

Children, Young People and Families a **BRIGHTER** future



a **BRIGHTER** future

365 for
EVERY CHILD
make
EVERY DAY
count

children young people families
BARNSELY CYP TRUST

**PLACEMENT & SUFFICIENCY BOARD FOR
CHILDREN IN CARE
Annual Report 2016-17**

Document revision control

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Our Pledge for Children in Care

Children in Care are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. It is the responsibility of the local authority as corporate parents, to support each of them as individuals in order to enable them to achieve their maximum potential.

We take the role of corporate parents very seriously in Barnsley. This is emphasized through Barnsley's Pledge for Children in Care.

Our pledge contains six promises:

1. We will look after Children in Care in a safe and caring home.
2. We will promote, support, and respect the identity of Children in Care.
3. We will ensure that Children in Care receive a good education.
4. We will support Children in Care to be healthy.
5. We will prepare Children in Care for adulthood.
6. We will involve Children in Care in making it happen.

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/children-in-care/our-pledge-to-children-in-care/>

1. INTRODUCTION

Sufficiency Board Annual Report

In order to outline the work being undertaken to achieve the outcomes defined in our Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2016-19 the Sufficiency Board committed to producing an Annual Report to summarise the activity during 2016/17, set out actions for 2017/18 and allow for further analysis of activity in 2016/17. The annual report will outline changes which have occurred since the publication of the current Sufficiency Strategy (2016-19) published in May 2016 and analyse the end of year position for 2016/17 both in relation to projected numbers and financial pressures.

The Annual Report will provide information on the following;

- Delivery against each of the key actions arising from the strategy
- Outline of other changes (internal and external) which have impacted on our delivery of sufficiency for Looked After Children placements
- Cost comparisons – projected vs actual
- Performance comparisons – projected vs actual
- A summary of what has been achieved in 2016/17 in relation to placements for our looked after population
- An outline of the challenges we anticipate in 2017/18 in relation to our delivery of sufficiency

The Sufficiency Duty

The Children Act 1989 (section 22g) requires local authorities to take steps that are reasonably practicable to secure sufficient accommodation for children under their care who cannot live at home and whose circumstances indicate that it would be in a child's best interest to be accommodated within the local authority's area – for example, in order to stay at the same school or near to other family where contact can easily take place. This is commonly referred to as 'the sufficiency duty'.

Additionally, national guidance clarifies the responsibilities of local authorities under section 20 of The Children Act 1989 and Part 7 of The Housing Act 1996 with regard to young people aged 16-17 years at risk of homelessness or requiring accommodation. Following the House of Lords judgment in R (G) v Southwark (2009), reference was made in particular, to the function of children's services and housing services when young people seek help from or are referred to local authorities because of homelessness. In these circumstances, the local authority needs to assess the need for, and in certain circumstances provide accommodation under, section 20 (Children Act 1989) to these older young people. In this circumstance the young person becomes a 'looked after child'

This means that Barnsley needs to consider the range of accommodation in our area capable of meeting different needs of our local Children in Care population and ensure that it is sufficient.

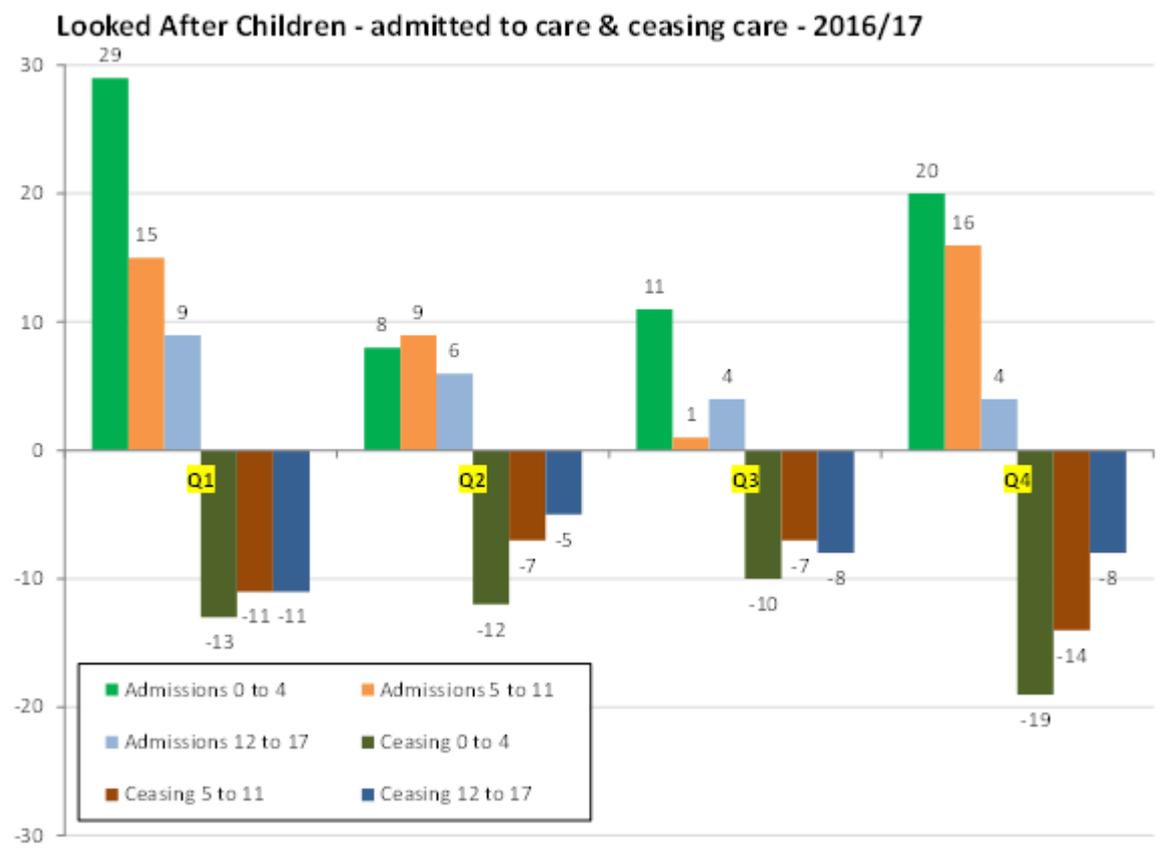
2. WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR CARE POPULATION IN 2016/17?

As reported in the 2016 – 19 Sufficiency Strategy, the period from mid-2014 to 31st March 2016 had seen a steady increase in the local care population. Barnsley had, for the 10 year period to 31st March 2014, a relatively stable population of between 235 and 250. At the start of the 2016/17 financial year Barnsley had a looked after population of 280, this figure continued to increase peaking at 301 in August 2016. The reasons behind this increase are complex and not directly linear but were analysed in depth for the purposes of the 2016 – 19 Strategy.

Since November 2016 numbers of children in care have reduced but more importantly

remained stable and at 31st March 2017 there were 290 children in care. At this stage therefore, the projections underpinning the Strategy appear to have been well-founded. Analysis of the care population and of cases where children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) suggested that numbers were likely to peak and plateau at around 300 and that this would form the basis of our planning totals.

The table below illustrates activity in terms of entries to and discharge from the care system during 2016/17:



3. DELIVERING ON THE KEY ACTIONS

A number of actions were identified in the Strategy and have been used to inform activity during 2016/17:

1. Prevent entry into care where appropriate by continuing to develop family support and early intervention and prevention services.

The Early Help Team has delivered 658 interventions to families across the Borough. Interventions range from one-to-one support for the child or young person to a programme of intensive support delivered to the family group by trained Family Support Workers.

2. Improve the recruitment and retention of BMBC foster carers

A dedicated project team has been established to lead the promotional activity relating to Foster Carer recruitment this includes a targeted social media campaign under the heading 'Barnsley Carers for Barnsley Children'.

Ongoing attendance at a range of events including coordination of a Takeover Day in partnership with Barnsley FC to promote the fostering service. Setting up a new pilot

campaign which sees the North East Area Council support Barnsley Foster care recruitment. Members of the North East Area Council assisting the Fostering service to promote the campaign which encourages more people within the borough to become a foster carer for the children of Barnsley who need care.

Senior staff in HR and the People Directorate have worked together to negotiate the inclusion of Barnsley Foster Carers in the Barnsley MBC Just For You Employee Benefit scheme - Wider Wallet to enhance the offer to local foster carers and to encourage recruitment and retention.

An external consultant was commissioned to conduct a detailed review of the existing fostering service including the recruitment process and ongoing support for Foster Carers.

3. Continue to work with Regional partners to improve the availability and manage the costs of Independent Fostering Agency and residential placements

Ongoing work with regional partners via the White Rose framework including market engagement activity with both IFA and residential providers to establish open communication allowing the external market to be responsive to changing needs and projected demand levels.

Establishing a sub-regional commissioning group to discuss more localised issues and identify new approaches to overcoming supply/demand issues in externally commissioned provision.

4. Work with Communities colleagues and external providers to increase the range of 16+ independent living provision to support transition to adulthood for those in long term care

Development of a Market Position Statement which was taken to market in October 2016 to outline to providers the opportunities relating to accommodation for our Care Leaver population.

Introduction of a number of new providers, via the White Rose framework, into the local market.

Supported the development of a new specification and procurement relating to Support for Young People (16-25) with Multiple and Complex Needs.

CASE STUDY: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO MEETING NEED

The behaviour of a 17 year old girl who had been looked after for a number of years had escalated, focussed predominantly on substance misuse. It seemed increasingly likely that we would need a secure welfare placement and a referral was sent out, no placement offers were received and the young person stated that she did not want to be secured. A discussion between the young person and our Future Directions team highlighted a potential opportunity for a more localised care package, whereby the young person would remain in her existing tenancy but we would employ a dedicated support worker for 20 hours per week to work on a one-to-one basis to stabilise her behaviours. This package commenced in November 2016 and the young person's behaviour has improved dramatically since that point to a current position where she is engaged in education provision. The stability of her situation has also enabled her to engage effectively with our substance misuse service which continues to support her on an ongoing basis.

4. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY 2016/17

In addition to work directly relating to the Key actions defined in the 2016-19 Strategy there has been broader developments both internally and externally which relate to our progress in relation to sufficiency and meeting the needs of our young people.

EXTERNAL CHANGES

We currently commission 42% of our placements for looked after children and young people from external providers and as such changes in those markets significantly impact our ability to purchase suitable placements. Since the publication of the strategy a number of changes have impacted external provision. Although the service is not yet performing in line with the Corporate indicator of 62% of LAC cared for by BMBC foster carers, this can be largely explained by the increase in the care population previously described. The table below in section 6 illustrates that there has nevertheless been a steady reduction in the reliance of more costly Independent Fostering Agency placements:

Publication of the Narey Report - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-residential-care-in-england>

Published in July 2016 the Narey report reviewed Residential Children's Care and made recommendations to Government and Local Authorities on how to make better use of this provision. His report criticised the use of residential care as a 'last stop' for children with a number of previous placement breakdowns and challenged Local Authorities to better engage private providers in order to meet demand.

Increased demand on placements

Regionally, and nationally, local authorities are reporting increasing difficulty in securing suitable placements for the looked after children. This difficulty is heightened by a market of external provision which is seeing changes such as National Living Wage have a significant impact on their ability to develop new provision.

SERVICE CHANGES

The approach to placement planning and oversight has undergone a significant transformation guided by the Placement and Sufficiency Board and led by a new Head of Children in Care, some of these are outlined below.

Transformation of Fostering and Placement functions

During 2016/17 the structure of our fostering and placement functions has been transformed to provide a service which is more responsive to Foster Carers and our Children and Young People. The fostering support functions have been re-organised to create a recruitment and assessment team which works alongside an ongoing support team. This gives new and existing foster carers a point of contact at all stages of their fostering journey. In addition a small restructure resulted in the co-location of our placement team. The co-location was intended to, and indeed has, established a multi-skilled team who have oversight of both in-house and external placements and an ability to liaise with Social Workers across all services.

Placement Sufficiency, Oversight and Review Panel (PSORP)

The previous panel for approval of placements CLARP was disbanded in December 2016 and was replaced by PSORP which provides more detailed scrutiny on placement requests, moves and analysis of information from placement breakdown. The Terms of Reference supporting PSORP are included at Appendix 1.

Permanence Panel

This panel has been set to work in partnership with PSORP to consider the needs of all children in care of the Local Authority requiring long term placements, external placements and allowances. It also considers Transition plans and Staying Put arrangements.

Referral Workshops

In order to make better use of our in-house fostering provision the Service has established a Referrals Workshop. All Foster Carers with vacancies or with anticipated vacancies are invited to the workshops, held on a monthly basis where each outstanding referral is discussed. This contact allows our Fostering team an opportunity to discuss with potential carers specific children and outline the additional support we would provide if the placement was different from their previous placements. It has also enabled us to alleviate some fears that foster carers have about placements with older children and adolescents which is already having a positive impact (see case study). This practice and the impact of the workshops will be challenged and measured by our evidence on placement stability.

CASE STUDY: IMPROVED EFFICIENCY WITHIN IN-HOUSE PROVISION

A referral was received for a 17 year old girl who was heading for university, engaging in College, working part time at the weekend and who had a clear direction of where she wanted to go but who required a placement. During a referral workshop Carers who had previously only had younger children in placement felt an immediate affinity with the young girl based on her profile and discussions with the Fostering Team. Further discussions took place resulting in a placement being made, whilst the placement has not been without issue the young girl is part of the family and the carers are committed to supporting her into independence. This has helped build their confidence in relation to future placements of adolescents.

Fostering Review

In July 2016 an external consultant was commissioned to deliver a full review of our Fostering Service. The review was an opportunity to benchmark our performance and practice against national best practice. This benchmarking provided data from which a bespoke action plan, to improve efficiencies and more critically increase Foster Carer numbers has been developed. Our review was commissioned at a time where Fostering is under increasing scrutiny from Government who, in October 2016 launched an inquiry into fostering, specifically recruitment and retention where the latest evidence suggests that the number of foster carer applications has dropped by a third. The review took place began in September 2016 and was finalised in March 2017. Work is now progressing to implement the recommendations highlighted in the review.

Targeted Carer Recruitment

Through application of the MOSAIC consumer data which was used as part of the Barnsley Leadership Programme project the North East Area was identified as an outlier in terms of high foster carer numbers. Further analysis suggested the strong community networks helped facilitate Foster Carer recruitment. A targeted programme of recruitment has been developed in partnership with the North East Area Council with the intention of producing a replicable recruitment model for other areas capitalising on community networks.

De-commissioning of the Empower and Protect provision

A decision was taken in Quarter 1 with sub-regional partners to end funding to the Empower and Protect project. Much of the learning and the resources used as part of the project has been integrated into our service delivery and it is anticipated that a cascading of that knowledge and understanding will continue through peer groups.

5. ACTUAL EXPENDITURE VS PROJECTED EXPENDITURE

The table below details a summary of expenditure within Children's Social Care on placements during 2016/17 against the projected expenditure outlined in the 2016-19 Placement Sufficiency Strategy.

	Projected costs for 2016/17	Actual costs for 2016/17	Variance
LAC Population	290 (based on Strategy projections)	292 (at 31 st March 2017)	
Costs:	£M	£M	
Fostering	6.022	6.256	0.234
Residential	2.867	3.395	0.528
Others – SGO, RO, Stayput, Adoptions	3.739	3.558	-0.181
Health & DSG Contributions	-0.324	-0.297	-0.027
DFE Adoption Grant/OOA Adoption Placement income/ Staying Put Grant	-0.150	-0.351	0.201
Total Care Costs	12,154	12,560	
Total Care Budget	9.184	9.231	
Variance	2.970	3.328	0.357

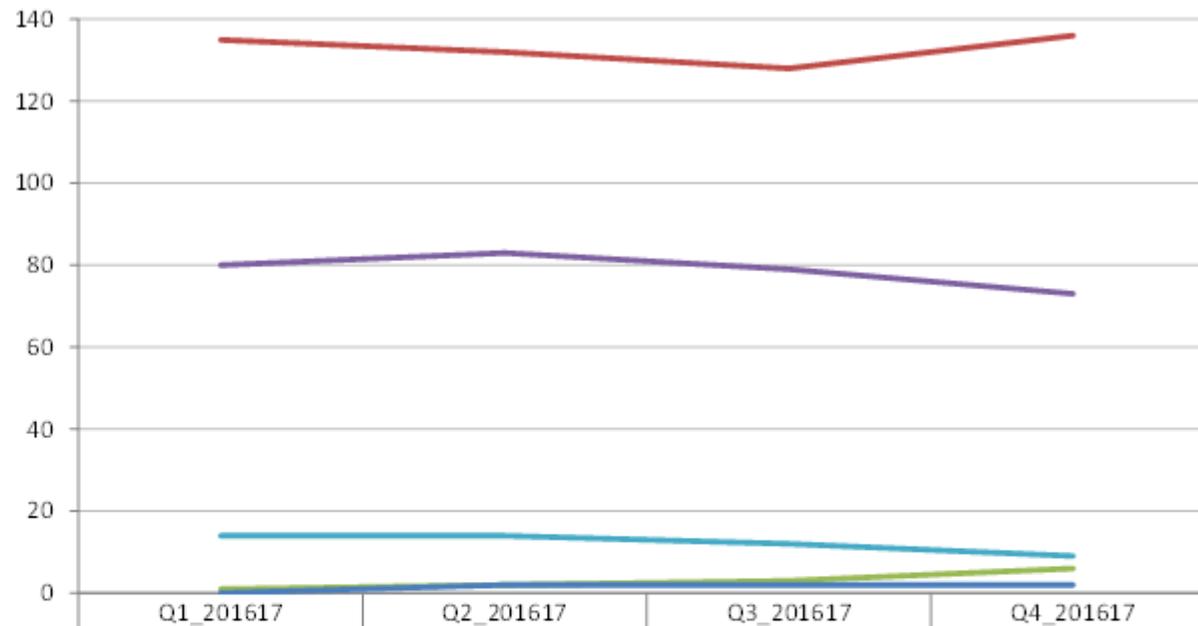
6. SERVICE PERFORMANCE AGAINST SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The table below outlines the performance of Children's Social Care against targets included within the Outcomes Framework of the Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2016-19.

Outcome	Impact Measurement	baseline 2015/16	Target 16/17	Actual 16/17	Target 17/18
1. Improve permanency planning / make good use of alternatives to care	Children placed for adoption	27	35	40	40
	Children placed with alternative orders (cost-bearing) - SGOs / CAOs	286	320	332	340
	Care leavers in 'staying put' arrangements	18	20	14	21
2. Reduce reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies	Number of children placed in IFAs	79	47	84	35
	Number of children placed in internal fostering	142	179	137	199
	Number of children placed in the SY Empower & Protect Programme	2	5	0	5
3. Increase availability of suitable BMBC foster placements	Net increase in numbers of foster carer households (newly recruited less numbers leaving in period)	108	33	16	50
	Net increase in numbers of available internal foster care placements (PE25)*	133	47	29	71
4. Maintain low numbers of young people in residential care settings	Number of young people in independent residential	15	15	15	15
	Number of young people in BMBC residential	5	5	5	5
	Other – eg independent living, placed with parents	9	9	11	9

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Placement by provider type – 2016/17



	Q1_201617	Q2_201617	Q3_201617	Q4_201617
Own Provision (BMBC)	135	132	128	136
Private Provision (Non BMBC)	80	83	79	73
Voluntary or Third Sector Provision (Non BMBC)	14	14	12	9
Other Local Authority Provision (Non BMBC)	1	2	3	6
Parents or other person with parental responsibility (Non BMBC)	0	2	2	2

Throughout 2016/17 we have secured in-house placements for over half of our LAC population (annual average of 58%). The majority of our private/third sector provision relates to Independent Fostering Agencies. With private residential equating to around 20% of our placements.

7. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE

The following are evidenced by the above financial analysis and the performance against Key Performance Indicators identified in the strategy;

- Outturn at 31st March is in the region of £3.3 million, approximately £350,000 over the predicted financial pressure £2.9m outlined in the strategy.
- Residential costs equate to £3.39 million which exceeds the predicted spend by £878,000. Further analysis of this figure shows us that this overspend can be attributed in part to five high costs placements which are by nature unpredictable and a reflection of exceptionally complex needs. A summary of those placements and the costs is detailed below;
 - The authority funded secure placements for two young people throughout 2016/17 at a combined cost of £298,875
 - Throughout 2016/17 we utilised four Family Assessment placements at a combined cost of £88,621
 - One of our LAC population has required a high tariff placement since June 2016 at a total cost of £186,289 (NB, this young person has now transitioned into residential provision within Barnsley)
- The effective use of our in-house residential provision has negated some of the impact of the high-cost placements detailed above
- Overall spend on fostering was slightly above the projected figure which can be attributed to the increased LAC numbers in Quarter 1 and 2.
- We have exceeded targets in relation to performance for achieving permanence for children and young people – (Adoption/SGOs/CAOs) whilst remaining within our projected spend for this area.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED IN 2016/17

- We continue to successfully achieve secure adoptive homes for a higher proportion of our children in care, delivering over the target of 35 defined in the strategy to secure 40 successful adoptions in 2016/17.
- By comparison with statistical neighbours, we have maintained a profile of low numbers of young people placed in care. Were Barnsley to perform at statistical neighbour level, it is estimated that our care population would be around 403.
- We continue to place low numbers of young people in residential settings with (at any time) around 20 young people in residential care despite the increase of looked after children at the start of the year. This compares favourably with Regional and sub-Regional performance.
- Closer management of our in-house residential provision has ensured that the service has been utilised to its full capacity for most of 2016/17. The intensive adolescent support team (IAST) which was established in July 2015 was reviewed in March 2016 and given a new focus; to work with young people aged 14 or above where their home environment is in crisis, it is thought that this has helped stem the trend of adolescents entering the care system for the first time.

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- The South Yorkshire Empower and Protect project which was funded by DfE Social Care Innovation Fund has helped to maintain young people with complex needs in specialist foster care. Barnsley has successfully negotiated with our local CAMHS service to provide clinical oversight and therapeutic input with a small group of our foster carers to allow us to embed this successful approach to our mainstream offer for 2017/18 onwards.
- Co-location of the placement team has created a multi-functional team operating across in-house and external provision
- The percentage of children with 3+ placement moves remains low at 2.7%. At the end of March, there were 8 looked after young people who have had 3 or more placement moves since entering care.
- The percentage of those looked after children who are in the same placements for 2yrs+ increased by more than 10 percentage points to 85.5% at the end of 2016/17^[1]. Indeed, Barnsley's performance is well above national and statistical neighbour benchmarks.

CASE STUDY: COST AVOIDANCE

During a referral workshop some Foster Carers who have existing approval for short term and who have resisted any long term placements were introduced to a referral for a young boy who required a long term placement and whose behaviour was known to be difficult. The couple are very experienced foster carers with a professional background of working with Adults with Learning disabilities. The foster carers expressed an interest in taking the placement and the young boy is now in placement and progress is positive. Had the foster carers not been introduced to the young boy we would likely have needed a long term IFA placement at an average cost of £871 per week.

- Establishment of the Placement Sufficiency Overview and Resources Panel (PSORP) which increases scrutiny on placements and has facilitated a number of placement moves from external provision to in-house resulting in significant cost avoidance achievements, examples of these are included below.
- We have lost 10 in-house foster carers during 2016/17 however, 3 of those left the service after taking on Special Guardianship Orders for previously looked after children. The remaining 7 left as a result of resignation or termination.
- Design of a targeted foster carer recruitment drive based on an analysis of MOSAIC household consumer data to target specific groups/individuals

8. CHALLENGES FOR 2017/18

- Design and implementation of an action plan for Service Improvement within Fostering to improve efficiencies and replicate best practice from high performing authorities.
- Increased scrutiny on placement reviews to ensure permanence is secured where in the interests of the child
- Reduced reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies through an increased in-house capacity

^[1] Performance at the end of 2015/16 was 75.0%.

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- Actively recruit Foster Carers who want to care for older children and adolescents
- Increased review regularly of all out of area placements to ensure, where appropriate, transition plans are in place for a return to Barnsley
- Engage more closely with external providers to enable appropriate market development to meet the needs of our young people, particularly those with complex needs
- Continue to prevent late entrants into care through the IAST team
- Greater integration of Future Directions and Care Leavers into the overall Sufficiency Planning
- Managing the challenges in relation to our regional commissioning model specifically around meeting Authority demand across all partners
- Managing the placement of our more complex, vulnerable young people through collaborative, joined up placement planning to include all professionals involved with the young person

Appendix 1



**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Placement Sufficiency, Oversight and Resource Panel**

Terms of Reference

April 1st 2017

(To be reviewed 1st October 2017)

**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Placement Sufficiency, Oversight and Resource Panel**

Terms of Reference

1 Purpose of the Panel

- 1.1 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council must ensure that there is sufficient accommodation of all types for children in care and meet its sufficiency duty as laid down in Section 22G of the Children Act 1989. The Act requires local authorities to take steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area, which meets the needs of children that the local authority are looking after and whose circumstances are such that it would be

consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority's area ('the sufficiency duty'). The Statutory guidance on securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children 2010 clearly sets out the Local Authorities responsibilities.

1.2 The Placement Sufficiency, Oversight and Resource Panel (PSORP) has been established to provide overview and scrutiny to placements of Children in Care across internal and external, Fostering and Residential. The Panel will focus on those children and young people who are in the looked after system or are care leavers. The Panel will respond to service needs of all children and young people aged 0-18 (defined as the date of 18th birthday) and in the case of care leavers until 21, or 25 if in education.

1.3 The Panel will directly feed into the work being carried out by the Placement Sufficiency Project Board for Children in Care, using insight to inform future strategies and set challenging targets in relation to our care population.

2 Key Objectives of the Panel

2.1 The Panel will;

- i. Ensure confirmation, allocation and management of all:
 - internal fostering and residential placements

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- purchased fostering (IFA) and residential placements
- ii. Oversee the ratification of emergency placements
- iii. Oversee all planned placement moves to ensure timely progression
- iv. Monitor and oversee all placement breakdowns to ensure the new placement is appropriate and the issues related to the breakdown of the previous placement(s) have been understood
- v. Oversee placements at risk of breakdown to stabilise the current placement or organise a planned and assessed move to another placement
- vi. Monitor and review on a weekly basis the service's delivery and performance concerning purchased fostering (IFA), residential and care leavers placements
- vii. Monitor and review placement resource demand and highlight areas where future investment is required
- viii. Monitor and review:
 - Applications for Special Guardianship Orders and Child Arrangements Orders where allowances are being considered
 - Foster carer requests for adaptations to their property and therapeutic costs for children in care
 - Adoption Support Fund Applications (above £5,000)
 - Adoption support Allowances and therapeutic costs for adopted

children

3 Key Actions of the Panel

3.1 The Panel will ensure that all placements are ratified to:

- i. Ensure there is a clear decision-making trial and financial accountability in place
- ii. Check that all external IFA and Residential placements have the appropriate senior management approval:
 - Placement requests for Independent Fostering Agencies require approval from Head of Service
 - Placement requests for Residential Placements require approval from the Director
- iii. Ensure that all out of borough and at a distance placements have the appropriate senior management approval, and that all the necessary agreements, notifications and consultations have been made:
 - Placement requests for Independent Fostering Agencies out of borough require approval from Head of Service
 - Placement requests for Independent Fostering Agencies at a distance and Residential Placements at a distance require approval from the Director

- iv. Monitor all children who have been placed out of authority / at a distance to ensure that, where appropriate, clear plans are in place for return to Barnsley
- v. Clarify if the request needs to be considered for multi-agency funding at CRAG

3.2 The Panel will log, monitor and report to the Placement Sufficiency Project Board:

- i. The reasons why an in house placement was not available and resulted in an external placement
- ii. All placement breakdowns and the reasons related to the breakdowns
- iii. Current demand and future placement availability
- iv. Current additional resource demand

4 Accountability & Governance

4.1 The Panel will be chaired by the Head of Service, Children in Care. The Panel will feed into, and will be held accountable, by the Placement Sufficiency Project Board.

5 Membership

5.1 The Panel will comprise of the following;

- Head of Service, Children in Care

- Service Manager, Children in Care
- Service Manager, Provider Services
- Team Manager, Fostering Service
- Placement Team member
- Lead Commissioning Officer, Commissioning, Governance & Partnerships
- Financial Analyst, Financial Services
- Business Support Officer

5.2 Other managers and social workers will be invited to attend as required in order to discuss the requests being considered. The relevant service manager will decide at the point of authorising the referral form whether or not the social worker or team manager needs to present the case to the Panel.

6 Frequency of Panel

6.1 The Panel will meet every week on a Thursday 9.30am to 12pm.

7 Structure/Process of Panel

7.1 The Panel consists of four parts:

1. Financial Allowances / Applications Authorisation

2. Planned Placement Requests / Additional Resource Requests
3. Previous Weeks Placement Activity / Outstanding Actions
4. Oversight of Placements at Risk of Breakdown
5. Monthly Education update with the Virtual Head Teacher.

7.2 Financial Allowances / Applications Authorisation

PSORP Financial Request Forms can be located on TED under 'LAC; Placement Resource Panel'. Each form needs to be completed by the Social Worker and authorised by an appropriate manager. The manager will then forward the authorised request to PSORPPaneladministration@barnsley.gov.uk. Each request will then be added to the next agenda for Panel, to begin an assessment for:

- i. Child Arrangement Order Allowances,
- ii. Special Guardianship Order Allowances,
- iii. and Adoption Support Allowances (these would normally be proposed at the point of the SHODPA but should then be ratified by the Resource Panel and endorsed at the Matching Panel).

7.3 If Panel members approve a request, an "Outcome to Commence Means Test Assessment" form will be completed at Panel.

7.4 Business Support will then:

- i. Scan, save, and forward the completed “Outcome to Commence Means Test Assessment” form to FSFinancialAssessments@Barnsley.gov.uk and copy in the respective Social Worker
- ii. Log the details of any review requirements
- iii. Liaise with the Finance Department and the necessary Social Workers/Support Workers when such reviews are due to be undertaken

7.5 In such circumstances that a request is not approved, Business Support will inform the respective Social Worker via email; the Social Worker may be asked to either submit the additional information that is required for future consideration of the request and/or attend Panel if necessary.

7.6 Planned Placement Requests / Additional Resource Requests

7.7 PSORP Financial Request Forms can be located on TED under ‘LAC; Placement Resource Panel’. Each form needs to be completed by the Social Worker and authorised by an appropriate manager. The manager will then forward the authorised request to PSORPPaneladministration@barnsley.gov.uk. Each request will then be added to the next agenda for Panel, where a decision will be made as to whether financial support can be offered to foster carers and adopters for:

- i. The cost of adaptations and extensions to their property.

- ii. The provision of therapeutic support to children in foster care, or adopted children.
- iii. Adoption Support Fund Applications (above £5,000)

7.8 If panel members approve a request, Business Support will inform the respective Social Worker via email that it has been approved and the cost centre from which to make the payment. It is then the Social Workers' responsibility to liaise with all necessary departments for all payments and communication between the Local Authority and the Foster Carer/Adopter.

7.9 In such circumstances that a request is not approved, Business Support will inform the respective Social Worker via email; the Social Worker may be asked to either submit any additional information that is required for future consideration of the request and/or attend Panel if necessary.

7.10 Placement Requests/ Additional Resource Requests

7.11 All the previous weeks' placement requests and additional resource requests are reported to Panel by the Placement Team (see 7.16)

7.12 In House placement requests are managed through the Fostering service weekly allocation meeting.

- 7.13 PSORP will receive completed Placement Referral requests for placements via ChildrensPlacements@barnsley.gov.uk (including retrospective emergency requests) under the following circumstances:
- i. Change of Placement through placement breakdown
 - ii. All direct External Placement requests
 - iii. All External Placement requests due to In House unavailability
 - iv. Placement required from Custody – Sentence, Remand and Welfare.
 - v. High cost additional resource / funding requests
- 7.14 PSORP will:
- i. Quality assure and approve the placement referral form
 - ii. Approve any additional supports
 - iii. Confirm if an additional Children and Young People Assessment is required to support the Placement Referral
 - iv. Allocate specific actions to support the placement request as required
- 7.15 Previous Weeks Placement Activity / Outstanding Actions
- 7.16 The Placement Team will provide an update of the previous week's placement activity and any outstanding actions required to confirm placement authorisation and / or commencement of placement. This update will also be sent to the Virtual Head

Teacher for information.

7.17 The update will consist of the following:

- i. New Placements (made in-house)
- ii. New Placements (made with agency)
- iii. Placement Changes (from agency to in-house)
- iv. Placement Changes (from in-house to agency)
- v. New placement Requests (since last meeting), with specific attention being given to:
 - Placement breakdown of an existing placement
 - Time limited placements
 - Young people who have been sentenced to custody
- vi. Early alerts re placement requests (awaiting referral), including:
 - New PLO notifications
 - Progress of cases in proceedings.
- vii. Enquiry/Referral - not resulting in a Placement
- viii. Outstanding Referrals for Short Term placements
- ix. Outstanding Referrals for Long Term Placements
- x. Placements ended.

7.18 Oversight of Placements at Risk of Breakdown

7.19 When Professionals / Placements are concerned that a placement is at risk of a breakdown the concern will be logged at Panel by the Placement Team

ChildrensPlacements@barnsley.gov.uk

7.20 Concerns can be raised by a range of professionals, such as: In House Fostering/Residential; Independent Reviewing Officers; Virtual School; and intelligence gathered from placement providers through the Placement Team.

7.21 Concerns will be logged at PSORP and the relevant Social Worker and Team Manager will be requested to investigate the concern.

7.22 PSORP will receive notification of the investigation and agree actions where appropriate to support the current placement or commence new placement planning.

7.23 Monthly Education update with the Virtual Head Teacher.

The Virtual Head Teacher will attend Panel on a monthly basis to discuss school attendance / placement issues.

8 Business Support – Administration Support to Panel

Panel administration email contact: PSORPPaneladministration@barnsley.gov.uk

The administration support role to Panel is currently under ongoing review, but at this time is as follows:

8.1 Pre Panel

- i. Confirm all PSORP Financial Referral Forms for financial allowances and additional resource requests submitted for PSORP.
- ii. Add the above to the PSORP weekly agenda.
- iii. Meet with the Chair of the Panel and discuss/confirm the agenda.
- iv. Invite Social Workers and their managers to Panel if required to attend.
- v. Email PSORP (and Virtual Head Teacher) members the following Panel papers:
 - PSORP Agenda,
 - Previous weeks minutes / actions,
 - Presenting Social Worker time slots,
 - PSORP Financial Referral Forms,
 - Weekly Placement Activity from the Children's Placement Team

8.2 During Panel

- i. Update Panel attendance list.
- ii. Attend Panel, take minutes and record actions.

- iii. Scan, save, and forward the completed “Outcome to Commence Means Test Assessment” form to FSFinancialAssessments@Barnsley.gov.uk and copy in the respective Social Worker.
- iv. Type up minutes and actions and request authorisation.

(End)

8.3 Post Panel

- i. Inform Social Workers of the outcome of financial requests.
- ii. Invite Social Workers to next week’s Panel if necessary.
- iii. Send minutes and actions once authorised.