

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

**Report of the Executive
Director - Communities**

Barnsley All Age Early Help Strategy (2017-2020)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek members approval of the All Age Early Help Strategy (2017-2020) and the key priorities and outcomes identified therein.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet members are asked to:-

- 2.1.1 Receive and endorse the All Age Early Help Strategy (2017-2020).
- 2.1.2 Agree to receive an annual position statement on the delivery of the All Age Early Help Strategy (2017-2020) and priorities for the coming year.
- 2.1.3 Note the proposal for the strategy to be adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and an associated ask for sponsorship through constituent organisations.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Early Help is about empowering people to access the help they need early and supporting individuals, families and communities to do more for themselves. It is about changing our culture and re-focussing our approach along with our collective resources on the root causes of problems thereby reducing the demand on high-cost services and improving the outcomes for individuals, families and communities.
- 3.2 Early help is everyone's responsibility and requires cross-sector integrated approaches to ensure opportunities to support vulnerable individuals, families and communities are maximised and people get the help they need early.
- 3.3 Resilient and connected communities are crucial to not only helping each other and themselves to recognise when early help might be needed but also to ensuring there is strength and capacity to help vulnerable individuals and families to help themselves wherever possible.

3.4 The strategy (**Appendix 1**) provides a platform from which to drive forward our collective approaches to Early Help in Barnsley building on existing solid foundations and successes achieved across the system including our work in relation to community safety, healthy lifestyles, Think Family and Family Centres and the valuable work of our communities.

3.5 The strategy contributes towards the Council Vision of “A Brighter Future, A Better Barnsley” and three priorities, namely:

- Thriving & Vibrant Economy
- People Achieving Their Potential
- Strong & Resilient Communities

The priorities in this Strategy will also make a significant contribution towards achieving the council’s 2020 Future Council outcomes and targets.

3.6 The strategy will serve to further strengthen our response to the Sector Led Peer Review undertaken in October 2015 ensuring Early Help is seen and embedded as a continuum with smooth transitions across all age and life stages.

3.6 The Strategy sets out a clear vision, priorities and outcomes based on a number of intelligence sources including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment. These are as follows:

“Individuals and families are safe, healthy and resilient having the confidence and skills to thrive and achieve their full potential so that collectively, our communities achieve the best possible outcomes for themselves, their families and each other”.

Priority	Outcome
Empowering local people and communities to build capacity and resilience to enable people and communities to do more for themselves.	Strong connected communities supporting themselves and each other to lead happy and fulfilling lives thereby reducing the demand on statutory services.
The right early help, in the right place at the right time.	Individuals, families and communities are self-aware, able to identify when they need support and engage appropriate services to maintain their independence and wellbeing.
Ensuring a whole system approach to early help with strong partnership working and system leadership.	Mature and adaptive partnerships which have shared ownership and accountability for the delivery of an effective help offer.

3.7 The Stronger Communities Partnership whilst working alongside the Safeguarding Boards, the Children’s Trust and the Safer Communities Partnership has overall responsibility for the delivery of the strategy and the strategic priorities contained therein. The Stronger Communities Partnership has established Early Help Delivery Groups to support the delivery of the Strategy. The Governance structure is outlined at **Appendix 2** to this report.

- 3.8 To ensure timely and effective delivery of the identified priorities and outcomes, delivery plans have been developed and a stratified performance management framework will be developed to align with each of the three high-level priorities. Progress in terms of key deliverables, performance and effective management of risk will be actively monitored by Delivery Groups and on a highlight and exception basis, by the Stronger Communities Partnership.
- 3.9 The strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure the Council and Stronger Communities Partnership remains agile and able to respond to any emerging trends and risks identified as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, Poverty, Needs Assessment, Case Studies, Surveys and other forms of intelligence.

4. Proposal and justification

- 4.1 The proposal is for the strategy to be adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and an associated ask for sponsorship through constituent organisations, taking a medium-term approach to strategic planning with the development of a three year plan. This will ensure that collectively we work together to implement a whole lifetime planning approach supporting people across the life course ensuring that early help needs are identified and support is put in place whilst ensuring smooth transitions between all stages of life. Taking a medium-term approach to strategic planning will help to provide stability and a longer-term view of our Early Help approach ensuring coordination and connectivity across the system harnessing the collective resources to achieve the best possible outcomes for and in partnership with individuals, families and communities.

5. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 5.1 An alternative approach would be to adopt an annual planning cycle however, the Stronger Communities Partnership have taken the view that this is not a viable option as short-term planning approaches may potentially serve to cause fragility and uncertainty thereby reducing the effectiveness of the strategic planning processes.
- 5.2 A further alternative would be to adopt life-stage specific strategies one focusing on children and families and the other focusing on the needs of vulnerable adults. The Stronger Communities Partnership have taken a view that this is not the best course of action as a holistic approach to whole lifetime planning is required to ensure that individuals, families and communities are effectively supported across the life course ensuring smooth transitions between all stages of life.

6. Implications for local people / service users

- 6.1 Taking a three year approach to Early Help strategic planning will provide greater stability to local people. The strategy supports a whole system approach to early help ensuring people are able to access the right early help at the right time and place whilst empowering local people and communities to build capacity and resilience to enable them to do more for themselves and each other.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no immediate financial implications to the report; however, organisations forming part of the Stronger Communities Partnership will need to ensure the Early Help priorities and focus areas are taken into account in their respective service and financial planning processes.

8. Employee implications

- 8.1 There are no immediate employee implications as a result of the report.

9. Communications implications

- 9.1 As a product of the Early Help Strategy (2017-2020), a Communication Plan will be produced to ensure stakeholders across the borough are fully aware of the Early Help strategic vision and priorities and are able to influence and inform delivery.

10. Consultations

- 10.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership and key partners including South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group, and Berneslai Homes have been engaged throughout the development of the all age Early Help Strategy (2017-2020) and fully endorse the vision, principles, priorities and desired outcomes.
- 10.2 The Council's Senior Management Team have been consulted and are committed to driving forward delivery against the strategy in order to realise the vision and outcomes agreed for Barnsley.

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

- 11.1 The All Age Early Help Strategy (2017-2020) will support the delivery of the 2020 strategic priorities and outcomes:

Thriving and Vibrant Economy

- Increase skills to get more people working

People Achieving their Potential

- Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work
- Reducing demand through access to early help.
- Children and adults are safe from harm
- People are healthier, happier, independent and active

Strong and Resilient Communities

- People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

- 11.2 The strategy directly supports two areas of change as detailed in the Corporate Plan 2017-2020 those being: early help & facilitating behavioural change. The guiding principles of the strategy promote empowerment rather than paternalism building on the assets of communities to further develop resilience and resourcefulness to support themselves and broader communities. Making every

contact count will be integral to the Early Help approach in Barnsley ensuring that pathways are clear and people get the right, timely early help they need.

- 11.3 Performance will be actively monitored to ensure continuous improvement through a stratified risk and performance framework alongside detailed delivery plans to ensure the best possible outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

12. Promoting equality, diversity, and social inclusion

- 12.1 The principles of equality, diversity and social inclusion are supported throughout the Early Help Strategy (2017-2020). A summary Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to ensure some of the most vulnerable sections of the community are not adversely affected and are effectively supported through system-wide early help approaches.

13. Tackling the Impact of Poverty

- 13.1 The strategy will support some of the most vulnerable individuals, families and communities. The strategy should have a positive impact on those living in poverty and at threat of poverty in the future by helping to ensure that people recognise the signs early, access the right help at the right time and are empowered to take control of their lives.

14. Tackling health inequalities

- 14.1 The strategy will support individuals, families and communities to be healthy making healthier choices throughout their life course thereby tackling and helping to reduce health inequalities.

15. Reduction of crime and disorder

- 15.1 The strategy will support individuals, families and communities to make better life choices. The Stronger Communities Partnership will forge strong links with the Safer Barnsley Partnership to harness collective resources to ensure early help is embedded in the collective approach to tackling crime and disorder across the Borough.

16. Risk management issues

- 16.1 A robust and proportionate risk management plan will be put in place and overseen by the Stronger Communities Partnership who will actively manage current and emerging risks ensuring effective mitigating actions are implemented to support delivery of the Early Help Strategy (2017-2020) and associated priorities.

17. Health, safety, and emergency resilience issues

- 17.1 There are no immediate health and safety, or emergency resilience issues associated with this strategy.

18. Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

18.1 The all age Early Help Strategy (2017-2020) is compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights.

19. Conservation of biodiversity

19.1 There are no apparent implications resulting from this report.

20. Glossary

None

21. List of appendices

Appendix 1 – All Age Early Help Strategy (2017-2020)

Appendix 2 – Governance Structure

22. Background papers

N/A

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Financial Implications / Consultation



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