

**Report of the Executive Director Core Services
and the Executive Director People
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
on 9th January 2018**

**Provisional Education Outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC) in Barnsley 2017 -
Cover Report**

1.0 Introduction and Summary

- 1.1 The attached report 'Item 5b' outlines the education outcomes for looked after children (LAC) in Barnsley, broken down by pupil group, from assessments taken in 2017. The report provides an overview from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (age 4/5) to Key Stage (KS) 4 (age 15/16).
- 1.2 The report compares the performance of Barnsley LAC against all children nationally and all Barnsley children. Due to a delay in the release of national statistics by the Department for Education (DfE), current comparison of Barnsley LAC against national LAC is unavailable. The release of the relevant data is due in March 2018. National results from the 2015-16 academic year are provided for comparison for some data; however due to significant changes in the national assessment procedures at KS4, direct comparisons against previous year's outcomes cannot be made.
- 1.3 The attached report provides:
 - An overview of the numbers of LAC
 - Ofsted ratings of the schools attended
 - Educational outcomes at key stages
 - Information on attendance and exclusions
 - Information on the future priorities for improving education outcomes for Barnsley LAC
 - Glossary

2.0 Invited Witnesses

- 2.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today's meeting to answer questions regarding the educational attainment of Barnsley LAC:
 - Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People
 - Margaret Libreri, Service Director, Education, Early Start and Prevention, People Directorate
 - Jon Banwell, Head of Children in Care Services, People Directorate
 - Gary Kelly, Head of Service-Barnsley Schools' Alliance, People Directorate
 - Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher for Looked After Children, People Directorate
 - Councillor Tim Cheetham, Cabinet Member, People (Achieving Potential)

3.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What plans are in place to reduce the performance gaps between Barnsley LAC and all Barnsley children?

- What specific work is being done to improve phonic outcomes for LAC in Year 1?
- What is in place to accelerate the progress in reading at Key Stage 2 for LAC?
- What support is available within schools for LAC with special education needs and is it sufficient?
- What action is Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board taking to specifically challenge and support the improvement of the educational attainment of LAC?
- What are the main barriers which prevent LAC from making progress and what is being put in place to address this?
- What can be done to tackle the issues around LAC absence at secondary school?
- To what extent has the introduction of termly personal education plans (TPEPs) supported and improved the education attainment of LAC?
- What is being done to learn from best practice support to LAC in other local authority areas?
- Are there any actions which could be taken by Members to support LAC in their educational attainment?

4.0 Background Papers and Links

- Item 5b - Virtual Headteacher's Report on LAC Results 2016-17 (Provisional)
- The National Curriculum: <https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/overview>

5.0 Glossary

BMBC - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
 CiC - Children in Care
 DfE – Department for Education
 EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage
 KS - Key Stage
 LAC - Looked After Children
 TPEP – Termly Personal Education Plan

6.0 Officer Contact

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