

Public Document Pack



MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 9 February 2016
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

AGENDA

Administrative and Governance Issues for the Committee

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

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

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

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

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

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 1st December 2016 (Item 3 attached).

Overview and Scrutiny Issues for the Committee

4 **Devolution Proposal** (*Pages 11 - 12*)

To consider a presentation (by Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE, Leader of BMBC and Chair of Sheffield City Region Combined Authority) and a report of the Director of HR, Performance and Communications (Item '4' attached) in respect of the Devolution Proposal.

5 **Berneslai Homes Annual Report 2014-15** (*Pages 13 - 30*)

To consider a report of the Director of HR, Performance and Communications (Item 5a attached) in respect of Berneslai Homes Annual Report 2014-15 (Item 5b attached) and their Key Performance Indicators (Item 5c attached).

6 **Draft Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2014-15** (*Pages 31 - 46*)

To consider a report of the Director of HR, Performance and Communications (Item 6a attached) in respect of the Draft Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2014-15 (Item 6b attached).

Enquiries to Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer

Phone 01226 775794 or email annamorley@barnsley.gov.uk

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

Councillors Ennis (Chair), D. Birkinshaw, P. Birkinshaw, Brook, G. Carr, Cave, Clarke, Clements, Franklin, Frost, Gollick, Hand-Davis, Hayward, Johnson, Makinson, Mitchell, Morgan, Pourali, Sheard, Sixsmith MBE, Spence, Tattersall, Unsworth, Wilson and Worton together with co-opted Members Ms P. Gould, Mr M. Hooton, Ms J. Whittaker and Mr J. Winter and Statutory Co-opted Member Ms K. Morritt (Parent Governor Representative)

Electronic Copies Circulated for Information

- Diana Terris, Chief Executive
- Andrew Frosdick, Director of Legal and Governance
- Rob Winter, Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management
- Press

Paper Copies Circulated for Information

- Julia Bell, Director of Human Resources, Performance and Communications
- Michael Potter, Service Director, Organisation and Workforce Improvement
- Ian Turner, Service Director, Council Governance
- Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer – 5 copies
- Majority Members Room
- Opposition Members Rooms, Town Hall – 2 copies

Witnesses

Item 4 (2:00pm)

- Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE, Leader of BMBC and Chair of Sheffield City Region Combined Authority
- Diana Terris, Chief Executive, BMBC

Item 5 (2:30pm approx.)

- Helen Jaggar, Chief Executive, BH
- Alison Rusdale, Director of Corporate Services, BH
- Steve Davies, Director of Assets, Regeneration and Construction, BH
- John Townend, Chair of Barnsley Federation of TARAs
- Joan Whittaker, Secretary of the Barnsley Federation of TARAs
- Richard Burnham, Head of Housing and Energy, BMBC
- Councillor Roy Miller, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place, BMBC

Item 6 (3:15pm approx.)

- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Head of Virtual School for Looked After Children, BMBC
- Sharon Galvin, Designated Nurse-Safeguarding Children, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding)
- Cllr Ralph Sixsmith, Dearne South Ward
- Wayne Jones, Barnsley Foster Carer
- Ann Murphy, Barnsley Foster Carer
- Paul Johnson, Barnsley Foster Carer
- Natalie Chappell, Barnsley Foster Carer

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 1 December 2015
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, G. Carr, Franklin, Frost, Hand-Davis, Johnson, Pourali, Sheard, Tattersall and Unsworth together with co-opted members Ms P. Gould, Ms J. Whittaker and Mr J. Winter

18 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Kate Morrith in accordance with Regulation 7 (6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

19 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were declarations of interest from Councillors Carr, Tattersall and Unsworth as Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel and Virtual School Governance Group. Councillor Frost declared an interest as a member of the NUT (National Union of Teachers).

20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Councillor Unsworth advised Berneslai Homes responded to his request regarding legionella and was reassured the systems are heated sufficiently twice per week to kill the Legionella bacteria.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2015 were approved as a true and accurate record.

21 Barnsley Provisional Education Outcomes 2015

The Chair welcomed the witnesses to the meeting which included:

- Nick Bowen, Principal of Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board
- Yvonne Gray, Headteacher of Cudworth Churchfield Primary School and Joint Chair of Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board
- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director, People Directorate
- Margaret Libreri, Service Director, Education, Early Start and Prevention, People Directorate
- Catherine Kelly, Head of Barnsley Schools' Alliance, People Directorate
- Councillor Tim Cheetham, Cabinet Member, People (Achieving Potential)

Margaret Libreri gave an introduction to the reports, highlighting for 5 year olds the gap between Barnsley children's GLD (Good Level of Development) has narrowed compared with national results, however a priority for the service is to reduce the gap with the national results for disadvantaged children.

Following the assessment of 7 year olds in reading, writing and mathematics, as the results have improved by the same margin as those nationally, Barnsley has been unable to narrow the gap between its neighbouring authorities or the national figure.

The results for 11 year olds in reading, writing and mathematics have been very good as pupils in Barnsley have improved at a faster rate than those nationally, which has helped to reduce the gap to 1% point.

There has also been improvement in the GCSE qualifications which is seen as a priority; provisional results for 2015 show 49.5% of students achieved 5A* - C, including both English and Maths. Following the results being validated the final figure should be 50%; the service believes this is a reason to celebrate however, is more ambitious than this and wants to see even better results.

Members proceeded to ask the following questions:

- I. What are the current challenges, specifically due to the shortage of teachers and also absences due to stress? Are there shortages of teachers for particular subjects?

The committee were advised the three main subjects where there is the greatest difficulty in recruiting suitably qualified teachers is in English, Maths and Science, with Science now being the most difficult, which can result in pupils not always being taught at the level that is aspired to.

There is a continual drive for improvement in the standard of teaching that is being delivered and to address this, the Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board has established 5 working groups. These include Teaching and Learning, Behaviour and Attendance, Closing the Gap, Improving Leadership Capacity and Raising Attainment and Achievement. One of the groups is currently developing a protocol considering what will attract teachers in these areas.

Due to the inherent difficulty in recruiting teachers in English, Maths and Science, incentives such as 'golden handshakes' and the use of recruitment agencies is required, however these incur additional financial costs.

Further difficulties are caused by Barnsley being the lowest funded in terms of secondary schools; by comparison the neighbouring authority of Rotherham receives an additional £1400 per child, which can equate to a further £1.4m in a school of 10,000 pupils. Whilst the financial situation is not the only criteria that can determine the standard of education being taught, it does mean Barnsley schools are unable to compete with the same level of resources.

II. Will the funding formula regarding the Autumn Statement help at all?

The committee were advised that a national funding formula regarding schools would help, however this is likely to lose votes, therefore is unlikely to be put in place.

III. In terms of teachers being stressed, are we helping with endless observations and criticisms? Also, do we pair outstanding teachers with others so they can learn from good practice?

The group were informed within the last three years the secondary schools in Barnsley have made considerable progress with the affiliated unions, resulting in a productive working relationship. This has helped in providing support to teachers, including those suffering with stress.

Schools have been supporting teachers by pairing them with more experienced staff, who help them learn and develop. Also, through this, there are examples when a teacher will recognise it is not the career for them.

IV. What is in place to ensure schools operate effectively within the local community such as engagement with local Councillors, and how can we take this forward?

The group were advised that Barnsley schools are developing plans to work with Area Councils to help resolve the challenges that are being faced as well as working more closely with Members in how they can be mutually supportive. This work is planned to take place in the New Year.

As schools transfer to being academies across the country, this has led to them not working together as closely, which has then impacted on the sharing of knowledge and ideas. In Barnsley however, this has not been the case and there is good networking across schools and you can't tell whether they are academies, trusts or local authority (LA) run. In Barnsley each school is RAG (Red, Amber or Green) rated by the Barnsley Alliance and we contact them to have a conversation about their performance. All schools have engaged with this process and some schools are now asking if they can pay for further support.

V. How does the funding of schools in Barnsley compare, considering there are areas of the borough that are less deprived than others, such as Penistone?

The Members were advised the funding for secondary schools in Barnsley is the lowest in the country; however, this is not the same for primary schools. Any change to the ratio between the two would have financial implications. The Barnsley Schools' Forum looked into reviewing the Schools' Funding Formula to redress the balance for secondary schools but it was considered this would then leave the primary schools as being financially vulnerable.

The funding Barnsley schools receive is further compounded as deprivation between advantaged and disadvantaged students is wider than the national figure, therefore we don't want to change the funding formula. The service acknowledged funding is

tight for certain schools, such as Penistone Grammar and therefore a meeting will shortly take place with the school governors as to how we can support the school.

- VI. What is being done to improve the Key Stage 4 (GCSE) results to further reduce the gap to the national average?

The committee were advised through the Barnsley Schools' Alliance this has helped in identifying any under achieving schools particularly through the fortnightly meetings that are held with the secondary school head teachers. Through the continual challenge taking place at these meetings, this has benefited the under performing schools in providing them with the support that is required.

Also, a few years ago there was an entrenched culture of under-achievement in secondary schools, however the new head teachers have changed this and welcome real challenge. Through the impetus of the Barnsley Schools' Alliance, they have been able to challenge this behaviour which has subsequently seen improvements in the exam results of schools. Although there has not been a considerable improvement in the Key Stage 4 (GCSE) results, this should change following the current practices that have been implemented.

- VII. Uptake of the Pupil Premium Grant is poor in Barnsley; are we contacting parents regarding taking this up which would help with school funding as well as ensuring children have a good meal?

The group were advised there are universal infant free school meals and it is recognised that for some pupils this will be their most nutritious meal of the day. However, in some cases this has back-fired for schools as if parents don't make them aware they are in receipt of benefits then the school are unable to claim any additional funds.

- VIII. Considering the difference between schools, what is being done to increase resources as well as share skills and experience?

The committee were advised there has been a new approach to both intervention and the challenge and support being provided. In August we analysed all the data, which was then incorporated within a RAG rating for each primary, secondary and academy school. We also want to identify the green rated schools so we can share their good practice with others.

For red-rated primary schools, two LA School Evaluation Officers have gone out to them and asked what their barriers are to improvement. For red-rated secondary schools, Nick Bowen and Catherine Kelly have undertaken visits to identify barriers. Action plans are then developed as well as utilising an intervention fund, which the Barnsley Schools' Alliance will then hold the school to account against. Where a school has been rated as either red or amber for some time, their performance will be reviewed every 4-6 weeks. Where improvements are still not made, the LA will issue a warning notice.

We have also looked at global problems such as poor Maths performance, for which we have brokered external support.

It is evident in Barnsley that four of the higher attaining schools are also the four lowest funded schools. Therefore it often comes back to the quality of leadership and teaching. It is also noted that Barnsley has a disproportionate amount of pupils with challenging behaviour and we need to continue to increase aspirations.

Secondary schools are sharing resources, including expertise, which is shared with schools whether they are academies, trusts or community schools.

IX. How can we get other schools to undertake the same good practice engagement Horizon school has undertaken with families facing barriers?

The group were advised as Horizon Community College is a town centre school they have a more diverse population, therefore do a lot of work in relation to engagement. As a group of head teachers we meet regularly and have a slot on our meetings and look at our communities. We also have the IKIC (I Know I Can) Programme as a regular agenda item as we're not exam factories and the more you engage with families, the more likely children are to learn.

X. What provision is made for cultural differences in communities within schools?

Members were advised Barnsley is seeing an increase in the number of EAL (English as an Additional Language) students. Horizon Community College is able to provide holistic support to other schools, sharing their expertise in meeting both cultural and educational needs such as enabling these families to engage with the education system.

EAL students are encouraged to engage in the full range of activities the school offers and not just focus on their academic achievements. Improvement has been seen with the GCSE results of EAL students, which shows that the engagement is having a positive impact.

XI. There is an acknowledged difference in the results achieved by girls and boys, what is being done to address this?

The group were advised this is a national issue, with data analysis being able to support it. To help to try and address this, each of the Barnsley Schools' Alliance 5 working groups consider this in their work.

The Teaching and Learning Group is currently developing protocols regarding what makes outstanding teaching and learning and how this will impact on boys and girls. For example, if certain changes are made, we could find that girls do even better and the gap widens further.

The Key Stage 1 assessments illustrate from an early age how girls' attainment is better than boys, with research identifying that boys' physical development is slower, therefore we need to focus on improving this in boys.

The London Challenge identified that 'white working class boys' are the hardest demographic category to change in relation to academic performance, which is the largest demographic in our schools. Therefore this creates particular difficulty in Barnsley regarding improving educational attainment.

To further illustrate this, had the boys achieved as well as the girls had done with their GCSE examinations two years ago, then the overall results at Horizon Community College would have been classed as 'outstanding'.

XII. How well did the 12 month project work at Penistone School that adopted a new way of teaching maths, and have the teachers who were involved been retained?

The group were advised this information will need to be clarified and will then be reported back to the committee.

XIII. What support is being given to families in deprived areas in helping to instil the value of their child's education, whilst ensuring they are actively involved in helping their child, such as assisting with homework?

The committee was advised Parent Support Workers have been employed to help parents who do not actively engage in their child's education; this has helped identifying in some cases the parents themselves are unable to read or write. Therefore, this means they are then unable to help their children with their homework.

We run homework clubs, breakfast clubs and adult learning groups in schools to try to get parents to work alongside their child. Many parents however find it difficult to admit that they are struggling. We also have open evenings for parents, where the teaching techniques that are used today are explained, such as those for phonics and maths.

There are some families where their child's education is not valued, which makes progress in education difficult. In some cases schools try to engage parents with the voluntary sector to provide additional support.

XIV. There are some families where children are not getting support, e.g. in relation to practicing spellings which will mean they fall behind. Some parents say they don't want support, however how are we ensuring this takes place?

The group were advised, through the continual challenge undertaken by the Barnsley Schools' Alliance these children are unable to be ignored by their school and extra resources such as reading champions are being employed. We also have arrangements for older children to read with younger ones.

Members were advised that schools recognise and welcome the active role that grandparents are now playing, often acting as surrogate parents when the child's parents are working full time.

Currently there is a pilot scheme that is looking at schools in Sheffield, Doncaster and Blackpool, with the objection of how the school can then successfully engage with the hardest to reach families. Dave Whittaker who is Chair of the Behaviour and Attendance group is going to consider this alongside Catherine Kelly and whether this can then be piloted in Barnsley.

- XV. Due to a number of parents being on low wages and therefore working long hours, grandparents often operate in the parental role; does this affect the school's engagement with its children?

The committee were advised they could not speak for all schools, but for the ones they represented they welcome anyone to help, for example Aunts and Uncles. The school's main concern is for those children where there is no engagement with the child's education.

At this point in the meeting, an elected member highlighted that due to an investigation they had been part of in considering educational attainment, that the best system was in Finland where children aren't formally educated till age 7. In this country there is no parental choice so all children have to go to their local school till age 16 and the schools are attached to health centres and old peoples' homes where all those in the building meet together and eat so you get all ages mixing together. Also, no formal testing is undertaken till age 16.

- XVI. As it is not compulsory for schools to join the Barnsley Alliance, how do you ensure they engage with the work?

The Members were advised the board needs to be the 'best club in town' so schools want to join it, and making it so it's almost impossible not to be part of it. The LA still has powers to challenge e.g. academy sponsors if they are not engaging. The strength from the Alliance is that it is peer to peer support and challenge, therefore can't be ignored. When we have written to our academies with challenge, they have welcomed this and see themselves as responsible for Barnsley's young people.

It was highlighted to the group how the role of school improvement had moved from the LA to schools and how the offer of the Barnsley Alliance was effective in this. Also that this sector-led approach to improvement was not yet producing the progress wanted but that it is going in the right direction.

It was also highlighted to Members that the exam results have continued improving over the last 5 years and we have gained 5% on the national average. The LA's relationship with schools is unrecognisable compared with 5/10 years ago; therefore Elected Members also need to re-define their role as community leaders and representatives.

Members were advised of an all-member information brief scheduled for early 2016 on the Barnsley Alliance which they were encouraged to attend.

XVII. Are the numbers of pupils in classes being kept to a manageable size to ensure their academic improvement is not being affected?

The group was advised in secondary schools class sizes are all under 30, however primary schools are struggling as numbers are increasing. Schools are being innovative in utilising adults and identifying empty spaces that can be adapted to use as classrooms which is helping to keep class sizes down.

Ideally primary schools would not want to see their class sizes being over 30 and aim to keep the number of pupils between 25 and 30. Although, in situations where a child has won an appeal to attend the school, the school will then have to accept the child which can lead to larger class sizes.

XVIII. Has there been an increase in the number of vertically grouped classes where children are from different age ranges?

The committee was advised there had been no increase in the number of these types of classes.

The Chair encouraged Members to attend a training session on Managing Skills and Development being held on the 8th December 2015 or 12th January 2016, thanked the witnesses and all attendees for their contribution, and declared the meeting closed.

Action Points

- 1) Service to confirm how well the 12 month project at Penistone school regarding maths teaching had gone and whether the teachers have been retained from this programme.
- 2) Members to attend the all-member information briefing on the Barnsley Alliance once a date is scheduled.
- 3) Members to attend the training session on Managing Skills and Development on either 8th December 2015 or 12th January 2016 and let Lesley Glanville know (lesleyglanville@barnsley.gov.uk or 01226 773078).

Item 4

**Report of the Director of Human Resources,
Performance & Communications
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 9th February 2016**

Devolution Proposal

1.0 Introduction & Background

- 1.1 As a result of central government offering more powers to English regions to improve their area, particularly help to grow the local economy and create private sector jobs, Sheffield City Region (SCR) has developed a proposed devolution deal so the local area can have more control over things that we want for our towns and cities. Other areas which have taken this opportunity include Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, the North East, West Midlands and Tees Valley.
- 1.2 The SCR deal covers Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Barnsley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, North East Derbyshire, Bolsover and Bassetlaw and has been worked up with local councils and business leaders. It will allow the region to have more money and decision-making powers as well as greater control over job creation, skills and transport improvements, and increase the number of new businesses.
- 1.3 A public consultation was made available online regarding the SCR proposed Devolution Deal to gather the views of people within the city region before the deal is finalised. The consultation was open until 15th January 2016 and was publicised by the communications teams of the local authorities involved including posts on websites and social media. Within Barnsley, an article was also placed in the Council's 'Open News' supplement in the Barnsley Chronicle.

2.0 Advantages for Barnsley

- 2.1 For Barnsley, alongside benefiting from a share of £900m over the next 30 years to spend on important economic regeneration projects to improve the borough and create jobs, current and future plans include:
- £100m plans for the Better Barnsley scheme to boost regeneration and investment in the town.
 - Business park expansion to provide businesses with the right infrastructure and create a more competitive private sector employment base.
 - Future opportunities to benefit from a housing investment fund allowing more affordable homes to be built in the area.
 - Potential funding from the devolved adult skills budget to: review current post 16 education and training; give an increased focus on traineeships and apprenticeships; offer better, joined up careers advice.
 - Leading on Superfast South Yorkshire - delivering the broadband infrastructure required to make South Yorkshire a well-connected and attractive place for both residents and businesses located at business parks and in enterprise zones.
 - Building on the success of Enterprise Barnsley, the economic development branch of the council, business support programmes, both local and national, will be developed through the new growth hub for Sheffield City Region.
 - The development of the Barnsley Bus Partnership to lead on improved regulation of public transport.

3.0 Invited Experts

3.1 At today's meeting, the following representatives have been invited to give a presentation and answer questions from the committee regarding the SCR Devolution Proposal, progress that has been made and the next steps:

- Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE, Leader of BMBC and Chair of Sheffield City Region Combined Authority
- Diana Terris, Chief Executive, BMBC

4.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

4.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What are the main challenges and opportunities the Devolution Deal would bring for Barnsley?
- How would resources be divided between the local authorities involved and how would you ensure this is fair?
- How effective are relationships between key stakeholders?
- How will you ensure public engagement and involvement in the design, delivery and review of projects/services?
- Are there any plans to seek devolution of other services/responsibilities in the future?
- What actions could be taken by Members to maximise the outcomes from the Devolution Deal for Barnsley?

5.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- Sheffield City Region Proposed Devolution Deal Agreement:
<http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SCR-Devolution-Agreement-2015.pdf>

6.0 Glossary

BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CA – Combined Authority
LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership
MCA – Mayoral Combined Authority
SCR – Sheffield City Region

7.0 Report Author and Officer Contact

Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer (01226 775794)
1st February 2016

Item 5a

**Report of the Director of Human Resources,
Performance & Communications
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 9th February 2016**

Berneslai Homes Annual Report 2014-15 – Cover Report

1.0 Introduction & Background

1.1 In 2002, Berneslai Homes was established as Barnsley Council's Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) responsible for the management and maintenance of its housing stock, which it has continued to be responsible for to date. In November 2015, the Council's Cabinet agreed to extend the current contract for a further five years upto 31st March 2021. The contract renewal was subject to a number of conditions which it was agreed that Berneslai Homes had met. These criteria cover:

- 1) Service Delivery
- 2) Governance Arrangements
- 3) Management; and
- 4) Organisational Efficiencies

1.2 Berneslai Homes are a key partner of the Council in ensuring it can meet its three priorities: a thriving and vibrant economy; people achieving their potential; and strong and resilient communities. Therefore, the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) have requested to consider Berneslai Homes' work and performance periodically.

1.3 Berneslai Homes' Annual Report 2014-15 (Item 5b - attached) provides an overview of their services and results from their customer satisfaction survey including:

- letting homes
- supporting tenants
- repairing and investing in homes
- keeping neighbourhoods safe and clean
- delivering excellent customer services

1.4 The key performance indicators from Berneslai Homes' corporate performance report are provided in Item 5c (attached) which details their comparative overall performance figures since 2012-13 as well as a quarterly breakdown of figures during 2014-15.

2.0 Challenges

2.1 Berneslai Homes continue to operate in an economic environment which is both challenging to them as an organisation as well as for individual tenants. Changes to Government policy are also likely to have an impact on service delivery, some of which are listed below:

- **Universal Credit** – under this scheme, rents from benefits will no longer be paid directly to landlords and instead will go to individual claimants. Currently only 33 Berneslai Homes’ tenants are in receipt of Universal Credit, however of these, 54% have arrears exceeding £300 and in total £17,563 is owed by them. The full roll out of Universal Credit will mean approximately 65% of Berneslai Homes’ tenants will receive direct payments, therefore they will have to collect £30m of rent which was previously paid directly.
- **Rent reduction** – due to changes in the government’s rent setting formula and therefore reduction in rent income, over the next 5 years Berneslai Homes will be required to save £12m which will require them to remodel and in some cases, reduce services.
- **Market rents** – from April 2017 those households earning more than £30,000 will be charged market rents and the additional income will be returned to the government to fund Housing Association ‘Right to Buy’ schemes.
- **Sale of properties** – from 2016/17 local authorities will have to sell high value properties which become available (voids) and make a payment back to the government in order to fund Housing Association ‘Right to Buy’ schemes. This will reduce housing stock in Barnsley, in addition to tenants in Barnsley who purchase their Council properties.

3.0 Today’s Meeting

- 3.1 At today’s meeting, a number of representatives have been invited to the meeting to answer questions from the OSC regarding Berneslai Homes’ work, the challenges they are facing and plans they have in place.
- 3.2 As a result of a ‘Councillor Call for Action’ at the OSC in October 2015 regarding queries with District Heating in properties managed by Berneslai Homes, a verbal update will be provided on the work that has taken place since.

4.0 Invited Experts

- 4.1 The following experts have been invited to today’s meeting:
- Helen Jaggard, Chief Executive, BH
 - Alison Rusdale, Director of Corporate Services, BH
 - Steve Davies, Director of Assets, Regeneration and Construction, BH
 - John Townend, Chair of Barnsley Federation of TARAs
 - Joan Whittaker, Secretary of the Barnsley Federation of TARAs
 - Richard Burnham, Head of Housing and Energy, BMBC
 - Councillor Roy Miller, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place, BMBC

5.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

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

- How effective and efficient is the integrated working between the Council and Berneslai Homes at both a strategic and operational level?
- How effective are performance management arrangements to ensure high quality service delivery and tenant satisfaction?
- How effective are arrangements to ensure tenant and resident involvement in the design, monitoring and improvement of Berneslai Homes' services?
- What plans are in place to replenish housing stock including properties suitable for older and vulnerable tenants?
- What is in place to ensure effective management of estates, including dealing with incidents of anti-social behaviour?
- How effective are Berneslai Homes' relationships with other key stakeholders in the Borough such as South Yorkshire Police, NHS bodies and voluntary sector organisations in order to assist the Council in achieving its priorities?
- What are the key priorities and plans for Berneslai Homes over the next 5 years?
- What actions could be taken by Members to assist in the work of Berneslai Homes?

6.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- Berneslai Homes 2014/15 Annual Report:
<http://www.berneslaihomes.co.uk/media/Publication/Annual%20Report/Annual%20Report%20201415.pdf>
- Berneslai Homes 2014/15 Annual Report Film:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVVcSAbfTUo>
- Berneslai Homes Quarterly Performance Report: 2014/15 Year End:
<http://www.berneslaihomes.co.uk/media/Our%20performance/Quarterly%20performance%20reports/Quarter%204%202014-15.pdf>
- Berneslai Homes Services Agreement: Automatic Contract Renewal 2016 (Cab.4.11.2015/8):
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s5113/Berneslai%20Homes%20Automatic%20Contract%20Renewal.pdf>

7.0 Glossary

ALMO – Arms Length Management Organisation
 BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
 BH – Berneslai Homes
 TARA – Tenants and Residents Association

8.0 Report Author and Officer Contact

Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer (01226 775794)

1st February 2016

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“ Let’s show you how we supported our tenants, looked after your homes and neighbourhoods and how we spent your money. ”

ANNUAL REPORT

2014/15



In association with





Welcome from our Chief Executive

Welcome to our Annual Report 2014/15, "A Picture of Berneslai Homes". This year we've kept it fresh and done something different to explain:

- how we performed last year;
- how we spent your rent and service charges; and
- our plans for this year.

We've worked with a community artist, our staff, board members and customers who together have created a picture of Berneslai Homes in 2014/15. And I'm proud to present that picture here in the DVD film and the magazine. You choose - watch it, read it or do both!

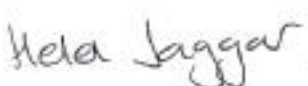
I'm proud that even in these difficult financial times, we're improving homes to a high standard, building new social housing, buying properties and investing in energy efficient heating systems.

I'm proud of the way we're adapting our services to support tenants to improve their quality of life and protect the future of services by getting the rent money in.

I'm proud of our staff who work hard and go the extra mile putting something back into the community.

I'm proud of the involved customers who tell it like it is and hold us to account.

But most of all I'm proud of you and the difference you make by turning our properties into your homes and making Barnsley a better place.



Helen Jaggar

Are you a #proudentenant?

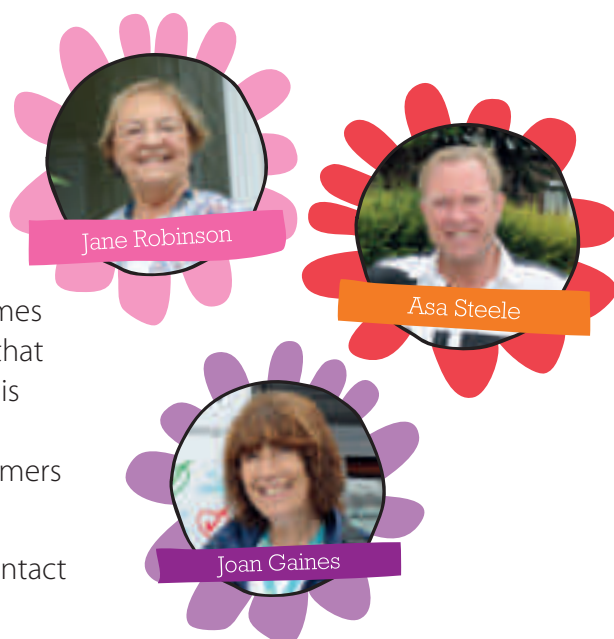
Over the summer we ran our 'Proud to be a Tenant' campaign and we got a fantastic response from some very proud tenants!

Visit www.berneslaihomes.co.uk and watch a summary of the campaign. Or if you want a printed version give us a call on **01226 774376**.

Meet our Tenant Board Members...

We are tenant board members with an equal role on Berneslai Homes board, but as tenants we have a particular interest in making sure that the tenant voice really does influence the decisions we make. In this annual report we'd like to explain from a tenant point of view how Berneslai Homes performed last year. Also some officers and customers will share their plans for the coming year.

If you want to know more about being a tenant board member contact board@berneslaihomes.co.uk or phone **01226 774263**.





Letting the homes

Jane Robinson says...



By managing the waiting list well, working closely with housing association partners, buying properties on the open market, continuing the new build programme and promoting mutual exchanges, Berneslai Homes continued to have a healthy balance between the supply of available homes and the demand for them from their waiting list. And as a tenant, I'm really pleased with how quickly they let them, which kept rent loss to a minimum and meant they were available quickly for new tenants to move in to.



Relet **1578** homes in an average **23.6** days

Every day a property is empty it costs us **£12** in lost rent!



Bob Cartwright our Lettings Manager on the priorities for improving the lettings service...



We're improving our online lettings services and are encouraging more customers to use them.

We want to increase the number of mutual exchanges by better marketing and matching services, and we're continuing to market the short wait homes we have available.



Register for a mutual exchange at www.houseexchange.co.uk, or phone us on **01226 775454** to find out more.



Supporting tenants



Joan Gaines says...



As tenants last year we probably all had to work harder to make our money go further and deal with the many changes to the welfare system. Because of this Berneslai Homes were fully expecting to collect less rent and service charges. This would have been bad news for all of us, as they would have had less to spend on services such as repairs and improvements. So they invested £100,000 into the rent service to make sure they got the balance between enforcement and support right.



For every **£1** spent supporting tenants we gained **£2.10** in benefits through the Tenant Support Service and **£4.40** through the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Lloyd Hamilton and Louise Leather, our Rent Officers tell us about the priorities for this year...



It's going to get tougher as Universal Credit is rolled out along with other changes to benefit processes. The bigger rent and tenant support team will help us work closely with those affected by the changes to make sure that our support prevents eviction. And we're encouraging as many tenants as possible to get online as it's the only way they can claim benefits.





Supporting independence

Asa Steele explains...



Berneslai Homes has a good supply of accessible homes with communal facilities and services. Last year they no longer offered one to one support with daily living but they still made sure that the communal areas were welcoming and that there were lots of social activities going on. They even held a recipe competition to celebrate National Older People's Day. Berneslai Homes wanted to find out what tenants thought of the service and so they held a card game style conversation with tenants. Even though tenants told them that they were mostly happy with the homes, facilities and services, by September Berneslai Homes will still have an action plan to improve things for each scheme.



£300,000
 spent remodelling
 3 schemes at
 Pendon House, Penistone
 Shipcroft, Wombwell
 Heather Court,
 Bolton upon Dearne.

Wi-Fi &
 internet kiosks
 in
26 schemes

2000
 homes with
 communal
 facilities

21 staff
 arranged over
700
 social activities

Supported
13
 volunteer managed
 community centre

Jill Barker, Community Buildings Manager shares the priorities for the year ahead...



We're completing improvements to communal areas at Hillcrest in Hoyland Common, Church Street Close in Thurnscoe and Woodhall Flats in Darfield and we've just finished improvements at the New Lodge Community Centre.

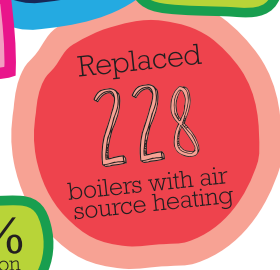


Repairing and investing in homes

Jane Robinson says...



We tell Berneslai Homes that our top priority services are repairs and maintenance, and investing in the quality of our homes. Last year Berneslai Homes continued to meet those priorities with 85% of us being happy with the quality of our home and 83% of repairs being completed right first time which mean they turn up on time and do the repair to our satisfaction.



Ken Tann, Asset Manager & Rachel Hutchinson, Senior Capital Projects Officer highlight the priorities for the year ahead...



We're improving 812 homes under the Barnsley Homes programme, continuing our new build programme which will see 41 homes completed and up to 50 more started, buying more properties on the open market and importantly for our tenants continuing with green initiatives.

After listening to tenants we're developing a new investment plan.



Keeping neighbourhoods safe and clean

Asa Steele explains...



We've got some fantastic estates in Barnsley which 89% of tenants are happy with as a place to live. This isn't just down to Berneslai Homes investment and good management – it's because most of us take pride in our homes, gardens and environment.

After investing an extra £100,000 in the grounds maintenance service, Berneslai Homes were pleased that satisfaction with the service had risen to 85%.

And Berneslai Homes continued to listen to tenants at a local level working closely with Tenants and Resident Associations and the "Your Community Your Say" groups to plan how to spend the local estate improvement budgets.

Their family intervention service continued to help over 200 families with multiple and complex needs turn things around and I'm really pleased that funding of £225,000 for this vital service has been secured.



£300,000
estate improvements in Aldham

£320,000
local estate budgets on lots of different projects

Dealt with
60
reports of graffiti in 5 days

Cleared
163
incidents of fly tipping in an average 4 days

168
estate walkabouts

Resolved
336
reports of ASB

Tony Griffiths, Housing Management Group Manager, on our priorities for neighbourhoods...



Tenants tell us that the biggest problem on their estates is litter. Clearly the solution to this isn't that we spend more cleaning it up - we all have a responsibility to clean up after ourselves. So over the coming year we'll be working with local communities to try to reduce the litter problem. We'll be engaging more with younger people on our estates to understand more about their needs and we'll be having more local conversations, particularly in areas where satisfaction is lower.



Took action to deal with **1185** low standard gardens

Local Conversations in Kendray and Worsbrough



Delivering excellent customer services

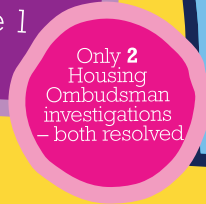
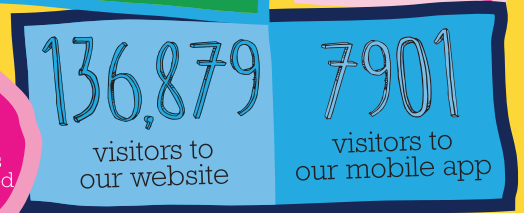
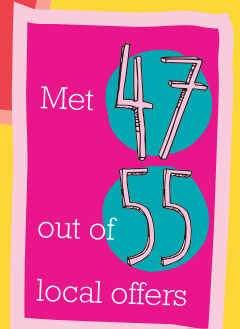


Asa Steele reflects on how we delivered great customer services last year...



We continued to be really happy with the service Berneslai Homes provided last year. With 50% of tenants now telling Berneslai Homes that they are online, last year more of us used their online services. Customer testing of the telephone and face to face service was positive and it was great that so many tenants took the time to say well done to our landlord.

Not many of us complained over the year but Berneslai Homes still learned from complaints and made 8 changes to their service. So if you have a complaint, no matter how small let Berneslai Homes know – they will respond quickly and honestly.



Sarah Barnes, Customer Services and Engagement Manager on how we are improving customer services...



This year we're investing £15,000 in a new Berneslai Homes website which should be ready in February 2016. Because we're designing it with a group of tenants and residents we know it will be much easier to use and will mean customers can do a range of simple transactions online at a time that suits them. And we are investing £100,000 in mobile technology for our Housing Management Officers so they can spend more time on your estates.





Tenants at the heart of the service

Joan Gaines says...

Around
4000
volunteers giving
3500
hours



From tenants and residents associations, to working groups, to Challenge Berneslai tenant scrutiny, or listening to what tenants told them in surveys, our landlord continued to work closely with us in lots of different ways. They also had conversations with younger tenants to find out why they were less satisfied with the service.

Berneslai Homes was one of the few landlords in the country to have received full marks in the recent accreditation of their resident involvement service by Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) an independent organisation championing the tenant voice.

And the independent tenant scrutiny by Barnsley Federation of Tenants and Residents kept Berneslai Homes on their toes and improved services for tenants.



June Walker and Brian Whitaker, two involved customers say...



We are residents with an interest in making sure our landlord delivers for us. Last year we worked closely with them to see how we can make the new tenant experience better. We got lots of new members on scrutiny and over the next year will continue to challenge our landlord. So come and join us or let us know if there is an area of Berneslai Homes service you want us to look at.





Join us at the Federation
 Email: barnsleytaras@gmail.com
 Phone: 01226 240110
 Website: www.barnsleytaras.org.uk

Giving something back



Jane Robinson says about the people who work for Berneslai Homes and their partners...



Berneslai Homes is a big employer in Barnsley and last year they continued to look after the health and wellbeing of their staff. They supported the development of the wider community through different training and community initiatives – paying a particular focus on getting people online.

The staff have a charitable heart and took part in lots of different fundraising activities to raise a whopping £11,000 for charity.



We employ

494	BERNESLAI HOMES
126	KIER

We supported
724
people to get online

26
community volunteers supported to deliver training

We develop
CRAFT & OFFICE
apprenticeships



SOUTH YORKSHIRE CREDIT UNION LTD
SAVINGS & LOANS CO-OPERATIVE

Hannah Bailey, our Digital Inclusion Co-ordinator...



A priority for next year is to work with South Yorkshire Credit Union to help tenants reduce the cost of getting online. Being online opens up so many opportunities and saves most people money in the long run.



If you want to get online, we can help. Contact Hannah on **01226 772789** or email: digitalinclusion@berneslaihomes.co.uk



The financial stuff

Joan Gaines says...



As a tenant board member it's my responsibility to make sure that Berneslai Homes does the right thing, in the right way and for the right price. Your £71 million rent and service charge payments are paid into a pot of money called the Housing Revenue Account. The council pay Berneslai Homes around £12 million each year to manage the service and to allocate the money you pay in rent and service charges to do repairs and improvements, manage the estates and to pay interest on the loans and borrowing which fund the improvement schemes we run.



The chart below shows how each £1 of income to the Housing Revenue Account in 2014/15 was spent.

Where each £1 came from	How each £1 was spent
96p rent	24p management of our service
4p service charges and other income	27p day to day repairs
	31p major repairs
	18p interest on loans and borrowing



Last year, on behalf of the council, we also spent £25.8 million on the following:

£13.4 MILLION on 1082 improvements Barnsley Homes Standard schemes.

£5.7 MILLION completing 9 new homes, starting 41 and buying 51 more on the open market.

£1.8 MILLION on major adaptations.

£4.9 MILLION on other capital investment.



myRent

You can now check your rent account balance, see your payment history and make a payment online, thanks to a new service called **myRent**.

These online improvements help you manage your rent account securely, making it quick and easy to keep rent payments up to date.

To use **myRent** visit www.berneslaihomes.co.uk and click on the 'Do it online' section.

Get **£50** off a top notch internet device for your home!

We know how important it is to have a good quality device to access the internet. This is why we are working in partnership with South Yorkshire Credit Union to give your household **£50 off** a pre-selected range of high quality devices from top brands including Apple and Samsung.

To find out more, contact Hannah on **01226 772789** or email: digitalinclusion@berneslaihomes.co.uk



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SAVINGS & LOANS CO-OPERATIVE



Win a Kindle Fire

You could be in with a chance if you enter our free prize draw. Just watch or read our Annual Report, go online, fill in a short survey to tell us your views.

To take the survey - scan the code opposite with your smartphone.

Or visit: <http://consult.barnsley.gov.uk/portal/berneslaihomes/annualreport15>



Berneslai Homes Limited is a company controlled by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.
A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, number 4548803.
Registered Office: Gateway Plaza, off Sackville Street, Barnsley S70 2DJ.

www.berneslaihomes.co.uk
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**BERNESLAI
HOMES**

Item 5c

Berneslai Homes Key Performance Indicators

Ref.	Description	11/12	12/13	13/14	Target 14/15	14/15 Q1	14/15 Q2	14/15 Q3	14/15 Q4
BH1	The percentage of all tenants satisfied with the overall service provided	90%	91%	90%	90%	91%		91%	
BH2	The percentage of tenants that are satisfied that their views are taken into account?	74%	77%	74%	74%	71%		71%	
BH3	Number of complaints received (cumulative)	191	140	131	220	34	61	100	130
BH4	Number of compliments received (cumulative)	733	1050	771	675	199	477	705	944
BH5	The percentage of tenants satisfied with the repairs and maintenance service	86%	88%	89%	86%	88%		88%	
BH6	The proportion of local authority dwellings which are non-decent dwellings at the start of the financial year	11.1%	8.86%	6.28%	6%	6.28%			4.29%
BH7	Urgent repairs time PRIP KPI 7	98.96%	98.74%	99.89%	98.3%	99.75%	99.75%	99.77%	99.80%
BH8	Average time for non-urgent repairs PRIP KPI 8 (days)	9.32	9.22	9.29	9	9.26	9.73	9.58	9.46
BH9	Percentage of planned repairs funded from Revenue Expenditure	43.89%	44.01%	45.72%	40%	47.12%			
BH10	Percentage of responsive repairs for which the LA made and kept an appointment PRIP KPI 14	99.34%	99.59%	99.14%	99.08%	99.16%	99.27%	99.24%	99.19%
BH11	Average time to re-let local authority housing (calendar days)	26.10	22.48	21.43	23.5	22.42	22.9	22.78	23.61
BH12	Rent collected by the local authority as a proportion of rents owed on HRA dwellings	98.93%	99.05%	99.00%	96%	97.34%	98.13%	98.78%	98.58%
BHC1	% of staff defining under the DDA definition of disability	4.20%	3.79%	5%	5%	4.76%	5.42%	5.24%	6%
BHC2	% of BME staff in total workforce	0.46%	0.2%	2.2%	1.0%	1.98%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
BHC3	Number of working days lost per FTE (year-end forecast) whole company	10.24	9.67	9.73	9.5	10.06	9.9	10.44	9.98
BHC4	Number of working days lost per FTE (Year-end forecast) excluding craft employees	8.73	9.64	10.18	8.5	11.23	11.18	11.05	10.26

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Item 6a

Report of the Director of Human Resources,
Performance & Communications,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on Tuesday 9th February 2016

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's (BMBC) Draft Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2014-15 – Cover Report

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The attached report 'Item 6b' is an annual update of the work of the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP). The role of the CPP is to ensure that BMBC, through its elected members, officers, carers and partner agencies fulfils its corporate parenting role. This means providing commitment and leadership to 'being there' for children in care and care leavers as well as monitoring performance in terms of improving outcomes.
- 1.2 ALL Elected Members have a responsibility as Corporate Parents to ensure that all children at the edge of care, in care or who have left care are given opportunity to reach the best possible outcome they can. They should act as 'pushy parents', with the litmus test being "Would this be good enough for my child or me if I was a child?"
- 1.3 As a result of Corporate Parenting responsibilities, it was agreed at the OSC meeting on 10th February 2015 that the CPP Annual Report should be brought to the OSC on an annual basis, enabling challenge to be provided by Members who are not directly involved with the CPP.
- 1.4 National data shows that children who are in care are one of the lowest performing groups in terms of educational outcomes. They also have poorer employment prospects and health outcomes than the general population. Research indicates that there are a number of factors which need to be considered to maximise positive outcomes for children in care, some of which include placement stability, interventions being tailored to the characteristics and experiences of the individual and the need for professionals to have a good understanding of children's social, emotional, mental health and educational needs.
- 1.5 It is therefore essential that the quality of services for our children and young people at the edge of care, in care or who have left care, are monitored and challenged. The attached Draft Annual Report outlines the work of the CPP during 2014-15 (Item 6b) including:
 - The responsibilities and statutory duties of the Council to protect children
 - The role and responsibilities of Councillors as Corporate Parents
 - Progress and areas covered by the CPP during 2014-15

- Governance arrangements
- Children in Care Council
- Priorities for the CPP during 2015-16
- Performance information

2.0 Invited witnesses

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

- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Head of Virtual School for Looked After Children, BMBC
- Sharon Galvin, Designated Nurse-Safeguarding Children, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding)
- Cllr Ralph Sixsmith, Dearne South Ward
- Wayne Jones, Barnsley Foster Carer
- Ann Murphy, Barnsley Foster Carer
- Paul Johnson, Barnsley Foster Carer
- Natalie Chappell, Barnsley Foster Carer

3.0 Possible areas for discussion

3.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What impact has the CPP had on the outcomes for our children in care? How is this evidenced?
- To what extent is the voice of our children in care reflected in the design and improvement of services?
- Are all key stakeholders represented on the board and engaged in its work?
- What is done to ensure that Barnsley children in care placed out of the area receive high quality services?
- What plans are in place to improve the educational attainment of our children in care?
- How are the views of carers incorporated into the work of the CPP to help improve services?
- How confident are you that the right decisions are being made to safeguard children at the right time?
- How can Members not involved directly in the meetings support the work of the CPP and our children in care?

4.0 Background Papers and Links

- Copy 6b (attached) – Draft Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2014-15
- DfE Report: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464756/SFR34_2015_Text.pdf
- Study into the educational progress of children in care (2015):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/children-in-care-can-achieve-and-succeed>

5.0 Glossary

BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CPP – Corporate Parenting Panel
DfE – Department for Education
Ofsted – Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
OSC – Overview and Scrutiny Committee
SSC – Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee

6.0 Officer Contact

Anna Morley, Scrutiny Officer (Tel: 01226 775794)
Email: annamorley@barnsley.gov.uk
1st February 2016

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Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel DRAFT Annual Report 2014-2015

1.0 Context

1.1 This report sets out an annual update on the corporate parenting arrangement in Barnsley, particularly progress and outcomes of the panel during 2014-15. It advises members on key legislation and guidance, local performance and service improvement, as well as progress made by the Corporate Parenting Panel. The report aims to strengthen the role and responsibilities of the Council as corporate parent, in improving outcomes for children and young people.

2.0 Proposals and Reasons: Corporate Parenting – Our Responsibilities Legal Framework

2.1 The Children Act 1989 and the Leaving Care Act 2000 place clear statutory duties upon the Council to protect children from suffering significant harm and to provide continued financial and transition support to care leavers aged up to 21 (or 25 if in full time education). Underpinning corporate parenting is a wide range of national policies, guidance, regulations and legislation, which are subject to change by High Court rulings, such as the Southwark ruling in 2009.

2.2 The Munro review has significantly impacted on the work we do with children and young people looked after. The Final Report of the Munro Review of Child Protection Services published in May 2011 includes Professor Munro's 15 recommendations which have significant implications for the way that child protection services will be run at a local level. In relation to children looked after, key reforms to be taken forward include building the capacity of social workers and strengthening their professional practice; a reduction in the amount of central prescription; increased evaluation of the effectiveness of the help provided to children and families; and greater recognition that safeguarding is a multi-agency responsibility.

2.3 The revised care planning regulations and guidance, including The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers and the Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children March 2010, place increased emphasis on effective care planning with a focus on the child, and are designed to improve the quality and consistency of care planning, placement and case review for looked after children. They also aim to improve the care and support provided to care leavers.

2.4 The UK Government made significant reforms to the youth remand framework with the implementation of the LASPO (Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders) Act in December 2012. The Act implicitly attributes further responsibility to Local Authorities by means of children and young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation, being treated as

children looked after and being eligible for leaving care services if they are looked after beyond 13 weeks.

3.0 Corporate Parenting – The Role and Responsibility of Councillors

3.1 Effective corporate parenting requires knowledge and awareness of the needs of children and young people looked after and the services they receive. This is a shared responsibility by the Council as a whole. The role of the corporate parent is therefore:

- a) To receive and consider accurate and timely management information reports on the numbers, characteristics and needs of looked after children and care leavers.
- b) To receive and consider reports demonstrating how effectively Barnsley is serving its looked after population through the provision of services and targeted initiatives.
- c) To receive briefings on new national and local initiatives designed to improve children and young people's life chances.
- d) To gain knowledge of services based on direct involvement and opportunities to meet and gain the views of stakeholders, especially listening to the views of children and young people looked after and members of the Care 4 Us Council.
- e) To monitor and review progress on the delivery of the Corporate Parenting 'Promise' to children looked after and care leavers.
- f) To ensure that decisive action is taken to address any shortcomings in the services provided to children and young people.

4.0 Corporate Parenting in Barnsley

4.1 Children in Care are those children and young people aged 0 -18 years who cannot safely remain with their family and are cared for by the local authority. The local authority has continuing legal and financial responsibilities to many of these children until they are 21 (or 25 if in full time education). This includes all unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and children with multiple disabilities. Children in Care and Care Leavers are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.

4.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel is responsible for children in care, children at the edge of care and children and young people who have left care.

5.0 Corporate Parenting Panel Overview

5.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is chaired by the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding).

5.2 The Panel meet every 2-3 months and there continues to be good attendance at meetings by the full range of members.

6.0 Corporate Parenting Progress During 2014-15

6.1 At each of its meetings the Corporate Parenting Panel receives the following standard reports:

- Looked after Children Performance Report; a bespoke performance report which captures data, provides a commentary and performance rating against all key performance indicators of relevance to children in care. Panel members receive a cover report which highlights the areas of concern and invites and encourages member challenge.
- A Children in Care Status Report; a report which sets out numbers, locations and types of placements of Barnsley's children to support members in asking questions about trends and the implications for children's wellbeing.

6.2 Other standard agenda items, include:

- Minutes of the Education of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Health of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Care 4 Us Council

6.3 During the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, the Panel has requested and considered the following thematic reports for discussion and challenge:

- Report on the Advocacy and Participation Service; February 2015
- Report on the Health of Children in Care; February 2015
- Report on Apprenticeship Opportunities (Children in Care); March 2015
- The Corporate Parenting Panel – The Councillor's Role in Addressing CSE; March 2015

6.4 As part of its work programme, during 2014/15, the Panel also considered the following matters:

- Outcomes of the Ofsted inspection (2014) including those relating to services for children in care and care leavers and the greater alignment of the Panel's Work Programme with the relevant recommendations emerging from the inspection.
- Provisions of the Children and Families Act (2014) and the new regulations and statutory guidance concerning the introduction of education and health care plans for children in care with special educational needs, including disabilities, introduced in Barnsley on 1st September 2014.
- Use of the Pupil Premium and how this could be used more effectively by schools to improve the progress and attainment of children in care.

- Outcomes of the Jay and Casey Reports into the extent of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham (1997-2013) and the reasons for the institutional failure to protect children and young people. Consideration of the measures being undertaken by Council services in Barnsley, following publication of these reports and the role of each individual elected member in promoting child protection, including children in care, care leavers and those missing from care.
- Improving capacity and the quality of adoptive placements, through a revised Council policy and scheme for the recruitment, training and retention of local authority foster carers, together with consideration of other developments in national fostering and adoption reform.
- The priorities of the Barnsley Placement and Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers (2014-17) emerging risks and the remedial action being taken to restore progress against these priorities.
- National Corporate Parenting Week (w/c 27th October 2014) and National 'Takeover Challenge' (November 2014) – steps to raise the profile of children in care in Barnsley and improve their experience.
- The Barnsley Virtual School for Children and Young People Development Plan (2013/14) together with a self evaluation report from Barnsley 'Future Directions' on the level of care leavers not in employment, education or training in the Borough, on the steps being taken to improve the attainment and employability of young people in or leaving care and enabling improved access to apprenticeships.
- Barnsley Children's Rights Report (2014) and the quality and extent to which children and young people in the Borough, particularly those in care or leaving care were engaged and their voice heard on issues of most importance to them, together with the improvement to outcomes arising through advocacy, representation and active citizenship.
- Development of the terms of reference and membership of the Barnsley Children in Care Education Improvement Steering Group and Virtual School Governing Body.
- Lessons to be learned and best practice that can be applied from commissioned research into the plight of children and young people missing from care. A presentation to the Panel from Safe@Last on the support providing to such young people in Barnsley.
- Members of the Panel continued to undertake Regulation 33 visits to children's homes in the Borough as part of ensuring the wellbeing of children in care. In addition, the National Children's Bureau's document 'Putting Corporate Parenting Into Practice' was provided to each Member of the Panel as part of maintaining the added value contributed.

6.5 The Corporate Parenting Panel has links with the following groups:

Children in Care Health Improvement Group – the Chair sits on the Corporate Parenting Panel and formally reports back each meeting.

It was agreed to further strengthen this by having one of the Corporate Parenting Panel Councillors also sitting on the group. Minutes of meetings of this group are considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Care 4 Us Children's Council - the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding) and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel sits on this group, in addition to the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential). This is to ensure that links between the two bodies remain strong and to get direct customer feedback on whether children and young people feel cared for and safe, as well as to be able to deal with any other issues raised by Care 4 Us.

- 6.6 Any areas of concern may be referred to Cabinet which may refer for Scrutiny Committee consideration.
- 6.7 Corporate Parenting Panel members have been encouraged to attend and receive training in understanding and making use of performance reports to support member challenge.
- 6.8 During 2014/15, the National Children's Bureau was commissioned to provide all member training on the role, responsibilities and expectations of corporate parents. Members of the corporate parenting panel have agreed that their role is to act as 'pushy parents' for children in care on the edge of care and care leavers. The litmus test being "Would this be good enough for my child or me if I was a child?"
- 6.9 As part of the Continuous Service Improvement Plan the structure of Corporate Parenting Panel meetings has been changed, from day time to early evening meetings, specifically to enable children and young people in care to attend, as well as foster carer representatives.
- 6.10 One of the key outcomes arising from the performance reports and from the Ofsted report, is that the Panel will challenge the quality of Personal Education Plans (PEPs). An Education Improvement Steering Group *and* a Virtual School Governance Group have been set up, attended by Officers, members of Corporate Parenting Panel and partners. The groups are chaired by the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential).
- 6.11 Corporate Parenting Panel challenged the service around health and dental assessments as well as the completion of Personal Education Plans (PEPs). These have all now made a significant improvement. *See Section 12 for Performance and Progress.*
- 6.12 The Corporate Parenting Panel attend key participation events such as the annual event to celebrate the achievements of children in care and care leavers.

7.0 Governance Arrangements

- 7.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is established within the Council's Constitution and, during 2014/15 had a similar challenge, advisory and oversight role to the Member Safeguarding Children Panel (*this Panel was dissolved as part of the creation of the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee, in May 2015*).
- 7.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel has specific Terms of Reference which emphasise the above responsibilities and its overarching responsibility to ensure that the Council, through elected members, officers and partner agencies, fulfils its corporate parenting role. The Panel commenced a review of its Terms of Reference during 2014/15.
- 7.3 Although the Corporate Parenting Panel does not possess Executive powers, the Panel is able to refer matters to the Council's Cabinet to consider any actions which the Panel recommends. Equally, the Area Councils in the Borough are able to refer matters to the Panel for its attention.
- 7.4 During 2014/15, the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (now the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee) may, in turn, receive any of those issues which are referred to Cabinet and which the Cabinet feels would benefit from an in depth investigation in open session. It is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Panel's annual report is considered by both the Cabinet and the full Council meeting.

8.0 Children in Care Council

- 8.1 The Children in Care Council (Care4Us) directly supports the Corporate Parenting Panel to measure and monitor the effectiveness and quality of 'Corporate Parenting' to children and young people; according to the views and experiences of the children who are in care. The Panel remains fully committed to listening to the voice of service users and the active involvement of children and young people within the decision-making processes.
- 8.2 A key recommendation of the 2014 Ofsted inspection of services for looked after children, is to widen the Children in Care Council to include the voice of younger children and more children in care as well as the existing care leavers, as part of the creation of a 'Little Care4Us' Council and the development of stronger links between the Care4Us Council and the Panel, during 2015/16.

9.0 Continuous Service Improvement Framework

- 9.1 A Continuous Service Improvement Plan remained in place following the Ofsted inspection in June 2014 which judged Barnsley as 'requires improvement'. The plan consists of the work which is being monitored as part of the continuous service improvement journey and is mapped against the Ofsted recommendations and local improvements. The plan is overseen by the Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) who monitors the actions which indicate whether sufficient progress is being made, i.e. the right amount of progress in the right direction at the right pace.

9.2 All of the areas for improvement from the Ofsted inspection have been addressed within the Continuous Service Improvement Plan.

10.0 Priorities for the Corporate Parenting Panel for 2015- 2016

10.1 Driving forward improved educational progress and attainment for children in care.

10.2 Challenging any school exclusion or lack of full time and suitable provision for children in care.

10.3 Improving young people's participation in all aspects of their care and decision making and in all planning for services for children in care.

10.4 Improving Care Leavers engagement in education, employment and training, including apprenticeships.

11.0 Performance

11.1 Performance information and data concerning the number of children in care in the Borough, together with services' performance in improving outcomes, including education and health, is set out in detail on Pages 8-12.

12.0 Conclusion

12.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is where the responsibility and accountability for the wellbeing and future prospects for Barnsley children in care ultimately rests.

12.2 A good corporate parent must offer everything that a good parent would, including stability. It must address both the difficulties which children who are looked after experience and the challenges of parenting within a complex system of different services.

12.3 The 2014 Ofsted report outlined a number of different areas where the Corporate Parenting Panel needs to challenge and support the development of services to ensure that Barnsley's children in care have good outcomes.

12.4 Improvements have been made, as evidenced within the Service Improvement Plan. The challenge is for everyone to raise their aspirations for the children of Barnsley and to remain a 'PUSHY PARENT' to ensure that all children at the edge of care, in care or who have left care are given opportunity to reach the best possible outcomes they can.

Councillor Margaret Bruff

Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel (2014/15)

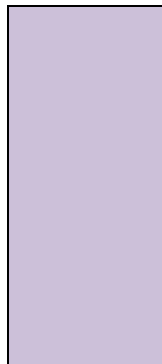
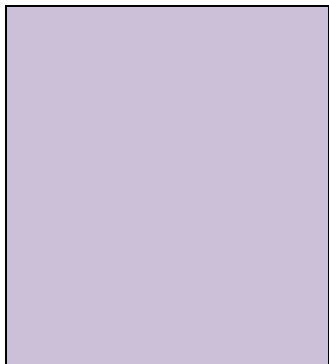
13. Performance Information - Looked after Children (LAC) data for the period 1 April 2014-31 March 2015

	2014	2015	Commentary
Numbers of LAC	228	244	The numbers of LAC at the end of March 2015, increased to 244. More children were admitted to care in the second half of the year (82), compared with the first half (50). This increase was not unexpected due to the corresponding rise in referrals, assessments and Child Protection (CP) Plans. Barnsley's rate of looked after children is still well below the average for its statistical neighbours and numbers have been scrutinised. An exceptional meeting was convened in March 2015 to examine the low numbers of LAC, which resulted in a shared understanding between Children's Social Care (CSC) and Legal. Barnsley has stable communities and family units who are willing to care for children within the extended family network. We have established an Intensive Adolescent Team to help prevent young homelessness. Legacy children have been adopted and we continue to successfully promote Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs). There is an ongoing action to ensure that the right decisions are made to safeguard children at the right time. Plans are in place to closely monitor CP Plans and CP Plans for the 2nd time to ensure that there is no drift in timely decision making. Public law case tracking & LAC figures are monitored at the weekly performance meetings.
LAC Health Assessments	93.8%	96.8%	Our performance on LAC health assessments improved on the previous year. Health Assessments are being held and recorded in accordance with statutory guidance. There is an ongoing action to maintain progress to health assessments, with any decline escalated to the Service Improvement Plan Officers Group and subject to interrogation by key managers.
LAC Dental Checks	84.4%	97.8%	Considerable effort has been made to address the data inputting problems at child level that resulted in reporting inaccuracies in dental checks in the past. Performance shows significant improvement from the previous year, clearly evidencing that real progress has been made.
LAC Education	2014	2015	
Completed PEPs	96.0%	99.3%	The percentage of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) completed was back on track at 99% in March 2015. Previous reported figures were affected by technical issues around recording the PEP within the Care Plan. Training sessions and support were led by the dedicated Virtual Head Teacher, who is also responsible for monitoring performance on a monthly basis. The Education Steering Group was established, chaired by a lead member, to drive forward the

			improvements required in relation to educational progress of our children and young people. This group tracks and challenges PEP progress, quality and performance. This is included in the Service Improvement Plan and overseen by the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board.
Exam results (LAC)	2013/14	2014/15	
KS2 Reading, Writing, Maths – Level 4+	-	30%	For 2014/15 there were 10 children in the LAC cohort eligible to take KS2 (Key Stage) in reading, writing and maths. This means that each pupil in this cohort is worth 10%. Attainment in 2014/15 is below the 2014 national average for Children in Care and outcomes show a drop from the previous year. 78% of the progress cohort made at least expected progress in writing and maths, in line with 2014 LAC national averages. 50% made at least expected progress in reading, dropping below the LAC national average for the first time in recent years.
KS4 GCSE 5 A*-Cs including English and Maths	0%	11.1%	For 2014/15 there were 9 eligible children in the LAC cohort. Given the small cohort, attainment is in line the 2014 national average for LAC and outcomes show a rise from last year. However, the proportion making at least expected progress has dropped below the national average for LAC for the first time in recent years. 25% made expected progress in English with 12.5% doing so in maths.
	2014	2015	
Foster Carers	77	96	There are currently 96 active in-house foster carer households. Although 21 new households were recruited in 2014/15, unfortunately, 8 households left the service during the same period. Of these, 64 currently have placements, 7 have vacancies and 7 are on hold. The remainder are either connected persons households (family members assessed as foster carers for specific children) or 'staying put' carers, where the young people are over 18 but staying with their former foster carers. A more proactive recruitment strategy has been undertaken during 2014/15 with 15 assessments currently being undertaken and a number awaiting allocation. It is hoped that the number of available in-house foster carers will continue to rise as the recruitment and marketing strategy takes effect. However the loss of the Adoption Reform Grant will have an impact particularly with the loss of the recruitment and marketing officer and even if the strategy continues to be effective the increasing numbers of approved carers will put pressure on the fixed number of fostering support workers to support increasing numbers of carers.

Commissioned Placements	69	65	<p>We currently have 65 children in Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements (69 at last report) and 110 children placed in house (102 at last report) as at 31 March 2015. The increase in IFA placements reflects the increased demand for specific types of placement, particularly for older young people or to keep sibling groups together, which are not available in-house.</p> <p>There is a recruitment strategy in place to recruit more carers in-house for these specific groups but unfortunately there is a time lag of at least 4 months before carers are fully approved. These are not popular placements with carers so we do not get large numbers of potential carers coming forward.</p>
Adoption (% adopted during the year ending 31 March)	18%	32%	<p>Barnsley's adoption rate has gone up by 14% from the previous year, which is way above the regional (23%), statistical neighbours (23%) and national averages (17%) for performance. Our performance has been above the national average for several years. 2014 excluded, we have exceeded all our comparators in recent years and performed in the upper quartile (rank 3) nationally. In the last 12 months, 37 children have been adopted and there are a further 40 children placed with adopters but where the final order has not yet been made. By March 2015, 15 children had a placement order and the service is actively involved in family finding. We have approved 23 adopters in the last year and of these, 10 have already been matched with children. There are currently 14 adopters in the first stage of assessment and 5 are in the second stage. Given that we anticipate that there will be around 40 children requiring adopters each year, providing a sufficient number of adopters still remains a challenge. Placements which cannot be provided in house can be purchased from other authorities or voluntary adoption agencies at a cost of £27,000 per child.</p> <p>The ending of the Adoption Reform Grant could have a significant impact on the recent positive developments. Although there are plans to use the base budget to mitigate some of the impact, nevertheless, the capacity of the Adoption Team will be significantly reduced and there will be the loss of additional hours in both the Adoption and the Fostering teams.</p>
	2014	2015	
Care leavers in suitable accommodation	19-87.5% 20-100% 21-100%	19-100% 20-87% 21-100%	<p>We always aim to place 100% of care leavers in suitable accommodation. However, due to the nature of the client group we work with, this is not always achievable. Unfortunately this year, we have three 20-year olds in custody, and likely to remain there post 21. This will obviously impact on 2015/16 figures.</p>

Care leavers in employment, education and training (EET)	19-48% 20-70.6% 21-60%	19-59.0% 20-56.5% 21-76.5%	Overall, there was steady progress throughout the year, with care leavers accessing and maintaining positive EET provision. Corporate targets were met for all three age categories in 2014/15.
Children Missing From Care or Home Incidents	73	165	Figures for 2014/15 show a significant increase in the previous year, peaking in quarter 3 with 71 episodes relating to 14 children. However the recording of missing children and young people, together with the definition has changed during this period. Performance has continued to improve from that point onwards. It is important to remember that in the majority of cases where children are in our care and reported as missing, their whereabouts are actually known and we are often in frequent contact with them. The service director is alerted immediately about any missing Barnsley LAC and informed when they return. Ofsted commented positively about this in their report.
	2012	2013	
Youth Offending (Looked after Children)	9 <5%	6 <5%	Overall, the rate of offending by looked after children is positive in comparison with our statistical neighbours, though still well below the level we aspire to achieve. Internally, we have reconfigured and prioritised looked after children. We have a member of staff taking lead responsibility and the management team also receives regular updates on overall progress. Discussions have started with the Children in Care team about a more coordinated and integrated approach to supporting the needs of LAC. Through work with colleagues in other Youth Offending Teams, we are taking forward work to ensure consistency of approach across the region and sub-region. Through closer monitoring we are able to actively challenge decisions to charge for requests for formal cautions to be issued. We have been successful in advocating with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for charges against some young people to be dropped. The introduction of a diversion scheme in Barnsley will have further positive impact on this cohort of young people. The number of young people in care dealt with through the criminal justice system remained low during the year. Overall the actual figures are quite small, so the percentage is open to fluctuation through relatively small changes in behaviour. We work to support appropriate use of sanctions for young people and monitor the decisions made to prosecute them, and have successfully challenged some where appropriate. All the young people we work with have thorough assessments completed and these are used to inform a multiagency case planning process that meets their needs. Recently we have reviewed our work with young people in care. We have developed a lead



role within the Youth Offending Team (YOT), currently fulfilled by one of our social workers, to ensure better continuity of intervention, particularly where children live out of area and may have a number of placements. We are also working to develop our links with the Children in Care team and ensure that we work together on behalf of Barnsley to provide a consistent voice for those children placed out of area and to advocate with local services on their behalf. We are involved in the LAC reviews and contribute fully to them. Our specialist staff also support engagement in substance misuse, education or health provision. We retain strong expectations for all the young people looked after by Barnsley and are working to an objective where their likelihood of entering the Criminal Justice system or remaining within it is better than that of the young people we don't look after.

OFSTED Ratings for Children's Residential Establishments (no commentary available)

Spring Lane		May 2013 (1 st inspection)	Feb 2014	Mar 2015
		Outstanding	Good progress (Interim)	Improved effectiveness (Full)
Newsome Avenue	Oct 2012	Dec 2013	Mar 2014	Feb 2015
	Good	Good	Good progress (Interim)	Adequate (Interim)