

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 5 December 2017
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors W. Johnson (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, G. Carr, Charlesworth, Clarke, K. Dyson, Frost, Daniel Griffin, Hampson, Hand-Davis, Hayward, Lofts, Mitchell, Pourali and Tattersall together with co-opted members Ms P. Gould and Mr J. Winter and Ms K. Morritt

40 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

No apologies for absence were received in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

41 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillors G. Carr, Charlesworth and Tattersall each declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to minute 44 in so far as discussion related to their positions on the Corporate Parenting Panel.

42 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2017 were approved as a true and accurate record.

43 Suicide Prevention in Barnsley

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Julia Burrows, Director of Public Health, BMBC
Phil Ainsworth, Health and Wellbeing Officer, Public Health, BMBC
Rebecca Clarke, Public Health Principal, BMBC
Clare Foster, Public Health Specialty Registrar, BMBC
Councillor Jim Andrews, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health
Michael Potter, Service Director, Business Improvement and Communications

The item was introduced by Julia Burrows, Director of Public Health, BMBC. Suicide prevention is one of the indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework and falls under the strategic responsibility of the Director of Public Health. The first national suicide prevention strategy was published in 2012. Following this, Councils were given the responsibility for developing local suicide action plans through their work with Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs). Barnsley has been working on developing our suicide prevention work through the development of our multi-agency suicide prevention group, audit and local action plan. This work was presented to the

Barnsley Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2017 and has been recognised as an exemplar of good practice by Public Health England.

The Barnsley suicide audit gives an insight into the characteristics of people who took their own lives in Barnsley between 2010 and 2015, the circumstances of their suicide and the services they had been in contact with. It was highlighted that 85% of suicides in Barnsley between 2010 and 2015 were male. There are a number of risk factors associated with suicide, including debt, social isolation, unemployment, inadequate housing, family and relationship problems and drug and alcohol abuse, which are being addressed within the action plan.

Questions were asked in response to the report and introductory presentation, which included the following points:

- Members were concerned about a perceived lack of availability and access to mental health services within the wider community and particularly at weekends, which it was felt may contribute to the large number of suicides on Mondays. It was felt that this is a key issue and should be raised at the Mental Health workshop on 12th December;
- Negative effects of diminishing resources are mitigated through effective multi-agency partnership working. The suicide prevention group is multi-agency, meets every 6 weeks and is always well attended by partners;
- One third of those who committed suicide had contact with primary care in the month before their death (mainly for a mental health condition), indicating a need to raise awareness and promote self help and national campaigns more widely. A successful Suicide Prevention Day social media campaign #AlrightPal reached over 31,000 people with a view to reducing the stigma attached to mental health and suicide. Locally, work is underway with Barnsley Football Club to address the stigma issue.
- Members were reassured that the needs of children and young people are taken care of. Mindspace and Chilypep support and enhance the emotional wellbeing of children of secondary school age and TADS (based at the Core) provides tools and techniques to help them manage mental health issues such as anxiety, stress and depression. Primary school children are able to access the THRIVE programme. The availability of services in schools is currently being mapped to identify gaps and ensure all children can access help and support.
- There is a need to improve veterans' access to mental health support services, which will be achieved by creating more posts for therapists in NHS trusts.
- Although 52% of people who took their own lives were known to have relationship problems, there is no mechanism in place to offer help and support to every resident who experiences a relationship breakdown. However, work is underway with schools around healthy relationships and building resilience.
- Work with those bereaved by suicide is limited, although consultation with the Barnsley Mental Health Forum, a service user led group, did provide valuable feedback on the action plan. Work is underway across the Yorkshire and Humberside region to scope the potential to commission regional services for those bereaved by suicide. Members felt that more work should be done with

those who have been bereaved as a result of suicide to learn from their experiences.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Representatives be thanked for their attendance and contribution.
- (ii) The report be noted and the points raised in the discussion be fed into the forthcoming Mental Health Workshop; and that
- (iii) Further information be provided to the Committee regarding:
 - waiting times to access Mental Health services in Barnsley (including both NHS and 3rd sector);
 - the extent of service provision over the 6 week summer holidays (including how many children are accessing these);
 - a breakdown of where people who commit suicide originate from (when not born in Barnsley) and finally
 - how many therapists have been recruited by the NHS to work specifically with veterans.

44 Barnsley Provisional Education Outcomes 2017

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Nick Bowen, Executive Principal of Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board

Margaret Libreri, Service Director, Education, Early Start and Prevention, People Directorate

Gary Kelly, Head of Service-Barnsley Schools' Alliance, People Directorate

Councillor Tim Cheetham, Cabinet Member, People (Achieving Potential)

The item was introduced by the Service Director, Education, Early Start and Prevention. Members were updated with regard to the provisional education outcomes for children and young people in Barnsley, broken down by pupil group, from assessments taken in 2017 together with an overview from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Key Stage 5 (A-Level).

It was highlighted that there is much to celebrate:

- for children in EYFS, the gap between Barnsley and national results has narrowed
- The percentage of KS2 achieving expected levels in reading writing and maths has increased from 53% to 59%
- Progress for pupils between KS1 and KS2 are above the national average in writing and maths.
- At KS4 the gap between Barnsley and national results is just 0.5% for the Attainment 8 measure, whilst 59.1% of Barnsley students achieve a grade 4 or above in both English and maths, which is above the national average of 58.5%.

However, there are some areas for improvement, including outcomes for boys in EYFS, reading in EYFS, outcomes for disadvantaged students and those with special educational needs.

Questions were asked and challenges were made in response to the report and introductory presentation, which included the following points:

- A regional project and work with the Children and Young People's Family Trust is ongoing to improve EYFS reading outcomes, as evidence suggests that children's capacity to do well in reading is influenced by early cultural experiences before they even start school. Programmes such as 'Bookstart' are in place to work with babies up to school age.
- There is a need to identify those children at risk of developmental delay early. Early Help is crucial. Although 75% of 2 year olds take up the free educational offer, 25% don't, which may be an indication of poverty and vulnerability.
- Where poor outcomes are identified in an individual school, governance arrangements are reviewed and strengthened through intensive work between governors and the Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board. 9/10 secondary schools had improved this year, with 6/10 now assessed as average or above. It is possible to move from 'special measures' to producing above average outcomes in a short space of time.
- Class sizes do not impact in KS1 as the Infant Class Size legislation limits classes to no more than 30, and 96% of pre-school provision is judged as 'good' or 'outstanding'.
- The 6 week summer break does not impact on learning, whereas children taking holidays in term time does have a negative impact. The last two weeks of term before the summer break are now focused on doing work for September so that the last two weeks count and are not viewed as 'winding down'. Area Councils could consider commissioning summer activities which promote continued academic learning in addition to the usual physical activities. A number of schools no longer have a 'non-uniform' day as evidence suggests this can be disruptive and affect the quality of work on those days.
- The reason for the 'dip' in performance when children move to secondary school remains unclear but is an area which the Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board is exploring in detail.
- A recent Ofsted inspection at Darton College was described as 'brutal' with very disappointing results. Nonetheless, a robust school improvement action plan is being developed, with strengthened leadership and governance arrangements. It is now almost impossible to achieve an 'outstanding' judgement under the new inspection regime and inconsistencies between inspectors were noted. Nevertheless, Barnsley's improvement journey is positive – Outwood Academy at Carlton has now achieved a 'good' judgement and is now in the top 10% of the country, with Horizon in the top 25%.
- Barnsley has a high level of fixed term exclusions but this figure is gradually improving and work is underway with individual academies to address this. Inclusion is a standing item on the Barnsley Schools' Alliance Board agenda.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Representatives be thanked for their attendance and contribution

(ii) The report be noted

(iii) Area Councils consider commissioning summer activities which promote continued academic learning in addition to the usual physical activities.