.

Making sure you have an up-to-date **Personal Education Plan**, reviewed at least once and year with your contribution.

Having **high aspirations** about your ability to succeed and if you need help to catch up with school work we'll make sure this is available, including supporting you with a **Personal Education Allowance** of £100 a year.

Making sure that three and four year olds receive early years learning opportunities.

Expecting and supporting your carers to actively support your education through attending relevant meetings and providing a suitable place to do homework.

Making sure that if you are a school age child you have **access** to a **computer** where you live.

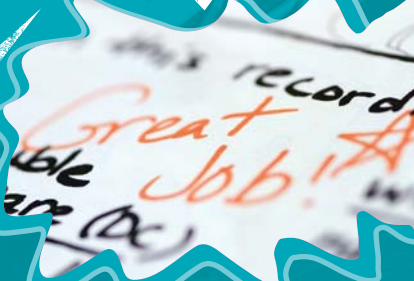


Trying our best to make sure you don't have to change school unless it's part of your Care Plan and never changing your school during years 10 and 11 unless there's a very good welfare reason for doing so.

Trying to make sure you **don't miss** school to attend appointments with the **people supporting you.**

Working with you and your carer to make sure you **attend school regularly**

Celebrating and promoting **your achievements.**



We'll **SUPPORT** YOU TO BE **HEALTHY** by...

Making sure you're registered with a **GP** and **dentist** and you're able to attend all your necessary immunisations and medical appointments, including an **annual health and dental assessment**.



Providing a specialist children in care **health advisor** to advise and support you, your carers and other health professionals so that you get the **best possible healthcare**.

Making sure you're able to take part in a range of **sporting, leisure, play** and other physical activities that will improve **your health**.

Making sure that if you **move home**, health services in your new area have information about **anything you may need**.



Supporting you to manage your own health needs as you get older, including providing information, **advice and support** about **relationships and sexual health**.

Making sure

you have **specialist support** if you feel so **angry, upset, scared, confused** or lonely that it's stopping you feeling **safe or happy**.



We'll **PREPARE** **you** FOR THE **Q** **FUTURE** by...

Making sure you have a **pathway plan** which you've contributed to, that sets out your **path to adulthood** from age 16 years and 3 months.

Making sure you've got a **bank account**, birth certificate, passport and National Insurance number soon after your **16th birthday**.



Making sure you have a **named personal advisor** from Barnsley's leaving care services.

Caring for you in a care placement until your **18th birthday**.

Page 36/

Making sure when you leave school you receive an **offer of education, employment or training**, and the opportunity to discuss this with a **careers advisor**.

Doing all we can to make sure that when you leave care you'll be provided with suitable quality **accommodation in Barnsley**, unless this is against your wishes, and where you need it, this will be supported accommodation.

Provide you with **accommodation in Barnsley** when you're home from college or university.

For **'separated children'** we'll provide you with access to **English language classes** within two weeks of becoming a child in care and support you to take up additional educational opportunities.

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**PASS
PASSPORT**



WE'LL INVOLVE
YOU

IN
MAKING
IT

HAPPEN

by...

Providing you with a named
Independent Reviewing Officer
who will chair your childcare review
and **make sure** your views are heard
and understood.

Involving the
Children in Care
Council in developing,
monitoring and
reviewing this
pledge.

Listening
to your views
and opinions and
involving you in
decisions about
your care.

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Your views matter to us!

Talking to you and other children and young people in care to help us decide how to **change** and **improve our services**.

Establishing a group of children and young people in care who will meet together with senior managers and Barnsley councillors regularly to talk about what it's like being in care and share ideas for making things better, this will be the **Children in Care Council**.

Supporting the Children in Care Council by providing **advice, assistance and information** and seeing how well we are doing to meet the **promises** made in **this pledge**.

Providing you with a copy of this pledge so that you know what we are doing and so that you can tell us if we're not meeting these promises, you can do this by talking to your social worker or reviewing officer, or anyone else who you know will tell us, including the Children's Rights Service.

If you want to talk to
someone about the
Barnsley Pledge
and what it means for
you please get in touch:



01226 775646



www.barnsley.gov.uk



BARNSELEY

Metro **Page 40**^{ncil}

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director (People)
to Cabinet

(12th July 2017)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BARNSELY CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL (2016/17)

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel's Annual Report, which sets out the progress and outcomes of the Panel for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 (Please see Appendix 1)

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet notes the progress and achievements made by the Panel in supporting children and young people in care and care leavers, during 2016/17.**

- 2.2 **The Annual Report be submitted to a meeting of Full Council for approval and adoption as part of renewing its 'Pledge' towards children and young people in care and care leavers.**

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 The Children Act (1989) and the Leaving Care Act (2000) place clear statutory duties upon the Council to protect children from suffering significant harm and to provide continued financial and transitional support to care leavers aged up to 21 (or 25 if in full time education).
- 3.2 The Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel's latest Annual Report reminds Members of the Council of key legislation and guidance, together with their role and responsibility as corporate parents to children in care in the Borough.

4.0 Consideration of Alternative Approaches

- 4.1 Please see Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2.

5.0 Proposal and Justification

- 5.1 It is good practice for the Corporate Parenting Panel to draft an annual report on its work and achievements as part of ensuring its continued compliance with the responsibilities placed on it and on how its work adds value to the experience of children and young people in care, particularly in helping them to stay safe and healthy, improve their prospects and to enjoy enriching lives as part of the Council's 'Pledge' to children in care.

5.2 These responsibilities have been reinforced this year, through Part 1, Chapter 1 of the Children and Social Work Act (2017) concerning local authority functions in support of looked after children and care leavers

6.0 Implications for Local People and Service Users

6.1 The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel includes ensuring that all children in need of care in any part of Barnsley, together with those from other areas who are placed in the Borough, receive the help and support from local services which they need to stay safe and healthy, gain a good education and to lead rewarding lives.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the consideration of the Annual Report.

7.2 The Corporate Parenting role of the Council in relation to looked after children and children in need are mainly discharged within the Children Social Care and Safeguarding business unit (within the People's Directorate). In 2016/17 actual net expenditure on children in care and those leaving care was approximately £16.4m. This exceeded the level of resources available in the year by +£3.3m, and is mainly attributable to the increasing cost and number of looked after children. It should be noted that the above reported financial pressure in looked after children has been addressed by the Council in 2017/18 through the medium term financial plan.

8.0 Employee Implications

8.1 There are no employee implications arising through consideration of the Annual Report.

9.0 Communications Implications

9.1 Following its proposed consideration and adoption at a meeting of Full Council, the Annual Report will be published on the Council's Web Site in order to make stakeholders aware of the importance of the Panel's work and the value it adds to supporting vulnerable children and young people in the Borough.

10.0 Consultations

10.1 The Panel's Annual Report has been drafted with the valuable help and input of children in care, including representatives from the Barnsley Care4Us Council.

11.0 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

11.1 The role and responsibilities discharged by the Corporate Parenting Panel support a number of the Strategic Priorities of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (2016-19) as they relate to children in care. These Strategic Priorities are indicated below:

- Keeping Children and Young People Safe.
- Improving Education, Achievement and Employability.
- Tackling Child Poverty And Developing Stronger, Resilient Families.
- Supporting All Children, Young People And Families To Make Healthy Lifestyle Choices.
- Encouraging Positive Relationships And Strengthening Emotional Health.

11.2 In addition, the Panel's work supports one of the Council's priorities in its Corporate Plan, notably by ensuring children and young people in care are kept safe from harm and are enabled to have their say (including via the 2016 National Takeover Challenge) in overseeing the effectiveness of local services, as part of improving their life chances and potential.

12.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

12.1 A crucial element of the Council's 'Pledge' to children in our care, is to promote, support and respect their identity. Therefore, one of the responsibilities of the Panel will continue to be ensuring the specific needs of any children in care, belonging to any of the groups with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act (2010) are met in a way which respects this identity.

13.0 Tackling the Impact of Poverty

13.1 Please see Paragraph 11.1.

14.0 Tackling Health Inequalities

14.1 A key responsibility of the Panel is helping ensure improvements take place in the health of children and young people in care. The Annual Report contains a performance summary which outlines the progress made in the number of such young people receiving regular health assessments and dental checks in which performance has remained stable, during 2016/17.

15.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder

15.1 The Panel's role in supporting the Council's 'Pledge' to children in care, includes overseeing the effectiveness of local services, responsible for keeping them safe from harm, including risky behaviours that can harm their own wellbeing as well as the safety of communities.

15.2 Through listening to children and young people's experiences of being in care and ensuring this perspective informs improvement, this approach nurtures esteem among young people in their care, enhances their wellbeing and minimises the risk of alienation which can contribute to them going missing from care and the risks this exposes them to.

16.0 Risk Management Issues

16.1 There are no direct risks emerging through consideration of the Annual Report.

17.0 Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Issues

17.1 There are no direct health and safety implications for the public or Council employees emerging through the Annual Report.

18.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

18.1 The Panel’s Annual Report is compatible with the Articles and Protocols of the EU Convention, particularly in supporting the rights of children to be safeguarded from serious harm.

19.0 Conservation of Biodiversity

19.1 There are no implications for the local environment or the conservation of biodiversity arising from the report.

20.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

20.1 None, applicable.

21.0 List of Appendices

21.1 Appendix 1: Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report (2016/17)

22.0 Details of Background Papers

22.1 Any background papers used in the compilation of this report are available by contacting the People Directorate, Barnsley MBC, PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

Officer Contact: Mel John-Ross (Service Director: Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding)

Tel. No. (01226 773665 or e-mail melaniejohn-ross@barnsley.gov.uk)

Date: 14th June 2017

Financial Implications/
Consultation <i>(to be signed by senior Financial Services Officer where no financial implications</i>

Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2016-2017

1. Context

- 1.1 This report sets out an annual update on the corporate parenting arrangements in Barnsley, with progress and outcomes of the panel for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. It reminds members of key legislation and guidance, advising on local performance and service improvement, as well as progress made by the corporate parenting panel. The report aims to strengthen the role and responsibilities of corporate parents in improving outcomes for children and young people.

2. Proposals and Reasons: Corporate Parenting – Our Responsibilities Legal Framework

- 2.1 The Children Act 1989 and the Leaving Care Act 2000 place clear statutory duties upon the Council to protect children from suffering significant harm and to provide continued financial and transition support to care leavers aged up to 21 (or 25 if in full time education). Underpinning corporate parenting is a wide range of national policies, guidance, regulations and legislation, which are subject to change by High Court rulings, such as the Southwark ruling in 2009.
- 2.2 The Munro review has significantly impacted on the work we do with children and young people looked after. The Final Report of the Munro Review of Child Protection Services published in May 2011 includes Professor Munro's 15 recommendations which have significant implications for the way that child protection services will be run at a local level. In relation to children looked after, key reforms to be taken forward include building the capacity of social workers and strengthening their professional practice; a reduction in the amount of central prescription; increased evaluation of the effectiveness of the help provided to children and families; and greater recognition that safeguarding is a multi-agency responsibility.
- 2.3 The revised care planning regulations and guidance, including The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers and the Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children March 2010, place increased emphasis on effective care planning with a focus on the child, and are designed to improve the quality and consistency of care planning, placement and case review for looked after children. They also aim to improve the care and support provided to care leavers.
- 2.4 The UK Government made significant reforms to the youth remand framework with the implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act in December 2012. The Act implicitly attributes further responsibility to Local Authorities by means of children and young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation, being treated as children

looked after and being eligible for leaving care services if they are looked after beyond 13 weeks.

3. Corporate Parenting – The Role and Responsibility of Councillors

3.1 Effective corporate parenting requires knowledge and awareness of the needs of children and young people looked after and the services they receive. This is a shared responsibility by the Council as a whole. The role of the corporate parent is therefore:

- a) To receive and consider accurate and timely management information reports on the numbers, characteristics and needs of looked after children and care leavers.
- b) To receive and consider reports demonstrating how effectively Barnsley is serving it's looked after population through the provision of services and targeted initiatives.
- c) To receive briefings on new national and local initiatives designed to improve children and young people's life chances.
- d) To gain knowledge of services based on direct involvement and opportunities to meet and gain the views of stakeholders, especially listening to the views of children and young people looked after and members of the Care 4 Us Council.
- e) To monitor and review progress on the delivery of Corporate Parenting 'Promise' to children looked after and care leavers.
- f) To ensure that decisive action is taken to address any shortcomings in the services provided to children and young people.

4. The Barnsley Pledge to Children and Young People in Care

4.1 What all children and young people in our care can expect from us:

- We'll look after children in care in a safe and caring home.
- We'll promote, support and respect their identity.
- We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.
- We'll support children in care to be healthy.
- We'll prepare children in care for the future.
- We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.

5. Corporate Parenting in Barnsley

5.1 Children in Care are those children and young people aged 0 -18 years who cannot safely remain with their family and are cared for by the local authority. The local authority has continuing legal and financial responsibilities to many of these children until they are 21 (or 25 if in full time education). This includes all unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and children with multiple

disabilities. Children in Care and Care Leavers are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.

- 5.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel is responsible for children in care, children at the edge of care and children and young people who have left care.

6. Corporate Parenting Panel Overview and Membership

- 6.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is chaired by the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding).

- 6.2 The Panel meet every 2 months and there continues to be good attendance at meetings by the full range of members, which include:

- Elected Members, BMBC
- Executive Director, People Directorate, BMBC
- Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
- Virtual Head Teacher for Children in Care, BMBC
- Representatives for the Care4Us – Children in Care Council
- Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, BMBC
- Foster Carer/s from the Barnsley Foster Carers Association
- Named Nurse for Children in Care, SWYPFT
- Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children/LAC, NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group
- Designated Doctor, BHNFT
- Head of Service, Children in Care Services, BMBC
- Managers for Children in Care and Care Leavers Teams, BMBC
- Scrutiny Officer, BMBC

7. Corporate Parenting Progress in 2016-17

- 7.1 At each of its meetings the Corporate Parenting Panel receives the following standard reports for scrutiny and challenge:

- Looked after Children Performance Report; a bespoke performance report which captures data, provides a commentary and performance rating against all key performance indicators of relevance to children in care. Panel members receive a cover report which highlights the areas of concern and invites and encourages member challenge.
- A Children in Care Status Report; a report which sets out numbers, locations and types of placements of Barnsley's children to support members in asking questions about trends and the implications for children's wellbeing.

- 7.2 Other standard agenda Items:

- Minutes of the Education of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Health of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Care 4 Us Council

7.3 Progress and improvement for children’s outcomes are set out under Section 13 of the report

7.4 Over the past year the Panel has requested and considered the following thematic reports for discussion and challenge:

Report Title	Date of Meeting
1. Looked After Children Reoffending Rates presentation 2. OFSTED Inspection Outcomes (Private Children’s Homes)	Monday 25 April 2016
1. Draft Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2015/16	Monday 06 June 2016
1. Therapeutic Support to Children in Care/CAMHS	Monday 25 July 2016
1. Care Leavers in Employment, Education & Training	Monday 12 September 2016
1. Suitable Accommodation for Care Leavers 2. Adoption: Improving Timeliness	Monday 24 October 2016
1. Celebration Event 2016: Initial Report 2. Timeliness of Looked After Children Reviews 3. Timeliness of Looked After Children Visits	Monday 05 December 2016
1. Placement & Sufficiency Governance Arrangements Presentation 2. Bi-annual Audit of Review of Health Assessments for Children in Care	Monday 23 rd January 2017

Championing Children in Care and Care Leavers Participation

7.5 Promoting young people’s increased involvement and participation has been a key focus for the corporate parenting panel during 2016 – 2017. This has been evidenced by Takeover Challenge, which is a national event led by the Children’s Commissioner for England, which puts children and young people into decision-making roles.

7.6 Barnsley Council’s Takeover Challenge in November 2016 achieved a Gold Commendation from the Children’s Commissioner for work carried out for the Takeover Challenge which included the following activities:

- Work shadowing opportunities offered from Directorates across the council, involving senior members of staff and external organisations (South Yorkshire Police and NPS Barnsley). Placements were matched based on the requests of the young people.

- Author Nik Perring ran a session for a group of primary-school children to take over the Experience Barnsley museum.
- An Open Meeting of the Barnsley Youth Council for other young people interested in standing for election and Barnsley Members of the UK Youth Parliament attended the debate in the House of Commons on 11th November.
- A group of young people created a film for the joint Trust Executive Group and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (TEG/BSCB) annual meeting.
- A school-to-school visit was arranged so that pupils could share their learning on achieving an Anti-Bullying Charter Mark.

7.7 For the work shadowing element, we contacted all our Children in Care (from year 9 up) and Care Leavers to encourage their involvement and followed this up by ensuring the young person's social worker or personal advisor followed up the invitation with the young person. We had 28 young people involved during the day and over 100 young people involved in Takeover Challenge activities altogether.

7.8 We had held a consultation session with young people who had participated in 2015 in order to implement any ideas, learning and feedback from our previous events. The conclusion of this consultation was that we needed to build on our previous success (where we achieved a Silver commendation) by encouraging more young people; wider participation and following up on any learning and evaluation from the event.

7.9 In order to achieve the Gold award, we demonstrated that during 2016:

- We held Takeover activities over two or more months, which included planning meetings to shape the shadowing experience. Young people's expectations were collected, which were shared with the colleagues who were offering the shadowing opportunities.
- We involved a high profile person in our Takeover activities –Short story writer and author Nik Perring was involved in the Experience Barnsley Museum takeover. In addition, the Mayor of Barnsley, as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team, were shadowed by a young person.
- We are doing ongoing work to engage children or young people in our work. The Care4Us Council will continue to meet to ensure young people in care and care leavers have their views heard on the decisions that affect their lives. The Pledge will continue to be reviewed annually and is now part of the Continuous Improvement Plan involving children and young people in care being consulted and contributing to the review and services providing evidence of implementing the Pledge.
- The newly-elected Youth Council has started a new two-year term and will continue to represent the views of young people, supported by the Youth Voice and Participation Team.
- The joint Trust Executive Group and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (TEG/BSCB) annual meeting will now be held to coincide with the Takeover Challenge, to ensure young people can continue to contribute directly into this meeting.

Championing Children in Care and Care Leavers

- 7.10 The Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding) and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel, as well as members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are prominent participant's at all key events for children in care. This includes the:
- Annual Celebration Event of Children in Care's Education and Achievement;
 - Annual Foster Carers Ball;
 - National Takeover Challenge;
 - Children in Care and Adopted Children's celebration events;
 - Fostering and Adoption promotion activities.

Promoting Improved Educational Attainment for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

- 7.11 The Corporate Parenting Panel provides dedicated focus on children in care's education through the Virtual School Governance Group which is attended by Officers, the Virtual Head Teacher for LAC, members of Corporate Parenting Panel and partners. The group is chaired by Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential). During 2016-2017 a new Termly Personal Education Plan (TPEP) has been developed and implemented to ensure quality and timely plans for children in care's education

Respectful Challenge

- 7.12 During 2016/17 the Corporate Parenting Panel has challenged Children's Social Care and called Officers to account, for not meeting our aspirational target of 100% for timely Social Work visits to Children in Care. We believe that regular and timely visits by Social Workers to Children in Care builds and sustains positive and consistent relationships, to enable the child's experience to be understood and their needs and aspirations fully promoted. Performance is still not at 100% but has improved over the year, improving from 91.3% in Q1 2016/17 to 94.7% in Q4 2016/17

8. Governance Arrangements

- 8.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is established within the Council's Constitution and has specific Terms of Reference which emphasise the above responsibilities and its overarching responsibility to ensure that the Council, through elected members, officers and partner agencies, fulfils its corporate parenting role. Although the Corporate Parenting Panel does not possess Executive powers, the Panel is able to refer matters to the Council's Cabinet to consider any actions which the Panel recommends. The Council's Scrutiny Committees may, in turn, receive any of those issues which are referred to Cabinet and which the Cabinet feels would benefit from an in depth investigation in open session. It is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Panel annual report is considered by both the Cabinet and the Full Council meeting.

8.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel has links with the following groups:

- Children in Care Health Improvement Group – the Chair sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel and formally reports back each meeting. It was agreed to further strengthen this by having one of the Corporate Parenting Panel Councillors also sitting on the group. Minutes of meetings of this group are considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- The Virtual School Governance Group

8.3 Any areas of concern may be referred to Cabinet which may refer for Scrutiny Committee consideration.

8.4 Corporate parenting panel members have been encouraged to attend and receive training in understanding and making use of performance reports to support member challenge.

8.5 Member training is provided on the role, responsibilities and expectations of corporate parents. Members of the corporate parenting panel have agreed that their role is to act as ‘pushy parents’ for children in care on the edge of care and care leavers. The litmus test being “Would this be good enough for my child or me if I was a child?”

9. Children in Care Council

9.1 The Children in Care – Care4Us Council directly supports the Corporate Parenting Panel to measure and monitor the effectiveness and quality of ‘Corporate Parenting’ to children and young people; according to the views and experiences of the children who are in care. The panel remains fully committed to listening to the voice of service users and the active involvement of children and young people within the decision-making processes.

9.2 The Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding) with the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) and Service Director meets regularly with representatives from this group. This is to ensure that there is strong and direct feedback from children and young people; to be assured that they feel well cared for, safe, are happy, having their needs met and promoted, as well as to hear and respond to any other issues raised by them.

9.3 A key recommendation of the 2014 Ofsted inspection report is to widen the council to include the voice of younger children and more children in care as well as the existing care leavers.

9.4 A service review was undertaken in 2015 and a full time dedicated post was developed and implemented from the 1st April 2016. The aim of the post was to improve young people’s participation, ensuring that their voices and experiences are heard and influence all aspects of service delivery, as well as strengthening the Care4Us Council. Despite creating the dedicated post to support and promote LAC Participation and the Care4Us Council, due to absence this has not progressed to the desired level and needs to be a priority for 2017/18.

10. Continuous Service Improvement Framework

- 10.1 A Continuous Service Improvement Plan continues to be in place following the Ofsted inspection in June 2014 which judged Barnsley as 'requires improvement'. The plan consists of the work which is being monitored as part of the continuous service improvement journey and is mapped against the OFSTED recommendations and local improvements. The plan is overseen by the multi-agency Officer Group. Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) monitors the actions which indicate whether sufficient progress is being made, i.e. the right amount of progress in the right direction at the right pace.
- 10.2 All of the areas for improvement from the Ofsted inspection have been addressed within the Continuous Service Improvement Plan.

11. Priorities for the Corporate Parenting Panel for 2017- 2018

- 11.1 Hearing children in care's voices and promoting their active participation, giving influence to their views and showing the difference that has been made as a result. *BARNSELEY PLEDGE - We'll promote, support and respect their identity. We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.*
- 11.2 Supporting all children in care in attending a 'good' school; driving forward improved educational attendance, progress and attainment for all children in care. *BARNSELEY PLEDGE - We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.*
- 11.3 Improving Care Leavers engagement in volunteering, education, employment and training. *BARNSELEY PLEDGE - We'll prepare children in care for the future.*
- 11.4 Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers with access to timely help and intervention. *BARNSELEY PLEDGE - We'll support children in care to be healthy.*
- 11.5 Learning from return to care interviews to help avoid children going missing. *BARNSELEY PLEDGE - We'll look after children in care in a safe and caring home.*

11.8 Work Programme for 2017

Report on the Foster Carers Ball Celebration Event Proposed Review of the Pledge	24 April 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakdown of Children Missing from Care Presentation• Q4 Performance Report• Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report	12 June 2017

<p>2016-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Pledge <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.</i> • Virtual Head Teachers Report <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception Report of EET for Care Leavers <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll prepare children in care for the future.</i> • Exception Report on Missing Children in Care - <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll look after children in care in a safe and caring home.</i> 	12 July 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll promote, support and respect their identity. We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.</i> • LAC Examination Results <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.</i> 	11 September 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Programme for National Takeover Day • Exception Report of CIC Health including SDQs and Access to CAMHS <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll support children in care to be healthy.</i> 	23 October 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Programme Presentation for the Children in Care Awards Event <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education</i> • Progress Report on Life Story Work <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll promote, support and respect their identity.</i> 	4 December 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception Report on the Sufficiency of Care Leavers Accommodation <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll prepare children in care for the future</i> 	22 January 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Panel - A Review of 2017/2018 <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.</i> 	5 th March 2018

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 Corporate Parenting Panel is where the responsibility and accountability for the wellbeing and future prospects for Barnsley children in care ultimately rest.
- 12.2 A good corporate parent must offer everything that a good parent would, including stability. It must address both the difficulties which children who are looked after experience and the challenges of parenting within a complex system of different services.
- 12.3 The 2014 Ofsted report outlined a number of different areas where the Corporate Parenting Panel needs to challenge and support the development of services to ensure that Barnsley's children in care have good outcomes.
- 12.4 Significant improvements for children in care and care leavers have been achieved, as evidenced within the Service Improvement Plan and as measured against key performance indicators; **See Section 13.**
- 12.5 The challenge remains for everyone to raise their aspirations for the children of Barnsley and to remain a 'PUSHY PARENT' to ensure that all children at the edge of care, in care or who have left care are given opportunity to reach the best possible outcomes they can.

13. Performance Information - Looked after Children (LAC) data for the period 1 April 2014-31 March 2017

	2016/ 17 Q1	2016/ 17 Q2	2016/ 17 Q3	2016/ 17 Q4	Commentary
Numbers of LAC	300	299	294	288	<p>The number of LAC at the end of March 2017 had increased slightly to 288 from 285 in March 2016. More children were admitted to care in the first half of the year (74), compared with the second half (54). This was expected due to the corresponding rise in children with CP Plans. The number of children leaving care in 2016/17 was broadly comparable to 2015/16, with 125 in 2016/17 and 129 in 2015/16. Barnsley's rate of looked after children (59.3 per 10,000 under 18 year olds) is above the 2015/16 average (56), but still well below 2015/16 statistical neighbour average rates (82.2), and just below the 2015/16 national average of 60. Barnsley has stable communities and family units who are willing to care for children within the extended family network. Our Intensive Adolescent Team helps prevent young homelessness. There is strong permanency planning, with good performance for numbers of children adopted. Plans are in place to closely monitor CP Plans, in particular CP Plans for the 2nd time to ensure that there is no drift in timely decisions making. LAC figures are monitored at weekly performance meetings.</p> <p>At the end of March 2017, 164 looked after children were placed in Barnsley by other local authorities; a slight decrease from the 171 recorded at the end of March 2016.</p>
LAC Health Assessments	100%	100%	100%	96.4%	<p>Our performance on LAC health assessments has remained stable in recent years, the last quarter of 2016/17 did however see a slight decline from previous years. Health Assessments are being held and recorded in accordance with statutory guidance. There is an ongoing action to maintain progress on health assessments, with any decline escalated to the Service Improvement Plan Officers Group and subject to interrogation by key managers. Interrogation is given to all children without a health assessment and dental check. An Exception Report was presented to a recent Corporate Parenting Panel. Assurances were given that the decline in performance had been a recording issue, which has now been addressed.</p>

	2016/ 17 Q1	2016/ 17 Q2	2016/ 17 Q3	2016/ 17 Q4	Commentary
LAC Dental Checks	100%	97.6%	99.5%	96.9%	Considerable effort has been made to address data inputting problems at child level that previously resulted in reporting inaccuracies in dental checks. As a result, performance against this indicator remained above 95% for the whole of 2015/16.
LAC Education - Completed PEPs	100%	99.5%	97.4%	92.5%	Overall compliance for PEPs has been very good but dipped as was expected in Q3 and Q4. This was attributed to a Termly PEP being developed and implemented to improve quality and timely, termly planning. The implementation, which is now embedded, accounted for some expected decline in performance. The Education Steering Group has been established, chaired by a lead member, to drive forward improved attendance, progress and attainment. A Virtual School Leadership Team has also now been established.
Exam results (LAC)	2014	2015	2016		
KS2 Reading, Writing, Maths – Level 4+	-	30%	66.7%		There were 6 children who had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more in the SFR cohort in Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and maths as at 31 March 2016. Five took the KS2 exams and four achieved the expected standards placing Barnsley's LAC achievement at 66.7%.
KS4 GCSE 5 A*-Cs including English and Maths	-	11.1%	16.6%		There were 18 children in Year 11 who had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more. Of these 18, 2 achieved 5 A*-C GCSE including English and maths in line with the expected targets for this year. However, 1 looked after child narrowly missed this measure by achieving 4 A*-C GCSE. The school successfully requested a regrading of the English paper and the overall performance increase to 16.6% as a result, exceeding the target.
Proportion of all school absences linked to LAC	4.0%	3.8%	4.1%		Absence for children in the care of BMBC in 2015-2016 was below all non-looked after children nationally (4.6%). However, it was above the national figures for children looked after (3.9%), the Yorkshire and Humber average (3.5%) and our statistical neighbour average (3.2%). Performance locally has been below our statistical neighbour average for the last 3 years.
	2014	2015	2016		Commentary

Unauthorised absences for LAC	0.7%	0.8%	2.1%	2016 saw a significant increase in the proportion of LAC with unauthorised absences. Regionally and nationally, performance is much more stable and unchanged for the last 4 years at 1% for both. The 2015/16 figure for LAC is just above the figure for the whole school population in Barnsley (1.9%), but both are above the national average for all pupils of 1.1%, and the statistical neighbour average of 1.5%.
Persistent absences for LAC	-	8.5%	6.7%	Figures for 2016 showed a marked decrease in the levels of persistent absence amongst LAC. This compares favourably against the regional / statistical average (8.4%) for 2016, as well as the national average for the same period (9.1%).
Proportion of LAC receiving at least one Fixed Term Exclusion	-	12.9%	11.6%	2016 saw a reduction in the proportion of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion. However, performance locally has been worse than the regional and national averages for the last two years, with a regional and national average of 10.4% in 2016.
Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	14.3	13.5	13.6	This measures the rate of emotional and behavioural health of children aged 4 to 16 who are looked after continuously for 12 months. The lower the rate the better the emotional and behavioural health of the cohort of children measured. A score of under 14 is considered normal; 14-16 is borderline with cause for concern; 17+ is a cause for concern. An improvement in the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children in Barnsley can be seen in 2015, which has been sustained in 2016. Barnsley performs on a par with statistical neighbours at 13.6, but better than the national figure of 14 and regional at 14.2.
Foster Carers	96	104	115	A more proactive recruitment strategy undertaken in 2015/16 continued in 2016/17; this was successful in increasing the number of foster carers from 96 in 2015 to 115 at the end of March 2017. 11 new foster carer households and 16 new foster placements were registered as at 31 March 2017. However, the YTD of LAC cared for by Barnsley foster carers was 52.3% below the target of 62%. Increasing the numbers of foster carers is a priority for the Business Unit.
Commissioned Placements	65	81	84	As at 31 March 2017, we had 84 children in IFA placements, a slight increase from 81 in March 2016. The increase in IFA placements between 2014/15 and 2015/16 reflected the increase in numbers of LAC.
	2014	2015	2016	Commentary

Adoption (% adopted during the year ending 31 March)	32%	26%	28.5%	Barnsley's adoption rate has increased from the previous year, and is now above the 2015/16 figures for regional (21%), statistical neighbours (21%) and above national (15%) performance. Our performance has been above the national average for several years. We have exceeded the statistical neighbour and national averages for the last 3 years. In the last 12 months, 35 children have been adopted, and a further 61 children were placed with family members subject to Special Guardianship Orders and, therefore, ceased to be looked after. Placements which cannot be provided in house can be purchased from other authorities or voluntary adoption agencies at a cost of £27,000 per child. In 2016/17 we continued to make a number of out of authority placements due to the increasing number of children requiring placements. Of the out of authority placements we have made, we have been reimbursed for some by the national inter-agency adoption grant for children categorised as hard to place. This funding ended in April 2017.
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	2016/ 17 Q1	2016/ 17 Q2	2016/ 17 Q3	2016/ 17 Q4	Commentary
Percentage of looked after children who are placed less than 20 miles from their home address	90.3%	88.4%	84.9%	85.9%	We consider that the closer to home we can place looked after children the better it is for them. This is so that they can keep in contact with birth family where appropriate and maintain links with their home communities. Sometimes children are placed further away for adoption placements where it is not in their interests to keep in contact with birth families and where more specialised placements are needed e.g. for sibling groups. The 2016/17 corporate target for looked after children being placed less than 20 miles from their home of 92% was not achieved this year. At the end of March, 85.9% of looked after children were placed less than 20 miles from their home address
Placement stability - children with three or more placement moves	3.7%	3.7%	3.4%	3.4%	Performance on track, with strong and improved performance for this indicator, as well as excellent performance compared to statistical neighbours and national benchmarks. At the end of March 2017, there were 10 looked after young people who had three or more placement moves since entering care. Good performance has been achieved by carefully matching children with the right carers and providing support to both children and their carers.
	2016/	2016/	2016/	2016/	Commentary

	17 Q1	17 Q2	17 Q3	17 Q4	
Placement stability - children who have been in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption	76.7%	83.1%	83.3%	85.5%	The percentage of looked after children in the same placements for 2 years or more improved in 2016/17, with the year-end figure of 85.5% exceeding 2015/16 performance (75%). Barnsley's performance remains well above national (68%) and statistical neighbour (66.8%) benchmarks.
Looked after children cases reviewed within timescales	93.9%	98.4%	97.2%	97.2%	All cases of looked after children should have a review within 4 weeks of either becoming looked after or their last review. The same standard applies to visits. Performance has remained largely stable for both indicators, with visits remaining below our target of 100%, whereas review performance remained above our 95% target throughout 2016/17. Continued scrutiny is in place to ensure all looked after children receive improved timely visits.
Looked after children visits in timescales	91.3%	89.7%	92.1%	94.3%	
Care leavers in suitable accommodation	18-100% 19-100% 20-100% 21-100%	18-N/A 19-100% 20-100% 21-100%	18-94% 19-100% 20-96% 21-100%	18-100% 19-100% 20-93% 21-100%	We aim to place 100% of care leavers in suitable accommodation. However, due to the nature of the client group we work with, this is not always achievable. At the end of 2016/17, one of 15 20-year olds was not in suitable accommodation. Statutory reporting for 18 year olds only began in 2016/17.
Care leavers in employment, education and training (EET)	18-50% 19-44% 20-46% 21-40%	18-38% 19-60% 20-44% 21-43%	18-44% 19-59% 20-48% 21-28%	18-22% 19-37% 20-60% 21-42%	At the end of 2016/17, the care leaver cohort (all ages) consisted of 64 young people; 25 (39%) of whom were engaged in employment, education or training (EET). Young people can disengage from EET for a number of different reasons, including pregnancy, illness or disability. We are continuing to improve our work within the Future Directions team, which offers support to children leaving care. We have improved communications between our Targeted Information Advice and Guidance team, social care, and EET providers by holding monthly panel meetings. This is delivering positive outcomes and we are seeking to improve and develop this further during 2017. This should lead to an increase in the number of care leavers actively engaged in EET.

	2016/ 17 Q1	2016/ 17 Q2	2016/ 17 Q3	2016/ 17 Q4	Commentary
Children Missing from Care or Home Incidents	54	92	67	54	<p>Figures for 2016/17 show a significant increase in the number of children looked after missing from care or home incidents in Q2 compared to previous quarters. Work being undertaken with the police and partners to ensure that children are correctly classified as missing or absent resulted in the reduction in the number of missing LAC in succeeding quarters.</p> <p>The majority of cases where children are in our care and reported as missing, their whereabouts are actually known and we are often in frequent contact with them. The service director is alerted immediately about any missing Barnsley LAC and informed when they return. Ofsted commented positively about this in their last report. Improvement work is currently being undertaken around understanding the impact of and issues relating to LAC children placed within the Barnsley borough.</p>
Young people offending (Looked after Children receiving conviction)	3 <5%	3 <5%	2 <5%	3 <5%	<p>The number of LAC receiving conviction remained stable at an average of 3. Re-offending of LAC cared for by Barnsley Council show a positive trajectory and better performance than for our non-looked after children. We also see a relatively low number of Looked After Children entering the criminal justice system for the first time. We are confident that they enter the criminal justice system for offences that mainly take place within the community, and that being dealt with for offending behaviour is not as a result of living within a children's home.</p> <p>Staff from the Youth Offending Team (YOT) work closely with the Children in Care Team and with the leaving care team, Future Directions. Staff from both teams attend case planning meetings and YOT staff attend and contribute to LAC reviews as well as providing work and support to enable them to fully achieve their potential. Within the YOT we retain high expectations for our young people and this is reflected in the effort and support we provide to enable young people to attend school and attain as well as they are able to.</p>

OFSTED Ratings for Children's Residential Establishments (no commentary available)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Spring Lane	Outstanding	Good with outstanding features	Good	Good
Newsome Avenue	Adequate	Good	Good	Good

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director of People to Cabinet.

(12th July 2017)

ACCESS TO EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES THROUGH FAMILY CENTRES

1. Purpose of report

To provide Cabinet with an overview of how families have accessed Early Help through Family Centres since the launch of the new model on the 1st April 2016.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet note the report.

3. Introduction

On the 9th September 2015, Cabinet agreed to implement a new model of Early Help for families through a network of Family Centres, supporting children pre-birth to 19 years old (25 years old if the young person has a disability) and their families. This ensured that the Council achieved the Future Council saving of £2.5 million during the period April 2015/16.

The Family Centre service has built on strengths, expertise and infrastructure of the Children's Centres programme to ensure that:

- Family Centres provide a range of Early Help services for families with children pre-birth to 19 years old (25 years old if the young person has a disability) through a streamlined pathway
- Services include support with physical and emotional health, practical advice on keeping children safe, developing social networks through groups, support with education and learning, parenting, positive family routines, home and money, work, training and volunteering
- Family Centres are based in areas where there is a high level of need with the continuation of some services for all families delivered in partnership with health and education
- Family Centres are aligned to Area Councils
- Services work in a whole family way and are targeted according to need with a focus on early intervention and prevention. This is underpinned by a strengths based approach building family resilience and aspirations
- Family Centres are non stigmatised gateways to service for all families in their local community recognising that targeted interventions and outreach services are vital in supporting families who need it most in order to narrow the gap in outcomes between those experiencing the most disadvantage and the rest

Overarching Themes

The report provides Cabinet with data and information on a borough wide and area basis and provides detail relating to the following overarching themes:

- Overall high numbers of children, young people and families are accessing early help through Family Centres and the Targeted Youth Support service with the greatest number of families

having children in the 5 to 11 years old age range. This is a positive development as this age range was not largely provided for by the Children's Centre programme

- Early help activity initiated and led by a range of agencies has increased since the 1st April 2016, the introduction date of the new model of early help through Family Centres including the borough wide co-ordination by this service
- Over 1000 referrals have been received through the Early Help Panel (Family Centres and Targeted Youth Support service) leading to extra support to families as part of a Team around the Family as a result of a thorough Early Help Assessment and active Early Help Plan
- The step down arrangements with Children's Social Care has been strengthened to support families to sustain the gains they have made during a statutory intervention
- Weekly professional early help and social care consultation has been implemented along with health to provide support and guidance to early help practitioners to ensure that families receive the right support at the right time and further embed understanding of thresholds
- Clear governance arrangements are in place through local Family Centre Advisory Boards aligned to Area Councils and borough wide through the Early Help Steering Group for Children and Families which reports to the Stronger Communities Partnership. The steering group also provides reports to the Children and Young People's Trust and Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board. There is a strategic fit with the recently approved All Age Early Help Strategy 2017/2020.
- A performance management framework is in place with multi-agency partners which continues to be developed to ensure there is an evidence base of impact using short, medium and long term indicators. This information is used as a basis on which agencies are holding each other to account, including quality assurance through multi-agency audit.
- A multi-agency workforce development programme has been implemented and continues to be developed including the introduction of Early Help Champions

4. Consideration of alternative approaches

The purpose of the report is to enable Cabinet to review the progress and impact made by the new model of Early Help to children, young people and families through Family Centres.

5. Proposal and justification

The information in the main body of the report is largely borough wide. For a breakdown per area, please see Appendix 1.

Access to Early Help through Family Centres (including services offered through the Targeted Youth Support Service).

It is evident that families continue to engage with services delivered through Family Centres and it is notable that the highest rate of registrations are for families with children aged 5 to 12 years. Focused work is being undertaken in partnership with secondary schools to engage with families with teenagers, notwithstanding that young people do choose to self refer to the Targeted Youth Support service.

Family Centre Registrations at end of Q4 2016/17 (the number of registrations are taken at a point in time and not cumulative)	0 to 4 years	5 to 12 years	13 to 19 Years (25 years if the young person has a disability)	Total
Catchment Area				
Dearne	959	1257	379	
Central	1643	1659	458	
North	1068	1203	340	
North East	1423	1708	381	
South and Penistone	1042	1224	216	
Total	6,135	7,051	1,774	14,960

In addition to children and young people reached through Family Centres an integral part of the offer is through the Targeted Youth Support service where young people can access Early Help through targeted group provision and as part of a team around the family.

	Young People Registrations at end of Q4 2016/17	Young People Attendances at end of Q4 2016/17
Catchment Area		
Dearne	358	4449
Central	546	3293
North	245	1814
North East	316	7772
South and Penistone	1081	12875
Borough wide service (Targeted Groups in Schools and Learning Disabilities/Delay)	541	3327
Total	3,087	33,530

Access by type of Early Help for families

Families registering with Family Centres can access a range of group/programme based services which allows for greater efficiencies in supporting a larger number of families as part of a group as well as developing positive peer support networks. In addition, families who may need more tailored support from a number of agencies, a team around the family is formed. Broadly Early Help can be categorised as:

Outreach: reaching out to ensure engagement with children and families experiencing the most disadvantages that may not self refer or find services easy to access

Health: evidence based provision including Having a Baby, Baby Massage, Healthy Start, Infant Feeding Support, Cook and Eat, Healthy Lifestyles and Physical activity and Busy Feet.

Work and Finance: evidence based provision including Journey to Work and Adult Learning

Family Support and Parenting: evidence based provision including parenting programmes e.g. Webster Stratton, Solihull and family support as a team around the family

Engagement: including participation and influence e.g. parent/carer forums

Access by type of Early Help through Family Centres at the end of quarter 4 2016/17

Type	Families
Outreach	4055
Health	2263
Work and Finance	549
Family Support and Parenting	2094
Engagement	1819
Total	10,780

Access by type of Early Help for young people through the Targeted Youth Support Service

Young people registering with the Targeted Youth Support service access a range of targeted groups within localities and borough wide through schools and a specific service for young people with Learning Disabilities/Delay. The data below does not include the young people who are involved in the Youth Council and vote in the Make Your Mark campaign every year. Early help for young people is categorised by the following curriculum areas:

Be Healthy:

- Physical health (fitness, healthy lifestyles, sports leadership accredited courses)
- Mental and emotional health (self awareness, esteem and image, emotional support, stress management, tools and techniques, Motiv8 programme)
- Sexual health (contraceptive advice, sexually transmitted disease screening, access to health services, adolescent development, relationship and assertion, sexual responsibility)

Stay Safe:

- Signposting to support agencies, internet safety e.g. CEOP resource and education
- Risky behaviours, safety and emergency services
- Safe from bullying and discrimination including awareness, education and support

Enjoy and Achieve:

- Personal and social development and positive recreation time e.g. practical activities, trips and visits, teamwork skills, communication, interaction, social and interpersonal skills
- Life skills, cooking, money handling
- Support, information and guidance
- Accredited awards e.g. I Know I Can, Sports Leadership, John Muir Award (outdoor education)

Make a Positive Contribution:

- Engagement in decision making and support for the community and environment e.g. voice and influence activity, citizenship, campaigning, democracy through the Youth Council structure
- Engagement in law abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school e.g. volunteering programmes, peer mentoring, environmental improvements, restorative justice programmes

Economic Wellbeing:

- Access and referral to other services e.g. Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance, benefits, housing, homelessness
- Ready for employment and the world of work e.g. independent living skills, budgeting, CV and interviewing skills, preparation for learning and work.

Access by type of Early Help through the Targeted Youth Support service at the end of quarter 4 2016/17

Type	Young People Attendances at end of Q4 2016/17
Be Healthy	10,595
Stay Safe	6376
Enjoy and Achieve	8187
Make a Positive Contribution	7044
Economic Wellbeing	1328
Total	33,500

In addition to the provision of targeted groups, the Targeted Youth Support service is responsible for undertaking the return home interviews as part of the borough wide provision relating to children missing from home or care. 186 return home interviews were conducted with children as at quarter 3 of 2016/17.

Access to Early Help Family Support as part of a team around the family

Family Centres and the Targeted Youth Support service are key partners in the delivery of early help where a team around the family is required to meet some of the complex challenges faced by some families. Through the streamlined Early Help pathway agencies can refer for extra Early Help support for children, young people and families where a specific role for the Family Centre or Targeted Youth Support service has been identified. In order to manage this effectively an Early Help Panel was established on the 1st April 2016 where partner agencies refer for specific family support through Family Centres or the Targeted Youth Support service.

Since it was established until the end of quarter 3 2016/17, the Early Help Panel has received 1060 referrals from partner agencies.

In addition, through strengthened step down arrangements with Children's Social Care, Family Centres are key partners in ensuring that families sustain the gains they have achieved following Social Care intervention and support. The step down protocol has been piloted with an official launch of the final agreement in April 2017 where data will be collated to develop understanding of the impact of the new arrangements.

Co-ordination of Early Help Assessments and Plans

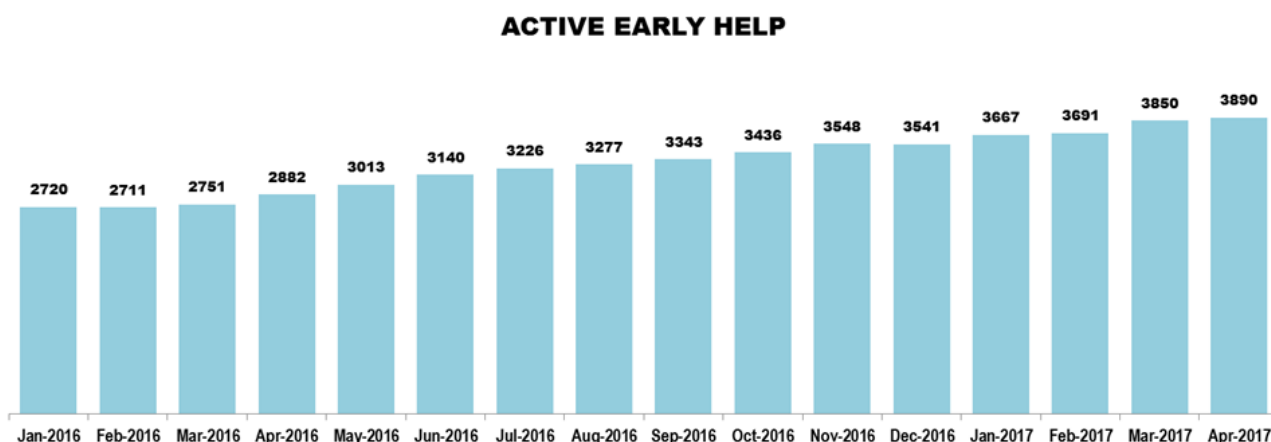
On the 16th March 2016 the Early Start and Families service became responsible for the borough wide co-ordination of Early Help Assessments and Plans on behalf of partner agencies. Early Help is the responsibility of all agencies across Barnsley and whilst Family Centres and the Targeted Youth Support service are direct deliverers of Early Help the service also co-ordinates the Early Help activity generated by other agencies. The multi-agency Early Help Steering Group for Children and Families has worked towards an agreed action plan, stemming from an independent peer review, in order to further improve, collaborate and hold each other to account for performance and outcomes.

Children's Social Care previously held this responsibility and as part of the transfer the service has reviewed and updated the framework for co-ordination including:

- Tracking of Early Help Assessments and Plans
- Performance management and quality assurance
- Workforce development
- Information, advice and guidance including the web based Early Help Toolkit
- Communications and raising the profile and understanding of Early Help
- Development of Early Help champions

- Strengthened arrangements with Children’s Social Care including step down and weekly professional consultation open to all agencies

There has been increase in multi-agency Early Help activity across the borough when considering the number of Early Help Assessments and plans initiated and progressed. This provides targeted one to one support to families who need additional support as part of a team around the family.



One of the key aims of the service is to increase, encourage, support and challenge agencies to ensure that they undertake their own role as part of the partnership delivering Early Help to families. To support this, during the last 12 months work has been undertaken with BMBC Performance to develop more granular reporting of Early Help activity including an analysis of which agencies are initiating Early Help Assessments, pulling together a team around the family and progressing active plans focused on achieving positive short, medium and long term outcomes. See Appendix 1 for the number of Early Help Assessments initiated by agency during the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. Family Centres (524) along with Primary Schools (703) are the agencies leading the most Early Help Assessments and plans with Health Visitors (102) and the Family Intervention Service 82) the next greatest instigator.

A further focus of analysis is the inter-relationship between Early Help and statutory interventions led by Children’s Social Care. Early indications suggest that since the launch of the new model on the 1st April 2016 there has been an increase in Early Help activity and a decrease in children subject to statutory interventions however this needs further analysis over a longer period.

Data as at 8th March 2017.

Age of children	0-5 years	6+ years	All children
Children on Child Protection Plans	133	122	255
Children that are deemed Child In Need	409	716	1125
Children with Early Help Assessments	1716	2121	3837
Children Looked After	87	203	290

Making a Difference – Governance and Performance Management

Family Centre Advisory Boards receive detailed data and intelligence regarding children and families in their community including key demographics. This data, coupled with local intelligence, is used to set local targets and forms the basis of the Self Evaluation Framework and action plan. The multi-agency Advisory Boards are the main vehicle for providing local support and challenge to

Family Centres in order to ensure that performance targets are met and outcomes for children and families achieved.

As Early Help is every agency's business, the governance arrangements extend to multi-agency partnerships across the borough. The Early Help Steering Group for Children and Families reports to the Stronger Communities Partnership as well as the Barnsley Children's Safeguarding Board and Trust Executive Group. The Early Help Steering Group is accountable for the delivery of the multi-agency action plan a key strand of which is performance management.

From the 1st April 2016 the group has worked to develop a framework to drive improvements and ensure a positive impact on outcomes. This enables agencies to better align resources and fulfil their commitment to constructively hold each other to account. At each steering group meeting an Early Help performance report is shared which includes data in relation to Early Help Assessments and Plans. This has been continuously improved over the year 2016/17 and is now being effectively used to better understand Early Help in Barnsley and how to best maximise impact and outcomes. This report largely focuses on quantitative measures and activity which may lead to key lines of enquiry or investigations as a group. For example most recently the group agreed to undertake a deep dive in their own respective organisation as to the pattern of Early Help activity and Children's Social Care interventions in relation to three areas of the borough.

As part of developing a performance management framework the group has considered how best to develop an understanding of longer term measures of the impact of Early Help and agreed a quarterly report which focused on bell weather indicators including:

- Attendance in primary schools and secondary schools
- Persistent absence in primary and secondary schools
- Number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment and training (NEETs)
- Take-up rate of two year old entitlement
- Troubled families - number of families engaged as a proportion of total target number of families and number of families demonstrating significant and sustained improvement
- Number of children who are school ready as measured by the Early Years Foundation Stage profile
- Number of fixed term exclusions expressed as a % of primary and secondary school population
- Number of primary and secondary with 1 or more fixed term exclusions as a % of school population
- First time entrants to the Youth Justice system (aged 10-17 – rate per 10,000)
- Number of contacts to Children's Social Care
- Rate of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10,000 population under 18
- % of Children's Social Care referrals going on to assessment
- % of Children's Social Care assessments ending in no further action
- % of re-referrals (in last 12 months) to Children's Social Care

Quality is assessed through multi-agency audits which from 2017 will form part of the mainstream programme of audit under the Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board. Following the audit's undertaken by the group; an action plan is agreed and monitored through the steering group. The focus of audits during 2016/17 has included:

- Cases that were referred to Children's Social Care but were deemed not to have met the threshold for Social Care intervention
- Quality of Early Help Assessments
- Cases stepping down from Social Care

All Early Help cases with an assigned Family Centre, Family Support Worker conduct a case closure summary similar to a case study which identifies learning points. The Early Help Steering Group has agreed following a trial in 2016/17 to share anonymised case summaries on a quarterly basis during 2017/18 in order to learn from best practice, identify areas for improvement and

develop a common understanding of what Early Help can constitute in its broadest sense. Where appropriate information gained from the case summary can also be used as part of the Early Help Communications Plan.

Measuring Distance Travelled by Families – Family Star Plus (see Appendix 2)

The Family Star has been used in Barnsley Children's Centres since 2012 and continues to be used in Family Centres and other services funded by the Troubled Families – Think Family programme. The Star has been instrumental in ensuring that practitioners work in a whole family way, taking a solution focused and strengths based approach. The Star enables the measurement of starting points for families, demonstrates the change that families make through an intervention and evidences the family's outcomes and distance travelled. It can also provide a focus for discussion where parents and professionals perceptions of starting points differ. The tool enables the service to measure, evidence and summarise change within families. The Star provides the opportunity to analyse and interpret data in order:

- to be outcome driven and to achieve better outcomes
- to improve the service and identify priority work areas in order to target resources in the right place
- to see the level of progress made by families accessing Early Help services through Family Centres
- to maximise and evidence impact and outcomes

The Family Star Plus, part of the suite of Outcomes Star, is underpinned by the assumption that positive growth is possible and realistic for families. It focuses on 10 core areas that have been found critical to enable children to thrive and as the system is web based it allows for the production of statistical data that can be used at a number of levels. The core areas of the Family Star are:

- Promoting good health
- Meeting emotional needs
- Keeping your child safe
- Social networks
- Supporting learning
- Setting boundaries
- Keeping a family routine
- Providing home and money
- Progress to Work
- Your Wellbeing

The Star is based upon a model of change which includes 5 stages:

1. Stuck
2. Aware
3. Trying
4. Finding out what works
5. Effective parenting

The Star has children and families at the centre of the process and it focuses on family strengths and indicates what steps they could take to progress. It is family friendly and empowers families as they are active participants in the process and importantly it provides a visual representation of progress. This does not replace the Early Help Assessment and Plan but adds value to the process and provides a tangible evidence base of change.

The service also uses the My Star (for children aged 5-11 years) and Teen Star (for teenagers) to enable a holistic approach to whole family working and assessments. The continued use of the Star enables the service to track distance travelled of individuals/families that receive interventions and ensure that families, young people and children's voices are captured in assessments and intervention measures.

6. Implications for local people / service users

Families and young people are able to access services based on assessed need in the community in a Family Centre main, linked or outreach site, I Know I can Centre or in a community venue and in the home where appropriate. Families, children and young people continue to be able to have a voice and influence service delivery through local Advisory Boards, Parent/Carer Forums and through a number of participation mechanisms specifically for young people.

7. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

8. Employee implications

There are no direct employee implications as a result of this report.

9. Communications implications

There are no direct communication implications as a result of this report. The Early Help Steering Group for Children and Families however has a Communications Plan in order to raise awareness and understanding of Early Help.

10. Consultations

The Council completed a full statutory public consultation in relation to the proposed changes to the Children's Centre programme under Section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006.

11. List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Data by Area of Barnsley
- Appendix 2 Family Star Plus User Guide

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Telephone No 01226 773629
Date 21st April 2017

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Appendix 1

Activity Type	No DOB	Children 0-4 years	Children 5-12 years	Children 13-19 years	Adults	Total Individuals	Individual Visits	Families
Targeted Youth Support - Attendance by curriculum area:								
Be Healthy							4323	
Stay Safe							1785	
Enjoy and Achieve							3823	
Make a Positive Contribution (including youth voice and participation)							2640	
Economic Wellbeing							304	
Data as at 8th March 2017:								
No of Children on Child Protection Plans		13	18			31		
No of children Child In Need		59	136			195		
No of Children Early Help Assessments		378	436			814		
No of Children Looked After		17	23			40		
BOROUGH WIDE TARGETED GROUPS IN SCHOOLS AND LEARNING DISABILITY/DELAY PROVISION								
Targeted Youth Support - Attendance by curriculum area:								
Be Healthy							886	
Stay Safe							520	
Enjoy and Achieve							643	
Make a Positive Contribution (including youth voice and participation)							864	
Economic Wellbeing							414	

Appendix 1 (b)

Early Help Assessments initiated by agency as at 31 March 2017

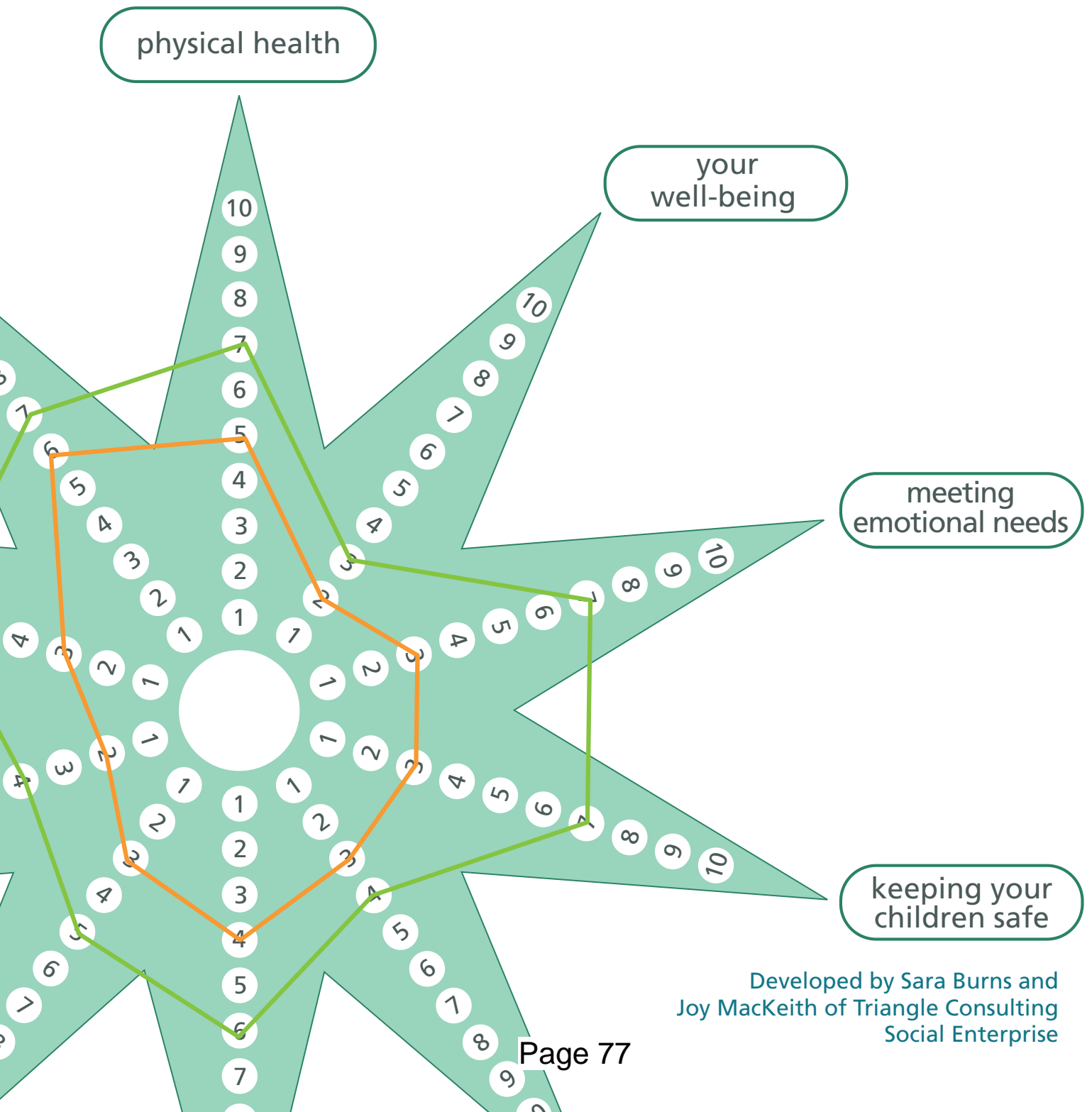
Source	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year to Date
Inclusion Services				7									7
Primary School	62	60	77	50		49	54	85	31	101	49	85	703
Secondary School	3	18	22	2		3	21	13	4	6	6	18	116
Specialist Education Setting		17	2						2	13	9	6	49
Further Education					2					1			3
Family Centres	52	37	38	43	41	40	30	53	8	56	58	69	525
Community Nursery Nurse	7	4	6		4	1		4		3	2	1	32
Health Visitor	16	21	7	6	6		1	7	2	4	19	13	102
School Nurse											2	4	6
Education Welfare Service	3	6		2			3				2		16
Other Local Authority		2											2
Youth Offending Team	1												1
Multi-systemic Therapy Team							3						3
Other												2	2
Family Intervention Service	16	2	5	15	10	7	9	2		10	4	2	82
Police											1		1
Midwife		3	2	2	5					2	6	7	27
Barnsley Hospital				3	1		2			4			10
Child and Adult Mental Health Service								5		2	1	1	9
General Practitioner					2		3				4		9
Community Nursing Team		2		4									6
Day Nurseries			3			2				2		6	13
Early Years Settings	7	1	6	1				7	1	1		4	28
Year to Date	167	173	168	135	71	102	126	176	48	205	163	218	1752

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Family Star Plus™

An Outcomes Star for parents



Developed by Sara Burns and Joy MacKeith of Triangle Consulting Social Enterprise

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Please contact info@triangleconsulting.co.uk to enquire about buying a licence and training.

Licences are also available for those wishing to translate the document into other languages.

The Outcomes Star™

This Star is part of a family of Outcomes Star tools. Each tool includes a Star Chart, User Guide or Quiz and guidance on implementation and some have visual and other resources. For other versions of the Outcomes Star, good practice and further information see www.outcomesstar.org.uk.

Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed to the development of the Outcomes Star over its long evolution and we would like to thank all the clients, workers, managers, funders, academics and commissioners who have generously given their time and expertise.

The original commission for an outcome measurement system came from St Mungo's, with financial support from the London Housing Foundation, and Triangle recognises their vital roles in the development of the Outcomes Star. We would also like to acknowledge Kate Graham's important contribution to the development of the suite of Stars, both as a founding partner of Triangle and as co-author of the original Outcomes Star (now called the Outcomes Star for Homelessness).

We would particularly like to thank the following people and organisations for their contribution to this version of the Star:

- Leicestershire County Council for collaborating with us in the development of the Family Star Plus
- Camden Council Children's Schools and Families (CSF) Directorate for making the original Family Star possible
- The Camden family services and consultant-parents that formed the working group with whom we developed the Family Star: Camden consultant-parents; managers and workers from Elfrida Rathbone, Euston Children's Centre, Hopscotch, Coram and the Youth Offending Service; Family Action
- Hampshire local authority parenting services and Family Action for piloting and feedback
- Family Action for input into the second edition of the Family Star and the Family Star Plus.

Introduction to the Family Star Plus™

Raising a family is one of the most challenging things any of us will ever do.

Children need love, attention, patience, meals, clothes, guidance and boundaries – often all before 8.30 in the morning! Sometimes as parents we have our own issues to deal with, or circumstances such as disability, moving to a new area or family conflict can make the challenges even greater. It's not surprising that many of us sometimes find it hard to cope.

The Family Star Plus helps us by focusing on ten areas of life:

1. Physical health
2. Your well-being
3. Meeting emotional needs
4. Keeping your children safe
5. Social networks
6. Education and learning
7. Boundaries and behaviour
8. Family routine
9. Home and money
10. Progress to work.

For each core area there is a ten-point scale that measures the parent's relationship with any difficulties they are experiencing in this area, and where they are on the steps towards addressing these difficulties.

The Journey of Change underpinning the Family Star Plus comprises five stages:

1. Stuck
2. Accepting help
3. Trying
4. Finding what works
5. Effective parenting.

The Journey of Change

Steps to effective parenting

Stuck (1-2)

Others are concerned about one or more of your children – perhaps about their behaviour, health or development – but you aren't acknowledging problems or doing anything to change the situation. Perhaps your own needs or other things are taking your attention so you can't meet your children's needs. Maybe you are really worried but don't know what to do. Maybe you don't want others involved or feel criticised or afraid to talk about problems. At 2 you have moments of acknowledging difficulty or concern and briefly open up to someone about it, but you do not accept help so things are still stuck.

Accepting help (3-4)

Your children have problems with their behaviour, development or school attendance and at this stage you go along with help when things are organised for you. Perhaps you feel helpless, angry or that you have to co-operate, but this stage is a positive place to be because you are engaged and change is possible. At 3 sometimes you go along with support and sometimes you don't. You take a step forward to 4 when you go along with support more consistently but the initiative is from workers at this stage.

Trying (5-6)

You recognise that it is up to you to improve things for your children and to start to take more responsibility. You take the initiative to try new ways to address your children's needs and deal with problems. Sometimes this goes well but often it doesn't and your children resist the changes so things may seem worse for a while. This is a difficult place to be and it is easy to give up so you may need lots of support. At 5 you may feel tentative and give up quickly. At 6 you stick to new ways of doing things for longer.

Finding what works (7-8)

You are learning from experience what works and what doesn't work with your children and they are benefiting from this. More of your own needs are met so you are more able to give to your children and you are thinking about the whole family and how to make things work for everyone. However, there are some things that are not working so well or where you need professional support. By 8, you are parenting well enough but you still need ongoing support and could slip back if this is withdrawn too soon.

Effective parenting (9-10)

Your children can do well in your care and so you do not need the support of a specialist service. You put your children first when necessary but you also find ways to meet your own needs so you can be a good-enough parent and cope with the ups and downs of family life most of the time. Although for most parents this will not be the end of the journey, you are able to reflect on what you have learnt and continue to improve your parenting and learn new skills as your children get older, without professional input. At 9 you need occasional support and at 10 you are parenting well enough without support from a service.

The Journey of Change

Key points

- At 1 and 2 there are significant concerns about your children. People may be doing things to help and from 3 you go along with their support
- At 5 there is an internal shift towards taking responsibility
- By 8 you meet your children's needs well enough, with support
- By 10 you can learn and improve without support from a specialist family support service

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My children can do well in my care and I don't need support from a service

7 - 8 Finding what works

I am finding ways of meeting my children's needs but still need support

5 - 6 Trying

I try to do things to meet my children's needs but it's hard

3 - 4 Accepting help

I am concerned about my children and go along with some support

1 - 2 Stuck

Other people are concerned about my children but I don't want to talk about it

1 Physical health

Doctor, dentist, healthy lifestyle, early development, managing any disabilities

Key points

- By 4 things are not getting worse and you mostly attend appointments
- From 5 you are taking more responsibility for your family's health
- By 8 your children have what they need to be healthy and any health problems are being addressed, with support

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My children have a healthy lifestyle and receive any medical treatment they need

7 - 8 Finding what works

I am finding ways of building a healthy lifestyle for my children

5 - 6 Trying

I try to do things to make sure my children are healthy but it's hard

3 - 4 Accepting help

I know I need to do more to look after my children's health

1 - 2 Stuck

People say I am neglecting my children's health. I don't want to talk about it

1 Physical health (detail)

This scale is about how well you are looking after your children's physical health. It is about doctors, dentists and treatment when they have health problems, plus things that build good health, such as enough healthy food, regular exercise and sleep. For babies it covers breastfeeding where possible and positive weaning for a healthy start in life. For older children, it is about helping them take responsibility for their own health.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My children have a healthy lifestyle and receive any medical treatment they need

- You look after your children's health, including treating minor problems at home
- You and your children mostly have enough healthy food, sleep and exercise
- You encourage older children to take responsibility for their health, including sexual health. If you have a baby you are giving it a healthy start in life. If any of your children has a disability or health condition, you keep them as healthy as possible
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support to look after your children's health. Choose 10 if you look after your children's health well enough without support

7 - 8 Finding what works

I am finding ways of building a healthy lifestyle for my children

- You are finding ways to introduce healthy food, exercise or bedtime routines. You may be finding it works best if you do these things, too
- If you have a baby, you are learning how to give it the best start in life. You are teaching older children to take care of their health, including sexual health
- You look after your children when they are unwell and if any of your children has a disability or health condition, you are learning ways of managing it
- Choose 7 if there is still more that needs to change. Choose 8 if your children have what they need to be healthy but you need support to maintain this

5 - 6 Trying

I try to do things to make sure my children are healthy but it's hard

- You take your children for some routine checks but don't always follow advice. If they are ill you do something about it but are not always sure it's the right thing
- You may be trying to introduce more healthy food and exercise or ensure healthy development but it often doesn't last long
- Choose 5 if you have just started trying new things for yourself or give up easily. Choose 6 if you have been doing this for a while or can keep it up a bit longer

3 - 4 Accepting help

I know I need to do more to look after my children's health

- The problems at this stage are similar to 1-2. Your children's lifestyle is not healthy but you recognise there are issues and go along with some support
- Choose 3 if you occasionally allow others to help. Choose 4 if you go along with help more consistently but still rely on others to take the initiative

1 - 2 Stuck

People say I am neglecting my children's health. I don't want to talk about it

- You don't take your children to the doctor or dentist, except in emergencies
- Your children don't eat healthy food, have too little exercise or sleep, and may be obese, under-nourished or at risk of health problems later. If you have a baby you don't know what is needed for healthy development. If you have teenagers, they may be taking risks with their health. You may also be neglecting your own health
- Choose 1 if you don't see this as a problem. Choose 2 if you have moments of concern over your children's health but don't accept support so there is no change

2 Your well-being

How you feel, your mental health, how you deal with problems

Key points

- By 4 you are consistently accepting support
- By 8 you are not taking drugs or drinking problematically, there is no domestic abuse and you manage any mental health issues well enough, with support
- At 10 you can maintain this without support or you never had any emotional or mental health issues

9 - 10 Effective parenting

I feel fine and manage my emotional and mental health well

7 - 8 Finding what works

I'm learning to manage my emotional and mental well-being, with support

5 - 6 Trying

I am trying ways to feel better or deal with mental health or other issues

3 - 4 Accepting help

I am going along with help to feel better or to deal with problems that may affect my family

1 - 2 Stuck

I often feel pretty bad or there are problems that may affect my family but I don't want to talk about it

2 Your well-being (detail)

This scale is about you – how you feel and how you cope with difficulties. If you feel very stressed, aren't coping, are depressed, anxious or have problems with drugs or alcohol, domestic abuse or mental health, this will affect your family, whether now or later on. And it's hard on you. This scale will help us discuss what is happening so we know how we can help.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

I feel fine and manage my emotional and mental health well

- Your emotional well-being is good and you mostly manage the inevitable difficulties in life and stresses of parenting, with support from family and friends
- If you have a mental health issue, you are managing your symptoms. You do not use illegal drugs or misuse alcohol and there is no domestic abuse in the family
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support in this area. Choose 10 if you feel fine and don't need support with this

7 - 8 Finding what works

I'm learning to manage my emotional and mental well-being, with support

- You have made progress with issues that were affecting your well-being. You use strategies to manage stress and feel OK but it can be hard so you need support
- If you have a mental health issue or a drug or alcohol problem, you are managing it well, with support from an appropriate service
- If you have experienced domestic abuse in the past, you have changed the situation and by 8 are no longer exposed to the abuse
- Choose 7 if there is still more that needs to change. Choose 8 if you have found what works but need support to maintain it

5 - 6 Trying

I am trying ways to feel better or deal with mental health or other issues

- You are trying to address any problems, for instance getting help for depression, tackling alcohol or drug misuse or getting out of an abusive situation
- You may be doing things to lift your mood or stabilise your emotions and be avoiding unhelpful ways of coping. You are taking any medication as prescribed
- Choose 5 if it is early days. Choose 6 if you have been trying for a while but are not yet finding what works

3 - 4 Accepting help

I am going along with help to feel better or to deal with problems that may affect my family

- You have similar issues to 1-2, but you acknowledge that there is a problem
- If you have depression or other mental health issues, a drug or alcohol problem, or you are experiencing domestic abuse, you are accepting help
- Choose 3 if sometimes you allow others to help but sometimes you don't. Choose 4 if this is more consistent but you don't take the initiative to improve things yourself

1 - 2 Stuck

I often feel pretty bad or there are problems that may affect my family but I don't want to talk about it

- One or more of the following are the case:
 - You are feeling depressed, self-critical, anxious or hopeless to the extent that it affects your family
 - You are experiencing domestic abuse
 - You are drinking problematically or using drugs
 - You have a mental health problem that is not being treated appropriately
- Choose 1 if you can't face thinking about these problems. Choose 2 if you have moments of concern or of acknowledging problems, but you do not accept support

3 Meeting emotional needs

Helping your children grow up happy and resilient; connection and love

Key points

- By 4 you are consistently accepting support
- By 8 you are able to meet your children's emotional needs well enough, with support
- By 10 your children have what they need from you to grow up emotionally healthy and resilient and you don't need support in this area

9 - 10 Effective parenting

I respond well enough to my children and don't need support in this area

7 - 8 Finding what works

I am mostly meeting my children's emotional needs but there are a few problems

5 - 6 Trying

I am trying to support my children emotionally but it's difficult

3 - 4 Accepting help

I know I don't give my children the emotional support they need but I accept support to change that

1 - 2 Stuck

If my children have problems, it's not my fault. We don't want help

3 Meeting emotional needs (detail)

This scale is about meeting your children's emotional needs, including the connection and relationship that you have with them. It is about giving your children the attention, positive feedback and encouragement that they need, being able to express your love for them and ensuring they can grow up positive and able to deal with life's inevitable ups and downs.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

I respond well enough to my children and don't need support in this area

- You give your children enough attention and encouragement, and express your love for them, though its form may depend on your own family culture
- You can support them to deal with difficulties, so they grow up more resilient
- You feel close but allow them to be separate from you when they need to be
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support in this area. Choose 10 if your children have what they need to be emotionally healthy and you don't need support

7 - 8 Finding what works

I am mostly meeting my children's emotional needs but there are a few problems

- You are mostly able to respond well to your children's emotional needs, but not always. You have learnt some new approaches and are noticing a positive impact on your children when you use them
- You are learning how to give your children the attention, positive feedback and encouragement they need to grow up more resilient, as well as how to let them experience difficulties for themselves and support them when things go wrong
- Choose 7 if there is more that needs to change. Choose 8 if your children mostly have what they need to grow up emotionally healthy but you still need support

5 - 6 Trying

I am trying to support my children emotionally but it's difficult

- You try to give your children attention but you find it hard to keep up. Your children may experience you as inconsistent and are not yet seeing the benefits
- You may find it hard to allow them to learn how to deal with problems themselves but are trying to do this so they can be more resilient
- If your relationship has been distant or over-close, you are trying to change this
- Choose 5 if it is early days. Choose 6 if you have been trying for a while but are not yet finding what works

3 - 4 Accepting help

I know I don't give my children the emotional support they need but I am accepting support to change that

- You have similar issues to 1-2, but you acknowledge that there is a problem and accept some support
- Choose 3 if sometimes you allow others to help but sometimes you don't. Choose 4 if this is more consistent but you don't take the initiative to improve things yourself

1 - 2 Stuck

If my children have problems, it's not my fault. We don't want help

- You do not give your children the attention, positive feedback or encouragement they need and this may be damaging their self-esteem
- You may feel resentful or angry towards them and/or unable to express the love you feel or empathise with them. You may feel distant from them or you may be so close that you depend on them a lot to meet your emotional needs
- Choose 1 if you can't face thinking about this. Choose 2 if you have moments of concern or of acknowledging problems but you do not accept support

4 Keeping your children safe

Protecting your children, avoiding accidents, bullying and abuse

Key points

- At 1-3 professionals may need to trigger child protection actions, depending on the severity of the issues
- By 4 any immediate safety issues are being addressed
- By 8 there is no domestic abuse in your family, and your children are adequately supervised and safe, with support

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My children are safe in my care

7 - 8 Finding what works

My children and I are mostly safe but there are a few issues

5 - 6 Trying

I am changing things so that I can protect my children and myself

3 - 4 Accepting help

My children are not safe enough. I go along with some support in this area

1 - 2 Stuck

People say my children are not safe. I wish they would stop interfering

4 Keeping your children safe (detail)

This scale is about appropriate supervision, ensuring your home is safe, internet safety, and protecting your children from accidents and risks. It is also about protecting yourself and your children from bullying, racial harassment and domestic abuse.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My children are safe in my care

- You are safe, your home is safe, and the people who visit are safe for your children
- You teach your children about all safety issues appropriate to their age, including accidents, bullying and crime, drugs, alcohol, sexual health and internet risks
- If you have older children you know enough of what they are doing, their peer group is mostly safe, and they are not causing any risks to your younger children
- You think ahead and act straight away if you see a risk to your children's safety
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support to keep your children safe. Choose 10 if your children are safe and you don't need outside help to keep them that way

7 - 8 Finding what works

My children and I are mostly safe but there are a few issues

- You put strategies in place to keep your children safe both at home and outside
- If there have been safety issues such as domestic abuse or inappropriate visitors, this has now stopped
- You talk to your children about safety issues appropriate to their age, including accidents, bullying and crime, drugs, alcohol, sexual health and internet risks
- Choose 7 if there is still more that needs to change. Choose 8 if your children are safe in your care but you still need some help with managing the situation

5 - 6 Trying

I am changing things so that I can protect my children and myself

- Perhaps you are trying to spend more time at home, check that younger children are safe with older children, find new childcare or set rules about when children can go out and where they can go
- You are trying to change your own behaviour if this was affecting your children's safety
- If there has been domestic abuse, bullying or racial harassment, you are making changes. If your children have been abused you are getting help for them
- Choose 5 if you have just started trying to make changes. Choose 6 if you have been trying for a while but have not yet found what works and need support to keep going

3 - 4 Accepting help

My children are not safe enough. I go along with some support in this area

- A crisis, accident or social worker has made you aware that your children are not safe in any of the ways described under 1-2, or you have realised for yourself. It may feel awful to acknowledge this but you now accept help so things can change
- You may feel unsafe as well due to bullying, racial harassment, domestic abuse or other crime
- Choose 3 if you occasionally allow others to help. Choose 4 if you accept help more consistently so there are no immediate risks but you don't take the initiative

1 - 2 Stuck

People say my children are not safe. I wish they would stop interfering

- Your children are not safe for one or more of these reasons:
 - They are left unsupervised and at risk of accidents
 - They are getting in trouble with crime or drugs or are victims of crime
 - They are victims of, or at risk of, physical, sexual or emotional abuse
 - They are victims, or perpetrators, of bullying or racial harassment
 - Your behaviour, older siblings or people who visit put them at risk
 - They or their close friends often put themselves in risky situations
- Choose 1 if you can't face thinking about this. Choose 2 if you have moments of concern or of acknowledging your children are not safe but don't accept support

5 Social networks

Family, friends, social life, community

Key points

- From 5 you are increasingly finding ways to improve positive social contact and support
- 10 will look different for different people, but your children are mixing with others so they are able to develop social skills and you have support from family, friends and community

9 - 10 Effective parenting

I have the social contact I need and want, and my children spend time with other children and are developing social skills

7 - 8 Finding what works

My family has social contact and connections but we need support in this area

5 - 6 Trying

We are getting to know people or seeing more of friends or family

3 - 4 Accepting help

We are isolated. I'm accepting support so we can start to feel more at home here

1 - 2 Stuck

We are isolated. I don't want to talk about it

5 Social networks (detail)

This scale is about you as a parent having the people, social contact and support you need and want, and your children being able to make positive friendships and develop social skills through spending time with other children. It is also about feeling settled and happy where you live and having access to places of religious worship or other facilities important to you and your family.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

I have the social contact I need and want, and my children spend time with other children and are developing social skills

- Your children spend time with peers and friends and have or are developing appropriate social skills and positive appropriate friendships for their age
- Friends, neighbours or wider family meet your needs for support and company
- You are reasonably settled living where you are and have access to places of worship or other community services or facilities that are important to you
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support in this area. Choose 10 if you and your children have the social contact you want without support from a service

7 - 8 Finding what works

My family has social contact and connections but we need support in this area

- Your children have positive friendships and spend time with other children
- You have friends, neighbours or wider family you spend time with and maybe people you can call on for support, favours and childcare. You may have joined in some local activities and met new people but don't yet feel confident with them
- You have addressed any harassment or bullying issues but still need support
- Choose 7 if there is more that needs to improve. Choose 8 if you and your family have good-enough social networks but you still need support in this area

5 - 6 Trying

We are getting to know people or seeing more of friends or family

- You are trying to connect with people locally and/or to see more of family or friends further away, and finding out about local facilities that matter to you
- You are thinking about your children's social networks – whether they have positive friendships and opportunities to develop social skills
- If there are harassment or bullying issues you are trying to sort these out, with help
- Choose 5 if you give up easily. Choose 6 if you feel more confident and motivated. Getting to know people may be hard so you may need extra support

3 - 4 Accepting help

We are isolated. I'm accepting support so we can start to feel more at home here

- The situation is the same as 1-2 but you acknowledge that you and/or your children are isolated or mixing with people who have a negative influence on you
- Choose 3 if you accept help sometimes but often you don't. Choose 4 if you accept help more consistently but you still don't try to sort this out for yourself

1 - 2 Stuck

We are isolated. I don't want to talk about it

- You have little helpful support from family or friends and your children don't spend time with friends or positive peer groups to develop their social skills
- Perhaps you are a long way away from family and/or friends, no one around speaks your first language or you have been threatened or feel that your family is not welcome because of drugs, domestic abuse, disability or complaints about you; or
- The people you are mixing with are a negative influence on the family – perhaps because they drink, are involved in crime or behave inappropriately
- Choose 1 if you can't face thinking about this. Choose 2 if you have moments of concern or of acknowledging problems but don't accept help

6 Education and learning

School, homework, learning through play, early development

Key points

- From 1 to 4 any efforts to turn around problems with school or learning come from outside the family
- From 5 you are increasingly motivated and addressing this for yourself
- By 8 your children have good attendance at school or training and/or are supported to develop and achieve their potential

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My children are learning well and developing positive aspirations for the future

7 - 8 Finding what works

Some things are working well but there are still problems to address

5 - 6 Trying

There are problems with learning and aspiration but I am trying to sort them out

3 - 4 Accepting help

I am concerned that my children are missing out and I'm accepting support to do something about this

1 - 2 Stuck

I'm not thinking about my children's learning or aspirations

6 Education and learning (detail)

This scale is about supporting your children's learning and aspirations. For school-age children this means at least 85% attendance, but targets may vary. For babies and younger children, it is about developing co-ordination, stimulating activities, messy play, positive risk-taking and helping them start school well. For older children, it is about supporting aspiration and ensuring they are engaged in work or learning.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My children are learning well and developing positive aspirations for the future

- Your children are reaching their potential. Their school attendance is good and you attend main school events and celebrate their achievements
- You prioritise learning, play, reading, early development and other stimulation for your baby or young children. Older children have support with college, training or work, and encouragement to take responsibility and make positive choices
- Your children have positive role models
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support. Choose 10 if your children are learning well and you don't need support in this area

7 - 8 Finding what works

Some things are working well but there are still problems to address

- Your children are attending school regularly and/or have opportunities to learn, play and develop but there are still problems in some areas
- If your children have left school/college, you are encouraging them in getting or holding down training or employment and in developing aspirations for the future
- Choose 7 if there is still more that needs to change. Choose 8 if your children are able to learn well but you need support to maintain this

5 - 6 Trying

There are problems with learning and aspiration but I am trying to sort them out

- You are trying to make a difference to your children's education or early development but they are missing out on learning opportunities
- You are trying new things with your children, for instance praise, playing or reading together, or sanctions for missing school, but you find it hard
- If your children are leaving or have left school/college, you are trying to help them make positive choices but it's hard
- Choose 5 if you give up easily. Choose 6 if you have been doing this for a while but haven't yet found what works to support your children effectively

3 - 4 Accepting help

I am concerned that my children are missing out and I'm accepting support to do something about this

- You are concerned that your children are not regularly taking part in school, training or stimulating activities, or are achieving well below their potential
- Choose 3 if you occasionally accept help with this. Choose 4 if you accept help more consistently but you don't take the initiative to support your children yourself

1 - 2 Stuck

I'm not thinking about my children's learning or aspirations

- Your children aren't regularly attending school, training, work or suitable alternative education and you don't acknowledge this as a problem. You aren't giving pre-school children stimulating things to do, playing with them, helping them develop co-ordination or taking them to places that help their development
- Your children are behind other children of a similar age in their development. Maybe you are negative about school or don't know how to support them
- Choose 1 if you don't see this as a problem. Choose 2 if you have moments of acknowledging problems about your children's learning but don't accept help

7 Boundaries and behaviour

Difficult, criminal and anti-social behaviour, maintaining appropriate boundaries

Key points

- From 4 you are consistently accepting help so any anti-social, risky or illegal behaviour is not getting worse
- By 6 any problematic behaviour is reducing
- By 8 your family is not regularly involved in crime or anti-social behaviour or taking inappropriate risks and you provide appropriate boundaries for your children, with support

9 - 10 Effective parenting

I am able to maintain effective boundaries and deal effectively with any problems

7 - 8 Finding what works

I set appropriate boundaries and have some skills to help my children keep within them but there are some difficult areas

5 - 6 Trying

I am learning about appropriate boundaries and how to maintain them

3 - 4 Accepting help

My children's behaviour is a problem – I need help to deal with them

1 - 2 Stuck

I don't feel there is a problem with boundaries or behaviour though I know others are concerned

7 Boundaries and behaviour (detail)

This scale is about giving your children clear boundaries so that they understand what is expected of them and the consequences of negative behaviour. It is about being a positive role model through your own behaviour, and dealing with difficulties constructively. If your children are still babies or very young and you do not need support with boundaries, place yourself at 10.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

I am able to maintain effective boundaries and deal effectively with any problems

- You have firm, fair boundaries within the family that work most of the time. You adapt these as your children grow up, anticipate problems and find ways around them
- You are consistent and mostly feel able to deal with difficult behaviour
- You are not involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour. Perhaps your children sometimes make bad choices but you can deal with this effectively
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support. Choose 10 if you are able to maintain effective boundaries without support or only have babies or very young children

7 - 8 Finding what works

I set appropriate boundaries and have some skills to help my children keep within them but there are some difficult areas

- You are mostly able to manage but there are some problems. If there is another parent/carer, you are working out how to give your children a consistent message
- Choose 7 if there are still some problem areas. Choose 8 if you have appropriate boundaries in place, are not involved in any anti-social or criminal behaviour, and deal effectively with any incidences involving your children, with support

5 - 6 Trying

I am learning about appropriate boundaries and how to maintain them

- Your children's behaviour causes difficulties but you are learning new ways of dealing with this, maybe through a parenting course. You may be setting clearer boundaries, loosening ones that are too strict, or talking and listening to your children more
- You are trying to set a good example to your children, for example by being considerate to neighbours or teachers or by moderating aggressive behaviour
- Your children may resist the changes so their behaviour may seem worse for a while
- Choose 5 if you have just started doing things differently. Choose 6 if you have been trying for a while and are hopeful things will get better

3 - 4 Accepting help

My children's behaviour is a problem – I need help to deal with them

- Your children's behaviour causes difficulties or your family is in trouble with the law and you know this can't go on. You may be afraid to tackle bad behaviour because of how they will react, or don't know how to change your own behaviour
- Choose 3 if you are sometimes open to help. Choose 4 if you consistently accept help but are not yet taking the initiative to improve things for yourself

1 - 2 Stuck

I don't feel there is a problem with boundaries or behaviour though I know others are concerned

- Your children's behaviour and/or yours causes difficulties, your family is in trouble with the law, or others have raised concerns about your children's behaviour
- Your children may feel there are no rules or that the rules are too strict or unfair
- They may be copying some difficult behaviour from the way you behave at times
- Choose 1 if you feel there isn't a problem with your children's behaviour. Choose 2 if you have moments of acknowledging problems but don't accept help

8 Family routine

Bedtime, getting up, mealtimes, basic care, doing things together

Key points

- By 4 you consistently accept support so things are not getting worse
- From 5 you are increasingly learning for yourself how to establish a supportive family routine
- By 8 your home is clean and organised enough to support a positive family routine and your children mostly have regular meals, enough clean clothes and a regular weekday bedtime/getting-up time

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My family has a positive routine that supports us all

7 - 8 Finding what works

My family has a positive routine but there are a few difficult areas

5 - 6 Trying

I am trying to create a positive routine for my family

3 - 4 Accepting help

My children need a better family routine but I don't know how to make that happen

1 - 2 Stuck

We don't have a family routine and our home is chaotic. I don't see that as a problem

8 Family routine (detail)

This scale is about a supportive weekday routine so your family can all get to school, nursery or work on time and your children have regular meals, suitable clothes and are clean enough. This includes making sure your home is clean and organised enough, and encouraging teenagers to take responsibility for their routines. It is also about doing some things together, such as eating meals, watching TV, going to the park or other activities.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

My family has a positive routine that supports us all

- Your children have regular meals, get up at a regular time and get to where they need to be during the day. They are clean enough, have suitable clothes and get enough sleep. The house is clean and organised enough, with food in the kitchen
- Exactly how you achieve this will depend on your culture. The important thing is that your children's basic needs are met and that you do some things together
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support with your family routine. Choose 10 if you are able to maintain a positive routine well enough without support

7 - 8 Finding what works

My family has a positive routine but there are a few difficult areas

- There are some problems but the family has a clear sense of routine. Your children eat at least one meal at a regular time each day, wash enough and get up at a regular time on weekdays. Your home is mostly clean and organised enough
- You manage to do some things together as a family most weeks
- Choose 7 if there are still some problem areas. Choose 8 if your children's basic needs are met but you need support to maintain a positive family routine

5 - 6 Trying

I am trying to create a positive routine for my family

- You are trying to put supportive routines in place, such as sticking to regular meal- or bedtimes, getting your home more organised or doing things together as a family
- Your children may rebel against the changes so things feel worse for a while
- Choose 5 if you quickly slip back to old ways. Choose 6 if you stick longer with new approaches but have not yet found what works to establish a positive routine

3 - 4 Accepting help

My children need a better family routine but I don't know how to make that happen

- As 1-2 but you recognise that the current situation is not working for your children. You probably have someone giving you advice on how to change things, but you may be feeling criticised and might not want to do things their way
- Choose 3 if you occasionally accept help. Choose 4 if you accept help more consistently but you are not yet taking the initiative yourself

1 - 2 Stuck

We don't have a family routine and our home is chaotic. I don't see that as a problem

- Either there is no family routine or the current one is having a negative effect on your children. They don't have a regular bedtime or meals or get to where they need to be on time, or don't wash enough or have clean, suitable clothes to wear
- Your home is not clean enough and is too chaotic to support a positive family routine. There may be no food in the kitchen, for example, or you are relying on older children to look after younger children without appropriate support
- Choose 1 if you don't see this as a problem. Choose 2 if you have moments of acknowledging problems about the lack of routine but don't accept help

9 Home and money

Paying bills and rent, a secure and adequate home

Key points

- By 4 there is no immediate or severe risk of homelessness and your family mostly has heating, light and enough food
- From 5 you are starting to take responsibility and action for yourself
- Being at 8 or above means you have secure accommodation and an income and are covering the basics well enough

9 - 10 Effective parenting

Our home is secure and adequate for our needs and we manage on our income

7 - 8 Finding what works

Our home is secure and adequate for our needs and we usually have money for food and basics but there are a few problems

5 - 6 Trying

I am trying to sort out our housing and finances but it's hard

3 - 4 Accepting help

We don't have a stable, adequate home and/or enough money – I want to change this but I don't know how

1 - 2 Stuck

We don't have a stable, adequate home and/or enough money to buy food and other basics – there's nothing I can do about it

9 Home and money (detail)

This scale is about providing your children with the security of a stable home that is adequate for your needs and managing the finances you need to care for them. It covers whether you are able to manage financially and pay your bills regularly, including your mortgage or rent, without any risk of losing your home. It is also about how you spend the money you have so that you provide for your family's basic needs.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

Our home is secure and adequate for our needs and we manage on our income

- Your home is adequate for your needs and there is no risk of eviction
- You are managing your money and make positive choices about how you spend it so you can pay your bills, cover the basics, and maybe even save a little
- You are making regular repayments on any debts so they are not increasing
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support. Choose 10 if your home is secure and adequate and you manage on your income without support from a service

7 - 8 Finding what works

Our home is secure and adequate for our needs and we usually have money for food and basics but there are a few problems

- Your home is adequate for your needs and there is no risk of eviction, with support. However, you still run into problems with money
- You are getting the benefits you are entitled to and, if you have debts, you are making enough repayments to prevent threats or court action
- Choose 7 if there are still some problems. Choose 8 if your home is secure and you mostly manage on what you have but need support to maintain this

5 - 6 Trying

I am trying to sort out our housing and finances but it's hard

- If your housing is not adequate, you are making an effort to improve the situation. If you are waiting to be rehoused, you are trying to manage better
- If you don't have enough money for basics, you are sorting out benefits and/or taking more responsibility for managing your money
- Choose 5 if you have just started taking action for yourself or give up easily. Choose 6 if you stick to things for longer but have not yet found what works

3 - 4 Accepting help

We don't have a stable, adequate home and/or enough money – I want to change this but I don't know how

- Your situation is the same as 1-2 but you acknowledge this is bad for your family. Maybe a crisis or a concerned professional has helped you realise this
- Choose 3 if sometimes you accept support but sometimes you don't. Choose 4 if you usually accept help but don't take the initiative to sort things out for yourself

1 - 2 Stuck

We don't have a stable, adequate home and/or enough money to buy food and other basics – there's nothing I can do about it

- One or more of these apply to your family:
 - Your home is temporary or inadequate for your needs
 - Your home is overcrowded, has severe damp or lacks basic facilities such as a cooker or heating
 - There is a significant risk you will be evicted
 - You don't have money to buy food and other basics. Maybe you are spending your money on alcohol or drugs instead
 - Someone is withholding money from you. Maybe you are a victim of financial abuse
- Choose 1 if you never want to talk about these problems. Choose 2 if you have moments of acknowledging the problems but don't accept help

10 Progress to work

Stability at home, work skills, work training, job hunting

Key points

- At 1–4 you cannot see a way out of living entirely on out-of-work benefits but by 4 you consistently accept support
- From 5 you can see other options and are increasingly trying ways to move towards a working future
- By 8 you are ready to work and may be volunteering, have occasional jobs or be in a back-to-work programme

9 - 10 Effective parenting

At least one parent in my family is now in regular work, if appropriate

7 - 8 Finding what works

I am mostly ready and able to work but I still need support in this area

5 - 6 Trying

I am changing things so that I can move off out-of-work benefits and find a job in the future but it's hard

3 - 4 Accepting help

I would like to get work but I don't know where to start

1 - 2 Stuck

I have no chance of getting into work and I don't see this as a problem

10 Progress to work (detail)

This scale is about you as a parent preparing to work and reducing your family's reliance on out-of-work benefits. This includes getting organised, learning new skills and persevering with training, volunteering, work experience and job hunting until you find the right work for you. If you are a single parent on long-term disability or equivalent benefits, have very young children or are unable to move towards work for other reasons, you are at 10.

9 - 10 Effective parenting

At least one parent in my family is now in regular work, if appropriate

- You, and/or your partner, are in regular work and your family no longer relies so heavily on out-of-work benefits
- You are able to meet the expectations of your employer and your workplace
- You are developing clear goals about your working future
- Choose 9 if you need occasional support. Choose 10 if at least one parent is in work and you do not need support, or if you are a single parent on long-term disability or equivalent benefits, have very young children or cannot move towards work for other reasons

7 - 8 Finding what works

I am mostly ready and able to work but I still need support in this area

- You have a realistic idea of the work you would like and are trying to find a job. You are developing skills to help you achieve this and/or making your home life more conducive to work, but need support from a service
- You may have taken on short-term or occasional work already but do not yet hold down a regular job
- Choose 7 if there are still some problem areas that need to change. Choose 8 if you are ready for work but just need support in finding a job

5 - 6 Trying

I am changing things so that I can move off out-of-work benefits and find a job in the future but it's hard

- You are starting to believe that you can find and hold down a job that works for you
- You are trying to overcome barriers to finding work. For example, you may be trying to get up earlier, make your home life more supportive or learn new skills
- You are developing ideas of the work you could do and starting to move towards it. You may have joined a back-to-work scheme or started volunteering or work training
- Choose 5 if you have only just started believing you can work and haven't acted on it yet. Choose 6 if you are becoming proactive in making it a reality

3 - 4 Accepting help

I would like to get work but I don't know where to start

- You are thinking about the possibility of working but the barriers seem huge
- You are uncertain about what you want but are exploring how to move forward with the help of a service
- Choose 3 if you sometimes accept help but sometimes you miss appointments. Choose 4 if you accept help more consistently and mostly turn up for appointments but don't take the initiative to improve things for yourself

1 - 2 Stuck

I have no chance of getting into work and I don't see this as a problem

- You don't feel you have any chance of getting into work, now or in the future
- You are resigned to your family living on out-of-work benefits and don't see change as possible
- You don't see the point of looking at options for the future
- Choose 1 if you don't acknowledge this as a problem. Choose 2 if you have fleeting moments of thinking about change but don't accept help

Working with more than one parent

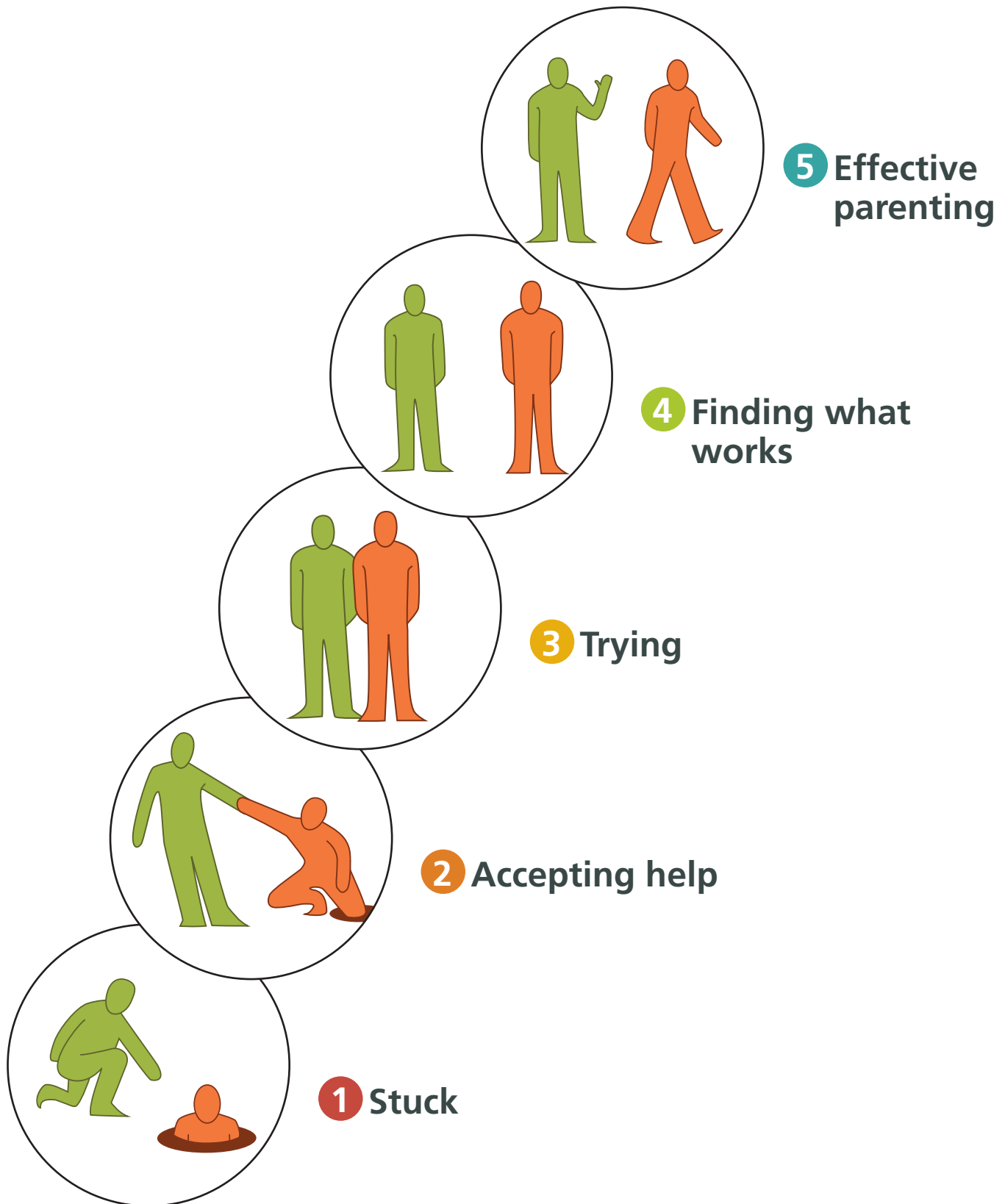
All the scales refer to “you”. If you are a two-parent family, “you” means both parents. If one of you has difficulties in one of the Star areas, choose the number for that parent so that this feeds into the support or action plan, even if the other parent is dealing well with that area. Alternatively, you can choose to mark the number for both parents separately but make sure it is the lower figure that is used for the action plan and for reporting.

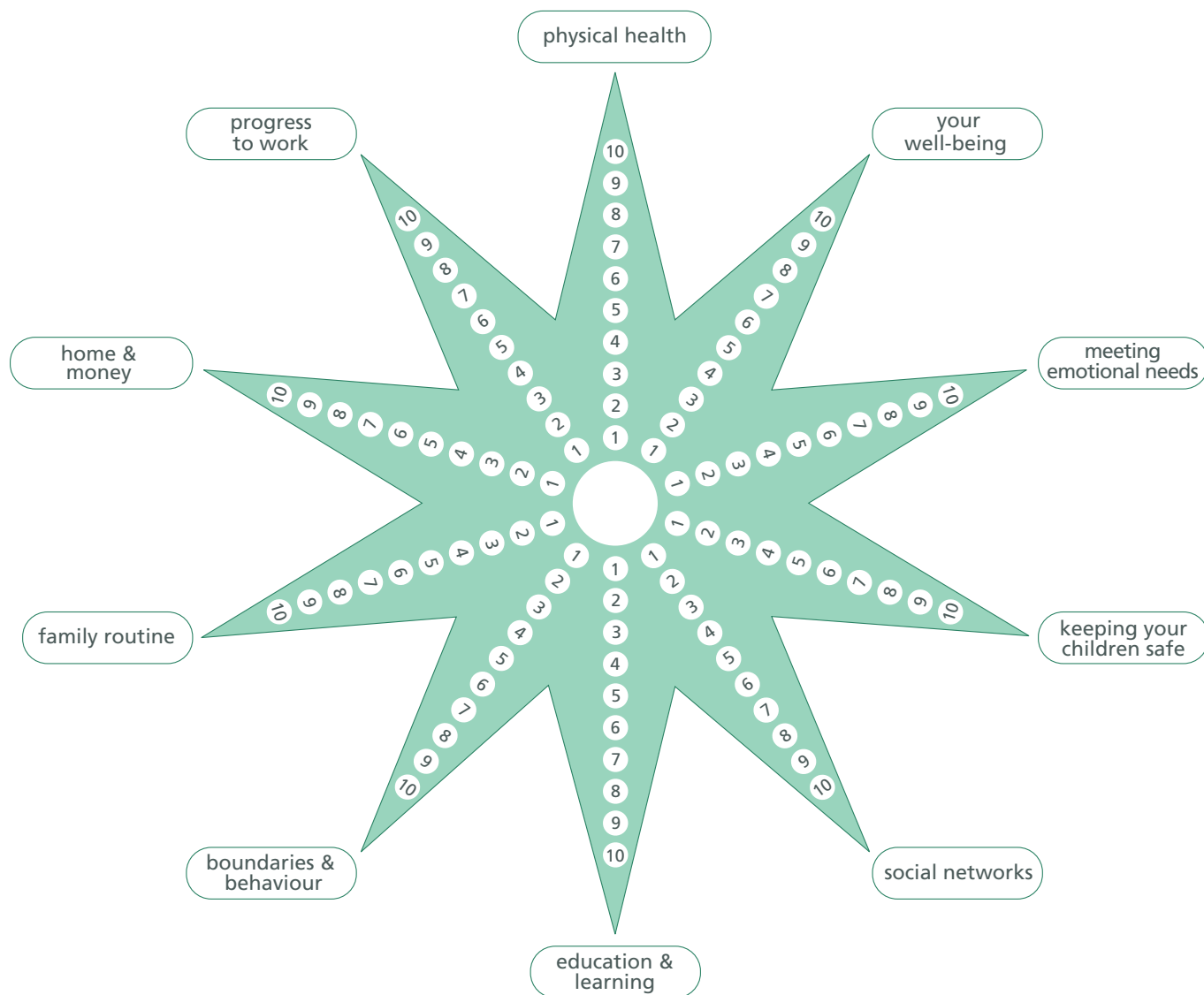
If you are involving other family members, such as a grandparent, “you” can refer to the whole family where there is agreement. If there are differences of view you can record these on the Star. However, it is important to use the lower numbers for the action plan and reports.

Maybe you have several children and only one or some of them are causing any concerns – the others are doing well – or you find some children easier to parent than others. Throughout the Star, discuss and record where you are in relation to the children you find difficult, or where there are concerns or you need support.

Workers should read the Family Star Organisation Guide for further guidance on completing the Family Star with parents.

The Journey of Change





The Family Star Plus™ is a version of the Outcomes Star™, a suite of tools developed by Triangle for supporting and measuring change when working with people.

This Star is one of a growing family

See our website for:

- Versions tailored to different people, settings and sectors
- The evidence base that supports the Star
- Testimonials and case studies from Star users

www.outcomesstar.org.uk

How to use the Outcomes Star

- Sign up for Star licences including the option to use our Star Online web app
- Ensure all members of staff attend Star training and explore specialist courses
- Access Star materials, other tools and ongoing support from Triangle

Go to www.staronline.org.uk a free 30-day demo

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**Report of the Executive Director -
Communities**

CARERS' STRATEGY 2017-2020

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the refreshed Carer's Strategy 2017-2020 and seek Cabinet approval for its adoption.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet approve the refreshed Carer's Strategy and note the intention to develop a business case as the basis to pursue a new support provider within existing resources.**

3. Introduction

- 3.1 The current Carers Strategy ran from 2013-2016. Since then there have been a number of changes in Health and Social care policy and strategic thinking, most notably the implementation of the Care Act 2014 placing a duty on local authorities to provide Carers Assessments. Carers have been supported indirectly through commissioned services and more widely through the Carers Grant (Better Care Fund) which has generated a wide variety of initiatives required to meet the objectives identified in the last Carers Strategy.
- 3.2 A recent review of existing commissioned services, changes to policy and consultation with service providers and carers has identified the need to review and refresh the strategy.

4. Proposal and Justification

- 4.1 The strategy, developed using a co-produced model, identifies the gaps in support for carers and provides the outcomes we need to work towards to ensure that carers are supported as a major contributor to not only the health and wellbeing of the population but also to the Early Help and Prevention agenda.
- 4.2 The strategy acknowledges that there is a need to move towards a more comprehensive solution potentially to pool resource and consider a consolidated offer. The strategy provides the direction to support a review of current financial and other resources to enable a future offer.
- 4.3 A strategic review based on current commissioning and grant activity is the next stage in the process that has already commenced. This will inform the business case and future commissioning intention to support this.

4.4 A task and finish group (made up of partner representation from the Health and Wellbeing Board and Carers Strategy workshop) will be pulling together the strategy action plan for presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.5 A strategy steering group comprising Carers, providers, partners (who have all contributed to the strategy development so far) will be established to identify and drive forward the actions we need to achieve the outcomes identified.

5. Consideration of Alternative Approaches

5.1 An alternative approach would be to have no Carer's Strategy but this would run the risk of the commissioning activity being unmatched to an evidenced need.

6. Implications for Local People / Service Users

6.1 The strategy will provide a clearer offer of support through a single contact point which will improve the customer service journey for all carer's and by implication, the people they care for.

6.2 The strategy provides the opportunity and framework for an evidence-based model of support. This will enable the carer's voice to be central to the development of the future delivery model which will be subject to a separate planning and decision making process

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. There will be a separate business case for the commissioning intentions which will contain the financial implications.

8. Employee Implications

8.1 Many of the Council's own employees, and that of our partners, will have carer's responsibilities. The strategy action plan will need to review considerations associated with this and develop a self-assessment tool so that agencies can review how they are supporting their employees with carer's responsibilities.

9. Communications Implications

9.1 The strategy will be promoted to known carers and other stakeholders in the first instance as they are the primary audience. Existing established mechanisms for reaching these groups will be pursued.

10. Consultations

10.1 The Strategy has been developed based upon extensive stakeholder engagement. It was important to co-design the strategy in order to ensure that it meets the needs of partners, carers and service users. Types of consultations undertaken and the associated timescales were as follows:

- Carers Survey. May-September 2016
- Consultation with public through Carers Rights day. November 2016
- Consultation with Carers and Friends group. Autumn 2016 to Spring 2017
- Awareness session with Service User and Carer Board. January 2017
- Carer support provider survey. December – January 2017
- Carers strategy planning workshop. February 2017
- Communities DMT April 2017
- SSDG April 2017
- Senior Management Team May 2017

11. The Corporate Plan and the Council’s Performance Management Framework

- 11.1 The Carer’s Strategy contributes most directly with the ‘People Achieving Their Potential’ objective. By supporting carers we will also help more people stay independent and where possible remain economically active.

12. Promoting Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

- 12.1 The Carers Strategy development has taken an inclusive approach and we have recognised that anyone can become a carer at any stage in their life regardless of personal circumstances or background.

- 12.2 A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken associated with the findings of the business case and the future commissioning intentions.

13. Tackling the Impact of Poverty

- 13.1 The strategy acknowledges that carers should not be financially disadvantaged as a result of their caring role.

14. Tackling Health Inequalities

- 14.1 The strategy acknowledges that carers own health needs should be recognised and the health and wellbeing of carers should be supported.

15. Risk Management Issues

- 15.1 If the Carer’s Strategy is not taken forward there is the risk of challenge from existing commissioned services, VCSE providers, Carers, health and social care providers, which could result in reputational damage.

- 15.2 If the Carer’s Strategy is not taken forward there is a risk that people that provide care in the borough will not be supported leading to added vulnerability for those who require support.

16. List of Appendices

- 16.1 Appendix 1: Carers Strategy

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Date 04/04/17



Financial Implications /

Consultation

(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where no financial implications)

#BarnsleyCares

Carers' Strategy for 2017-2020

A strategy by carers for carers



Why we need a carers' strategy for Barnsley

In 2013 we developed a three-year carers' strategy called 'Caring Together, Building a Future for Barnsley'. In this, we recognised the need to support carers as one of our most valuable assets to the health and wellbeing of Barnsley residents. As a council, we have been working with carers and our partners to continue to find ways to make sure that carers are not forgotten, and can receive the support they deserve.

We knew this was something that could not be quickly or easily achieved and over the last few years we have been presented with new and different challenges; therefore, it is right that we should review and look again at how we can best support carers in Barnsley.

We define carers in Barnsley as:

“Ordinary people whose lives have changed because they are looking after a relative or friend, who because of disability, illness, substance misuse, special condition or the effects of old age, cannot manage without help”

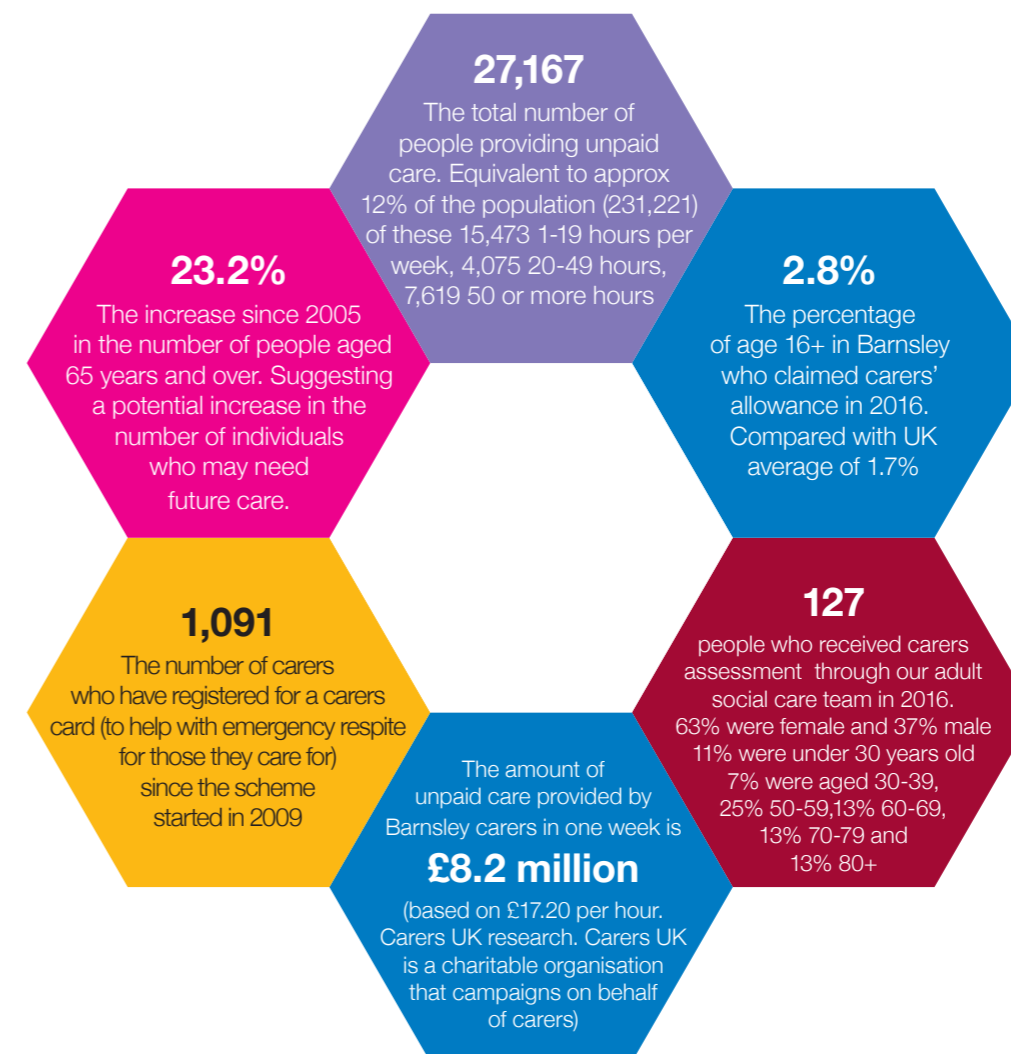
This definition recognises anyone of any age including:

- Adult carers
- Parent carers
- Young carers
- Working carers
- Kinship carers
- Carers from community backgrounds

The definition recognises that carers in Barnsley are diverse. They could be disabled carers, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender) carers, BME (Black or Minority Ethnic) carers. This strategy recognises that different carers may require a different type of support and may need to be engaged in a variety of ways. The strategy will, therefore, aim to be flexible to carers varying needs and differences, as well as ensuring that all carers have equal access to the services and support outlined within this strategy (particularly consideration will be given to those carers who may face an additional barrier to accessing these services).

What we know about carers in Barnsley

Anyone can become a carer at any time and because of this, we do not know the full extent of carers in our borough. This information can be difficult to find because many people do not see themselves as a carer or label themselves as one in any data we collect. There is currently no central registration or support centre in Barnsley therefore we have to rely on a number of other measures to get a picture of who our carers are and the impact they have on health and social care in the borough.



We all have a responsibility to support carers but we know that carers can find it difficult to access the support and advice they need. People like GP's, Social Workers and Pharmacists play an important role in ensuring carers are identified and connected to support services. The Care Act 2014 says that Local Authorities and Health bodies must work together to identify carers.¹

¹Department of Health Care and support statutory guidance, Paragraph 2.35 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

What have we achieved?

Our Carers and Friends group have worked hard alongside our partners and providers to support carers in many different ways and the small grants fund has enabled people to work together to find solutions.

Our objectives 2013-2016:	Some examples of how we achieved these:
Improved Services Develop and implement processes for early identification, referral, assessment and support.	A pilot programme to help identify carers in GP surgeries by Healthwatch. Delivery of carer Information Support Programme (CRISP) by Alzheimer's.
Enable carers to co-produce and co-deliver solutions to the delivery of services.	Carers were involved in commissioning process for new home care contracts with Barnsley Council. Carers testing of Barnsley Council on-line assessments for social care.
Develop opportunities for support outside caring roles and for carers to be treated as individuals in their own right.	Engaging, learning and creative activities programme with young carers at Barnardo's by QDOS creates. Programme of support for carers of terminally ill through Barnsley Hospice.
Access to advice on financial management and support to employment.	Drop-in carer specific sessions delivered by Citizen's Advice Bureau. Parent support programme for children with Autism and Asperger's.
Promoted health and wellbeing of carers including emotional and physical wellbeing.	Promoted informal support for carers via carers' newsletter. Supported a healthy lifestyles programme at 360 Engagement. Provided health and wellbeing through carers support programmes at Barnsley Beacon.

Understanding what more we could do

Whilst we know that what we have accomplished has made a big difference, there is still more that can be done to achieve our goals set out to support our carers in Barnsley.

Over the latter part of 2016 and into early 2017 we asked carers, partners and providers to work with us to identify the focus of our strategy for the next three years.

These included:

- Carers and Friends Group
- Carers at Carers week and Carers Right Day 2016
- Carers via Providers, social media and electronic newsletter
- 360 Engagement
- Age UK
- Alzheimer's
- BIADS
- BMBC Commissioners
- Barnsley Advocacy service
- Barnsley Beacon
- Barnsley council cabinet spokesperson for communities
- CCG
- Healthwatch
- Making Space
- NHS GP Liaison Service
- Parkinson's UK
- Public health
- Recovery college (SWYFT)
- Royal Voluntary Service
- South Yorkshire Eating Disorders Association (SYEDA)
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- Together for Mental Health

Together we identified the gaps that still exist in the support for carers

- Lack of information and communication, on-line, in person and on paper.
- Support; financial, emotional, practical and psychological.
- Support to maintain employment.
- Developing IT skills.
- Relationships with GP's.
- Being recognised and listened to as a carer by professionals.
- Isolation.
- Support to maintain independence and respite provision.
- Supporting young carers in their transition to adults.
- Greater recognition for kinship carers.
- Support with hospital visits for carers.
- Better awareness across the community.
- Fragmented services for carers.

Our strategy is based on valuing the role carers play by ensuring they are supported.

Our aims for carers

We have based our aims on three outcomes we want for all carers.

Informed and empowered

- Access to good quality information and advice. To not be disadvantaged by the role of carer.
- Knowledge and understanding of the services and policies that support carers in their role and the ability to influence and contribute to these.
- Education and training to support all members of our communities to raise awareness and value the role of carers.

Individually resilient

- Support and improve the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of all carers.
- Enable carers to continue to lead and enjoy their own life through work and play.
- Ensure carers remain safe within their role and free from harassment in the wider community.
- Enable carers to participate fully in their community and increase social connections.

Providers of good quality care

- Ensure carers have the knowledge and skills necessary to support those they care for.
- Improve recognition of carers and their contribution to health and wellbeing of those they care for.
- Work with health care providers to ensure that carers are valued and can be seen as part of health care process.

Achieving our aims

To achieve our aims we will need to focus our future efforts on:

- **Carers being placed at the heart of the health and wellbeing strategy including the planning.**
- **Working together to create solutions that we can all contribute to and will work for everyone.**
- **Making the best use of the resources we have available through commissioning and funding, which not only responds to needs but enables sustainable solutions.**

Carers at the heart of health and wellbeing

Maintaining the health and wellbeing of everyone is a high priority for Barnsley.

We have already acknowledged the role carers have in this, not only regarding the economic value they add to social care, but also the massive contribution carers make in supporting the most vulnerable to remain healthy and independent. There are many factors in our approach to maintaining health and wellbeing, as you can see from the diagram opposite.

As we develop these we will consider:

- **What do carers contribute to this?**
- **How does this affect carers?**
- **How can we support any additional needs this creates?**



Working together to create solutions

Our strategy planning workshop informed us how we would need to focus our attention to support carers and offered some potential solutions. Based on our aims we identified the following outline actions for our future strategy action plan.

	Aim:	Outline actions:
Informed and empowered	To improve access to good quality information and advice ensuring carers are not disadvantaged.	To develop Information Hubs and availability of helplines To support carers to develop their digital skills To develop networking opportunities for young carers through social media
	To improve the knowledge and understanding of the services and associated policies that support carers. Carers to be more involved in the development and review of these.	Improve communications between health and social care services, carer engagement and provider feedback. Co-produced services and commissioning.
	Education and training to support all members of our communities to raise awareness and value the role of carers.	Work with schools, Voluntary community and social enterprise sector, faith groups and businesses to raise awareness of carers and help identify hidden carers.





Individually resilient	Enable carers to continue to lead fulfilling lives.	<p>Improve access to respite care.</p> <p>Check and challenge how carer friendly the major employers in Barnsley are</p> <p>Develop more activities for young carers</p>
	Ensure carers remain safe within their role and free from harassment in the wider community.	<p>Develop and improve access to safeguarding awareness for carers</p> <p>Develop Peer Support for Carers</p>
	Enable carers to participate fully in their community and increase social connections.	<p>Work with Area Councils to develop awareness of carers.</p> <p>Develop 'spot' (ad hoc) support for carers to enable short breaks</p> <p>Develop more befriending and volunteer schemes for carers</p> <p>Work with Universal Services such as Libraries to develop the offer for carers</p>
	Ensure carers have the knowledge and skills necessary to support those who are in their care.	<p>Deliver Carer support programmes such as CRISP (Carers Resource, Information and Support Programme)</p> <p>Provide First aid training and post-care support.libraries.</p>
Providers of good quality care	Improve recognition of carers contribution to health and wellbeing of those who are in their care.	<p>Continue to develop the carer registration scheme with the potential to link this to the carers card (an emergency respite care card)</p> <p>Utilise social media to raise awareness of the role and contribution of carers and campaigning where we see disadvantage.</p>
	Work with health care providers to ensure that carers are valued and are seen as part of the health care process.	<p>Work in partnership with health care providers in reviewing the approach to carers in terms of policies and practice.</p>

Making the best use of resources

As part of our strategy planning, we are committed to making sure that any available resources are put to best use. To achieve this, we will need to consider all resources to help achieve the outcomes we have identified; this could include some or all of the following over time.



The next steps in taking our strategy forward

Establish the carers' strategy steering group to build an action plan to show how we can meet the aims we have identified in our strategy, and regularly check the progress on this over the next three years.	April 2017 - March 2020
Build and develop a business case for the options available to provide a comprehensive solution to meet the outcomes we have identified.	Spring - Autumn 2017
Continue to work with all stakeholders to deliver the strategy and report into the Health & Wellbeing Board on progress.	



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