

Public Document Pack



MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Sustainable Barnsley Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday 6 June 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

AGENDA

Sustainable Barnsley Workstream

Councillors Bellamy, Christmas, Eastwood, Ennis OBE, Hayward, Hunt, Moore, Murray, O'Donoghue, Sheard, Webster and A Wray.

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 5 - 12)

To note the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee (Full Committee) held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 (Item 3 attached).

Overview and Scrutiny Issues for the Committee

4 Employee Survey 2022 (Pages 13 - 24)

To consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services outlining the results of the Employee Survey 2022.

5 Exclusion of the Public and Press

The public and press will be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the items so marked because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, subject to the public interest test.

6 Cyber Security (Pages 25 - 32)

To consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services on Cyber Security.

Reason restricted:

Paragraph (3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Enquiries to Jane Murphy/Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officers

Email scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk

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

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Barnard, Bellamy, Booker, Bowler, Bowser, Christmas, Clarke, Crisp, Denton, Eastwood, Fielding, Green, Hayward, Hunt, Lodge, Markham, McCarthy, Mitchell, Moore, Morrell, Moyes, Murray, O'Donoghue, Osborne, Peace, Pickering, Risebury, Sheard, Smith, Tattersall, Webster, A. Wray and N. Wright together with Statutory Co-opted Member (Parent Governor Representative)

Electronic Copies Circulated for Information

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive

Wendy Popplewell, Executive Director, Core Services

Rob Winter, Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management

Michael Potter, Service Director, Business Improvement, HR and Communications

Sukdave Ghuman, Service Director, Law and Governance

Press

Witnesses

Item 4 (2pm)

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive, Barnsley Council

Wendy Popplewell, Executive Director, Core Services, Barnsley Council

Michael Potter, Service Director, Business Intelligence, Human Resources & Communications, Barnsley Council

Phil Quinn, Head of Service, Human Resources and Organisational Development, Barnsley Council

Cllr Robin Franklin, Cabinet Spokesperson, Core Services

Item 5 (2.45pm approx.)

Wendy Popplewell, Executive Director, Core Services, Barnsley Council

Dave Robinson, Service Director Customer, Information & Digital Services, Barnsley Council

Sara Hydon, Head of Service Design & Compliance, Barnsley Council

Simon Marshall, Governance & Compliance Manager, Barnsley Council

Shaun Waddington, Security & Information Specialist, Barnsley Council

Rob Winter, attending in his capacity as Data Protection Officer, Barnsley Council

Cllr Robin Franklin, Cabinet Spokesperson, Core Services

This page is intentionally left blank

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee
DATE:	Tuesday 25 April 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bellamy, Bowser, Cain, Clarke, Eastwood, Hayward, Lodge, Lowe-Flello, Moyes, Osborne, Peace, Richardson, Smith, Webster, Williams, Wilson and C. Wray

55 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.

56 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Ennis declared a non-pecuniary interest as a he sat on the board of trustees for Barnsley Hospice 30 years ago.

57 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the following meetings were received and approved by Members as a true and accurate record:-

Healthy Barnsley Workstream – 29th November 2022

Full Committee – 10th January 2023

Sustainable Barnsley Workstream – 7th February 2023

Growing Barnsley Workstream – 7th March 2023

Healthy Barnsley Workstream – 21st March 2023

58 Barnsley Hospice and Palliative/End of Life Care

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Martine Tune – Chief Executive Officer/Chief Nurse, Barnsley Hospice
- Sarah MacGillivray – Director of Governance & Quality, Barnsley Hospice
- Stephen Hall – Director of HR & OD, Barnsley Hospice
- Jayne Sivakumar – Chief Nurse, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (Barnsley)
- Siobhan Lendzionowski – Head of Transformation, Integration and Delivery, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (Barnsley)

M Tune the Chief Executive Officer at Barnsley Hospice introduced the report to Members, explaining that she started working for the Hospice in 2021 where it had been rated inadequate. Following this the team worked hard to improve the service, in January 2023 the Hospice achieved the best possible rating of 'outstanding' from the Care Quality Commission.

Out of five categories there were three awarded as outstanding:

- Safety
- Caring
- Well-Lead

M Tune continued that very few organisations in the country received an outstanding award for safety, so this was a huge achievement for the service. The other two categories were Effectiveness and Responsiveness, and these were rated as good, however verbally staff were told they were close to an outstanding award – there are hopes for all five categories to be outstanding in the future.

There are high ambitions for the Hospice and the people of Barnsley – the Hospice teams are striving to do more and be the best of the best. Significant investment has been pumped into the structure of the organisation, the structure is ever changing to adapt to the environment and with the upcoming 30-year anniversary it needs to keep evolving as times and needs change.

The main challenge going forward for Barnsley Hospice is related to finance (it always has been). As Barnsley Hospice is a charity it has always relied on fundraising to allow it to operate but due to the cost-of-living crisis the needs have heightened. Additionally, inflation is the highest it's ever been in over 40 years at 10.4% meaning the rates of goods and services cost more which will affect the Hospice drastically.

M Tune provided Members with an example, the insurance costs for the building were previously a lot lower than they are now. This is due to the increase in demand for technology (laptops, etc). The service has moved away from paper so that information can be shared and stored correctly – previous years insurance was £18k whereas insurance for 2023 was £28k.

Overall, in 2024 it will cost £5.4million to run the Hospice, part of this will be funded by an NHS grant which has increased by 20% compared to previous years making it £1.8million. Another third will be generated through a variety of different fundraising

activities which the service relies on to pay the bills. Any additional running costs will be covered by reserves – however this is a short-term solution and will not work long term.

M Tune thanked the people of Barnsley for their continuous support and welcomed any fundraising suggestions for increasing income to the service.

J Sivakumar, Chief Nurse for South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board provided Members with a wider picture of palliative and end of life care in Barnsley.

There has been a working group for end-of-life care for a number of years but now an executive group is needed to drive change and improvement in this field – Martine and other senior colleagues are all members that drive the change.

J Sivakumar continued that dying well is a priority for all ages, the service has undertaken a self-assessment for what is provided to patients. Following this work is being undertaken in areas such as additional support and early identification. Work to support the homeless population is also underway, providing better end of life care and helping those that may find it hard to access services is being considered a priority.

Members raised concerns over funding and queried whether patients ever had to pay the Hospice. Officers explained that patients do not have to pay for any Hospice services, additionally families and loved ones do not pay for anything (this includes food, etc).

Members also asked whether people outside the area were able to use the facilities at the Hospice and were told that it is only for people registered with a GP in Barnsley.

Members questioned whether funds were received from Barnsley Council. Officers started that although the Council do not directly give the Hospice money, there has been a meeting with Wendy Lowder the Executive Director of Place Health and Adult Social Care at Barnsley Council to discuss possible ways in which the Hospice can reduce costs in different areas and support to help access grants, etc.

A discussion took place around staff turnover since the Hospice Improvement Plan was implemented. Officers explained that in the last 5 years the turnover had been 25-28%, it did increase during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has reduced again. Since November 2021 a lot of work has taken place around engaging staff to ensure information is passed to all areas of the service, this is done via the staff newsletters, staff forums, monthly leaders briefing and the team briefings.

Officers continued that last summer a thank you event was held for all staff alongside a staff away day. Results from the staff survey showed that there were overall good levels of engagement and the teams felt proud to work for the Hospice. Additionally,

an employee assistance programme is available to staff with a 24/7 support helpline, counselling and psychological debriefs.

Members asked if the employees assistance programme had received any feedback, Officers explained that there hasn't been any direct feedback, but it was an improvement on the previous employee's system.

Officers continued that it is actively encouraged for patients and loved ones to provide the Hospice with feedback – this has been central to responding to any criticism from the CQC and the CQC action plan. So far there have been very few negative patient feedback forms, in the previous year 5 were received.

In response to questioning around the volunteers that live outside the borough, Officers explained that there are 7 volunteers working in the gardening team that live in Doncaster but choose to help out as they had a relative that passed away in the Hospice.

Further discussions were taken around the finances as Members queried how long the reserves would last the Hospice. Officers explained there is an upcoming board meeting in May where a 3-year forecast will be presented which will include a fundraising and retention strategy. If nothing was to change the Hospice would run out of money in 2027 however that is not the intention.

Members expressed their thanks to the Hospice for caring for family and friends, they stated it was an excellent support service and Barnsley would be lost without it. Members added that they believe the Hospice should be fully funded by the NHS and asked about lobbying groups and MP involvement. Officers thanked Members and explained that their current funding model is not sustainable long term, there is currently an organisation called Hospice UK that is campaigning for Hospice's to be fully funded by the government.

A discussion took place around bed occupancy, it averaged out over the year at 75% and there are only 10 beds available. In March the bed occupancy went up to 90% with the average length of stay being 16 days – the majority of patients then went home or to other facilities. Officers added that the age range is a majority of over 65's and the general split is almost even between men and women.

In regard to staff qualifications Members asked how many formally qualified staff/nurses are employed by the Hospice and what are the rates of pay. Officers answered that there were roughly 115 members of staff, all of which are qualified and are paid a competitive wage.

Further discussion took place around the fundraising and the Hospice Shops around the borough, Members questioned whether any more shops would be opening in the Town Centre. Officers explained that currently the retail hub is an excellent source of

income for the service bringing in between £8k to £10k each week (not deducting staff costs). Officers continued that following the meeting with Wendy Lowder there are hopes that the local authority could provide the Hospice with a rent-free space potentially on the marker floor where residents could bring their goods.

Further discussions took place around the Hospice collection service, Officers explained that details were available on the Hospice website highlighting what items will and won't be taken alongside the opening times and a phoneline.

When questioned about wider end of life care, Members also heard that the South-West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) Neighbourhood Team provides for people who chose to die in their own homes, District Nursing and Specialist Nurses. The service is commissioned by South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB).

Following further questioning from Members, officers explained that there were plans to roll out training for Domiciliary Care Workers.

Councillor Ennis thanked the witnesses for attending and the Hospice for their hard work.

RESOLVED that:-

- The witnesses were thanked and the reported be noted;
- Members of the committee to consider a volunteering session at the Hospice Retail Hub;
- Members to promote the message that the hospice was not just about end-of-life care, it also offers palliative care to help with life limiting conditions; and
- Members to consider writing to MPs to lobby for fiscal support for the Hospice sector.

59 FOR INFORMATION ONLY - 2021-22 Task & Finish Group Progress Reports

Members were invited to consider three reports relating to the 2021-22 Task & Finish Group Progress.

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

60 FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Children's Social Care Performance Report (REDACTED)

Members were invited to consider a cover report relating to the Children's Social Care Performance Report. The redacted report was provided for information only.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

61 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the items so marked because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the specific paragraphs of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, subject to the public interest test.

62 Children's Social Care Performance Report

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Carly Speechley – Executive Director, Children’s Services, BMBC
- Councillor Trevor Cave – Cabinet Spokesperson, Children’s Services, BMBC
- Michael Potter – Service Director, Business Improvement HR and Communications

C Speechley introduced the report to Members explaining that it was still in the development stages however progress had been made.

Members queried whether there were issues with regards to the capacity of social workers visiting children. Officers explained that currently there are not any particular issues with the capacity as significant progress in relation to this had been made which allowed staff caseloads to reduce. Visits are also manually tracked which means data can be quantified in the future.

There was discussion around the support that the Council had provided to the service, the current focus is based on recruitment and retention strategies to encourage applicants to make Barnsley the place of their career.

With regards to increasing care needs, Members questioned whether there were certain patterns over the seasons. Officers answered that there were no specific patterns to note, however there has been an overall increase of children in care especially when it comes to those aged between 14 and 16. Out of the 420 children currently in care 97 of those are teenagers which is likely to have a negative impact on their future outcomes – there is a focus on investment in this area.

Members queried the reasons behind an increase in school exclusions, Officers explained that the increase is not just related to children in care it likely to be a general increase. However due to the number of older children/teenagers in care it is common for their behaviour to be very challenging, many schools would struggle to deal with this. The main struggles were based around attendance and exclusion rates, particular schools were discussed, and concerns have been raised with OFSTED and the Department of Education.

Members sought assurances following the high-profile issues with some regional private care homes. Officers confirmed that no children from Barnsley were affected, and any children based outside the locality are being closely monitored – currently the results are showing that the children are well cared for.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

63 Strengthening Children's Services

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Carly Speechley – Executive Director, Children’s Services, BMBC
- Councillor Trevor Cave – Cabinet Spokesperson, Children’s Services, BMBC
- Michael Potter - Service Director, Business Improvement HR and Communications

C Speechley introduced the report explaining that it was the second paper following on from the first in November 2022.

Members queried how the workforce had been engaged in the improvement journey the service had undertaken. Officers responded that the investment wasn’t needed with regards to the culture as a lot of work had been done across the board, including SEND and Education departments. There are regular fortnightly communications in the form of newsletters and staff events which have received positive feedback.

A discussion took place around the budget and the accountabilities in place. Officers explained that the service has a development plan in place which stretches 80 pages, it shows where and how the money will be spent alongside the expected impact it will have. Additionally, there is an independently chaired development board alongside several workstreams – including finance which is chaired by the Director of Finance.

Questioning took place around caseloads and the timescales involved with them reaching the desired levels. Officers explained that it was a work in progress as most teams have now got caseloads to a manageable level. The children and young people teams have a higher caseload as they are often the most challenging – also making those teams harder to recruit to. Officers added that the service is currently reaching out to different providers to help with interim recruitment as one of the biggest concerns is around staff retention. As part of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnerships the service attendees’ sessions at Barnsley College to develop their children’s services academy plan.

Further discussions took place around additional funding and the impact it will have on the adult care sector once children move to adult status. Officers stated that the teams are working with the Executive Director – Place Health & Adult Social Care to

ensure all children are tracked in the system. However, it would be ideal if young people were prevented from entering the care sector in the first place, therefore reducing their chances of needing adults' services.

Members asked if there is any provision to help parents dealing with children that have problems, officers responded that there have been 27 family support worker roles created to combat the issue which reduces the chances of children coming into contact with social workers.

Councillor Ennis thanked the officers and members for the attendance and highlighted the importance of the work Childrens Services are doing.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair

Barnsley Council Employee Survey 2022

1.0 Introduction

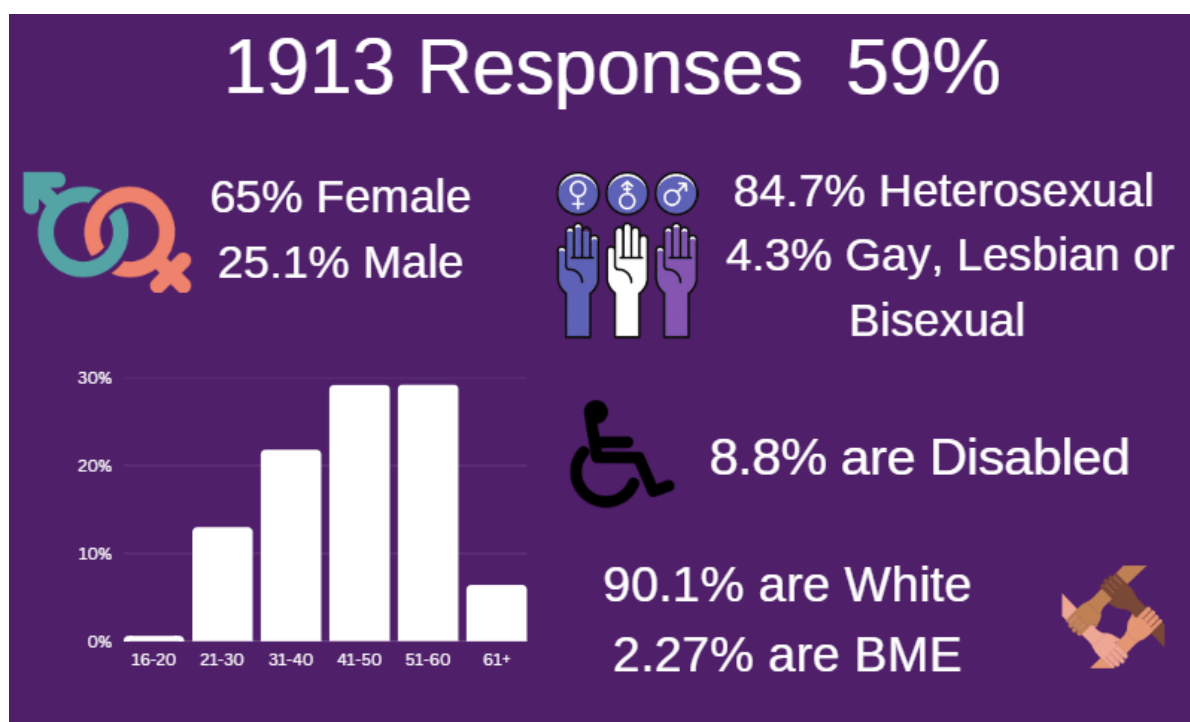
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Employee Survey Results from 2022 and the plans to address responses raised by staff.
- 1.2 The survey ran throughout September 2022 and closed in the first week of October. Provision was made for non-networked employees to have an opportunity to complete the survey. The questions were focused on the three themes in our people strategy (Leadership, Values & Culture, Maximising Capacity and Capability and Employee Experience).
- 1.3 There were 1,913 responses in total, a response rate of 59%, which is very good and is just slightly below the previous rates for our full surveys (2019 64%, 2017 61%). Core Directorate had the highest response rate of 70.7%, followed by Public Health and Communities (56%), Place Health & ASC (55.5%), Children's (53.3%) and Growth and Sustainability (45.3%).

2.0 Survey Findings

Demographics

- 2.1 Figure 1 (below) shows the demographic breakdown of respondents. 65% were female and 25% were male. The majority of respondents were between 40 and 60 years of age (almost 60%). 8.8% of respondents declared a disability, this is lower than the Barnsley disability estimate of 22% (Source: Census 2021). The demographic profile of respondents remains broadly similar to the 2017 survey showing that the workforce demographic has not changed significantly.

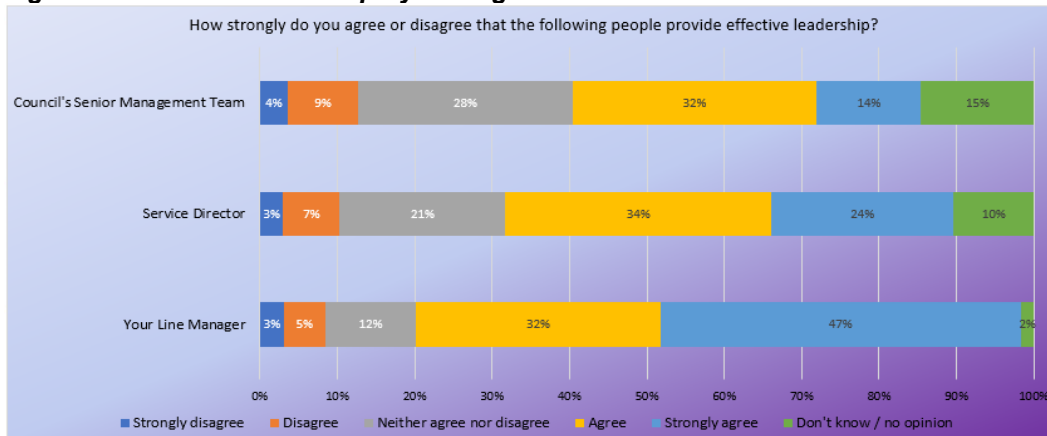
Figure 1 – Employee Survey demographic data of respondents



Leadership, Values and Culture

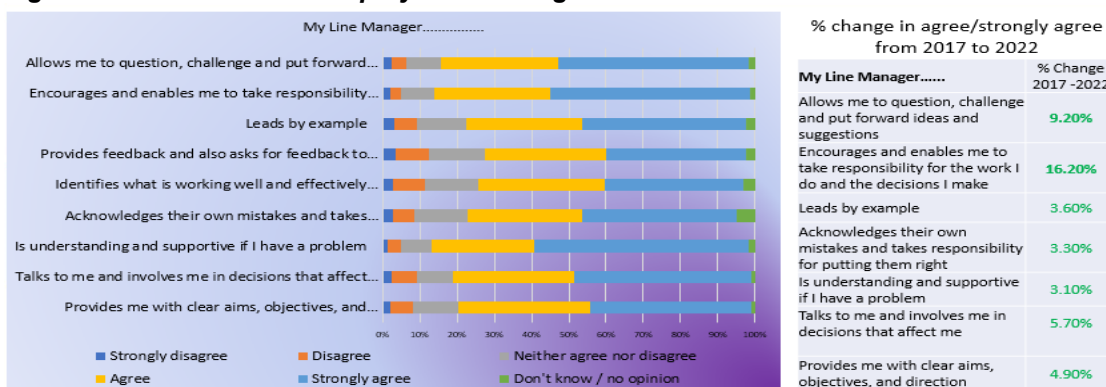
- 2.2 Figure 2 (below) shows responses from employees who were asked about effective leadership and levels of management. 45.1% of employees agree or strongly agree that the Senior Management Team (SMT) provide effective leadership (12.7% disagree / strongly disagree), interestingly 27.7% neither agree nor disagree.
- 2.3 57.8% of people agree or strongly agree that their Service Director provides effective leadership (10.3% disagree / strongly disagree). 78.1% of people agree or strongly agree that their line manager provides effective leadership (8.4% disagree / strongly disagree).

Figure 2: Effective leadership by management



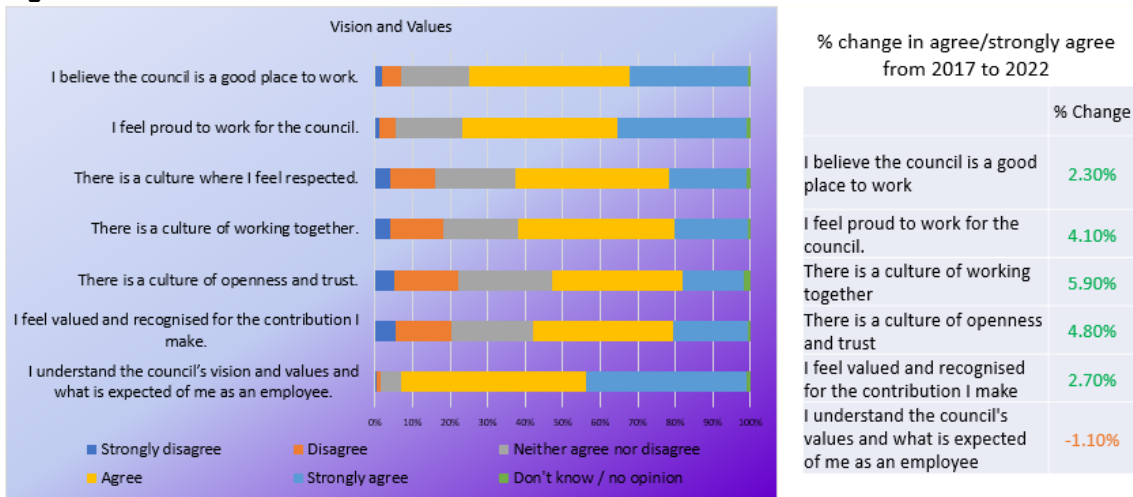
- 2.4 Figure 3 (below) shows responses from employees when asked about their direct line management. There was some positive feedback from staff in relation to their direct line manager. Particular highlights include:
- 85% of people feel that their manager is understanding and supportive if they have a problem
 - 84.8% feel that their line manager encourages and enables them to take responsibility for the work they do and the decisions they make
 - 82.6% feel that their line manager allows them to question, challenge and put forward ideas and suggestions
- 2.5 All areas have shown a positive shift compared to 2017. However, there are some real improvements in encouragement to take responsibility and decisions (+16.2%) and allowing them to question and challenge (+9.2%).

Figure 3: Effective leadership by Line Manager



- 2.6 Figure 4 (below) shows the results of the questions around understanding of the council's vision and values. 75.8% of people feel proud to work for the council, and 74.2% believe the council is a good place to work. 51.1% of people feel that there is a culture of openness and trust, but 22.3% do not. 57.2% feel valued and recognised for the contribution they make, however 20.3% do not. 92.1% understand the vision and values and what is expected of them. These are mostly positive shifts compared to 2017, except a very slight decrease around understanding the vision and values.

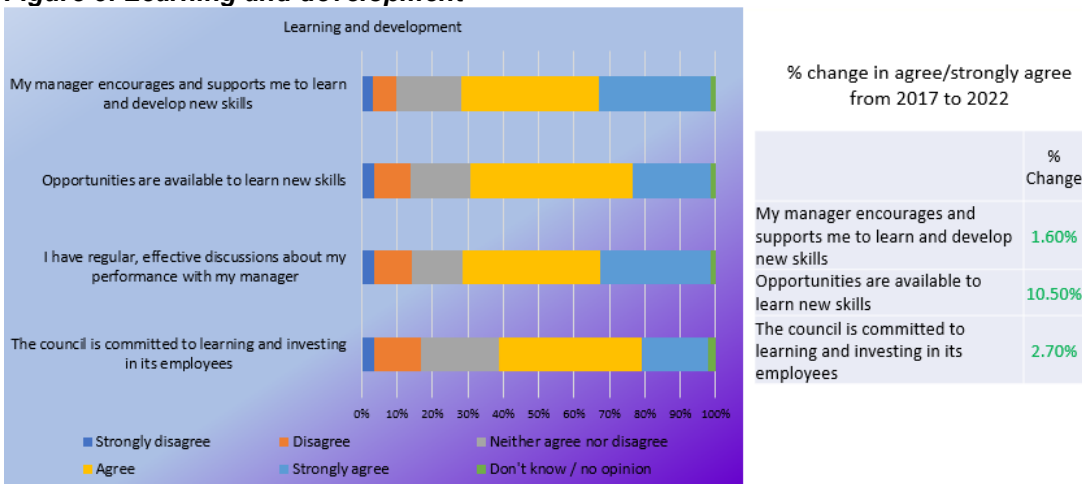
Figure 4: Vision and Values



Maximising Capacity and Capability

2.7 Figure 5 (below) outlines responses in relation to employee Learning and development. 70.2% of employees feel encouraged and supported by their manager to develop new skills. 65.8% of employees feel that there are opportunities to learn new skills. 70.1% of people have regular, effective discussions with their manager about their performance. 56.4% of people think that the council is committed to learning and investing in its employees, however 16.6% disagree / strongly disagree with this. Positive shifts from 2017 on all comparable questions were observed, but particularly in relation to available opportunities to learn new skills (+10.5%).

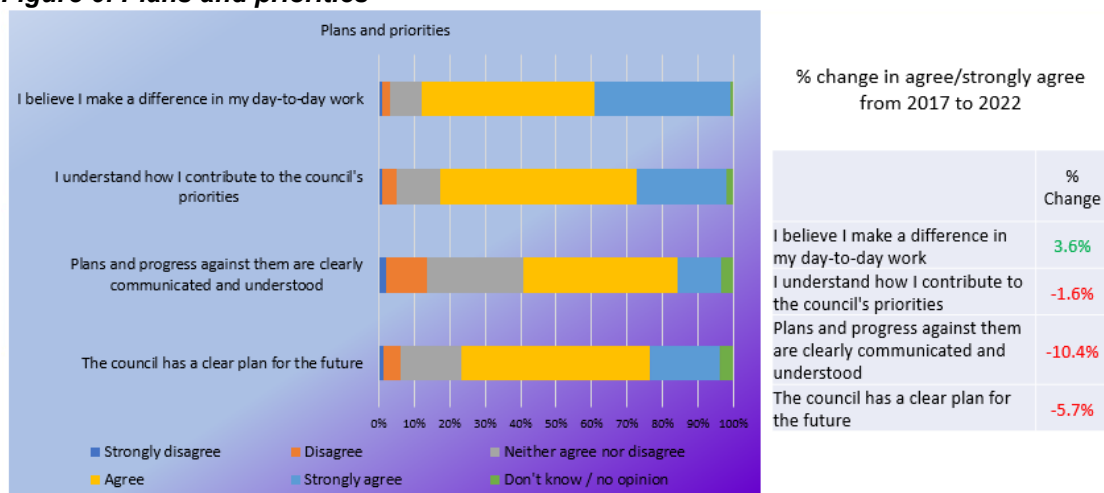
Figure 5: Learning and development



2.8 The figure below (figure 6) shows the results of questions around contributing and plans and priorities. 87.2% of people believe they make a difference in their day-to-day work. 80.8% of staff understand how they contribute to our priorities 55.7% of staff think that plans and progress against them are clearly communicated and understood, interestingly over 30% have no opinion 73.1% of employees think that the council has a plan for the future.

2.9 There were mostly negative shifts from 2017, particularly in relation to plans and progress being clearly communicated (-10.4% compared to 2017). Positive shift (3.6%) in making a difference.

Figure 6: Plans and priorities



2.10 Employees were asked about job satisfaction and retention. 70.1% of staff are satisfied with their current job, with 17.4% being either fairly or very dissatisfied. 13.7% are seeking alternative employment within the next 12 months, and 30.3% may seek alternative employment. People are considering this for a combination of reasons, but the highest single reason is pay (22.2%).

Employee Experience

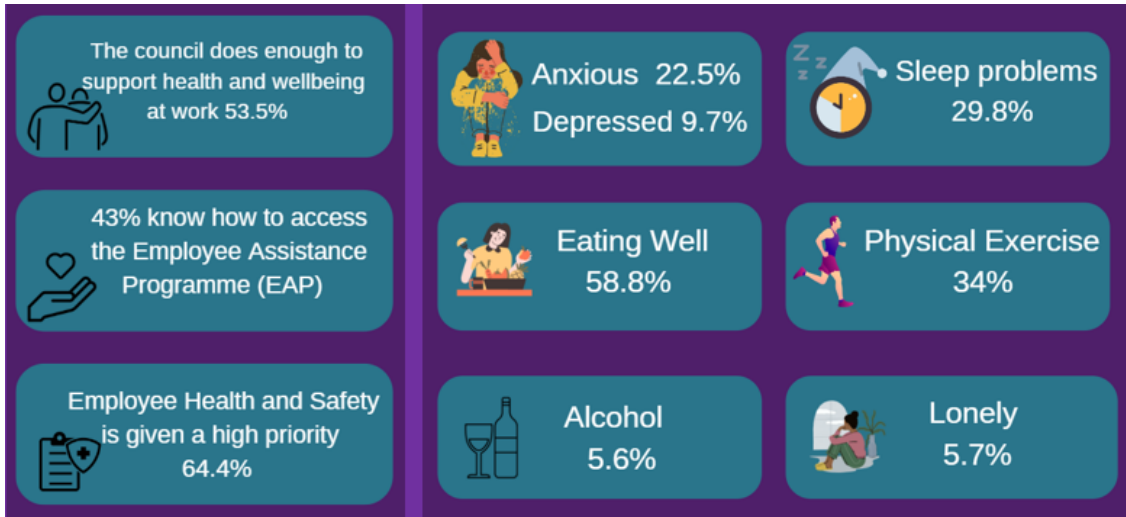
2.11 Employees were asked what is the single best thing about working for the council. This was a free text field. There were almost 1,450 responses to this question. These were coded from their raw form into emerging themes.

- 31.72% say the single best thing is the team. Comments range from co-workers to managers to leaders.
- Almost 25% said that flexibility was the best thing, this was mainly in relation to flexible working (term time etc) to the flexi time scheme and working from home.
- 19.1% said that serving their community and making a difference to residents was the best thing about working for the council.
- 13.1% said that employee benefits, pensions, leave entitlements, rates of pay and sick pay were cited.
- Culture, staff development and location were also cited, however to a much lesser extent.

2.12 Employees were asked about their health and wellbeing (figure 7 below). The key findings were 53.5% of people feel that the council does enough to support health and wellbeing at work, and 16.7% of people disagree or strongly disagree with this. This is a negative shift (- 10% compared to 2017).

2.13 64.4% of employees feel that employee health & safety is given a high priority, this is a small negative shift from 2017 (-3%). 90% of employees know what they need to do in their role to minimise health and safety risks (this was 92.4% in 2017). 43% of employees know that we have an employee assistance programme (EAP) and how to access it, a further 18% know it exists, but not how to access it and 38.7% did not know that the EAP existed.

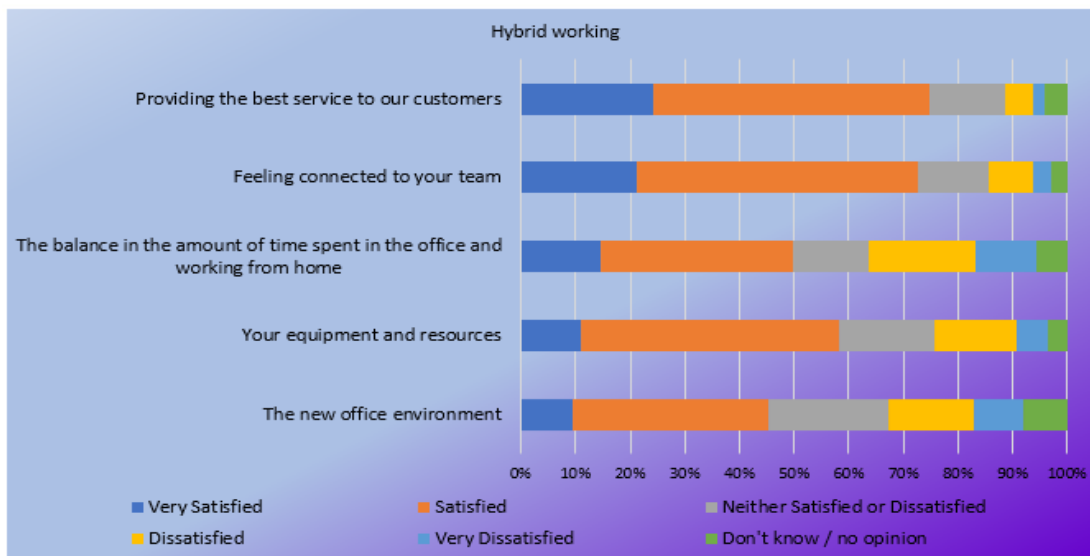
Figure 7: Health and wellbeing



2.14 Employees were asked their opinion on hybrid working, the key findings (figure 8 below) were:

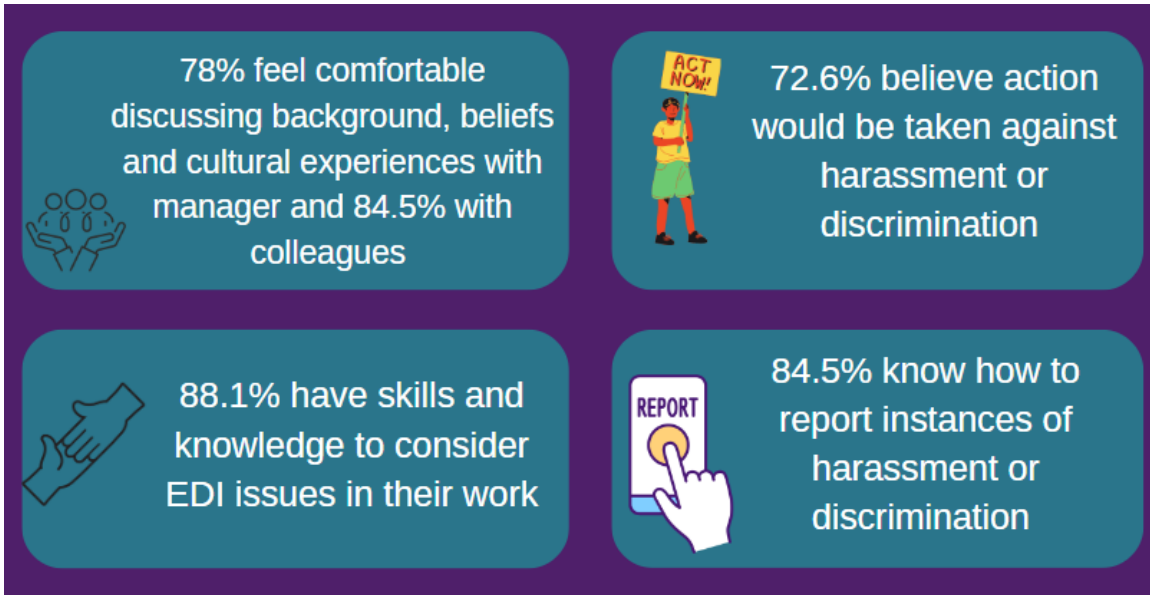
- 74.4% feel that we are providing the best service to our customers
- 72.6 % feel connected to their team, however 11.3% do not
- 49.7% are satisfied with the balance of time spent in the office and working from home and 30.8% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- 58.2% are happy with the equipment and resources and 20.8% are either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- 45.2% are happy with the new office environment, but 24.8 are either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Figure 8: Hybrid Working



2.15 There was a section in the report around inclusivity figure 9 (below) outlines the key findings in relation this. A number of themes emerged when we asked what we could do to improve inclusivity, the top three themes were training, staff networks and recruitment, which all form part of our action plan.

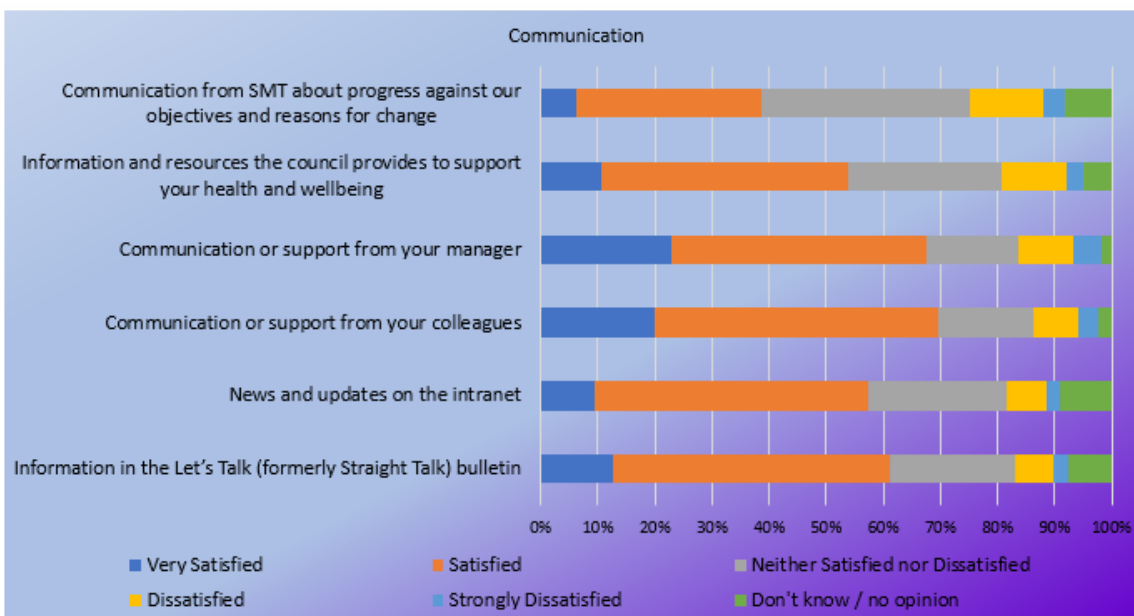
Figure 9: Inclusivity



2.16 Some of the key findings from the questions asked around communication (figure 10) were:

- 38.7% of employees are satisfied or very satisfied with communication from SMT about progress against our objectives and reasons for change, 16.9% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- 53.9% are happy with the Information and resources the council provides to support health and wellbeing, and 14% are not
- 67.5% are happy with communication from managers, and 14.6% are not.
- 67.5% are happy with their communication with colleagues
- 57.4% are satisfied with the information in Let’s Talk and 61.2% are satisfied with the news and updates on the intranet

Figure 10: Communication

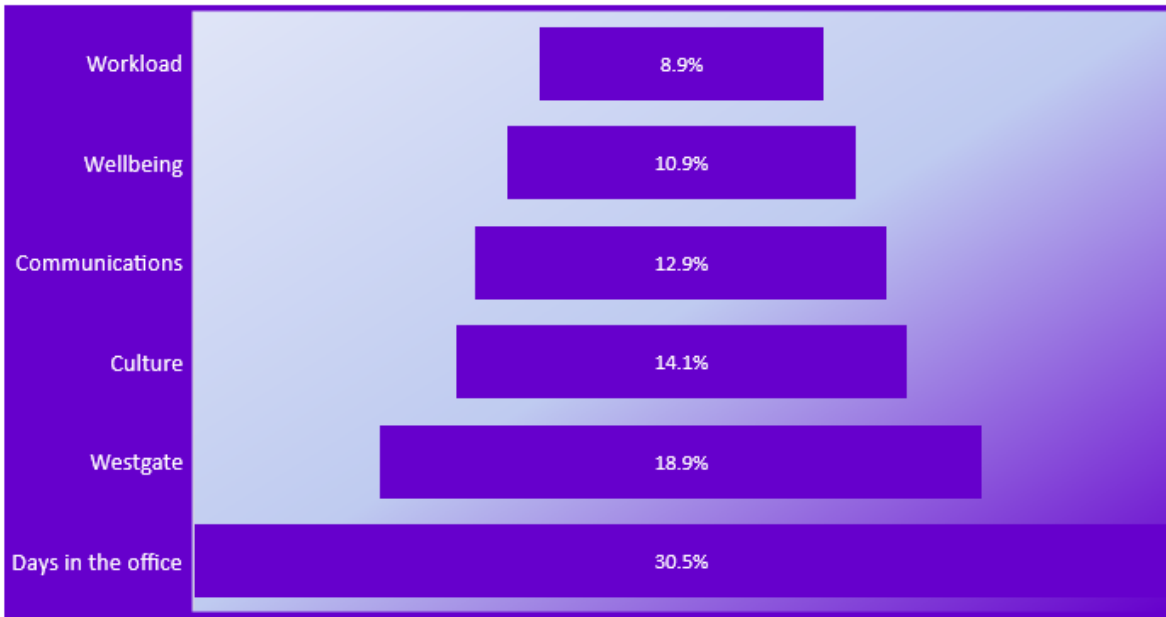


2.17 At the end of the survey, an additional question which allowed staff to provide free text comments was included. 404 Free text comments were received and they were coded based on themes (figure 11). One comment may have mentioned more than one theme. The “top 3” emerging themes are:

- 123 comments were received specifically about the three days in the office approach, most expressing a preference for two days to a few wishing to be fully remote.
- 76 comments were received in relation to Westgate. The focus of these comments was noise levels, office layout, lack of private spaces and issues with equipment (screens, mice, and keyboards).

- 57 comments were made in respect of the culture of the organisation. Comments were made in relation to lack of respect, blame culture and inconsistency in approach across teams.

Figure 11: Coded free text comments



3.0 Responding to the Survey

- 3.1 In January the full survey response details were shared with the Barnsley Leadership Team (BLT) and then all business units (BU's). In February 2023 a dashboard of the full survey results was made available to all employees. This is the first time that full transparency of the results has been provided, enabling anyone to view the results of any area across the council. This has been an important improvement in our ongoing work around employee engagement, demonstrating our values of Trust and Excellence, and allowing colleagues to compare the results in their area with those of other services, business units and the wider council.
- 3.2 The BLT session in January resulted in an agreement for service leads in each business unit to analyse the results in their area and engage with their people to produce a business unit action plan. The action plans should focus on what is going well (positive results), to include how successes and good practice can be built on and shared more widely across the council, as well as reviewing the key areas with lower scores where ideas could be collated to help improve understanding and practice. Business units were encouraged to involve their people in this activity, enabling them to dig beneath the surface of the results to really understand what was going well and what areas could be improved.
- 3.3 All business unit action plans were created by April 2023 and submitted centrally to the HR & OD team for review. Business units are currently working with their Senior HR / OD Partners to complete the actions detailed in their individual action plans, working with their people to do this in the most effective way.
- 3.4 In order to assist with the compilation of a council action plan, employees were also asked to volunteer to join an Employee Experience Group. The group comprises volunteers representing all areas of the council to champion engagement activities and address key themes highlighted in employee surveys. The group is focussing on ways to improve the employee experience by considering key topics including change, health and wellbeing, work-life balance and communications.
- 3.5 After reviewing the data from each of the 11 business unit action plans, some consistent themes have been identified and examples of actions already underway, as well as further actions being planned and are included in figure 12 below.

Figure 12 Examples of actions from Business Unit Plans

Theme	Number of action plans including theme	Example actions already taken	Further actions planned
Learning and development	10	Launching practice standards within Social Care (good practice).	Increase and encourage opportunities for employees to learn new skills through the one to ones, PDR processes and individual/team development plans.
		Celebration of development through a suite of events delivered during Learning at Work Week (May 2023).	Produce a comprehensive learning and development offer for Children's Services.
			Produce a development matrix to assist with career development and succession planning.
PDR usage and development	9	Engaging with people who are indicating they wish to leave the council to better understand why and work to improve workforce retention, culture and environment.	Ensure all development identified through PDR's is fed into team and service development plans.
			Continue to monitor data on PDR's ensuring they are completed in a timely manner.
Team meetings/ development days	8	Undertaking leadership development sessions on a monthly basis, focussing on improving the culture of the directorate.	Undertake whole service events focussing on 'getting to know each other and our services'.
		Clear and open communications with employees both formally through team meetings and development days and informally through regular one to ones.	Include a wellbeing section during development days/ team sessions to share the variety of services available, including our Employee Assistance Programme.
		Some teams are holding team development events, including Children's World Café event.	Promotion of benefits of team development events and provision of guidance on effective one to ones (HR&OD)

Comms.	8	The service has worked to create a service specific vision and guiding principles for Children's Services.	Continue developing a communications and engagement strategy.
		Adapted and implemented quarterly team sessions with Service Directors.	Service Directors to draft and communicate blogs to share key messages, including successes identified from the employee survey.
		Encourage people to allocate 30 mins to one hour a week in calendar to catch up on corporate messages.	Create more frequent BU briefings / communications to share the council priorities and progress made.
Health and Wellbeing Support	8	Including signposting to wellbeing support as part of regular one to ones.	Raise further awareness of health and wellbeing information through the directorate newsletter and whole service events.
		Fact finding to understand how employees have been recently exposed and affected by a traumatic work-related incident and how they could have been supported in the initial stages. It is also necessary to determine what improvements could have been made in the first instance. This may result in OHU/EAP referral or signposting	Consider delivery of a series of webinars to promote health and wellbeing e.g., mindfulness, getting a good night's sleep sessions
Supervision / one to ones	7		Ensure that effective professional supervision takes place using the corporate supervision template which promotes both providing and requesting feedback to help improvements.
			Ensure that one to ones are consistent across the BU in terms of frequency, quality and subjects covered.
Line manager competency	5	Review of key HR policies, e.g., Managing Attendance, with mandatory briefings and workshops planned for all line managers (HR working with services)	Ongoing programme of management basics training being planned for 2023/24 (HR working with services).
			Change management training being developed to assist leaders in delivering Transformation (Transformation team and HR).

Recognition of work	5	Continue to build and support a positive culture, recognising contributions, saying 'thank you' and seeking out ways to make employees feel more valued.	Seek feedback from employees via team meetings and supervision meetings on what feedback would be most valued and use the council processes to highlight achievement.
			Explore 'Praise' function on teams.
Visibility of SMT	4	Executive Directors attending service meetings during the year to engage with employees	Encourage leaders at all levels of the team to be more visible in all working locations across the borough.
			SMT / BLT to be more visible i.e. at cross directorate meetings.
			Instigate floorplate stand ups at Westgate

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 As a result of the shared Business Unit (BU) action plans the HR and Organisation Development service will:

- Continue to monitor the ongoing developments within business unit action plans seeking updates from services and reporting progress to the People Board
- Support services in achieving their actions by providing signposting, support, advice and guidance
- Create a council action plan based on the key themes identified and continue to share good practice improvements with our people
- Continue development of management basics training to support our people including the creation and implementation of a council coaching and mentoring scheme
- Review, launch and roll out the Workforce Development Toolkit to enable career development and succession planning
- Provide further guidance to help embed and enhance our PDR process.

5.0 Invited Witnesses

5.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today's meeting to answer questions from the OSC:-

- Sarah Norman - Chief Executive, BMBC
- Wendy Popplewell - Executive Director, Core Services, BMBC
- Michael Potter - Service Director, Business Intelligence, Human Resources & Communications, BMBC
- Phil Quinn - Head of Service, Human Resources and Organisational Development, BMBC
- Cllr Robin Franklin - Cabinet Spokesperson, Core Services

6.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

6.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:-

- Overall, which areas are you most pleased with and which would you like to have done better?

- What analysis has been done to determine which specific sections of the workforce are unrepresented in the survey responses?
- What do you think is the cause for the gender difference in the survey response rate and how do you plan to encourage more male employees to take part?
- How would you describe the culture of the organisation and how do you think this compares to how employees would describe it? What is being done to change practices and perceptions?
- Are there any specific teams within the organisation whose scores may indicate poor management practices? If so, what targeted support is being offered to employees in these areas?
- Why do you think that the satisfaction rate with the effectiveness of management decreases as it moves up through the levels of the organisation? What options are being explored to improve this?
- What benchmarking is being done to see how well the organisation compares to other authorities?
- How does the number of employees looking for, or considering, alternative employment, compare with the industry standard, and what impact would a higher than expected turnover of staff have on the organisation?
- What is the primary driver for the organisation and how do you know whether it is focussing on the right priorities at the right time?
- How can we ensure employees are aware of services like the Employee Assistance Programme and how to access them, and what analysis has been done to determine the impact of the EAP on those who have used it?
- What analysis has been done to determine how effective the current hybrid working arrangements are?
- What outcomes did you hope to achieve with the redevelopment of Westgate and to what extent have these been realised?
- What more needs to be done to enable employees to work more effectively and to instil a stronger feeling of job satisfaction?
- How are business unit action plans being quality assured and how will you know whether they have been successful in improving outcomes for employees and the organisation as a whole?
- How was the Employee Experience Group promoted and what was the take-up? Is the group proportionately representative of the organisation as a whole?
- What can elected members do to support the work?

7.0 Glossary

BLT	Barnsley Leadership Team
BU	Business Unit
EAP	Employee Assistance Programme
HR/OD	Human Resources/Organisational Development
PDR	Performance Development Review
SMT	Senior Management Team

8.0 Officer Contact

Jane Murphy/Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officers, Scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk
22 May 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank