

# Public Document Pack



<b>MEETING:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	Tuesday, 2 May 2017
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## AGENDA

Administrative and Governance Issues for the Committee

### **1 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives**

To receive apologies for absence in accordance with Regulation 7 (6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

### **2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

To invite Members of the Committee to make any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in connection with the items on this agenda.

### **3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 10)**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Overview and Scrutiny Issues for the Committee

### **4 Support to Looked After Children from Barnsley Placed outside the Local Authority area (Pages 11 - 20)**

To consider a report of the Executive Director (Core Services) and the Executive Director (People) in respect of support to Looked After Children from Barnsley placed outside the Local Authority area.

### **5 Scrutiny Task and Finish Group (TFG) Reports from 2016/17 (Reports for information only) (Pages 21 - 44)**

A report of the Executive Director Core Services in respect of the Scrutiny TFGs on:

- Higher Level Skills and Jobs (Item 5b);
- Fly-tipping (Item 5c) and
- Flooding (5d)

Enquiries to Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer

Phone 01226 775794 or email [annamorley@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:annamorley@barnsley.gov.uk)

To: Chair and Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

Councillors Ennis (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, G. Carr, Charlesworth, Clarke, Clements, Franklin, Frost, Gollick, Daniel Griffin, Hampson, Hand-Davis, Hayward, W. Johnson, Lofts, Makinson, Mathers, Mitchell, Phillips, Pourali, Sheard, Sixsmith MBE, Spence, Tattersall, Unsworth and Wilson together with co-opted Members Ms P. Gould, Mr M. Hooton, Ms J. Whitaker and Mr J. Winter and Statutory Co-opted Member Ms K. Morritt (Parent Governor Representative)

Electronic Copies Circulated for Information

Diana Terris, Chief Executive  
Andrew Frostdick, Executive Director Core Services  
Rob Winter, Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management  
Press

Paper Copies Circulated for Information

Michael Potter, Service Director, Business Improvement and Communications  
Ian Turner, Service Director, Council Governance  
Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer – 5 copies

Majority Members Room  
Opposition Members Rooms, Town Hall – 2 copies

Witnesses

Item 4 (2 p.m.)  
Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People Directorate, BMBC  
Jon Banwel, Head of Service Children In Care, People Directorate, BMBC  
Sharon Galvin, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Barnsley CCG  
Andrea Scholey, Named Nurse CiC, 0-19 Children's Community Nursing Service, Public Health, BMBC  
Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children, People Directorate, BMBC  
Detective Inspector Gary Askew, South Yorkshire Police  
Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding), BMBC

<b>MEETING:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	Tuesday, 14 March 2017
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

### Present

Councillors Ennis (Chair), G. Carr, Clarke, Clements, Frost, Gollick, Daniel Griffin, Hampson, W. Johnson, Lofts, Mathers, Phillips, Sheard, Tattersall and Unsworth together with co-opted members  
Ms P. Gould and Mr J. Winter and Ms K. Morrill

### 53 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

No apologies for absence were received in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

### 54 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

### 55 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chair referred to the Action Points from the previous meeting and advised in relation to the first Action Point that information has been circulated, however the specific figures are not yet available due to time-lag in reporting. These will be sent to the committee once available. Both Action Points 2 and 3 are ongoing and the Scrutiny Officer will forward information to the committee once available regarding Action Points 4 and 5 which has been requested. The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2017, were then approved as a true and accurate record.

### 56 Adult Social Care Local Account 2015-16

The Chair welcomed the following experts to the meeting, which included:

- Lennie Sahota, Interim Service Director, Adult Assessment & Care Management, People Directorate
- Jane Wood, Head of Adult Joint Commissioning, People Directorate
- Glynn Shaw, Head of Service, Adult Assessment & Care Management, People Directorate
- Claire Edgar, Head of Service, Adult Disabilities and Mental Health, People Directorate
- Will Boyes, Performance Improvement Officer, HR, Performance & Communications Directorate
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding)

Lennie Sahota introduced the report, explaining this is the fifth year such a report has been published. It evidences the sector led improvement approach within a public facing document to ensure transparency, scrutiny and accountability.

During 2015/16, care and support services were provided to 4728 older and vulnerable people; of these, 81% of people said they have control over their daily lives which is an increase on previous years.

Following a spell in hospital, Barnsley is one of the best areas for people to then make a quick return to their home, as well as regaining skills to live as independently as possible.

Of service users who tried to find information about services 76.7% found this to be very easy or fairly easy. The service is also continuing to make improvements to the care website.

95% of service users say that Adult Social Care services contribute to their feeling of safety.

However, challenges still remain including improving employment rates for adults with mental health issues and those with learning difficulties, as the 2.2% of people with learning disabilities who are in paid employment, is well below national and regional averages.

The Chair complimented the service on the Local Account report, confirming it was user friendly and easy to access the information within the report.

Members proceeded to ask the following questions:

- i. With media reports highlighting increased drug use, will this impact on the future care for the elderly or dementia sufferers?

Members were advised under the Care Act 2014, those who are eligible for care and support will be provided with this. Due to demographic changes as a result of an ageing population, the service will see increased demand. Another challenge is people's lifestyles. The recent funding from the government for adult social care is welcome but will not solve everything and there is no single solution to reducing demand for services. Work needs to be done with our communities to try to help them to understand the importance of making key life changes to look after their health. This includes working in partnership with Public Health colleagues. Provision of good quality information, advice and signposting to enable people to manage their own needs and use of reablement to support people to regain functioning and reduce on-going care needs are important in managing demand.

Given the demographic challenges, advances in medicine and the projected increases in dementia without change the current health and social care models are unsustainable.

The Chair advised that for Members' information, he and another committee member had recently attended a seminar at Barnsley Hospital and were advised that patients aged 75+ are automatically assessed for dementia and potential problems with this in the future.

- ii. Following the recent announcement of the increase in funding for adult social care, are the amounts known for Barnsley?

The group were advised Barnsley will receive £5.7m next year, and smaller amounts in subsequent years. The funding is welcome however does not provide a long-term solution to funding shortfalls. A big challenge is the general social care workforce as the low wages result in high staff turnover at the lower levels; however a consistent workforce is needed to ensure a sustainable system where care is delivered by the right person in the right place at the right time. The government has advised it will be producing a green paper in the autumn regarding funding options.

The Chair commented that it is positive to hear that the government is producing a green paper and not a white paper as using a green paper means that the government is open to contribution from others on this topic; therefore organisations such as the Local Government Association should be able to feed into this work.

- iii. A member of the committee commented on the good work being done by the service, however also enquired to what extent reduced finances impacted on assessment criteria and were diluted so that less people are eligible for services?

The committee were advised national criteria is used when determining a person's eligibility for service. Also that demand is now being better managed as the service works with individuals to look at their needs to see how they can be better met and also utilising early help and reablement to manage need.

- iv. With the report confirming the service is to monitor the number of 'hits' the electronic copy of their report receives on the care website and the results of this influencing their future marketing strategy; could this possibly alienate potential future service users who are unable to embrace this technology?

The group were advised a priority of Future Council is to be more customer centric, providing alternative means for customers to contact, as well as being more efficient. The service acknowledges however there is a cohort of people who do not use this technology; therefore services need to be mindful of them and ensure continued provision of face to face services to them. The recent Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) mystery shopping exercise undertaken included consideration of face to face contact and this has raised queries regarding this element of the service which needs to be addressed.

- v. Why is the percentage of adults with learning difficulties and mental health issues in paid employment so low?

Members were advised this was a good point that had been raised and the service is looking into this. Work is being undertaken with both the Communities and Place Directorates to consider improving paid employment. Work is also being done to check recording processes and systems to ensure the stated performance levels are accurate. The service advised they need to work more closely with service users to understand their capabilities and aspirations however also being mindful that the service works with those with the most complex disabilities therefore the data will

never reflect that of the general population. The service confirmed however that they will do everything they can to assist these service users.

- vi. A member of the committee congratulated the service on their approach for 'thinking outside the box' in relation to one of the case studies in the report and then asked whether the money spent on Mental Health services was sufficient to meet the demand?

The committee were advised that given experience of other areas, the amount spent in Barnsley is proportionate. The support required is more often professional input and talking therapies rather than 'hands on' services. Also the budget headings refer to the working age population, therefore dementia does not feature in the mental health spend.

- vii. The Chair enquired that due to his former role as a Director on Berneslai Homes (BH) Board, he is aware that there are a number of people with low level mental health issues and therefore to what extent do our adult social care services value the specific work done by BH on this issue on our estates and does it help to alleviate some problems?

The group were advised the work done 'on the ground' by colleagues at BH is very good and is very much appreciated. Our Public Health service is also looking at what it can do better to help people manage their emotional wellbeing better. There are projects being done all over the country regarding this which services need to learn from. It was also advised that Area Councils have done a lot of work to contribute to this agenda, for example by working with older people to prevent social isolation.

- viii. The report identifies 38% of people in Barnsley needing care are receiving direct payments; 81% are receiving self directed support and 75% have a personal budget; how do these financial arrangements differ?

Members were advised a personal budget is a total amount of money a person is allocated to meet their social care needs based on an assessment. When a service user elects for this money be paid to them, this is a direct payment and they can choose to have all or part of it. Self directed support can either take the form of a direct payment, or a managed budget, which the service user can exercise choice and control over in deciding which services they want to buy to meet their assessed needs.

The service accepted the confusion these differing support descriptions may cause; however advised that they try to make sure everyone benefits from personalisation. The service also highlighted that some of the percentages in the report come from the customer survey whereas where data is given a coloured rating this is in relation to performance of the whole service and not just from those surveyed.

- ix. Given a number of changes which have taken place, how does the Council monitor care in nursing homes?

The group were advised that since Future Council, there is now a Contracts Team who go out to homes. Over the last year they have visited most of the care homes to monitor their services as well as undertaken reactionary visits when necessary. The service now has a much closer working relationship with the Care Quality

Commission (CQC), who themselves have a firmer regime in place for inspections. The service now has robust systems in place to monitor performance rather than simply undertaking one-off visits.

- x. How are concerns over the quality of care provided being recorded?

Members were advised the CQC has essential care standards that home care and care home providers have to meet. Any issues of concern are recorded and raised with the provider for them to address and are reported to the Service Director, the Lead Member and Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board. With reference to the report, it is not that no issues have been recorded, there are a number of concerns regarding the recruitment and retention of nursing staff, therefore the service are working with the CCG on this including the co-ordination of input from community nurses and GPs.

Regarding the front line social work teams, the service funds placements therefore they carry out reviews of people in homes and ensure care needs are being appropriately met including if there are any safeguarding practice issues.

- xi. The CQC provides reports on our care homes however why don't we receive anything from the Council?

The committee were advised it is a fluctuating picture in relation to care homes and things can change rapidly. Information provided to the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) shows a lot of monitoring in this sector is undertaken. A small piece of information about a home could be very detrimental to their reputation and as a result their financial sustainability, particularly when a one-off incident may have occurred.

In relation to Continuing Health Care (CHC) the committee were advised fully funded places in homes do appear to have reduced over the years. The CCG has not changed its intentions and the service is working with their staff to be mindful of CHC.

The Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding) has a monthly meeting with the Service Director where any concerns over individual care homes are discussed to ensure any issues are being dealt with. It was acknowledged that following a CQC inspection for example in November, the report will not be published until the following February which is frustrating for lay-people, by which time many of the issues are likely to have been resolved. The service however provided reassurance that work is done on an ongoing basis to monitor care homes.

- xii. Who monitors the provision of intermediate care?

The group were advised this service is commissioned by the Council's Adults Joint Commissioning Team on behalf of the CCG and monitoring work of these services is done by both the Contracts team and in partnership with the CCG.

- xiii. The report refers to social prescribing; the Central Area Council commissioned a scheme regarding this however frustratingly only received 1 GP referral, therefore how do you propose that moving forwards this will assist the prevention agenda?

Members were advised that the service was not aware of the Central Area Council scheme, however that there was now a significant push on social prescribing and a cross-borough service was due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. The service has been commissioned from South Yorkshire Housing Association (SYHA); therefore good practice should start to be evident in relation to this.

- xiv. Are there adequate opportunities to enable carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities through the provision of respite facilities?

The committee were advised carers need to be fully supported in the work they do and respite is one of the options. To ascertain whether carers feel they are getting the right level of support a survey was done in 2015 - 333 carers completed the survey and the satisfaction of the service was positive and above national averages. The service advised that they need to make sure carers are offered an assessment on their own regarding their needs, not just a joint assessment with the person they support. The service advised that work is currently being led by the Communities Directorate to refresh the Carer's Strategy and this has been widely consulted on.

- xv. Of the service users cared for, how many are elderly compared to younger people with learning disabilities?

Members were advised there are around 400 people with a learning disability who are being supported by the service compared with the overall number of around 3000 people the service supports. The service highlighted that in 2015/16 over £15m was spent to support people with learning disabilities due to the complexity of their needs, for example some in specialist high cost residential care placements however where possible they support people to live independently in the community.

- xvi. Services in relation to planned respite care are good however emergency respite care is poor as this can take several hours to sort, what can be done regarding this?

The group were advised in an emergency, unless you have block purchased beds then they won't necessarily be available and therefore a placement has to be sought. Block-purchase of respite beds however is not best use of money as the service would be paying for them but they would not necessarily be fully utilised. The definition of respite is 'a break from caring responsibilities', therefore it does not necessarily need to be residential; it can be day care, or even a sitting service for just a couple of hours.

- xvii. There are long delays with obtaining aids and adaptations; what plans are in place to resolve this?

Members were advised the service acknowledged the delays and advised this was a challenge nationally. The service is therefore working with South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT), who provides the service, to ensure support is provided in a more timely way.

The committee showed their appreciation to both Glynn Shaw, Head of Service for Adult Assessment & Care Management who is retiring shortly following working for the Council for 37 years and Mark Wilks, Scrutiny Support Officer who has moved to a new role in the Council.



The Chair thanked the witnesses for their attendance and contribution to the meeting and declared this item closed.

#### **57 Update on Licensing and Safeguarding (Report For Information Only)**

The Chair advised the committee this report was provided for information further to Members' request at a meeting on this topic during the previous year. No questions were raised; therefore the committee received the report.

#### **58 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:-

Item Number	Type of Information Likely to be Disclosed
10	Paragraph 2

#### **59 Children's Social Care Reports**

Members reviewed and provided challenge to Children's Social Care performance information in relation to early help assessments, contacts, referrals, assessments, section 47 investigations, child protection, looked after children, and caseloads.

Witnesses gave further information on issues raised by the report submitted in response to questions from Members.

#### **Action Points**

1. Data regarding Hyper-Acute Stroke Services over the 2016 Christmas period to be provided to the committee once available.
2. Service to consider quality and provision of face to face adult social care services.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Item 4

## Report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director People to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

### Children in Care (CiC) Outside of Barnsley

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Wherever feasible, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Services aim to place children in care (CiC) 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.

1.2 In some circumstances however, there can be several reasons why children may be placed outside of Barnsley, including:-

- Children placed with carers who are relatives living outside of the borough
- Children placed for adoption
- Children with complex needs that cannot be addressed within the borough and require placement in specialist, joint funded provision (Children's Social Care, Health, Education)
- Children placed in secure accommodation where facilities are not available locally
- Children placed in commissioned placements due to a lack of appropriate and available in-house placements within the borough

1.3 All children placed in care outside the borough will be provided with the following safeguarding assurances:

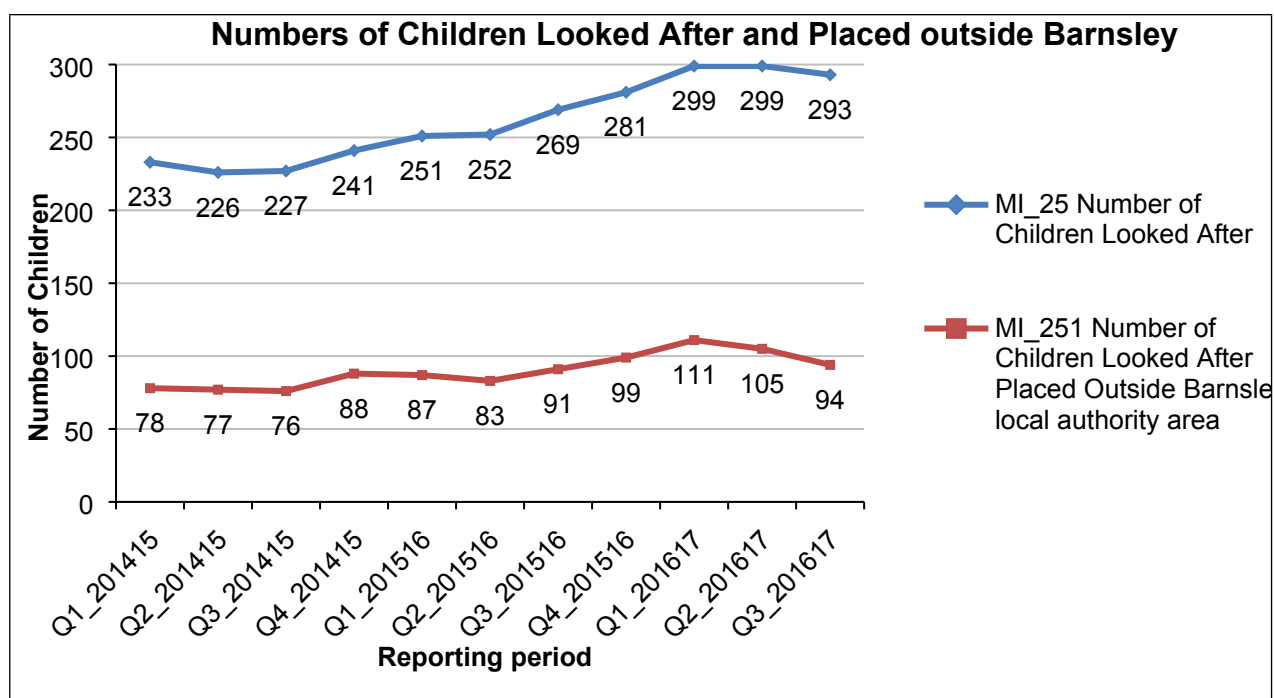
- No child in care will be placed in an unregistered, unapproved placement
- All children placed in care will have a named, allocated Social Worker who must visit the child/young person, as a minimum, within one week of the start of any placement and at intervals of not more than 6 weeks thereafter. It should be noted that this is over and above the requirements set out in the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and the Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2015
- The Social Worker will visit the child more often if needed and must always talk to the child on their own, as well as ensuring that the placement is meeting all of the child's needs
- A named Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) will be allocated to the child, who will chair the child's statutory review meeting, which are held within 28 days of the child coming in to care; at 3 months and thereafter every 6 months. Statutory review meetings are attended by the child, the carer(s), appropriate birth family and key professionals, all working together to promote the child's best interest
- The IRO is responsible for monitoring the child's care plan, ensuring that the local authority and other key agencies are meeting the child's needs in a timely manner; promoting the child's well-being; ascertaining and promoting the views of the child within the care planning and review process. This involves the IRO seeing the child on their own outside of the review meeting

- The child's Social Worker will work with the Looked after Children's (LAC) Virtual Headteacher and the carers to ensure that the child is provided with appropriate education. The Virtual Headteacher's role is to champion the needs of CiC in schools and look for ways of tackling the barriers that many CiC experience
- The child's Social Worker will work with the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children and the carers to ensure that the child is registered with a Dentist, GP and is referred to any other required health provision to meet their needs
- The child's Social Worker will ensure that there are up to date Placement and Care Plans for the child, which will set out the day to day care arrangements, the child's needs and how and who will be responsible for meeting these
- The child's Social Worker will ensure that the child has regular contact with their family members, as/where appropriate
- The child will be advised of how and who to contact if they wish to make a complaint and be offered an Independent Visitor, who will act as an advocate
- Irrespective of where the placement is, Barnsley Council remains legally responsible for Barnsley CiC placed outside of the borough

## 2.0 Current Position

### 2.1 Number of Children In Care (CiC)

As can be seen in the chart below, the total number of Barnsley's looked after children (LAC) numbers have increased in recent years, before starting to fall slightly towards the end of 2016. This trend is mirrored by the number of CiC placed outside the borough, with 94 children being placed outside of Barnsley at the end of quarter 3 (2016/17).



2.2 Most CiC are placed in Barnsley or neighbouring authorities. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, 25 children are placed more than 20 miles away from their homes address in Barnsley. The breakdown of these is shown below:

- 7 are placed for Adoption
- 3 are in residential provision

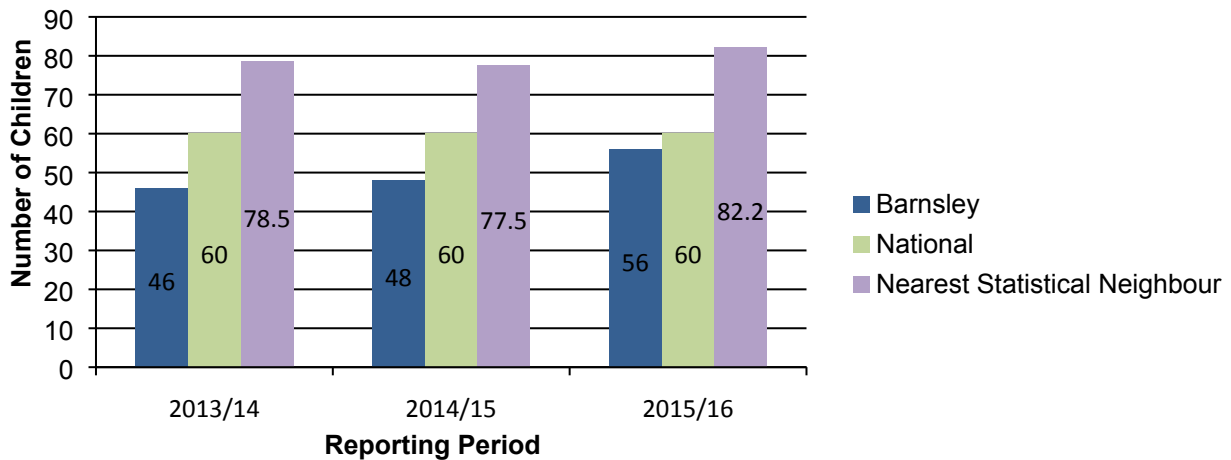
- 1 is in a specialist residential school
- 11 are in Foster Care
- 3 are on Remand

Those placed for Adoption and on Remand outside of the Borough are for legitimate reasons. Similarly Barnsley does not have the specialist centres/provision required by some children.

### 2.3 Comparator Data

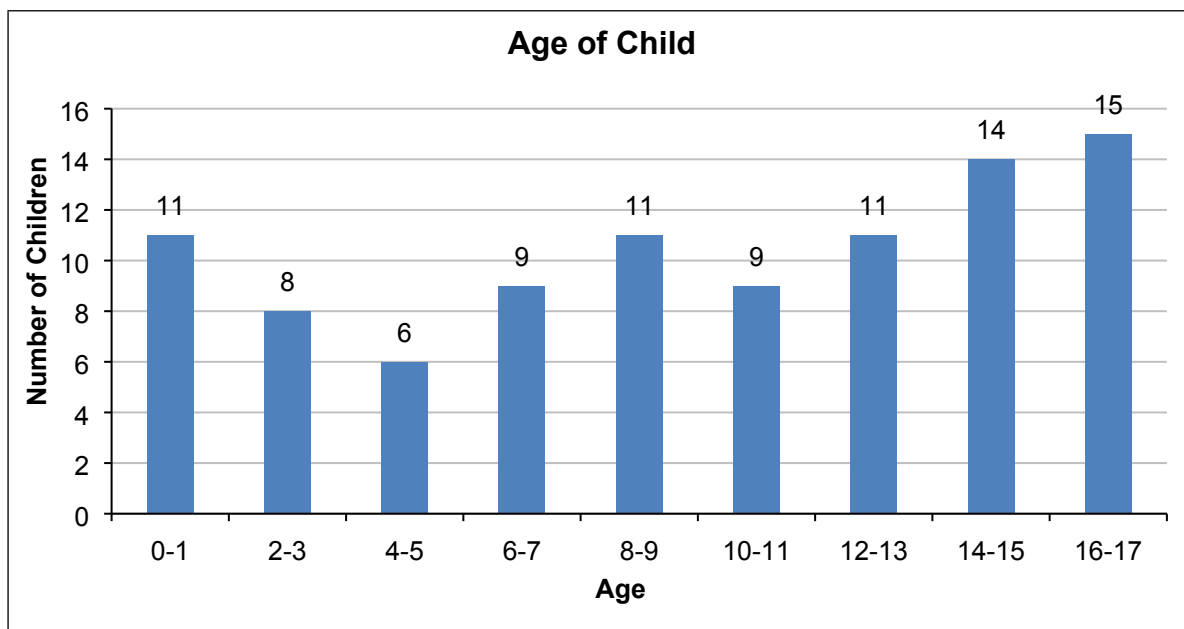
Barnsley has historically had lower numbers of LAC than our comparators. There are many hypotheses as to why this might be the case, among them the effectiveness of some of our family support interventions, the use of evidence-based approaches and the strength of family and kinship networks, rooted in closely-knit communities. All of these hypotheses are, by definition, difficult to prove but until relatively recently fewer children were considered to be in need of admission to care than was the case with our statistical neighbours. In 2013/14, Barnsley had 46 LAC per 10,000 children aged under 18. At the same time, the national rate was 60 per 10,000, with our statistical neighbours higher again at 78.5 per 10,000. By 2015/16, our rate had increased to 56 per 10,000, much closer to the national average (60 per 10,000) but still some way below our statistical neighbours (82.2 per 10,000).

**Number of Looked After Children per 10,000 Children**



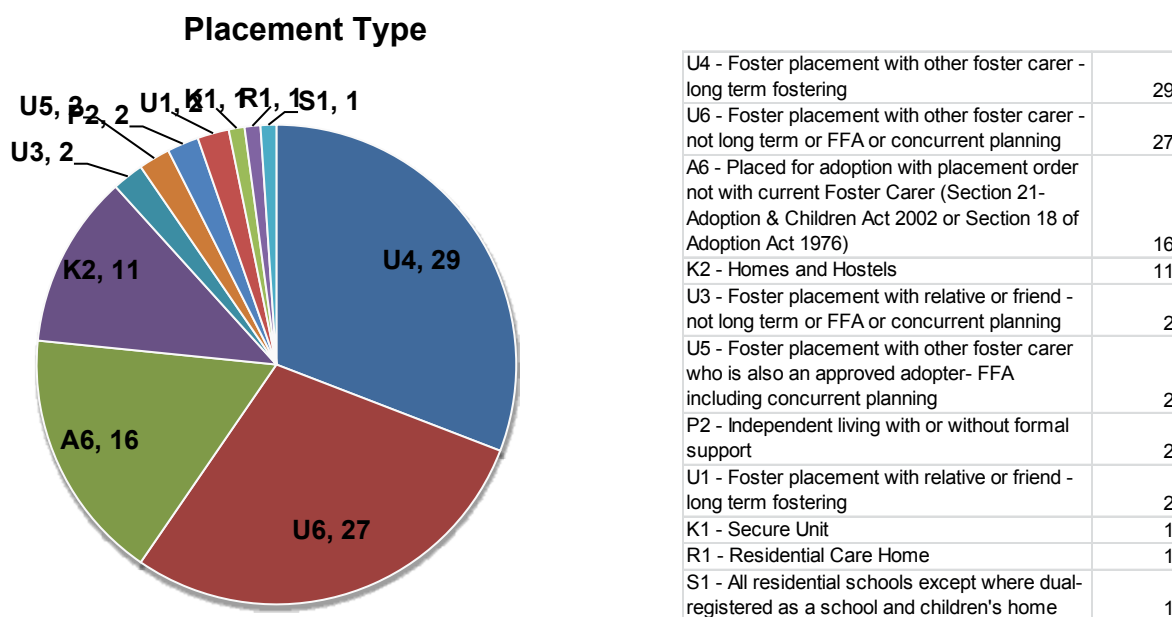
### 2.4 Age Profile of Children Placed Outside the Borough

This chart shows the age profile of the 94 LAC placed outside the borough at the end of quarter 3 (2016/17). This shows a higher proportion of older children placed outside the borough, along with slightly higher numbers for children aged under 2, as well as those aged 8 to 9 and 12 to 13. This is due to our requirement for more in-house carers for adolescents and as such older children may have to go where placements are available. The reason for children aged under 2 being out of the Borough is due to them being placed for adoption.



## 2.5 Placement Types

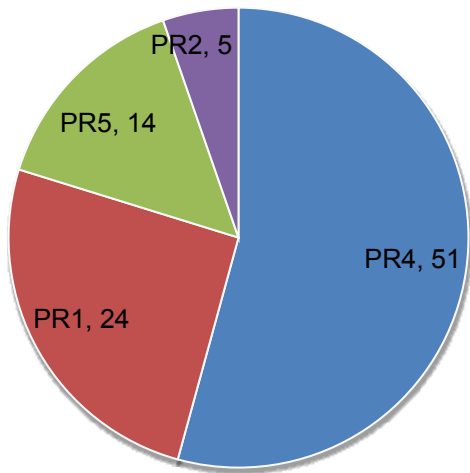
The chart and table below provide an overview of the placement types for LAC placed outside the borough at the end of quarter 3 (2016/17). Of the 94 children placed outside the borough, the largest group of LAC are in either long-term or short-term foster placements (66%). A much smaller proportion have been placed for adoption (17%) or in homes or hostels (11.7%).



## 2.6 Placement Providers

Linked to the previous chart, the chart and table below provide an overview of the most common providers of placements for LAC placed outside the borough at the end of quarter 3 (2016/17). This highlights that the majority (54.3%) of children are in privately provided placements. The next largest group are in placements supported by the council (25.5%), with smaller proportions in voluntary/third sector placements (14.9%) and placements supported by other local authorities (5.3%).

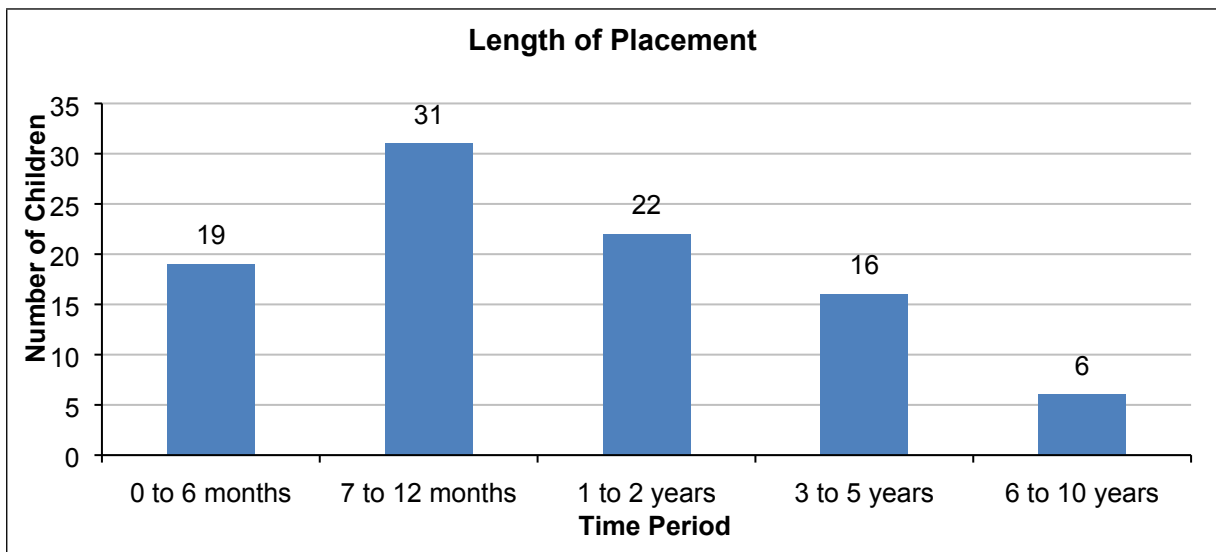
### Placement Providers



PR4 - Private Provision (Non BMBC)	51
PR1 - Own Provision (BMBC)	24
PR5 - Voluntary or Third Sector Provision (Non BMBC)	14
PR2 - Other Local Authority Provision (Non BMBC)	5

### 2.7 Length of Time in Placements

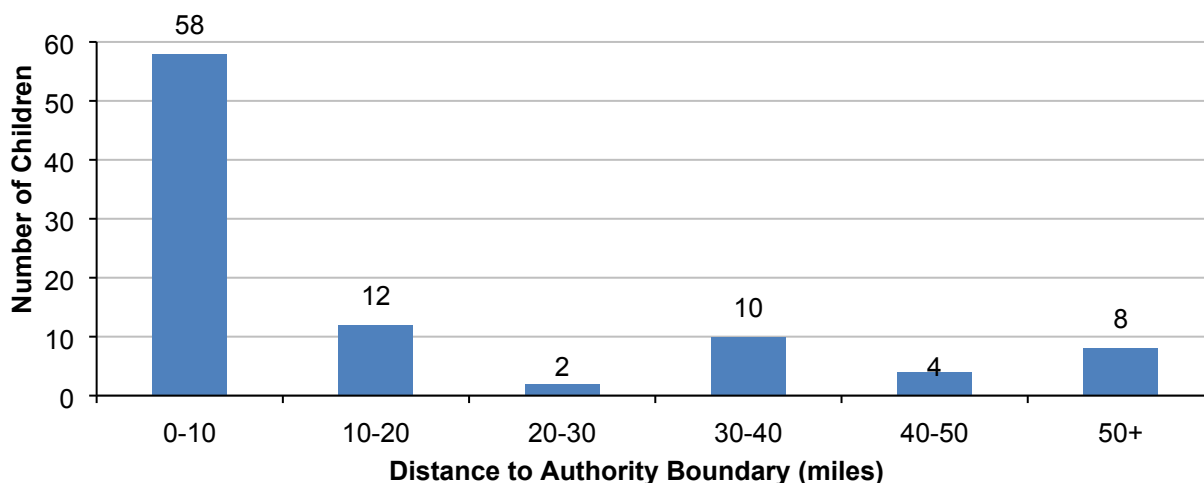
The following chart shows the amount of time LAC placed outside the borough at the end of quarter 3 (2016/17) have been in their current placement. Compared to the overall cohort of LAC, those placed outside the borough in quarter 3 were more likely to have been in their current placements for less than 12 months. Also, a much smaller proportion have been in their current placements for between 6 and 10 years, when compared to the whole cohort.



### 2.8 Placement Distance

Where children are placed out of the borough, the majority are not placed significant distances away from Barnsley. The chart below shows that 61.7% of LAC placed outside the borough at the end of quarter 3 (2016/17) were placed within 0 to 10 miles of the borough boundary. Very few placements (8.5%) were located more than 50 miles from the borough. These would have been those young people placed for Adoption or on remand.

## Placement Distance



2.9 Where children are placed Partnership engagement for CiC is considered to be strong at both strategic and operational levels. The Corporate Parenting Panel receive regular performance reports setting out how progress is being made by Children's Social Care and the wider children's partnership, in improving children's outcomes. The Multi-Agency Officer Group track and drive the implementation of the Continuous Service Improvement Plan which sets out our aspirations for CiC.

### 3.0 Educational Support for CiC

3.1 The Virtual School recognises the importance of supporting all its LAC, regardless of where they are placed geographically. All children in the care of BMBC are supported to fulfil their educational potential through high quality personal education planning. The termly personal education planning procedures (TPEPs) ensure that the education plans for each child are monitored closely and linked to effective use of any CiC Pupil Premium funding (additional funding granted by the government for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and to close the gaps between them and their peers).

3.2 There are rigorous quality assurance processes in place to ensure that TPEPs are of a high quality, monitored regularly and match the identified personalised learning needs of each child in care. This procedure is the same for all pupils whether placed in or out of the authority.

3.3 Designated teachers in Barnsley schools receive regular training and professional development through the designated teacher network. As designated teachers outside the authority do not always have access to this training, bespoke training is offered to each school as and when a child is placed in the school. In addition, all schools with children placed by BMBC are offered support from the Virtual School and know that they can call an education review meeting at any time should one be required.

3.4 Where possible, when a child has complex needs, the Virtual Headteacher will meet with the school prior to the child starting to ensure the school has a good level of information about the child's needs and can ensure appropriate support is in place. For children with special education needs and disability (SEND) placed outside the authority, the Virtual School works in partnership with BMBC's SEND Assessment and Review Team to ensure that every child is visited during the course of an academic year and the suitability of the education placement reviewed.



In practice this means the Virtual Headteacher will conduct the visit and share information with the SEND team or the reviewing officer will visit and share information with the Virtual School. In very complex cases joint visits are undertaken. BMBC's Virtual School Education Advocate also attends statutory review meetings as required regardless of where a child is placed.

- 3.5 Through termly data collections, the Virtual School monitors the attendance, exclusions and achievement of all its children. To increase the flexibility and ensure a timely response for children out of area, the council have commissioned Welfare Call, a company specialising in the collection and analysis of data for LAC, to collect daily information on attendance from May 2017.

#### **4.0 Health Support for CiC**

- 4.1 When a child in care is placed out of Barnsley, the Social Worker alerts the relevant health service and lead health professionals (Health Visitor, School Nurse, Designated Nurse (within the local Clinical Commissioning Group [CCG] and responsible for strategic decisions) to ensure that counterparts in the receiving area are notified.

- 4.2 The movement of children out of the authority is logged by a Named Nurse (responsible for operational health decisions affecting the child) and is followed up within the space of 2 weeks to ensure the following:-

- that the child is registered with a GP in the receiving area
- that the receiving area is fully aware of the child and their needs, and that the School Nurse/Health Visitor and the Looked After Children Health Team received transfer information to continue care
- that ongoing specialist health needs and care have been transferred to the appropriate service

The Named Nurse also liaises with the child's Social Worker in the receiving area to establish the status of the out of area placement and long-term plans.

- 4.3 Currently the majority of health assessments for CiC placed out of Barnsley are completed by the receiving area (exceptions are when the child attends school in Barnsley and the receiving area feel it is not appropriate for them to complete the assessment, and when an adoption report is also due, in which case a Paediatrician completes a joint assessment with the receiving area). However, due to increasing pressures of the financial climate within the health service, some authorities will no longer complete health assessments for children placed within their area. This has impacted upon the workload for local health services and could prove problematic in the future. All assessments that are completed by the receiving area are quality checked by the Named Nurse and any shortfalls are addressed to ensure that all the child's needs are being met. Additionally, if the child in care is approaching leaving care status the Named Nurse completes a Leaving Care Health Summary and sends this to the young person.

- 4.4 A child placed out of Barnsley remains registered with local services and their electronic health record remains active. The Named Nurse ensures that all new incidents and health needs are dealt with appropriately and a number of professionals share information and concerns to ensure that appropriate support is given to resolve these issues.

## **5.0 Police Support for CiC**

- 5.1 When a looked after child is placed in another area, the police district where the child resides owns the risk relating to that child, unlike Social Care, who maintain responsibility wherever the child may be placed. Therefore, if a child is placed outside of South Yorkshire and goes missing, but is not believed to have run back to Barnsley, South Yorkshire Police (SYP) would potentially have no involvement or even be made aware of the issue.
- 5.2 However, if a child is placed outside of Barnsley, but remains within South Yorkshire, then the area in which the child resides, whether that be Doncaster, Sheffield or Rotherham, own the risk, and would investigate any missing episodes. Therefore as a county wide Police Force, SYP continue to manage the investigation of any missing episodes and play a key role in the safeguarding of CiC.
- 5.3 Should there be clear evidence that the child has run back to Barnsley from wherever they are placed, as is often the case, then a discussion would take place between senior officers in the respective Police District / Force, and if appropriate the management of the missing episode would be passed back to Barnsley at that stage for investigation.

## **6.0 Future Challenges & Priorities**

- 6.1 In house placement capacity for adolescents and children requiring long term placements and high cost commissioned placements have been identified as issues for Barnsley Children's Social Care services. To alleviate this pressure, the recruitment of in-house, Barnsley foster carers is a key priority for the service. The Placement and Sufficiency Strategy sets out ambitious targets for recruiting and retaining more Barnsley foster carers for Barnsley children, in a highly competitive market. Achieving this will simultaneously provide local, family placements for our CiC, whilst reducing the financial pressure of external, commissioned care placements.

## **7.0 Invited Witnesses**

- 7.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today's meeting:

- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People Directorate, BMBC
- Jon Banwel, Head of Service Children In Care, People Directorate, BMBC
- Sharon Galvin, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Barnsley CCG
- Andrea Scholey, Named Nurse CiC, 0-19 Children's Community Nursing Service, Public Health, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children, People Directorate, BMBC
- Detective Inspector Gary Askew, South Yorkshire Police
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding), BMBC

## **8.0 Possible Areas for Investigation**

Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What strategies are being adopted to target and recruit new foster carers in Barnsley and are we on track to achieve the ambitious targets?

- What happens if a child encounters an issue between meetings/reviews?
- Are placement and care plans up-to-date for all children and how effective are they?
- How much influence do the children have upon the decisions that affect them directly?
- How strong are relationships and information sharing with partners in the private, voluntary and third sector?
- How do we ensure that children in care out of the borough achieve their full potential in terms of education, training and employment?
- To what extent are health services in other areas effective in providing appropriate support and meeting both the mental and physical health needs of Barnsley Children in Care?
- What is in place across South Yorkshire Police to ensure the safeguarding and appropriate management of children in care who they come into contact with?
- What impact does placing a child outside of the local area have on them, can there be both positive and negative aspects and are these taken into account?
- Is there a trend in the complex needs of children in care and would it be more economical to address the issues by commissioning services locally?
- What is being done to ensure that the service continually improves the outcomes for children placed outside the borough?
- What actions could be taken by Members to support Barnsley looked after children placed out of the area?

## **9.0 Background Papers and Links**

- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/959/pdfs/ukxi\\_20100959\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/959/pdfs/ukxi_20100959_en.pdf)
- The Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2015  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/495/pdfs/ukxi\\_20150495\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/495/pdfs/ukxi_20150495_en.pdf)
- BMBC Placement & Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care 2016/19  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/4475/placement-and-sufficiency-strategy-20162019.pdf>

## **10.0 Glossary**

BMBC –	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CiC –	Children in Care
CCG –	Clinical Commissioning Group
CSC –	Children’s Social Care
FFA –	Fostering for Adoption
IRO –	Independent Reviewing Officer
LAC –	Looked After Children
SEND –	Special Education Needs & Disability
SYP –	South Yorkshire Police
TPEP –	Termly Personal Education Plan

## **11.0 Officer Contact**

- Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer (01226 775794)
- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children’s Social Care & Safeguarding (01226 773665)

21<sup>st</sup> April 2017

# Item 5

## Report of the Executive Director Core Services to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

### Overview and Scrutiny's Task and Finish Group (TFG) Work Reports – Cover Report

#### **1.0 Introduction and Summary**

- 1.1 During the 2016/17 municipal year, 3 Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) have undertaken investigations into local provision with regards to a variety of services. To promote the work of the TFGs and increase Members' awareness of different services in the Borough, the reports have been brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.
- 1.2 As shown in Item 5b, the 'Higher Level Skills and Jobs TFG' was carried out by Councillor Wayne Johnson (TFG Lead Member), Councillor Phil Birkinshaw, Councillor Gail Charlesworth, Councillor Malcolm Clements, Councillor Robert Frost, Councillor Joe Hayward, Councillor Phillip Lofts, Councillor Margaret Sheard, Councillor Sarah Tattersall, Councillor John Wilson and Mr John Winter (Co-optee). The work focussed around what is being done to increase the availability of higher level skills and jobs in Barnsley. Recommendations regarding this work are outlined in section 6 of the report.
- 1.3 As shown in Item 5c, Councillor Carr (TFG Lead Member), Councillor Robert Frost, Councillor Wayne Johnson, Councillor Caroline Makinson, Councillor Pauline Phillips, Councillor Harry Spence, Councillor Sarah Tattersall and co-opted members Joan Whitaker and Pauline Gould continued to undertake an investigation into 'Fly-Tipping'. The work considers how the draft action plan developed in the previous year has been put into practice as well as details further investigative work undertaken. The report proposes that this TFG continues during the 2017/18 Municipal Year.
- 1.4 Item 5d outlines the work of the Flooding TFG which was carried out by Councillor Paul Hand-Davis (TFG Lead Member), Councillor Gail Charlesworth, Councillor Jeff Ennis, Councillor Annette Gollick, Councillor Ralph Sixsmith, Councillor Harry Spence and Councillor Sarah Tattersall. Due to the high risk of flooding in the Darfield Ward and as none of these Members are on the OSC, Councillor Dorothy Coates, Councillor Pauline Markham and Councillor Caroline Saunders were co-opted onto the TFG. The report provides an overview of works carried out in Barnsley since the 2007 floods and future plans as well as makes a number of recommendations which are outlined in section 6 of the report.

#### **2.0 Background Papers**

- Item 5b (attached) – High Level Skills and Jobs
- Item 5c (attached) – Fly-Tipping
- Item 5d (attached) – Flooding

#### **3.0 Officer Contact**

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer (01226 775794), 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

This page is intentionally left blank

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (BMBBC)**

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 Director of Human Resources,  
Performance and Communications.**

**SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP (TFG) REPORT ON  
HIGHER LEVEL SKILLS AND JOBS****1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Higher Level Skills and Jobs Task & Finish Group (TFG) regarding how we can increase the availability of higher level skills and jobs in Barnsley.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet considers the conclusions and recommendations set out in section 6 as a result of the TFG's investigation into what is being done to: assist residents to obtain higher level skills; make suitable employment opportunities available; as well as consider what barriers may be faced in obtaining these jobs.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Barnsley Council's Employment and Skills Strategy: More and Better Jobs, recognises the importance of people 'getting ready for work', 'getting into work' and 'getting on in work'. Therefore, during 2014/15 one of the OSC TFGs undertook an investigation into what provision is available to enable young people in the borough to be 'work-ready'. This was followed by an investigation during 2015/16 regarding what is in place to enable adults in the borough to be 'work-ready'.
- 3.2 It is noted that aside from academic attainment and the ability to carry out tasks in the workplace, employers need 'work-ready' employees who: have the right attitude; are reliable and will turn up on time; are able to communicate effectively and provide good customer care; and can work well as part of a team. In addition to this, the TFG recognises that the quality of jobs and availability of a skilled workforce is important for the borough's economic growth. Therefore continued this theme of investigations to consider how we are facilitating our communities to 'get on in work' and the provision of higher level skills and jobs in the borough, with this being defined as qualification Level 3 and above.
- 3.3 The members of this TFG included: Councillor Wayne Johnson (TFG Lead Member), Councillor Phil Birkinshaw, Councillor Gail Charlesworth, Councillor Malcolm Clements, Councillor Robert Frost, Councillor Joe Hayward, Councillor Phillip Lofts, Councillor Margaret Sheard, Councillor Sarah Tattersall and Councillor John Wilson, together with Co-opted Member Mr John Winter.

#### **4. What the Task & Finish Group (TFG) looked at**

- 4.1 Initially, the TFG met to consider the scope of the investigation. This included discussing a variety of contextual factors such as Economic Development, Brexit, education provision in the borough, Devolution, our local business context as well as services the TFG would like to engage with.
- 4.2 The TFG undertook a number of 'check and challenge' sessions regarding work being carried out and future plans. This involved asking questions regarding work undertaken, involvement and partnership working with other agencies including the impact of this on Barnsley residents. This included meeting with: Council representatives working at both a strategic and operational level in the Place Directorate as well as a representative from Sheffield City Region (SCR) and making contact with local businesses.
- 4.3 In addition to these sessions, the TFG were due to undertake a review of the Council's Adult Skills and Community Learning Service (ASCL) Self-Assessment Review (SAR). However, during the timescales of the TFG's investigation, the service underwent an Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) inspection which negated the need for the TFG to review the SAR at this time.
- 4.4 Similarly, the TFG were also scheduled to engage with the Barnsley Bus Partnership (BBP) which has recently been formed so the relevant organisations can work together to improve local bus services. The organisations involved are the Council, SYPT (South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive), Stagecoach Yorkshire, Watersons Coaches and Globe Coaches. Unfortunately due to the timescales the different groups were working to, this was not possible.

#### **5. What the Task & Finish Group found**

- 5.1 Through undertaking the 'check and challenge' sessions, the TFG found evidence of a variety of work which is being done to try to ensure there are opportunities for skill development in the borough. A regional issue however is that there is limited investment by local employers in their workforce. In relation to Level 4 qualifications and above, only 22% of the Barnsley population have this compared with Sheffield at 36% against a national average of 37%. One of the key challenges is funding for higher level qualifications as up to Level 2 (GCSE), organisations can draw down government funding, however funding for higher level qualifications either rests with individuals or employers.
- 5.2 A key opportunity is investment in higher level apprenticeships which offer a work-based learning programme and lead to a nationally recognised qualification. These enable adults to earn while they learn as well as enable employers to access funding. They can be used to meet the unique needs of businesses and attract new employees as well as develop those existing in a company. Currently, there is a lack of awareness of higher level apprenticeships both amongst businesses as well as the general population, resulting in their under-use. There is also a perception that apprenticeships are only for lower graded jobs and qualifications. It is acknowledged that better careers advice needs to be available for both young people and adults to make sure they are aware of such opportunities. This will require schools, colleges and businesses to work together better to promote opportunities.



- 5.3 A key link to the Employment and Skills strategy is the Barnsley Jobs and Business Plan (2014–2017) which focuses on how we will achieve sustainable business growth through infrastructure, investment, enterprise and business support to create jobs and opportunities. There have been a number of new developments in the borough, such as at Junctions 36 and 37. The TFG acknowledged that the nature of the developments would bring additional employment in Barnsley; however there may be a limited number of higher skilled jobs. Similarly, the TFG raised concerns that a number of residents have to travel out of the borough to obtain higher skilled work; however it was highlighted that often to obtain the skills and experience our businesses want, employees need to have moved around and worked elsewhere. Neighbouring developments such as the Advanced Manufacturing Park in Rotherham provide additional opportunities for Barnsley residents, as well as the supply-chain impact this may have for Barnsley businesses and future developments.
- 5.4 The TFG were made aware of a number of programmes being run through SCR including: the Growth Hub which aims to be the single point of contact for all business support across the region; the Skills Bank which forms part of the Growth Hub and aims to invest in skills and expertise to drive business growth in the region by providing advice, support and funding to businesses to develop their workforce; and the RISE programme which aims to increase graduate employment in small and medium sized enterprises by encouraging these businesses to employ graduates as well as advertise the opportunities to graduates as a whole, to compete with schemes available at larger, more established companies.
- 5.5 It was evident that there is a lack of awareness of these schemes in our local communities, particularly as only 20 businesses in Barnsley have currently accessed the SCR Skills Bank. It was highlighted that local Barnsley businesses do not necessarily identify with the 'SCR' terminology, therefore may not look to this for support in developing their businesses. There was evidence of work being done to engage with our local businesses to ensure they are aware of local opportunities. For example, 78 Barnsley companies have accessed £177,000 of funding from a scheme which has been established for some time through Leeds City Region (LCR) and support is in place to increasingly encourage businesses to access opportunities through SCR.
- 5.6 Contact was made with three of the 20 businesses which have engaged with the SCR Skills Bank, all of whom were complementary regarding the scheme. Some had been contacted by the Skills Bank directly and others through a broker. Key comments included: they had all been supported through the application process which they found simple; the scheme had enabled them to invest in their workforce which they would have either delayed or not been able to afford; and had also had their eyes opened to other opportunities. The businesses were willing to be advocates for the scheme and could not understand why others had not yet taken up the opportunities available.
- 5.7 In summary, the TFG were reassured by the amount of work being done and the schemes available to increase the availability of higher level skills and jobs in Barnsley. The TFG acknowledge that it will take time to develop some of these areas but we need to ensure that there is knowledge of what is available to our local communities.

## 6. Recommendations

6.1 During the investigations, the TFG members made a number of suggestions and recommendations regarding the work being undertaken which the services were able to consider as part of their work. The TFG support the continuation of this and in addition recommend the following:

6.2 **Recommendation 1: Promotion of opportunities such as the SCR Growth Hub and higher level apprenticeships need to increase**

The TFG found there a number of opportunities for both individuals and business to increase skills and the number of higher level jobs; however there is a lack of awareness of these amongst our communities. Local media channels need to be utilised to promote this, including putting an article in staff communications so they are aware and can share their knowledge with family and friends who may be interested. It is important that the perception of apprenticeships is changed and communities made aware that these are not just at a low level. As a result of the introduction of the apprenticeship levy, it is also important businesses are encouraged to take on apprentices and understand the value these bring to the workforce, which will also assist them in utilising available funds.

6.3 **Recommendation 2: We recommend an all-member information brief (AMIB) is held so that ALL Members are aware of and can share knowledge of the available opportunities with their communities**

This will help to raise awareness of the schemes available through the SCR Growth Hub so that Members are better able to promote opportunities in their wards. This includes making local businesses aware of development opportunities and to encourage them to invest in their workforce. It is also important key messages are fed into local schools regarding future opportunities such as the RISE programme as well as higher level apprenticeships.

6.4 **Recommendation 3: SCR engage with Barnsley Elected Members so they can better understand local governance arrangements and networks**

By SCR representatives being involved at a local level, this will increase their knowledge of the Area Council and Ward Alliance arrangements in Barnsley and how their networks can be utilised to promote opportunities amongst local businesses. This includes both opportunities within the Growth Hub as well as the use of higher level apprenticeships. These networks can also be used to raise awareness amongst individuals of opportunities such as higher level apprenticeships which enables them to earn while they learn. The SCR will also be able to advise Area Councils on what they could prioritise investment in at a local level in terms of supporting this agenda.

6.5 **Recommendation 4: Careers advice needs to be improved for both young people and adults**

To achieve this, schools, colleges and businesses need to work closer together to ensure there is good quality provision across the borough. This includes connecting businesses with young people in our schools as well as their parents, particularly to raise awareness of local opportunities such as the RISE programme and higher level apprenticeships. As people tend to engage better with their peers, schools and colleges could invite previous students who have recently graduated or obtained employment to share their experiences with other pupils.

6.6 **Recommendation 5: The OSC facilitates consideration of BMBC's Adult Skills and Community Learning Service (ASCL)**

Further to the recent Ofsted inspection, the service is currently undertaking a governance review which includes increasing involvement of Elected Members. To assist with the ongoing review of the service and to enable Members to be aware of services being delivered, the OSC should engage with this and facilitate Scrutiny Members' involvement.

6.7 **Recommendation 6: Services to engage with Barnsley Bus Partnership (BBP) in relation to economic developments in the borough**

Throughout all three of the TFGs' investigations on jobs and skills, access to transport has been a fundamental aspect of this. For example new graduates often don't have access to their own car. The TFG welcomes the formulation of the BBP and continued work to improve services for our local communities, including specific work to enable access to the new economic development sites at junctions 36 and 37. The TFG recommends that as our key employment areas at J36 and J37 are brought into use, investment is prioritised to serving these areas to make sure employment opportunities are accessible and affordable for all.

The TFG would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided information and assisted with the TFG's investigation.

7. **Implications for local people / service users**

7.1 A variety of work is being done to facilitate access to higher level skills and jobs in Barnsley. A number of opportunities are available to support local people to access and gain higher level skills and therefore jobs. There are also opportunities for local businesses to access funding and training to develop their workforce and thereby their business which is likely to increase the number of higher skilled jobs in the borough. It is noted that access to transport is fundamental in enabling local communities to access these opportunities. Also that residents may need to be prepared to travel outside the borough and move around to obtain the required skills and experience businesses require for higher level jobs.

8. **Financial implications**

8.1 There are no specific financial implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the financial implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or partnership agencies.

9. **Employee implications**

9.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or partnership agencies.

## **10. Communications implications**

- 10.1 A key theme which ran throughout the investigation is the need to ensure local people and businesses are aware of the variety of opportunities available to them. The findings and resultant recommendations are reflective of this and require the utilisation of local networks and media channels to spread the knowledge of available schemes.

## **11. Consultations**

- 11.1 Consultations have taken place with Councillors Johnson (TFG Lead Member), P. Birkinshaw, Charlesworth, Clements, Frost, Hayward, Lofts, Sheard, Tattersall and Wilson, Co-opted Member John Winter, Councillor Roy Miller, Council Officers David Shepherd, Tom Smith, Judy Sidebottom, Mark Anderson and the Senior Management Team as well as Krysia Wooffinden from SCR.

## **12. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

- 12.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, strong and resilient communities; and citizens achieving their potential. Ensuring people in our communities are 'work ready' and can 'get on in work' contributes to achieving all of these and should be prioritised in services being provided. The investigation therefore sought to better understand what is being done to facilitate higher level skills and jobs in Barnsley.

## **13. Risk management issues**

- 13.1 This issue relates to the following risks currently logged on the Council's Strategic Risk Register (SRR), as follows:
- 3034 - Lack of Educational Attainment (whilst the focus of this risk relates to attainment within schools and educational settings, elements of this risk are pitched at broader educational outcomes within the borough); and,
  - 3543 - Failure to ensure the adequate supply of land for housing and commercial property growth (whilst this risk focuses on the availability of land to enable development opportunities, elements of the mitigations for this risk touch on the opportunities present within the regional devolution deal, referenced in section 6.4 of this report).
- 13.2 Furthermore, risk owners within Business Unit 4 (Economic Regeneration) will be encouraged to remain cognisant of the recommendations detailed within this report as part of the regular review of operational risk registers.
- 13.3 The recommendations detailed in section 6 should be considered by the relevant risk owner in light of the SRR, which is programmed for its next review in March 2017.
- 13.4 It is likely the recommended activities detailed in this report will contribute further to the effective mitigation of these risks, and it would be appropriate for any follow-up report regarding the 'work readiness' of adults in Barnsley to be cognisant of these risks.

## **14. Promoting equality & diversity and social inclusion**

- 14.1 The TFG acknowledges that many barriers are faced by diverse groups in accessing employment as well as higher level skills and jobs, which creates inequalities. Vulnerable groups in particular need to be fully supported in this agenda as well as those that are hard to reach. Work is currently being undertaken to consider how through collaborative working, support and opportunities for vulnerable groups can be provided.

## **15. Glossary**

AMIB – All Member Information Brief  
ASCL – Adult Skills and Community Learning Service  
BBP – Barnsley Bus Partnership  
BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan borough Council  
LCR – Leeds City Region  
Ofsted – Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills  
OSC – Overview and Scrutiny  
SAR – Self Assessment Review  
SCR – Sheffield City Region  
TFG – Task and Finish Group

## **16. Background papers**

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Report on ‘Work Readiness’ – Young People (Cab.25.3.2015/7.3):  
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Cabinet/201503251000/Agenda/item%20f7.3.pdf>
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Report on ‘Work Readiness’ – Adults (Cab.9.3.2016/8):  
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s8211/Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20-%20Work%20Readiness%20-%20Adults.pdf>
- Barnsley Council Employment and Skills Strategy: More and Better Jobs:  
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s8211/Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20-%20Work%20Readiness%20-%20Adults.pdf>
- Barnsley Council Jobs and Business Plan 2014-17:  
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s7069/Jobs%20and%20Business%20Plan%20Update.pdf>
- Barnsley Council Jobs and Business Plan 2014-17 Update Report:  
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s7069/Jobs%20and%20Business%20Plan%20Update.pdf>
- Barnsley Local Plan: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/planning-and-buildings/local-planning-and-development/our-new-local-plan/local-plan-publication-consultation-2016/>

Officer Contact: Anna Marshall      Telephone No: 01226 775794      Date: 24th March 2017

This page is intentionally left blank

**BARNSELY 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 Director of Human Resources,  
Performance and Communications.**

**SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT ON 'FLY-TIPPING'**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the actions taken as well as the findings of, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's (OSC's) Fly-Tipping Task & Finish Group's (TFG's) continued work in relation to reducing the high instances of fly-tipping in the Borough.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That Cabinet notes the actions the group has taken, as well as considers the conclusions and recommendations set out in section 6 as a result of the TFG's continued work into reducing the high instances of fly-tipping in the Borough.**

**3. Introduction/Background**

- 3.1 In 2015, Elected Members from across the Borough raised concerns about the amount of fly-tipping incidents that had occurred in their ward. Therefore during 2015/16 one of the OSC's TFGs undertook a detailed investigation into this area, working in partnership with Council officers, which resulted in the creation of a Draft Fly-Tipping Action Plan.
- 3.2 In response to this, the Council formed a cross-Directorate Officer Fly-Tipping TFG to consider and implement actions in the plan drafted by the Member TFG. During 2016/17, the Officer Fly-Tipping TFG has met regularly and has undertaken a number of the proposed activities. Additionally the OSC's Fly-Tipping TFG continued in order to: monitor the work of and input into the officer group; undertake further investigation into what is being done to combat fly-tipping; and complete the actions which were identified for Members in the Draft Fly-Tipping Action Plan.
- 3.3 The members of this TFG included:  
Councillor Gill Carr (TFG Lead Member), Councillor Robert Frost, Councillor Wayne Johnson, Councillor Caroline Makinson, Councillor Pauline Phillips, Councillor Harry Spence and Councillor Sarah Tattersall together with Co-opted Members Joan Whitaker and Pauline Gould.

#### **4. What the Task & Finish Group (TFG) looked at**

- 4.1 Initially, the TFG met to consider the scope of the investigation for this municipal year. This included reviewing what had been learnt during the first investigation and what Member actions needed to be undertaken, what other areas required further investigation including good practice around the Borough as well as undertaking ongoing monitoring of the Officer TFG.
- 4.2 The TFG met with officers and Members from the Dearne Area, to understand more about the work taking place in the local area to both prevent fly-tipping and improve the local environment. The group also met with legal representatives of the Council to understand the prosecution process in detail including sentencing guidelines for magistrates.
- 4.3 The TFG also met with representatives from the Officer TFG to understand how the original draft action plan had been taken forward, including formulation of the cross-directorate group as well as the detail of actions which had been taken and were still being planned.
- 4.4 In addition to these sessions, the TFG discussed how they would undertake the Member actions recommended from the original action plan to lobby MPs and Magistrates.

#### **5. What the Task & Finish Group found and action taken**

- 5.1 The TFG found evidence of excellent partnership working in the Dearne to tackle environmental issues including representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors as well as local residents. Work was being undertaken to ensure the local community were involved in projects and facilitate them to take ownership of improving their local area. Good relationships have been developed with local private sector landlords to assist in tackling issues and preventative support measures are being put in place for residents to change behaviours rather than just take enforcement action.
- 5.2 By understanding legal processes in relation to enforcement the TFG gained a greater understanding of the investigative works being undertaken to ensure prosecutions as well as the processes Magistrates have to follow to issue penalties. Again there was evidence of officers working across services to gather intelligence and recent developments following the formulation of the Officer TFG.
- 5.3 As work was undertaken to develop the local fly-tipping campaign as part of the Officer TFG's work, the Member TFG were consulted along with Council staff regarding the designs and also attended the launch which attracted local and national media attention:





- 5.4 In addition to the launch of the fly-tipping campaign, the Member TFG found that the forming of the officer group had facilitated improvements in cross-directorate relationships. Officers from different services had come together and better understood the challenges of each other's roles and had changed their working practices to better gather intelligence to facilitate prosecutions. This includes amendments made to how the Customer Services team handle reports for fly-tipping. Also, work was being done through Regulatory Services to remind businesses of their duties in relation to waste management and highlight the Council services available.
- 5.5 Fly-tipping continues to be an issue for Councils around the country. The Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has recently published the data for England during 2015/16 which shows that local authorities dealt with 936,000 fly-tipping incidents which is a 4% increase since last year. A third of all incidents consisted of a quantity equivalent to a 'small van load'; the second largest category which accounted for 29% of incidents was a 'car boot load'. The estimated cost for the clearance of fly-tipping in England in 2015/16 was £49.8 million. Our local data indicates that there has been a 25.8% increase in fly-tipping incidents from 3019 in 2014/15 to 3798 in 2015/16. This is lower than the 41.4% increase in fly-tipping incidents between 2013/14 and 2014/15; however the cost of clearance has gone from £124,306 in 2014/15 to £287,118 in 2015/16.
- 5.6 To complete the Member actions from the original work to lobby MPs and Magistrates to highlight the issues faced by local services in tackling fly-tipping, documents have been developed and signed by members of both the Member and Officer TFGs to highlight the one council approach to tackling this issue. The documents outline the work the Council is taking, how MPs and Magistrates can help us fight against this blight on our Borough and reminds them of the launch of our local campaign.

**BARNSELEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**Help us to fight the blight of Fly-Tipping in Barnsley**

Dear Councillor MP,

Fly tipping costs local authorities £50 million per year to clear. Last year it cost Barnsley Council more than £287,000.

In 2014/15 there were 3000 fly tipping incidents across the UK. Barnsley's share of this was over 3,000 incidents.

It's on an upward trend, and we need your help to stop it.

Number of Incidents	Cost of clearance
2014/15: 3019	2014/15: £124,306
2015/16: 3798	2015/16: £287,118
+25.8%	+131%

**What action are we taking?**

- Improving our intelligence gathering to help prosecutions
- Making it easier for people to find recycling and waste collection information online
- Changing call handling procedures
- Getting better at sharing information between services and authorities
- Launching an innovative behaviour change campaign

**How can you help?**

On behalf of the Borough, we the undersigned urge you to support our campaign to prevent fly-tipping and ensure appropriate prosecution of those who are spotted. We are calling for action at a national level, calling for a review to enable responsibility to issue tougher sentences for those who encourage manufacturers and retailers to bear some responsibility for the cost of collecting and recycling large used products, and ensure appropriate Government funding is made available to Local Authorities to maintain local recycling facilities.

**Everybody Think**

In December 2016 Barnsley Council launched an innovative campaign to dispel myths about waste and change the behaviour of residents.

Rather than taking the standard approach of warning perpetrators, the campaign targets residents who might not realise the person they're going to take their rubbish in is a rogue trader who will fly tip.

For a high impact campaign launch, the council dumped lots of red fly tipped rubbish outside the Town Hall, attracting interest and getting people talking.

A parody rogue trader 'Dump It & Scarper', with its own Facebook page, took responsibility for the stunt.

The campaign continues with consistent push of key messages correcting the myths linked to fly tipping and encouraging residents to make sure their rubbish is taken to local recycling centres or collected by a licensed, trusted person.

Find out more at [www.barnsley.gov.uk/membersofthetf](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/membersofthetf)

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

## 6. Recommendations

- 6.1 During the investigations, the TFG members made a number of suggestions and recommendations regarding the work being undertaken which the services were able to consider as part of their work. In addition to these suggestions, the TFG recommends the following:

6.2 **Recommendation 1: The OSC facilitates the Fly-Tipping TFG to continue its work during the 2017/18 municipal year**

As fly-tipping continues to be an issue, further work needs to be done to take the campaign out to Area Councils such as incorporating the campaign materials in local publications and amongst local media networks. Members continue to receive a number of queries regarding fly-tipping and there are still a number of myths around, for example, the use of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). Therefore the TFG can both engage with the Environment Agency as well as well as complete a frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet which could be used by both Members and officers to deliver consistent messages. There is also potential to work with neighbouring Councils on tackling some of these issues.

6.3 **Recommendation 2: Services continue to facilitate officers from across the Council to attend and action the work of the Officer Fly-Tipping TFG**

One of the recommendations in the original draft action plan was for services to come together to jointly tackle the issue of fly-tipping. Due to the complexities involved in tackling fly-tipping it requires a cross-directorate approach and it is important officers are given the opportunity to share intelligence and amend operational activities accordingly.

6.4 **Recommendation 3: Sustained investment is made in the Fly-Tipping Campaign**

Since the launch of the media campaign in December 2016, it is important that the momentum from this is not lost and services continue to push this through both social and printed media channels. Cross-Directorate sustained investment is required both to continue with existing work as well as resource to develop new materials to take the campaign out to other stakeholders in our communities for example schools, private sector landlords and Berneslai Homes.

6.5 **Recommendation 4: An all-member information brief (AMIB) is held so that ALL Members are aware of and are updated in relation to key issues in relation to fly-tipping and the action being taken**

This will help raise awareness of all the work which has been undertaken in relation to fly-tipping, including sentencing guidelines of Magistrates, use of HWRCs, as well as further work which is planned. This session could also be used to gather information from all Members regarding queries they receive in relation to fly-tipping and any action they have taken as an Area Council, to learn from and share best practice.

The TFG would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided information, attended events and assisted with the investigation.

7. **Implications for local people / service users**

7.1 The issue of fly-tipping is prevalent across the Borough; therefore improvements in this area of work have implications across the area. Residents are being involved in work in their local communities and by them being increasingly aware of the problem and associated costs through campaign materials should improve intelligence gathering and the prosecution of those committing this crime.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific financial implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the financial implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or other agencies.

## **9. Employee implications**

- 9.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or partnership agencies.

## **10. Communications implications**

- 10.1 To combat the issue of fly-tipping it would be impractical and ineffective to rely solely on enforcement action, therefore a joined up, holistic approach is required. A key focus to help prevent fly-tipping is communication activity, to reduce the incidents by raising awareness of the issues and costs, and making fly-tipping socially unacceptable.
- 10.2 In December 2016 the Council launched an innovative campaign to dispel myths about waste and change the behaviour of residents. Rather than taking the standard approach of warning perpetrators, the campaign targets residents who might not realise the person they're paying to take their rubbish is a rogue trader who will fly tip.
- 10.3 For a high impact campaign launch, the council dumped lots of real fly tipped rubbish outside the Town Hall; attracting interest and getting people talking. A parody rogue trader 'Dumpit & Scarper', with its own Facebook page, took responsibility for the stunt.
- 10.4 The campaign continues with a consistent push of key messages dispelling the myths linked to fly tipping and encouraging residents to make sure their rubbish is taken to local recycling centres or collected by a licensed, trusted person. Cross-Directorate sustained investment in this campaign is required to ensure its momentum is not lost and targeted work can be done with key stakeholders such as schools and landlords.

## **11. Consultations**

- 11.1 Consultations have taken place with Councillor Gill Carr (TFG Lead Member), Councillor Robert Frost, Councillor Wayne Johnson, Councillor Caroline Makinson, Councillor Pauline Phillips, Councillor Harry Spence and Councillor Sarah Tattersall, Co-opted Members Joan Whitaker and Pauline Gould and representatives from the Council Officer TFG, Claire Dawson, Councillor May Noble, Councillor Roy Miller and the Senior Management Team.

## **12. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

- 12.1 One of the Council's strategic priorities is to have 'Strong and Resilient Communities'. Within this, 'Outcome 11' focuses on 'protecting the Borough for future generations', describing how we must ensure the effective collection and disposal of waste to protect the environment for the future. This requires encouraging residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough to ensure they recycle and correctly dispose of their waste, not only to protect the environment but to minimise associated costs and protect savings for other important services.
- 12.2. The formulation and continued meeting of the Officer Fly-Tipping TFG is evidence of this issue requiring a One Council response, with representation and action taken from across all Council Directorates.
- 12.3 As evidenced in the Council's Corporate Performance Report, fly-tipping continues to be an issue in the Borough, therefore the group will continue to investigate and take action in relation to this area of work.

## **13. Risk management issues**

- 13.1 Although not logged as a specific risk in the Council's Strategic Risk Register (SRR), the issue cuts across a number of risk areas such as economic growth, health and wellbeing and stakeholder engagement.
- 13.2 It is envisaged that the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny TFG will contribute towards the effective mitigation of these risks through the implementation of recommendations detailed in section 6 of this report.
- 13.3 The findings of the TFG, detailed in section 6 will be discussed between the Risk and Governance Manager, and relevant risk owners as part of the review of the SRR, and operational risk registers during 2017. A number of the actions detailed in section 6 may at that stage be included within the appropriate risk register as risk mitigation actions.

## **14. Health, safety, and emergency resilience issues**

- 14.1 Fly-tipping can cause serious pollution to the environment as well as risks to human health, wildlife and animals. National data shows that in 2014/15 nearly half of all fly-tipping incidents (48%) were on highways (2015/16 data not currently available). This can cause serious risks to road users, therefore it is important that work is undertaken to combat this issue.

## **15. Promoting equality, diversity, and social inclusion**

- 15.1 To ensure the correct disposal of waste, it is essential that all our communities understand how to correctly use local methods and facilities. Therefore when undertaking campaigns to highlight the issue of fly-tipping a variety of methods have been used including social media, videos, printed text so that the information is accessible to all our communities and promote social inclusion.

## **16. Reduction of crime and disorder**

- 16.1 Fly-tipping is a criminal activity and is considered as part of the local area's Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA). Large costs are associated with undertaking enforcement action; therefore it is impractical to rely solely on this to deal with the issue. It is important that residents are encouraged to be alert to the issue, reporting concerns and intelligence to appropriate agencies to assist with tackling the problem and reducing this crime.

## **17. Glossary**

AMIB – All Member Information Brief

BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

DEFRA - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

HWRC – Household Waste Recycling Centre

OSC - Overview and Scrutiny Committee

TFG – Task and Finish Group

## **18. Background papers**

- Defra Fly-tipping Statistics for England 2014/15:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/469566/Flycapture\\_201415\\_Statistical\\_release\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/469566/Flycapture_201415_Statistical_release_FINAL.pdf)
- Defra Fly-tipping Statistics for England 2015/16:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/595773/Flytipping\\_201516\\_statistical\\_release.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/595773/Flytipping_201516_statistical_release.pdf)
- Council's 2016-17 Q3 Corporate Performance Report:  
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s18006/Appendix%201.pdf>

Officer Contact: Anna Marshall Telephone No: 01226 775794 Date: 24th March 2016

This page is intentionally left blank

**BARNSELY 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 Director of Human Resources,  
Performance and Communications.****SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP (TFG) REPORT ON FLOODING****1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Flooding Task & Finish Group (TFG) to review what has been learnt since the 2007 floods, what has been put in place, as well as make recommendations for improvements.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That Cabinet considers the conclusions and recommendations set out in section 6 as a result of the TFG's review of Flooding in Barnsley.**

**3. Introduction/Background**

- 3.1 Following the Pitt Review, Scrutiny was given powers to investigate activities in relation to flood risk management; this includes information outlined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Given the devastation that recent flooding events have caused, the impact of climate change and the increase in incidents of flooding, this TFG was established to consider Barnsley's position in relation to this. Specifically to investigate: what has been learnt since the 2007 floods including what preventative measures are in place; the emergency response; and how we have assisted communities to be prepared, particularly those in high risk areas.

- 3.2 The members of the TFG who undertook this investigation included the following: Councillor Paul Hand-Davis (TFG Lead Member), Councillor Gail Charlesworth, Councillor Jeff Ennis, Councillor Annette Gollick, Councillor Ralph Sixsmith, Councillor Harry Spence and Councillor Sarah Tattersall. Due to the high risk of flooding in the Darfield Ward and as none of these Members are on the OSC, they were co-opted onto the TFG to facilitate their contribution to the investigation: Councillor Dorothy Coates, Councillor Pauline Markham and Councillor Caroline Saunders.

**4. What the Task & Finish Group (TFG) looked at**

- 4.1 Initially, the TFG met to consider the scope of the investigation. This included discussing their key concerns and experiences of dealing with flooding issues in their local communities as well as services they would like to engage with.

- 4.2 The TFG undertook a number of 'check and challenge' sessions with officers and the Cabinet Member for the Place Directorate regarding the work being carried out and future plans. This involved asking questions of them regarding their work, their involvement and partnership working with other agencies including the impact of this on Barnsley residents. This included meeting with: Council representatives working at both a strategic and operational level in the Place Directorate including those from Highways, Engineering and Transport; representatives from the Council's Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Service; as well as a representative from the Environment Agency (EA).
- 4.3 In addition to these sessions, the TFG met with a group of residents from the Dearne who had been affected by the 2007 floods and had ongoing concerns regarding flood risk management in their local area.

## **5. What the Task & Finish Group found**

- 5.1 Through undertaking the 'check and challenge' sessions, the TFG found evidence of a variety of work which has taken place since the 2007 floods. This includes a number of schemes undertaking flood alleviation works to watercourses as well as residential properties. It is testament to the work undertaken that despite river levels being higher in 2012, only 6 properties were affected, compared with 660 affected in the 2007 floods.
- 5.2 Due to recent events, flooding is on the agenda locally, regionally and nationally which helps to ensure this is on the government radar and that resources are made available. A lot of work is being undertaken regarding flood alleviation and a number of reports have been published regarding findings and recommendations regarding how local areas can better plan and prevent flooding. One of the key documents is the Pitt Review which was undertaken as a result of the 2007 floods and contains 92 recommendations. The TFG has reviewed those relevant to Barnsley and has sought assurance that actions have been undertaken or plans are in place to complete them.
- 5.3 The TFG found evidence of some good partnership working in relation to flooding. For example, the EA working with the Council to implement water management schemes and assess planning applications to ensure developments do not have an adverse impact on flooding in the borough. The EA also advised that Barnsley had been effective in applying for funding for schemes in Barnsley, however due to limited resources, additional funding was available but applications for this would need to be completed. Work in partnership with Yorkshire Water is also undertaken; however challenges arise in terms of Barnsley schemes being prioritised due to pressures from other areas such as Calderdale.
- 5.4 A particular area of concern for the TFG is the increase in flash-flooding events where heavy rainfall causes localised flooding where drains are unable to cope with the amount of water, particularly if they have not been cleared. The TFG welcomed the information that in-cab GPS technology will shortly be used to undertake drainage management, which locates gullies and will gather intelligence over time regarding how often each one should be cleared.



5.5 The TFG also learned about specific flood plans being pulled together for local areas at Ward level, which include the use of flood stores. Different areas were at different stages with their plans and it is evident that there are a number of differing opinions regarding what should be done in response to a flooding emergency, which creates challenges in terms of officers managing and resourcing responses. It was also highlighted that flood stores should not be seen as a panacea in response to flooding as their contents are limited.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 During the investigations, the TFG members made a number of suggestions and recommendations regarding the work being undertaken which the services were able to consider as part of their work. An example includes ensuring that information regarding Flooding is available under 'F' on the Council's website A-Z list to enable easier access to information rather than requiring customers to go through 'Highways and Drainage'. Also, ensuring links to information on surface water flooding are available from this page as this is an increasing problem and cause for customer enquiries, as well as links to the government's national flood campaign information. In addition to these suggestions, the TFG recommends the following:

6.2 **Recommendation 1: An all-member information brief (AMIB) is held so that ALL Members are aware of and are updated in relation to key flood risk management issues including supporting community resilience**

This will help raise awareness of all the flood prevention work which has been undertaken both regionally and locally including works to properties and watercourses as well as planning policy implementation. Also this could be followed by a drop-in session for Members to discuss specific concerns in their wards.

6.3 **Recommendation 2: Barnsley Leadership Team (BLT) to engage in Emergency Planning to ensure all departments are prepared**

To ensure the Council is resilient during emergencies and given the turnover of staff since the 2007 floods, the Council needs to ensure it is prepared should another similar event occur, for example being able to quickly access information regarding vulnerable residents.

6.4 **Recommendation 3: Emergency contact information card to go into the New Members Induction Pack**

The small card which has been issued to all Elected Members with Out-of-Hours service contact numbers on should be included in the New Members Induction Pack to ensure all Members receive this information and are aware of the Council's on-call facilities.

6.5 **Recommendation 4: Intelligence regarding culverts, trash screens and flood-risk spots should be shared with Ward Alliances, enabling them to monitor and report issues**

Sharing information with community members regarding water management infrastructure and risk areas in their local community will raise awareness amongst them regarding flooding. This alongside encouraging them to keep a watch on these when they are out in their community, for example checking trash screens are

clear of debris and reporting issues via our customer services team, will enable issues to be dealt with in a timely way and avoid flooding incidents.

**6.6 Recommendation 5: Agree Council-wide principles regarding the response in a flooding event**

The TFG are aware that there are differing opinions amongst both Members and officers regarding what the Council's response should be in a flooding event, therefore it would be useful for cross-Council agreement to be sought so that appropriate resources can be put in place to respond and so that consistent messages can be given to our communities.

**6.7 Recommendation 6: Ensure local flood plans are finalised**

The TFG is conscious that completion of a number of local flood plans is still outstanding and a number of details missing such as key holders for flood stores and contingency plans for access. The TFG is cognisant of the previous recommendation regarding agreement of what the response should be, however feels it is vital completion of these is prioritised to ensure our communities are prepared. To enable completion of local flood plans it is important our communities engage to facilitate this. Additionally, our communities need to be proactive in taking preventative measures to protect their homes from flooding both in terms of their property's infrastructure, ensuring they have appropriate insurance cover and utilise information available on the Government's 'Floodaware' Campaign website: <https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk/>

**6.8 Recommendation 7: Investigation regarding the residents' flooding concerns in the Dearne to be followed up**

Further to the TFG meeting residents in the Dearne, the group is aware officers have already undertaken work to follow this up which the group welcomes. The group therefore requests that this is finalised in liaison with other agencies as indicated including the EA.

The TFG would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided information and assisted with the TFG's investigation.

**7. Implications for local people / service users**

7.1 Extensive works to both water courses and properties in the borough have been undertaken which have largely prevented flood damage in our local communities. It is important that such works continue and that our communities are encouraged to gather and report intelligence in relation to flood risks. By agreeing Council-wide principles regarding the response in a flooding event should enable both officers and Members to deliver consistent messages and support in an emergency.

**8. Financial implications**

8.1 There are no specific financial implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the financial implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

## **9. Employee implications**

- 9.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

## **10. Communications implications**

- 10.1 The work which has taken place in relation to flood prevention in the borough highlighted in the report should be shared and celebrated. By holding an AMIB, Members will be better aware of the work which has taken place in relation to flooding and how to be prepared in future. It is also important that our communities are aware of flood risks in their local areas so they are engaged and can share intelligence to protect their local community.
- 10.2 In planning for emergency incidents and when they arise, it is important that clear, timely and accurate information is available on the Council's website and social media channels, both to prevent unnecessary contact as well as facilitate ease of access of those who need to contact services.

## **11. Consultations**

- 11.1 Consultations have taken place with the Flooding TFG Members, Councillor Roy Miller, Council Officers Ian Wilson, Derek Bell, Sean Davis, Simon Dobby and the Senior Management Team as well as Simon Mann from the Environment Agency.

## **12. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

- 12.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, strong and resilient communities; and citizens achieving their potential. To contribute to achieving these, we need to ensure flood risk management is considered. This includes ensuring the homes we are building are fit for purpose and take account of flood risk, that we protect our borough for future generations and support our communities to be resilient.

## **13. Risk management issues**

- 13.1 The ability of the Council to be able to respond effectively in the event of an emergency event is logged as a risk in the Council's Strategic Risk Register (SRR) ('Failure to be prepared to assist in the event of an emergency resilience event in the region'). This risk is currently logged as being red' due to the significant impact on the Borough, and its residents if the Council is unable to respond and assist appropriately.
- 13.2 It is envisaged that the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny TFG will contribute towards the effective mitigation of this risk through the implementation of recommendations detailed in section 6 of this report.
- 13.3 The findings of the TFG, detailed in section 6 will be discussed between the Risk and Governance Manager, and the Head of Health and Safety as part of the review

of the SRR which is due to be reviewed during March 2017. A number of these actions may at that stage be included on the SRR as risk mitigation actions.

#### **14. Health, safety, and emergency resilience issues**

- 14.1 Ensuring BLT and Council services are prepared to respond in an emergency is critical, therefore it is important that BLT engage in emergency planning activities and ensure plans are in place and relevant information available in their services. It is also important Members are aware of how to respond in an emergency and are able to give consistent messages to our communities.

#### **15. Promoting equality, diversity, and social inclusion**

- 15.1 The TFG highlighted that particularly in an emergency response, we need to ensure our customer needs are met, particularly those who are vulnerable, have disabilities and would need additional support should an emergency flooding event occur.

#### **16. Glossary**

AMIB – All Member Information Brief  
BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
EA – Environment Agency  
OSC – Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
TFG – Task and Finish Group

#### **17. Background papers**

- Government 'Floodaware' Campaign Website:  
<https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk/>
- Government Website: Find out if you're at risk of Flooding & sign up to Flood Alerts: <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>
- National Flood Resilience Review (Sept 2016):  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/551137/national-flood-resilience-review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/551137/national-flood-resilience-review.pdf)
- Pitt Review of the 2007 Floods:  
[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807034701/http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/\\_media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/flooding\\_review/pitt\\_review\\_full%20pdf.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807034701/http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/_media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/flooding_review/pitt_review_full%20pdf.pdf)
- Defra: Government Response to the Pitt Review:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/194675/govtresptopitt2008.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/194675/govtresptopitt2008.pdf)

Officer Contact: Anna Marshall Telephone No: 01226 775794 Date: 24th March 2017