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MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Meeting
DATE:	Tuesday, 7 January 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

AGENDA

Full Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

All Members of the Committee Should Attend.

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 5 - 20*)

To approve the minutes of the previous workstream meetings as follows:

- Full Committee, held on 10th September, 2019 (Item 3a attached)
- Thriving and Vibrant Economy, held on 1st October 2019 (Item 3b attached)
- People Achieving Their Potential, held on 5th November 2019 (Item 3c attached)
- Strong & Resilient Communities, held on 3rd December 2019 (Item 3d to follow)

Overview and Scrutiny Issues for the Committee

4 LGA Corporate Peer Challenge - Outcome and Actions (*Pages 21 - 48*)

To consider a report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director Core Services (Item 4 attached) in respect of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report (Item 4 - Appendix 1 attached).

5 Provisional Education Outcomes in Barnsley 2019 (*Pages 49 - 74*)

To consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director People (Item 5 attached) in respect of the Provisional Education Outcomes in Barnsley for the 2018/19 academic year.

6 Referral to Sheffield City Region (SCR) Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Regarding Transport in Barnsley - Item For Information Only (*Pages 75 - 84*)

The report at Item 6a provides an overview and update regarding Barnsley OSC's referral to SCROSC regarding transport and invites Members to share any further

information with the OSC Chair. Item 6b and the accompanying Appendices are copies of the reports which have been presented to SCROSC regarding this matter.

7 Exclusion of the Public and Press

The public and press will be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the items so marked because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, subject to the public interest test.

8 Children's Social Care Performance *(Pages 85 - 134)*

To consider the Children's Social Care Performance Cover Report (Item 8a attached) in respect of the Data Report (Item 8b attached) and Explanatory Document (Item 8c attached).

Reason restricted:

Paragraph (2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

Enquiries to Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer

Email scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk

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

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, T. Cave, Clarke, Felton, Fielding, Frost, Gollick, Green, Daniel Griffin, Hand-Davis, Hayward, Higginbottom, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, Lodge, Lofts, Makinson, McCarthy, Mitchell, Newing, Noble, Phillips, Pickering, Richardson, Smith, Stowe, Sumner, Tattersall, Williams, Wilson and Wraith MBE together with Statutory Co-opted Member Ms. G Carter (Parent Governor Representative)

Electronic Copies Circulated for Information

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive

Andrew Frosdick, Executive Director Core Services

Rob Winter, Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management

Michael Potter, Service Director, Business Improvement and Communications

Martin McCarthy, Service Director, Governance, Members and Business Support Press

Witnesses

Item 4 (2:00pm)

- Sarah Norman, Chief Executive of Barnsley Council
- Julia Burrows, Director of Public Health
- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People
- Andrew Frosdick, Executive Director - Core Services
- Matt Gladstone, Executive Director - Place
- Wendy Lowder, Executive Director - Communities
- Neil Copley, Service Director - Finance
- Michael Potter, Service Director - Business Improvement, HR & Communications
- Cllr Stephen Houghton, Leader of Barnsley Council
- Cllr Robin Franklin, Cabinet Support Member - Core Services

Item 5 (2:45pm)

- Nick Bowen, Executive Principal of Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance
- Yvonne Gray, Headteacher, Churchfield Primary School and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance
- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People, BMBC
- Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, People Directorate, BMBC
- Richard Lynch, Head of Barnsley Schools' Alliance, People Directorate, BMBC
- Jane Allen, Service Manager, Pupil Inclusion, Attendance & Education Welfare, People Directorate, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Virtual School Headteacher for Children Looked After (CLA), People Directorate, BMBC
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Item 8 (3:30pm)

- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children's Services (formerly

People - Safeguarding)

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Meeting
DATE:	Tuesday, 10 September 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, T. Cave, Felton, Fielding, Frost, Gollick, Green, Daniel Griffin, Higginbottom, W. Johnson, Lodge, Lofts, Makinson, McCarthy, Newing, Phillips, Pickering, Richardson, Smith, Tattersall, Williams and Wraith MBE

4 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

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

5 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillors Makinson, Williams, Tattersall and Carr declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute Nos 9 and 11 due to their membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel; Councillor Tattersall also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 7 due to her role as Cabinet Support Member (Environment and Transportation) Councillor Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos 8. 9 and 11 as she is employed by the National Health Service (NHS) and Councillor Lodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos 9 and 11 due to his involvement with care leavers.

6 Minutes

The minutes of the Full Committee (held on 30th April, 2019); the Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream (held on 4th June 2019); the People Achieving Their Potential Workstream (held on 18th June 2019); the Strong & Resilient Communities Workstream (held on 16th July 2019) and the Special meeting to consider the call in of a Cabinet decision (held on 24th July, 2019) were approved as a true and accurate record.

7 Air Quality Monitoring and Modelling in Barnsley

Members were provided with a briefing report from Regulatory Services within the Public Health Directorate in response to actions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16th July 2019 on Energy Efficiency and Pollution Reduction.

RESOLVED that Members note the report.

8 Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2018-19

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSAB
- Lennie Sahota, Service Director, Adult Social Care & Health, BMBC
- Stephanie Evans, Interim Head of Service, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance, BMBC
- Adrian Hobson, Senior Contracts & Compliance Manager, BMBC
- Cath Erine, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Nicola Sumner, Cabinet Support Member – Adults & Communities
- Deborah Longmore, Safeguarding Adults Lead, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
- Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
- Jo Harrison, Nurse Quality Manager-Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS), Barnsley CCG
- Detective (DCI) Chief Inspector Paul Murphy, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Representative from the Safeguarding Adults Forum by Experience (SAFE) Customer Group

Bob Dyson introduced the report, outlining the work of the Board and its local and regional partners over the last 12 months, emphasising the strong commitment to Safeguarding from all agencies as evidenced within the report.

In the ensuing discussion, and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

The Board now has a sub-committee that leads on 'Learning and Development' with a close oversight of the training and development opportunities available to staff and volunteers along with identifying, and filling, gaps in provision. It is important to recognise that some agencies have their own in-house trainers as well as engaging with multi-agency training. ELearning packages are also available free of charge to everyone, including members of the public.

Although the number of financial abuse cases appears to have fallen significantly, this may be due to under-reporting coupled with a reluctance to report possible abuse by family members. There is an on-going need to raise the profile of this unseen abuse.

There is also a need to make sure all partners are aware of the risk of fire and make referrals to South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR), who have attended a sub-group meeting to deliver a mini training session. The majority of partners are now signed up to the scheme and are making referrals.

The new Barnsley Adult Care Provision Quality Board (BACPQB) will work with privately owned homes with a view to putting measures in place to work alongside partners to drive up quality. Contract officers will be visiting homes on a regular basis to make sure the quality of service is in line with the agreed specification and offering support to bridge any gaps, with regular reports to the Board whilst being

mindful that negative reports can impact on businesses and residents within care homes.

A number of vulnerable adult case studies were outlined which were resolved by agencies working together effectively. Types of issues addressed included physical abuse, fraud, criminal activity and 'cuckooing', whereby vulnerable adults are targeted and befriended by another and involved in organised crime.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw are currently developing an integrated care system and are looking at collaborative working in some areas and functions. Although this is a time of change, Members were reassured that this is *not* a merger between Barnsley and Sheffield CCGs and there would be no adverse effect on vulnerable people in Barnsley as resources would not be concentrated on Sheffield at the detriment of Barnsley.

Members expressed concern that the number of nursing beds in care homes was diminishing and that patients discharged from hospital may not be adequately monitored – for example, monitoring of bed sores. It was stated that monitoring of skin integrity and other nursing care needs are taken account of when assessing clients. Individuals are free to choose the care home they wish to live in, but there must be a nurse on site for nursing care. All placements are reviewed within 6 weeks and at least annually thereafter to ensure needs are being met appropriately. There are no incidences of 'bed blocking' in Barnsley despite the reduction in beds.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the registration and inspection authority which oversees the quality of provision. Recruitment and retention of staff is a key challenge within the care sector with providers often competing with the retail sector for staff due to the low wages paid. It is not possible to dictate to providers what they should be paying staff, or the terms and conditions etc.

In the past, care homes have tended to over-report safeguarding cases but following new guidance and training are now only referring when necessary as some issues can be dealt with internally and are not appropriate for a safeguarding referral. It should also be remembered that vulnerable people living in their own homes may be subject to abuse, particularly financial and 'cuckooing'. Support to victims of this type of abuse depends on their willingness to engage and whether or not they have mental capacity. The SAFE group is working hard to raise awareness of abuse and is a very important forum for this work.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update and
- (ii) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution

9 Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2018-19

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting in addition to those who were in attendance for the previous item:

- Nigel Leeder, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Manager, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children’s Services (formerly People - Safeguarding)
- Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding, BMBC
- Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, Barnsley CCG

Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB), introduced this item and explained that this is the last annual report which will be produced in its current form, as the Government has changed the way safeguarding is organised. The new partnership arrangements mean that the group is now known as the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP), retaining the strengths of the BSCB whilst looking for opportunities to improve. It was highlighted that Barnsley’s journey has progressed from ‘inadequate’ to ‘requires improvement’ to ‘good’ via Ofsted inspections. This provides independent verification that Barnsley has moved a long way, with a continuous service improvement plan and ambition to improve.

In the ensuing discussion, and in response to detailed questioning and challenge, the following issues were highlighted:

The BSCP has a partnership protocol to ensure that the work of the partnership is effectively shared across agencies, which is particularly relevant in the case of cross cutting issues. It is also important that there is no duplication across sub-groups and any gaps which are identified are addressed. Some work is escalated to other boards/partnerships as appropriate. Regular meetings take place with other bodies such as Cabinet, TEG etc. It was noted that Berneslai Homes is represented on both the Adults’ and Children Boards and in respective sub-groups.

Concern was expressed that staff may not have the time and skills to be curious and persistent with children who are ‘hard to reach’. Members were reassured that a structured multi-agency audit programme is in place to enable staff to do what they should, with systems and processes to ensure staff are curious. Social Workers meet with managers regularly and have the tools to deal with issues – e.g. the Neglect Toolkit. Child Protection conferences have also improved. It isn’t possible to know about every child across the Borough, there will always be hidden and vulnerable children, but once they are known about, staff across all agencies are persistent.

A strong Early Help offer is in place, with a targeted youth service and good partnerships in place. All schools have a designated safeguarding lead who deals with safeguarding, drug abuse, vaping and cyber bullying in schools, with any referrals going through MASH. Such issues are addressed through a borough-wide approach, with Safeguarding lead officers attending training. All agencies monitor workloads, skills and experience of staff and ensure they are supported in their jobs. More resources are always useful but the best use is made of existing resources.

The remit of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) sub-group has been widened to incorporate issues such as County Lines and Contextual Safeguarding and it is now known as the Child Exploitation (CE) Sub Committee. The remit of the group also

includes cyber bullying and social media, online safety and awareness raising through schools. However, it must be acknowledged that the latter is resource intensive because of the rapidly changing nature of the apps used by young people. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (CEOP) raise awareness and offer advice to parents, carers and other organisations and signpost to other agencies.

On behalf of the BSCB the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Multi Agency Training Programme represents one of the most comprehensive safeguarding training offers in the country with over 100 training courses, conferences and seminars available. Training is provided to volunteers and voluntary organisations at nil cost.

The Neglect sub-group was established in 2017 and continues to develop. Neglect is now the most likely reason for a child to come in to care.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update and
- (ii) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution

10 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined b Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

11 Children's Social Care Performance

Mel John-Ross, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, introduced this item and provided Members with the monthly children's social care report, which contained an overview of the major performance indicators for children's safeguarding and social care for Quarter 1 (2019/20); a management performance analysis; a summary of performance, using RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings; the direction of travel for most indicators together with Barnsley's historical performance and comparisons with other local authorities. Areas of performance considered good and areas where improvement is required were also highlighted.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update and
- (ii) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution

Chair

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MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thriving & Vibrant Economy Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 1 October 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Carr, Felton, Fielding, Gollick, Hayward, Hunt, W. Johnson, Lodge, McCarthy, Noble, Pickering, Richardson, Smith, Sumner, Tattersall and Wilson

1 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

No apologies/Apologies for absence were received in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001. It was highlighted that Ms K Morrith has resigned as a Parent Governor Representative. A recruitment process will commence shortly. Thanks were expressed to Ms Morrith for her contribution and attendance over the years.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

The following Councillors declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute No. 15 as follows:

- Councillors W. Johnson and Fielding as they are landlords;
- Councillor Tattersall as she is a Berneslai Homes Board Member;
- Councillor Noble as she is a tenant of Berneslai Homes, and
- Cllr Lodge as he works for the homeless charity Centrepoin and has family and friends who are Berneslai Homes tenants.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September were approved as a true and accurate record.

4 Void Council Properties

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

David Shepherd, Service Director – Economic Regeneration, Place Directorate, BMBC

Sarah Cartwright, Group Leader, Housing Growth, Place Directorate, BMBC

Steve Davis, Director of Assets, Regeneration & Construction, Berneslai Homes

Tony Griffiths, Housing Management Group Manager (East), Berneslai Homes

Cllr Tim Cheetham, Cabinet Member, Place (Regeneration & Culture), BMBC

It was highlighted that the purpose of the report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with context and insight into the voids management and letting processes used to manage Barnsley Council's social rented properties.

It was explained that the Decent Homes standard ensures that all properties are of an acceptable standard whereas the Void standard sets out the *minimum* acceptable standard once work has been completed on a property, taking into account routine and non-routine work, with different lengths of time to turn around the property in question.

Barnsley's performance, in terms of average void time, is favourable when compared with near neighbours who have brought their housing management back in-house. Despite a council house new build programme and investment in acquisitions and conversions, there is still an ongoing net loss to the council house stock as a result of Right to Buy sales (160 last year, around 140 this year) Homelessness issues also present a number of challenges.

In the ensuing discussion and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

Barneslai Homes has a comprehensive asset management database which gives detailed information about every property and its condition. This, along with proactive estate management, helps to identify signs of vulnerability along with the impact on communities in terms of nuisance etc. Regular checks of all properties are not possible and would be too intrusive. Rather, directed support is used to help tenants maintain their tenancies. Enforcement is used as a last resort when a tenant refuses and results in a severe detrimental effect on the community. Recharges are used when work has to be done on a void property that has occurred other than through fair wear and tear or contributing vulnerability factors

Open plan garden maintenance can be problematic and are often a balance between what the tenant wants and long term costs. Tenants, where it is part of their tenancy regulations to do so, are encouraged to do their own maintenance where possible and any requests for improvements are considered. Grass cutting is done on open-plan areas to an agreed schedule. Members expressed a concern that often grass is cut but not collected, which presents a Health and Safety concern. This will be fed back to Neighbourhood Services but there may be a resource implication.

One of the criteria of the Decent Homes standard is around a 'reasonable degree of thermal comfort'. Concern was expressed that new air source heat pump systems installed in Council properties were expensive to run. It was explained that no new systems had been fitted in the last 3 years and that this type of system was the only viable alternative to gas but did operate differently and tenants would need help with operating them. Air source and ground source pumps works similarly but air source systems need larger radiators. Grants are available to cover the costs of installation. It seems that there is anecdotal evidence around higher running costs, with some tenants reporting them cheaper to use. Barnsley Federation of Tenants and Residents has compiled a report on running costs, which will be shared with the Committee.

Empty property spot checks take place four times a year, with customers accompanying Berneslai Homes officers on visits to a random sample of properties which are ready to let. These are in addition to checks carried out by contractors who have carried out work to meet the standard. All properties are checked for cleanliness and mould growth and contractors check and sign properties off.

A Member expressed concern that sometimes prospective tenants may feel pressured into taking properties which are not of an acceptable standard and which require decoration. It was explained that properties are 'General Needs' properties and must be safe, clean and in a good state of repair but that decoration is a tenant's responsibility. A small decorating budget is available but only for hard to let properties. Hard to let properties may be in 'pockets' or individual types e.g. bedsits and are gradually reducing due to proactive housing management, working with tenants and partners to resolve issues and taking action when appropriate.

In the case of disputes about the condition of properties, there is a complaints process for tenants and tenants should never feel under pressure to accept an unreasonable offer. It was felt that a database of photographs would be useful to highlight the condition of properties available to let.

Mould growth is becoming more common and can have health implications for children with asthma and those who are more vulnerable. Depending on the state of the plaster, this can be sprayed down with fungicide or can sometimes become major works. Tenants are also given advice about how to treat mould themselves in their packs.

The Council manages four properties to help them fulfil their homeless responsibilities which Berneslai Homes are not involved with. Holden House has been decommissioned for homeless provision and will be brought back in to use for a different client group in the future. Some previous occupants now have their own tenancies. Members were concerned that four properties is insufficient and that there are 'hidden' homeless (such as 'sofa-surfers') who are not included within the homeless statistics. An increasing number of homelessness cases are being awarded Band 2 priority in particular but also Bands 1 and 3. This increase in numbers and a reduction in vacant properties is creating a problem, which is being considered by the Housing Options Team as a greater 'mix' of property types is needed in relation to Council bid programmes.

In terms of vulnerable people, it is not just about finding properties but also providing the right support to people at the right time through agencies such as Centrepont and Humankind. Work is currently underway to develop a service with a specialist provider for those with mental health issues, which highlights the need to understand household needs and what tenancy support packages are available.

A Member raised concerns that 2 x 4 bed properties had been vacated pending demolition to enable access to a new-build housing estate when 275 families are on the waiting list for 4-bed properties. It was explained that this has to be done from time to time to maximise housing growth and development for the future. In this instance, additional properties will be provided as part of the development. There are currently around 8,000 people on the waiting list for a Council property.

When previous tenants vacate a property, fixtures and fittings are passed on to new tenants after they have been checked for safety. This includes carpet, intruder alarms, kitchens, cookers etc. When carpets are of poor quality they have to be removed. However, 97% of waste materials are currently recycled. Cooking facilities can be provided through the furnished tenancy scheme. When an adapted property is vacated attempts are made to re-let to a tenant with similar needs but this is not always easy.

Members were invited to a public meeting on 9th October at Priory Campus as it was acknowledged that they have an important role to play around voids and tenants – they are the eyes and ears of what is happening locally and should continue to flag up issues in their areas.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) Consideration be given to defining a 'decoration standard' for our properties and should include a re-examination of the budget available for decoration, given the increasing needs of clients ;
- (iii) Consideration be given to providing a portfolio of property photographs alongside the database of properties;
- (iv) Consideration be given to increasing the number of properties set aside to prevent homelessness in the Borough;
- (v) Neighbourhood Services be asked to consider using grass cutting equipment which also collects the grass;
- (vi) Consideration be given to increasing the independent inspection of completed works to void properties, and
- (vii) Members be provided with the Barnsley Federation of Tenants and Residents report on heating systems.

Chair



MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - People Achieving their Potential Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 5 November 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, Felton, Fielding, Frost, Daniel Griffin, Higginbottom, W. Johnson, Lodge, Makinson, Newing, Phillips and Tattersall and Williams

5 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

The following Councillors declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute No. 18 as follows:

Councillor Lodge is a Virtual School Panel Member and Member of the Schools Forum;

Councillor Carr is a Corporate Parenting & Virtual School Panel Member;

Councillor Newing is an employee for South West Yorkshire NHS Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) Trust's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS);

Councillor Tattersall is a Corporate Parenting Panel Member;

Councillor Felton is a Virtual School Panel Member;

Councillor Makinson is a Corporate Parenting Panel Member; and

Councillor Williams is also a Corporate Parenting Panel Member.

6 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st October, 2019 were noted.

7 Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Provision in Barnsley

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director – People Directorate, BMBC

Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, People Directorate, BMBC

Richard Lynch, Head of Barnsley Schools' Alliance, People Directorate, BMBC

Judith Nash, SEND Strategy Development Manager, People Directorate, BMBC

Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children’s Services

Patrick Otway, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG)

Nick Bowen, Executive Principal of Horizon Community College and Chair of Barnsley Schools’ Alliance

Nichola Smith, Head Teacher, Meadstead Primary Academy and Chair of Barnsley Schools’ Alliance Leadership Sub-Group

Melissa Mackell, Parent Participation Co-ordinator, KIDS

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the report which detailed the current position of Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) provision in Barnsley. In the ensuing discussion and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

Barnsley was currently without a Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) for SEND, despite two recruitment exercises. An alternative way of delivering the DCO role through the BMBC Public Health 0-19 service was currently being investigated.

Whilst there has not been a designated parent/carer forum for some time, KIDS (a national parent led organisation) had been appointed to provide support to ensure engagement and co-production with parents and carers. A number of open invitation SEND Talkabouts had been held, hosted by the Executive Director for People and consultation had taken place this year as part of the KIDS contract. As a result of the consultation, a model for the future had been selected and would now be taken forward. 116 votes in total were received. It was emphasised that parents and carers are key stakeholders alongside the voice of children and young people. KIDS will work with members of the SEND Parent Alliance and their views will be fed in at a strategic level and operational level as appropriate. A SEND survey of parents and carer was sent out in the summer, which along with information from Facebook gave a useful baseline to work from and helped to inform the service model. Parents were also able to feed in their views through connected services and local providers.

Specific SEND services were advertised through the local offer, which was a repository of information as to how to access services and ensured that children with SEND were not disadvantaged when accessing services in the local area. Access to universal services was through communities, family centres etc.

SEND inspections are not inspections which give a formal ‘judgement’ but if SEND services were inspected at the current time, it would identify issues requiring action as a local system. An SEND Oversight Board was in place to address areas for improvement across the SEND system including education, health and care services. Improvement was needed in terms of outcomes for children and early identification of needs, alongside a number of other priorities. Members were

reassured that all agencies were committed to the delivery of the action plan but there was still some way to go.

There had been a significant increase in demand on services since SEND reforms were introduced in 2014, resulting in an increase in pressure on services already subject to austerity measures, particularly around early intervention which gave additional pressure to other services.

Resources were allocated direct to all schools as part of the baseline budgets and there was an assumption that schools meet the first £6,000 from their own budgets and manage them accordingly ensuring that they were still delivering the necessary requirements and support to meet children's needs. Schools in association with the Barnsley Schools' Alliance invest and take part in reviews of each other and with the new national funding formula, secondary schools were at a better attainment level compared to national.

The Alliance's previous focus was on outcomes from exams but now had a specific focus on other aspects such as SEND and inclusion.

It was reported that there had been a large reduction in the number of school exclusions in 2019,. Concern was raised that in order to drive up educational achievement standards it would be easy for schools to exclude SEND children. .

The Workforce Development Strategy had been developed to ensure the workforce can better meet the needs of SEND pupils and which should have a positive impact on improving attendance and reducing exclusions. The use of fixed term exclusions had been high in the past but was now reducing and the Alliance and any exclusion should be out in the open. Currently, Fair Access Protocols enabled places to be found for excluded pupils,. It was predicted that the 2019/20 fixed term exclusions figures would be significantly reduced showing that the sector was working together in recognising and supporting vulnerable pupils.

Members were informed the Code of Practice set out that in order for pupils to have a clear transition into adulthood it should be planned for from the Year 9 review, this would then be followed by transition from Year 11 into further education or employment/training. Some children would require support in transition into Adult Social Care and also from Paediatric Services to Adult Services. The area that parents and carers were the most unhappy with was if a placement was not right or the transition was not smooth and anxiety free. A large amount of work had been undertaken to improve this area and the feedback from young people indicated that they needed more support to access opportunities such as apprenticeships / internships and college. The key to this coming together and being a success would be a joint strategy that made sense to a young person and their families.

A Transition Toolkit had recently been developed in the Yorkshire and Humber Region to look at how to make transition easier as it was recognised that there was no nationally defined transition pathway.

It was identified that early intervention was critical and steps needed to be taken to continue to improve this. It was noted that there was no average age when SEND was identified, although it seemed to peak in KS1 and KS2. Since September 2018 early stages of SEND started to be addressed within the classroom with an improved

offer of support to schools. A standard SEN support plan had been introduced that all schools could recognise. Such a plan would be transferable to any school ensuring no gaps in provision. Nationally about 23% of new EHCPs were issued in early years and it was noted that now Public Health Nursing has been encompassed with the Local Authority they were able to look into and improve those areas.

A member expressed concern as to the work being carried out with private nurseries as children would not be picked up until school age. It was recognised that 98% of early years provision was good or outstanding with significant investment in workforce development. Where a child did not attend early years provision and additional needs were identified by Health Professionals, Health Visitors had a system in place whereby they would attend a private setting and offer additional support.

Concern was expressed as to the waiting times for CAMHS and it was acknowledged that these were unacceptable. In July 2018 the service was reviewed and additional funds were invested creating a new model based on a Social Model as opposed to a traditional model. Members were informed that as of July 2019, 425 children were waiting to access services. The new service would commence on 1st April 2020 and it was hoped that there would be a significant reduction with waiting times, no longer than 18 weeks. Alongside the work BCCG were carrying out to reduce waiting times, a small but successful pilot had been run that gave extra early help and support to families with a combination of parenting support, family based support, home coaching and group peer support. This ensured that families were supported throughout and to the end of the process, irrespective of the outcome of the assessment.

The report outlined the importance of systems responding to the needs of children with SEND. A Oversight Board had been established to drive improvement and all concerned had a common aim to improve outcomes for children. It was noted that whilst the group did not always agree, the Partnership between Barnsley MBC, BCCG and the Barnsley Alliance was strong and was now delivering results.

A member expressed concern as to the lack of provision in Barnsley for children with complex needs. It was acknowledged that there was a lack of appropriate school places and around 100 Barnsley children were placed in neighbouring authorities. Out of Borough placements were with providers classed as good or outstanding. Barnsley has 2 special schools, Springwell and Greenacre, with a number of specialised provisions around the Borough. Members were informed that satellite provision had also been commissioned in collaboration with Abbey School in Rotherham creating 20 extra spaces in Horizon. 50 extra spaces had been created across the Borough, although demand has continued to increase. The report highlighted a number of ways it had created additional spaces including 25 satellite places from Greenacre at Outwood Carlton and the desire to make more provision and negotiations were currently in progress with other schools around the Borough including Penistone Grammar. Members were reassured that the Local Authority was doing everything it could to make more provision locally and to support families to come back to the Borough with better placement planning for future years and a more sophisticated model to show where problems may arise.

RESOLVED that:

- i. Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- ii. The report be noted

Chair

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Item 4

**Report of the Chief Executive
and the Executive Director Core Services
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 7th January 2020**

LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE - OUTCOME AND ACTIONS

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the key findings arising from the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC). Also to provide an update on the progress of the Action Plan developed in response to all the recommendations of the final report received in April 2019.

2.0 Background

2.1 We invited the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge in February 2019. The peer team considered the following five areas which form the core components looked at by all Corporate Peer Challenges:

1. Understanding of the local place and priority setting
2. Leadership of Place
3. Organisational leadership and governance
4. Financial planning and viability
5. Capacity to deliver

In addition we asked the peer team to review and provide feedback on:

6. Our plans for the future
7. Our approach to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

2.2 In advance of the on-site Peer Challenge we prepared a position statement to provide the team with background information in relation to the key areas outlined above. We also provided a number of key documents and strategies for background information.

2.3 The team spent 4 days in Barnsley, during which they:

- Spoke to more than 130 people including a range of Council staff together with Councillors and external partners and stakeholders.
- Gathered information and views from more than 40 meetings, visits to key sites in the area and additional research and reading.
- Collectively spent more than 350 hours to determine their findings – the equivalent of one person spending more than 10 weeks in Barnsley.
- Visited Cudworth, Goldthorpe, Grimethorpe, Mile End Farm and spoke to staff and a wide range of volunteers.

2.4 There were a number of positive findings in the review which are provided in detail in the final report (Appendix 1). Overall, the team found Barnsley to be a high performing Council with clear and tangible ambitions for our residents, communities and stakeholders. The review concluded that “Looking forward and based on its track record, it is highly likely that the Council will continue to deliver. Adults and Children’s Social Care shows good levels of performance and is well managed. There is enthusiasm from Councillors and employees to bring about ongoing improvements to the way the organisation is run and how services are delivered”.

3.0 LGA Peer Review - Key Recommendations

3.1 The peer team made a number of key recommendations, suggested in the context of a high performing Council. The key recommendations are outlined below followed by a summary of the work undertaken so far to address these:

- a. **Continue to communicate with staff.** The retirement of the current Chief Executive is creating anxiety for some staff who have concerns that the Council's overall direction and ethos will change.
Action: The new Chief Executive has taken steps to build relationships with and reassure staff including early morning visits to meet staff at Smithies Depot, walkabouts on each floor at both Westgate & Gateway, a programme of back to the floor sessions with operational staff and a weekly blog, featured in Straight Talk (the Council's internal newsletter for staff).
- b. **Clarify, simplify and reiterate the Council's priorities and initiatives.** There is at times a lack of clarity from staff about how values, priorities, initiatives and outcomes relate to each other, and which are most important.
Action: The employee survey and Investors in People assessments have now taken place and the findings were discussed by the Council's Senior Management Team (SMT) in December 2019. Both asked staff to indicate the extent to which they understand the Council's values and the overall vision and priorities. The survey results showed that 88% of respondents agreed they were aware of the Council's vision. Over 93% agreed that they understood the Council's values and what was expected of them as an employee and 94% agreed they were aware of the Council's four priorities. Nevertheless there is more we need to do to create a clear golden thread for staff that links these things together. This is therefore one of the things that we will seek to achieve when the new Council Plan is developed which will refresh all these things as part of the Barnsley 2030 work and we will discuss this with employees during the forthcoming Talkabout sessions in January and February 2020 in order to better explore and understand how this can best be done.
- c. **Consider rationalising plans and initiatives post 2020.** The downside of the Council's ambitions is that there are many projects to be delivered by a significantly reduced workforce, creating concerns from staff about overload. Many current plans come to an end in 2020 and this provides an opportunity to review and streamline strategies.
Action: The Barnsley 2030 project will develop a vision and set of ambitions for Barnsley as a place by September 2020. This will then help inform the development of the new Council Plan, and our partners' strategic plans. A review of key boards was undertaken in 2017 but we will complete a further review on the back of Barnsley 2030, the Council Plan and other supporting strategies to ensure the governance framework is as streamlined and connected as possible.
- d. **Revisit the corporate risk register.** Currently the register contains a wide range of identified corporate risks: these need reconsidering in light of the Council's priorities.
Action: An independent review of the corporate risk register has been completed and a set of revised proposals have since been agreed at SMT and Audit Committee meetings. It is proposed to go live with the updated register in the new financial year.
- e. As the Council's finances reduce further, **ensure steps are taken to maintain and grow the neighbourhood model**, and that need and gaps in provision are addressed in the more deprived areas.
Action: The Principal Towns programme is now fully embedded at ward level and the Place and Communities Directorates have worked closely on the Inclusive Growth Peer Review which took place in October 2019. Both Directorates have continued to work in partnership to deliver the aim of the programme with projects actively being delivered in line with local requirements. More recently, this has included the creation and publication of long term masterplans for 5 areas which provide a long term legacy vision for local communities. Both Directorates continue to actively engage with Area Councils, Ward Alliances and all relevant stakeholder groups and the programme is further supported by a robust communications strategy aimed at promoting the positive impacts achieved at a holistic and individual level. We also established a Strategic Procurement Forum earlier this year to provide oversight of area commissioning practices which will help us to map the gaps in provision and maximise commissioning outcomes. Additional investment has been agreed to increase Area Council capacity and Ward Alliance budgets.
- f. **Work to make the local economy more inclusive.** Take stock regularly to ensure local people, including the most disadvantaged, can benefit as much as possible.
Action: There has been a significant increase in joint working around the Inclusive Economy priority, particularly around the recent Inclusive Growth peer review with West Midlands, which included the joint hosting of an Inclusive Economy stakeholder event and asset mapping exercise. Inclusive Economy progress between the Communities and Place Directorates has also involved joint planning and implementation for workshops with external speakers and partners and BLT sessions (July 2019). In addition discussions have taken place with the Sheffield City Region to encourage a greater focus on Inclusive Economy.

- g. Consider whether the pace of decision making is fast enough for the Council's ambitions.**
There are concerns from staff that whilst they are included in decisions, the overall process is slow, and that decisions are not always made at the right level.
Action: Decision making processes, templates and guidance have been refined, revised and where appropriate simplified ahead of their publication to the new governance SharePoint site in 2020. An ongoing programme of awareness raising is underway to ensure everyone involved with the decision making process fully understands the BMBC approach to operating 'Executive Arrangements'. This includes proactive induction support for new officers joining the Council. We have also created a new form to monitor and track delegated decisions, which captures all the elements of the process in one place. This has been shared with all Directorates and will also be part of the new guidance on the SharePoint site once operational.
- h. Take more steps to engage with parents on improving SEND outcomes for children.**
There are significant risks around school exclusions, NHS waiting times for assessments and the cost of placements to the Council. A co-production approach (where parents and partners are involved with planning and consultation) may lead to a better and more cost effective service.
Action: In November 2019 the revised Barnsley Alliance Education Improvement Strategy 2019-2021 was approved by Cabinet, which has a key focus on developing inclusive practices, reducing the levels of fixed term exclusions and improving outcomes for all children but in particular the most vulnerable. Additional investment has been made by Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to improve waiting times for assessments by April 2020. A SEND co-production model has been developed and agreed with parents. The first sessions were held in November 2019 and focused on the SEND Strategy and Accessibility Strategy. A re-refresh of the SEND Strategy is well underway. This is being produced in consultation with parents/carers, young people and partner agencies. It sets out our vision and ambition for children with SEND and our priorities for achieving this. This will go to a Parent Alliance meeting to be held in January 2020 before a final version is agreed.
- i. The Council can achieve more on digital transformation.** A new digital transformation strategy (outlining changes to IT and smarter ways of working) is in draft: it needs to show the benefits to customers and staff of the different ways of working, so that these can be clearly understood, owned and measured, over and above IT improvements. It should also ensure that those without IT access are not excluded from services.
Action: The draft Digital Transformation Strategy has been further developed and we are looking to produce a 'Customer Charter' by June 2020. The intention is for this to be an easy to digest document that clearly articulates the benefits of different ways of working. We are already starting to see some of the benefits through customer interaction as uptake of the digital portal increases, such as 65% of contacts with the Council are currently made online. This will translate into a reduced demand on the front-line teams. Enabling technology (laptops and software to help work collaboratively) is also making us more mobile, allowing us to collaborate better through digital means and overall will lead to more efficient working. Where we are seeing digital exclusion, we are trying to address this through our Digital Champions who already offer support to our workforce but also to the public through drop-in sessions at local libraries.

4.0 Peer Review Action Plan

- 4.1 In addition to the key recommendations, throughout the LGA Peer Review report, a number of additional suggestions are made. In order to address all of the points raised, a comprehensive action plan has been developed based on eight improvement themes, which acts as a working document for Council officers. The Senior Management Team (SMT) has made this a priority to take forward and it will be subject to regular challenge and review around the following areas:

- 1) Communications
- 2) Corporate Governance
- 3) Finance
- 4) Human Resources (HR)
- 5) Area Working
- 6) Housing
- 7) SEND
- 8) Digital First

4.2 The following paragraphs provide a summary of the additional work undertaken under each key theme to address all the peer review suggestions:

4.3 **Communications**

- There has been some criticism in the past regarding business unit or service movements so we have ensured that these are now communicated organisation-wide. Changes to the organisation structure and portfolios are taking effect early in 2020. This has provided the opportunity to reflect on the change process and consult with staff in a more effective way.
- Work is progressing in terms of ensuring that there is a consistent understanding of the Council's values and priorities. The Council currently has 3 main priorities and 12 outcomes which are well communicated through the corporate plan, business and delivery plans, staff performance reviews, the quarterly performance management framework (how we report on Council performance), Cabinet reports and our communication campaigns and plans. The Council's internal vision and values are well embedded in the organisation and this is evidenced by the employee survey results.
- In terms of evaluating the use of social media as a primary means of communication, this work is ongoing. In 2020, we intend to launch a new 'Customer Access Strategy' which will inform the way we engage with our customers as a Council and how they can access our services in the future. We also intend to develop a communications channel for residents who are non-digital users and will measure the effectiveness of this approach. We plan on using insight to help us segment our audience types and track their preferred method of communications. In January 2020, we are re-launching our residents' magazine, which will be distributed to all households in the Borough. This will help us to reach those residents who don't access information through digital channels.
- A key part of the Barnsley 2030 project is engaging with our communities, partners, businesses, young people and our elected members and employees on the future of Barnsley. 'Thinking Place' has been commissioned to manage the engagement with our partners, businesses, young people, elected members and employees, and Barnsley Community & Voluntary Services (Barnsley CVS) have been commissioned to engage with our communities through a community researcher model. As part of the Barnsley 2030 project we will review 'Town Spirit' and ensure this is aligned to what is developed and is effectively used as one of the vehicles to communicate it.
- In terms of reviewing the current budget communications and consultation process, this work is now complete. The budget consultation will now come under the 2030 engagement work and will not need a separate consultation. The communications for the budget will progress as normal and won't be fundamentally reviewed until after the 2030 work.

4.4 **Corporate Governance**

- The corporate performance framework is currently reviewed on an annual basis. There will be a fundamental change to corporate performance reporting as part of the Barnsley 2030 vision and plan. The plan's supporting performance framework will include a much reduced set of measurable 'critical success factors' underpinned by data, insight, intelligence and benchmarking information. The data that sits behind these indicators will be managed through our data management framework.
- An annual report on Overview and Scrutiny activity will be introduced and reported to Full Council. This will commence from the 2019/20 period and will outline the committee's work including its task and finish groups; highlighting its considerations, recommendations and the impact of these.

4.5 **Finance**

- The implications of the Government's one year spending review have been considered and included within proposals for the 2020/21 budget. The Government simultaneously announced that its funding reforms would now be delayed to 2021/22. We will continue to contribute towards various working groups both regionally and nationally to respond to the consultation. This work will be ongoing over the next 12 months.
- We have established a reporting framework to submit regular updates on the Council's financial resilience. A detailed update was included in our annual reporting process and we continue to provide regular updates in the quarterly finance reports. The Chartered Institute of Public

Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) have introduced a new financial management code of practice for 2021. We will assess authority wide compliance with this code.

- Longer-term financial modelling/forecasting has been developed based on improved data and intelligence to reflect the recommendations from the strategic review of SEND. The Oversight Board has developed an initial model based on emerging intelligence, but this needs further refinement into 2020.
- A longer term financial strategy is to be developed in light of the full comprehensive spending review which has been deferred to 2020 and within the context of the emerging Barnsley 2030 vision. The 2030 vision and ambitions will be incorporated into the financial plan but we are awaiting the ongoing settlement position from Central Government.

4.6 **Human Resources (HR)**

- In terms of reviewing the recruitment process, this is planned to be undertaken as part of the 'Success Factors' (electronic HR management system) project, and a wider review of the current recruitment strategy. Phase 1 of Success Factors is due to complete in Sept 2020 and will include an overhaul of employee central (for undertaking employee administration such as electronic HR and payroll forms), the online recruitment process and the on-boarding process (how new employees are introduced to the organisation). Part of this process will be looking at how modern recruitment methods might work for us, such as online screening, psychometric testing (ways of testing skills and/or personalities) and flexible applications. Some improvements that have already been made are enhanced use of social media advertising, creation of a talent pool for candidates and bespoke application forms dependent on roles. Future challenges will be attempting to modernise recruitment practice, whilst adhering to constraints of public sector policy and moving away from a "one size fits all" recruitment process.
- An HR tracker is now live in SharePoint to improve performance data in relation to sanctions and casework. We are currently in the scoping phase of developing a manager dashboard in PowerBi (an online performance dashboard) to give managers access to the data.
- Progress is being made in developing the 'Managers Toolkit' (a central resource of information for managers) for implementation in March 2020. This is to help drive consistency in the application of core processes and policies. We have held workshops to agree the look and feel of the toolkit using the new SharePoint Online solution which is being introduced as part of the Microsoft Office 365 implementation which is all linked to the Digital Transformation work taking place.
- We have explored opportunities to further align related services. In June 2019 the HR functions were transferred to the new Business Improvement, HR and Communications business unit, which now means that HR and Organisation Development are reporting to the same Service Director. Conversations are ongoing regarding the best fit for a number of other functions but these will now be revisited in light of changes in the senior management structures.

4.7 **Area Working**

- Work on developing a framework to outline the best practice principles of co-production (working with partners) in service re-design is now complete. There are a number of current pieces of work taking place across the borough which have enabled good practice examples to be used as models of working. Relevant partners including the third sector and key stakeholders were actively engaged in this work. A guidance document has been written and was received by SMT on 12th December. The Stronger Communities Service will be working with SMT to establish the best way to embed this guidance into future work.
- A Voluntary Community Services strategy group will be established in 2020 alongside the development of the overall strategy. This group will be responsible for the direction and development of the Volunteer Community Services. Gap analysis will be undertaken as part of the resident engagement through Barnsley 2030. This will help us to target the areas that volunteering activity has not reached.

4.8 **Housing**

- A full review of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) is underway with a key priority around better regulation and management to improve standards. Work has also been undertaken to identify locations with the greatest challenges, with bespoke intervention plans developed for areas with a high concentration of private rented properties. We are also working on a new model for

landlord accreditation designed to provide advice and incentives (through a grading system) to further encourage higher standards within this sector.

- In terms of expanding our housing offer (beyond social housing), providing a wide range of housing types is a key element of our 2014-33 Housing Strategy. The Council is developing both market sale and social rent housing and we have plans to introduce market rent housing to future developments. This action is now complete.

4.9 **SEND**

- In terms of clarifying individual leads with responsibility for SEND reforms, this action has now been completed. Key people have been identified and given actions within the SEND improvement plan.
- The recommendation to clarify and communicate governance arrangements (how partners can hold each other to account) is now complete. Arrangements have been revised and shared with key partners.
- The action to work with relevant partners to develop a shared understanding of the levels of need that should be met, and provision that should be in place prior to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHP) assessment is now complete. Guidance has been issued to schools and settings.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered SEND provision in Barnsley at their meeting on Tuesday 5th November 2019. This provided Members with an overview and update on the development and implementation of a SEND improvement programme and the strengthening of governance arrangements. (A link to the meeting papers is included in section 8 of this report).

4.10 **Digital First**

- Digital First is the name given to our programme of works aimed at providing the right technology to access the right information to deliver and develop local services, anytime, anywhere. Also, to fundamentally change the way that the Council 'does digital' with a disruptive approach to introducing improved technology solutions, business processes and governance arrangements across the Council. It is now approaching its last year (2020/21) and during this time the next stage of work will be developed. The next phase will look at optimising use of the improvements that have been made so far.
- To help enable the digital transformation, digital skills need to be improved. There are Trainers, Change Managers and Digital Champions working with staff to ensure the offer meets the requirements of the workforce. Where there are areas requiring more support, specific Talkabout sessions will take place (such as engaging with the School Meals Team and working with the staff at Smithies Depot).
- There is an in-depth report going to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th Feb 2020 regarding the Digital First work-streams.

5.0 Future Plans & Challenges

5.1 We are now in Phase 2 of the Barnsley 2030 work, during which we will focus on developing a shared vision and set of ambitions about what we want Barnsley to become. This engagement phase will see 'Thinking Place' leading on the design and delivery of engagement activities with all key stakeholders including residents, staff, elected members, partners, the business community and the voluntary sector.

5.2 With regards to change management, we need to ensure that we maintain momentum around staff consultation, ensuring that future organisational changes are planned well in advance and carefully communicated to staff in a way that meets the need of the change being undertaken.

5.3 Governance and the requirement for a wide range of reports for work that is undertaken and passed through Members is still significant. Streamlining governance and paperwork may result in efficiency improvements and this is something we need to continue to address.

5.4 There are identified challenges in relation to modernising recruitment practices whilst adhering to constraints of public sector policy and moving away from a "one size fits all" recruitment process.

- 5.5 We have finite resources to undertake change management in relation to our Digital First work stream and competing priorities mean that some of our deliverables on this project conflict with business as usual requests and other priority work areas. We also have an ongoing challenge in relation to culture change when implementing new information technology. Work is underway to address these things and the new Executive Director for Core Services will also be asked to review this programme once they are in post.
- 5.6 The Council closely monitors its medium and long term financial strategy; however, there are ongoing challenges with regards to assessing the implications of the Government's funding reforms on the Council. The funding reforms have now been delayed to 2021/22. We will be looking to review the implications of these reforms once we have more clarity.
- 5.7 There are still a large number of competing initiatives taking place in the Council and addressing this will need to be an important feature of business planning going forward.

6.0 Invited Witnesses

6.1 The following witnesses have been invited to attend today's meeting to answer questions from the committee:

- Sarah Norman, Chief Executive of Barnsley Council
- Julia Burrows, Director of Public Health
- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People
- Andrew Frosdick, Executive Director - Core Services
- Matt Gladstone, Executive Director - Place
- Wendy Lowder, Executive Director - Communities
- Neil Copley, Service Director - Finance
- Michael Potter, Service Director - Business Improvement, HR & Communications
- Cllr Stephen Houghton, Leader of Barnsley Council
- Cllr Robin Franklin, Cabinet Support Member - Core Services

7.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

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

- Did the peer review highlight any unknown issues or were the findings in line with the organisation's self-assessment?
- Which of the positive findings are you most proud of and why?
- What are the main obstacles to improvement and how will you overcome them?
- What does the next 5-10 years look like for the organisation?
- What change management principles will you be using to ensure a smooth transition to 2030?
- What are the main strategic risks that could affect the organisation over the next few years?
- Is the action plan deliverable and affordable and do the benefits outweigh the cost?
- What support is available to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of employees given the ambitions being delivered by a significantly reduced workforce?
- How might residents be affected by the planned changes to the organisation?
- To what extent do we have concerns regarding the future financial position of the authority to fund both statutory and non-statutory services?
- What can members do to support the improvements and the future direction of BMBC?

8.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- Appendix 1 (attached) – LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report
- SEND Provision in Barnsley at OSC 5th November 2019:
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=224&MId=5894&Ver=4>

9.0 Glossary

BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
BLT	Barnsley Leadership Team (Executive Directors & Service Directors)
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
SharePoint	The Council's Electronic Document Management System
SMT	Senior Management Team

10.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer, 20th December 2019



Corporate Peer Challenge **Barnsley Council**

March 2019

Feedback Report

1. Executive Summary

Barnsley Council is a high performing council with clear and tangible ambitions for its residents, communities and stakeholders. It is well led, both politically and managerially, and the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive are widely respected for the improvement they have brought to the organisation and its services through their working partnership over the last seven years.

This change is evident across all levels of the council. Members and officers work well together and irrespective of seniority or role, there is a clear pride in working for Barnsley, both as an organisation and in serving communities and the town. Staff feel valued and enjoy working for the council, and also feel invested in. There is however some uncertainty and anxiety from some employees about what happens to the overall direction of the council after the current Chief Executive retires in May 2019.

The council is clearly delivering against its ambitions. The council has played a key role alongside a strong partnership with schools to bring about improvement. The Building Schools for the Future programme transformed school buildings across the borough and this has had a positive impact on educational achievement for children across Barnsley where performance on some measures has begun to exceed national averages. The regeneration of the town centre, including shopping and public realm improvements at a cost of £180m, is being underpinned by council funding, achieved through years of forward thinking and careful financial management, and a positive attitude towards risk. Delivery on phase one of the Glass Works site in central Barnsley is underway and this should deliver retail, leisure and the markets refurbishment of an overall value of over £120m, due to open in 2021, with the intention of creating a new town square and renewed focus for the town. At the same time, it has not neglected its neighbourhoods, having established an effective programme aimed at improving both the physical and social environment of the areas outside the town centre through devolved service delivery and smaller scale investment in its smaller towns through its Principal Towns initiative.

This has been achieved in the face of a degree of austerity which is greater than that which many other councils have had to confront. This achievement has been enabled because the council benefits from sound financial management and there is a willingness to take reasonable risks to bring about change.

A particular area of focus for the peer challenge was, at the council's request, on the council's approach to children with special educational need and disabilities (SEND). Although educational outcomes for this group are improving, there is much more to do with partners if the needs of these children and their families are to be fully met. A key area of improvement in the future, which the council is aware of, should be to overhaul the approach and develop a new and increased local offer. This is a systems issue needing the council and partners to work together to co-produce alongside children and parents, to improve timely early support. This needs to be a priority because the growing demand presents a risk to the council's finances, over and beyond the 2018-19 financial year.

Looking forward and based on its track record, it is highly likely that the council will continue to deliver. Adults and Children's social care shows good levels of performance and is well managed. There is enthusiasm from councillors and employees to bring about

ongoing improvement to the way the organisation is run and how services are delivered. There are further steps the council should consider including making ongoing refinements to communications with staff and residents; keeping an eye on approaches to corporate risk, given the size and scale of its ambitious delivery plans; continuing to modernise approaches; developing the digital offer; and developing new strategies and plans post 2020.

2. Key recommendations

There is a range of suggestions and observations within the main section of the report. These will inform some 'quick wins' and practical actions, in addition to the conversations onsite, many of which provided ideas and examples of practice from other organisations. The following are the peer team's key recommendations to the council. They are suggested in the context of a high performing council:

- a) **Continue to communicate with staff.** The retirement of the current Chief Executive is creating anxiety for some staff who have concerns that the council's overall direction and ethos will change
- b) **Clarify, simplify and reiterate the council's priorities and initiatives.** There is at times a lack of clarity from staff about how values, priorities, initiatives and outcomes relate to each other, and which are most important
- c) **Consider rationalising plans and initiatives post 2020.** The downside of the council's ambitions is that there are many initiatives to be delivered by a significantly reduced workforce, creating concerns from staff about overload. Many current plans come to an end in 2020 and this provides an opportunity to review and streamline strategies
- d) **Revisit the corporate risk register.** Currently the register contains a wide range of identified corporate risks: these need reconsidering in light of the council's priorities
- e) As the council's finances reduce further, **ensure steps are taken to maintain and grow the neighbourhood model**, and that need and gaps in provision are addressed in the more deprived areas
- f) **Work to make the local economy more inclusive.** Take stock regularly to ensure local people, including the most disadvantaged, can benefit as much as possible
- g) **Consider whether the pace of decision making is fast enough for the council's ambitions.** There are concerns from staff that the decision-making cycle, whilst inclusive, is also slow, with decisions not always being made at the right level
- h) **Take more steps to engage with parents on improving SEND outcomes for children.** There are significant risks around school exclusions, NHS waiting times for assessments and the cost of placements to the council. A co-production approach with parents and partners may lead to a better and more cost-effective services
- i) **The council can achieve more on digital transformation.** A new digital transformation strategy is in draft: it needs to articulate the benefits to customers and staff of different ways of working, so that these can be clearly understood, owned and measured, over and above IT improvements. It should also ensure that those without IT access are not excluded from services.

3. Summary of the Peer Challenge approach

The peer team

Peer challenges are delivered by experienced elected member and officer peers. The make-up of the peer team reflected your requirements and the focus of the peer challenge. Peers were selected on the basis of their relevant experience and expertise and agreed with you. The peers who delivered the peer challenge at Barnsley Council were:

- Kath O'Dwyer, Acting Chief Executive, Cheshire East Council
- Cllr Graham Chapman, Deputy Leader, Nottingham City Council
- Gail Hopper, Director of Children's Services, Rochdale Council
- Mike Poulter, Head of Transformation and Business Improvement, Sunderland City Council
- Stuart MacDonald, Centre for Local Economic Strategies
- Chris Savory, LGA Associate
- Judith Hurcombe, LGA peer challenge manager

Scope and focus

The peer team considered the following five questions which form the core components looked at by all Corporate Peer Challenges cover. These are the areas we believe are critical to councils' performance and improvement:

1. Understanding of the local place and priority setting: does the council understand its local context and place and use that to inform a clear vision and set of priorities?
2. Leadership of Place: does the council provide effective leadership of place through its elected members, officers and constructive relationships and partnerships with external stakeholders?
3. Organisational leadership and governance: is there effective political and managerial leadership supported by good governance and decision-making arrangements that respond to key challenges and enable change and transformation to be implemented?
4. Financial planning and viability: does the council have a financial plan in place to ensure long term viability and is there evidence that it is being implemented successfully?
5. Capacity to deliver: is Organisational capacity aligned with priorities and does the council influence, enable and leverage external capacity to focus on agreed outcomes?

In addition to these questions, you asked the peer team to consider/review/provide feedback on:

6. The council's plans for the future, which is incorporated into section 5 of this report
7. The council's approach to SEND

The peer challenge process

It is important to stress that this was not an inspection. Peer challenges are improvement focused and tailored to meet individual councils' needs. They are designed to complement and add value to a council's own performance and improvement. The process is not designed to provide an in-depth or technical assessment of plans and proposals. The peer team used their experience and knowledge of local government to reflect on the information presented to them by people they met, things they saw and material that they read.

The current LGA sector-led improvement support offer includes an expectation that all councils will have a Corporate Peer Challenge every 4 to 5 years.

The peer team prepared for the peer challenge by reviewing a range of documents and information in order to ensure they were familiar with the Council and the challenges it is facing. The team then spent 4 days onsite at Barnsley, during which they:

- Spoke to more than 130 people including a range of council staff together with councillors and external partners and stakeholders.
- Gathered information and views from more than 40 meetings, visits to key sites in the area and additional research and reading.
- Collectively spent more than 350 hours to determine their findings – the equivalent of one person spending more than 10 weeks in Barnsley
- Visited Cudworth, Goldthorpe, Grimethorpe, Mile End Farm and spoke to staff and a wide range of volunteers.

This report provides a summary of the peer team's findings. It builds on the feedback presentation provided by the peer team at the end of their on-site visit (26th February – 1st March 2019). In presenting feedback to you, they have done so as fellow local government officers and members, not professional consultants or inspectors. By its nature, the peer challenge is a snapshot in time. We appreciate that some of the feedback may be about things you are already addressing and progressing.

4. Feedback

4.1. Understanding of the local place and priority setting

The council's strategic direction is clear and is widely understood and owned by stakeholders. The need to grow the local economy, and the council's role in bringing that about, is accepted and being acted upon through a variety of plans and initiatives, including considerable regeneration schemes in Barnsley town centre with a value of £180m.

For a number of years, the council has faced up to its challenges and has had to take politically difficult and hard decisions in the interests of the council's long-term future and its financial stability. The reconfiguration of SureStart children's centres into a hub model, as well as compulsory redundancies made across all council departments, are illustrative examples of this.

Partnership working is generally good and other agencies work well with the council and show enthusiasm in doing so, and look to the council to lead, which it does. Sometimes partners gave an indication that they feel the council takes too strong a lead in some initiatives, but this view needs to be balanced with the fact that partners often look to the council to lead and act, and often the council does so in the absence of others stepping forward to do so.

There is also evidence of Barnsley being a capable council which delivers on its plans. The Building Schools for the Future programme resulted in 14 existing schools being replaced by nine advanced learning centres across the borough at an overall investment of over £1bn. The development of the Glass Works programme is further evidence of this ability. The Glass Works is a regeneration scheme being built on a 3.8-hectare site in Barnsley town centre, next to the Transport Interchange. It will include 26 new retail units, a cinema and bowling alley, restaurants and the Lightbox, a new library and community facility.

The council has much to be proud of and received recognition for high performance across a wide range of its services:

- In the 2018 LGC awards:
 - Best community involvement award for the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership
 - Commendations across three categories on its work on reducing fly tipping, the Make Smoking Invisible campaign, and a project to reuse bicycles in Penistone
- Children's Social Care being rated "good" by Ofsted in 2018
- Adult skills and Community Learning being rated "good" by Ofsted in January 2019
- For the first time, children achieving better than national average English and maths results at Key Stage 4
- Extensive refurbishment of Barnsley market which reopened in autumn 2018

The current corporate plan sets out an aspiration for the council to provide help only when it is most needed, rather than provide a high level of discretionary services. Departments are structured around a business unit approach which sets out how each department will achieve corporate plan priorities, outcomes and Town Spirit themes.

The approach to digital services includes a focus during 2019/20 on new data visualisation tools to improve how data is presented and underpinned by intelligence.

Although there are clearly defined local standards for homes through the Barnsley Homes Standard, there could be more of a focus on private rented standards, including tackling the appearance of some degraded properties and how to deal with voids. In one area this is being addressed through a partners' action day on one estate, where the public sector will come together to tackle a wide range of issues: however, the council could consider doing more on a day to day basis to encourage or enforce higher standards on estates.

The housing offer more broadly needs to expand to include a wider range of different types of dwellings, rather than focus on the more traditional approach of social housing. This is important because if the local economy is to grow and expand, then people looking to move to, or continue to live in Barnsley will want more choice about the type of housing they live in, including more affluent housing such as apartments and larger family homes. We note the ambition to bring in this mixture of housing to the town centre.

There is good quality further education provision in the borough and Barnsley College is rated as outstanding by Ofsted. However, there is more to do if young people are to continue to progress in their grades and achievements, building further on the outreach work by Sheffield Hallam University and Barnsley College.

4.2. Leadership of Place

The council clearly leads the area and provides direction and forward thinking across a range of strategic issues, including the economy, housing and culture, and raising the profile of Barnsley beyond its boundaries. An example of this is that the council led the development of coterminous boundaries across its geography with health and police partners. Overall partners describe well developed, mature and open partnership arrangements across most areas. Building on this strength the council could further improve partnership working by considering how to take a more co-produced approach with partners, service users and communities to service design. This could address some partnership concerns that the council has a tendency to take the lead on initiatives and the Town Spirit campaign provides an opportunity to do this in a meaningful way.

The approach to neighbourhood working is innovative and exemplary, and the council is rightly proud of what it is achieving in this approach to local devolution. The creation in 2013 of six Area Councils and 21 Ward Alliances, supported by small teams of officers, has brought a new focus to locality working. It has enabled members to develop their community leadership roles whilst also supporting a longer-term ambition of helping local people become less dependent

on the council and become more community minded. Unusually the approach is backed by having a corporate focus through a dedicated communities directorate. The use of volunteer time to match-fund devolved budgets in localities is paying off and during the last year over fifty new volunteer groups were independently created across the borough. The priorities of each Ward Alliance are set locally through the creation of a community plan and are underpinned by individual Ward Alliance Funds.

There is a wide range of projects supported through these local budgets and some highlights include:

- Supporting local achievement awards
- Christmas lights in Cudworth village
- Using lunch and friendship clubs to help address social isolation, for example in Wombwell and Clough Fields Community Centre
- Funding Citizen's Advice in Barnsley to undertake outreach advice on fuel poverty
- A wide range of environmental improvements, for example at the Goldthorpe Railway Cutting
- Supporting the purchase of new football kit, matched by volunteer time for litter picking by the recipients

The thinking behind the neighbourhood strategy, and its range and reach is impressive, as is the degree of energy and enthusiasm it has created across the borough. A next step could be to consider how this approach addresses economic inclusion, with a role in promoting skills development and access to training and development opportunities, and whether stronger and more targeted interventions might be needed to tackle issues and areas where volunteering activity has not yet reached. The planned refresh of the Area Councils' plans could provide an opportunity to do this. There is, however, a need to ensure that the whole picture of services and initiatives across the borough as a whole is maintained, to ensure any gaps created via a model to meet local need are known and understood.

Town Spirit was launched in November 2018 and its purpose is to harness better understanding and engagement about the council's role in the future, bringing together existing plans and strategies and influencing behavioural change. It is underpinned by cross-sector collaboration and has eight themes which will in the long term be reported on through the council's performance management arrangements. It is early days for the initiative and our discussions with partners suggests that the narrative is not yet fully owned or understood externally. As it develops the council could consider how partners and communities can be integrated into the concept and influence and shape its overall direction and impact. There is scope within Town Spirit to harness the power of the public sector, building on the strong existing relationships and the well-established neighbourhood working model to build wealth locally.

Consultation with residents takes place through a variety of ways across the area, including through the Area Councils and Ward Alliances, and is underpinned by a corporate approach which includes a portal on the council's website where residents can comment on live issues. The approach includes consulting on a wide range of

themed or service specific issues, for example, on the future of library provision, and on smoke free play areas. The effectiveness and impact of media campaigns are reviewed by honest evaluation about how and where the approach could have been improved. Information on communications is clearly presented and again, clear links are made back to the corporate plan and outcomes that the council is trying to achieve, for example, the campaign on suicide awareness shows clear links to corporate priorities and directorate outcomes.

The last overarching residents' survey conducted in 2015 delivered a low response rate and such an exercise has not been conducted since then. More emphasis has since been placed on a self-service approach across the council, and there is an increasing focus on social media to inform, through over 50 dedicated service accounts. However, we heard of some concerns about an overall lack of a borough wide perspective of residents' views about the council and Barnsley overall as a place to live, particularly from and with those who do not use social media. There are also broader concerns about the use of social media as a primary means of communication and whether it is sufficiently inclusive.

Consideration is being given to how best to engage communities on the Town Spirit initiative, and a residents' survey could be an option within that approach. Undoubtedly the council provides a large amount of information to communities and consultation through a variety of means: however, care needs to be taken to ensure that possibilities for overlap and survey fatigue are addressed, as well as ensuring more consistency in communication to get the best out of such exercises. For example, because the responsibilities are devolved, the regularity and consistency of neighbourhood newsletters varies considerably to the point where a minority of areas do not have a newsletter at all.

Internal communications with staff include a weekly blog from the Chief Executive, the weekly email bulleting called Straight Talk, and through team meetings and briefings. However around 40% of the council's workforce does not have standardised access to its IT network and therefore communications with these employees is inevitably more difficult. Plans for the new extranet may support stronger engagement with non-networked staff.

4.3. Organisational leadership and governance

The council benefits from strong and visible member and officer leadership and the partnership between the Leader and Chief Executive is widely acknowledged as having transformed the council in recent years. The vast majority of members told us they feel appropriately supported by both the Leader and by officers, with strong joint working and relationships.

The Chief Executive and her Senior Management Team are approachable, accessible and engaging. The efforts that have gone into bringing about cultural change have clearly paid off and are reflected in a real commitment to Barnsley and to improving lives for local people.

On the whole, working relationships between members and officers are based on mutual respect for each other's roles and responsibilities. This is shown through

how both refer to each other but was also was observed through the course of meetings. When inappropriate behaviour from councillors is witnessed, it is dealt with through political management and discourse.

The council's internal audit arrangements are well regarded and deliver good assurance for members and officers. The audit function is regarded as being genuinely independent and is trusted to do the right thing for the council.

The quarterly performance reports to councillors include information which is clearly presented and is easy to understand. It is linked to the council's strategic outcomes and makes good use of both data against performance, as well as engaging narrative which is clear about any shortcomings and actions required to bring about improvement. Underpinning these reports is a larger bank of performance indicator information, and an opportunity exists to review these and consider whether they are all needed as the council moves forward.

The council's governance arrangements were reviewed in 2015 with the purpose of streamlining the approach and making structures and processes more efficient, and coterminous with the corporate priorities. However, staff still raise some concerns that decision making, whilst inclusive of councillors, can also be slower than they would like, and there is some enthusiasm for more delegation of decision making to officers at the right level in the organisation. This would help to grow officer responsibility and accountability for their actions, although care would be needed to ensure that proper recording of such decisions takes place.

Significant investments in training and development for employees has been successful. Staff told us they are able to see the positive difference in themselves and their colleagues who have been through the Barnsley Leadership Programme.

Bi-annual Talkabout events are undertaken to bring staff and councillors together to share ideas and create solutions to address difficult problems. Staff have also been involved with the development of the corporate plan, and in the Organisational Improvement Strategy, and by being encouraged to suggest new ways of working, which often are trialed and adopted. Staff however, feel less able to influence the bigger organizational changes that are designed by the senior management team.

In the most recent staff survey conducted in 2017 staff showed some concern about how they were consulted when change is being made, and about how that change is undertaken.

The council has delivered a great deal of cultural change through the creation and development of values, priorities, outcomes and themed working, and there were high levels of awareness in the 2017 employee survey about the council's priorities (80.5%), the stated values (93.3%) and of the council's vision (88.2%). Yet during the peer challenge staff were not always able to distinguish between priorities, values and outcomes, nor how they relate to each other. This suggests that further communication and simplification is needed to ensure that a consistent understanding of the council's direction. Many strategies and plans run to 2020, for example the corporate plan, the organisational improvement plan, and the

commercial strategy. As new ones are being developed, this provides a good opportunity to revisit messages and reiterate the core of what the council is aiming to achieve.

The strategic risk register contains a large number of risks, not all of which appear to be the big strategic risks that are facing the council. Some of the entries are very large scale and quite difficult to measure. The risks could therefore be further refined to ensure that they truly reflect the key risks that relate to the council's business and future developments.

Within the Core area of the council's structure there are further opportunities to align related services. The current structure has different reporting requirements for Organisational development and human resources; communications and the web team; and scrutiny and governance. Forthcoming changes at the senior officer Leadership Team level provide an opportunity to reconfigure arrangements and group and align some responsibilities more closely together.

In delivering a more inclusive economy in Barnsley there are opportunities to forge stronger connections between the place and communities' directorates. There is currently some disconnect between the challenges of deprivation, poverty and economic growth, and increasing educational opportunity evident in the town centre. Closer working relationships between these directorates and strong linkages between strategies can begin to promote a more inclusive economy.

Bringing together the council's HR function with its organisational development approach may also help to address some staff frustrations we heard of in relation to the HR function, including developing a more modern approach which is able to flex as the council's role continues to change. Examples to illustrate this include some frustration with the length of time it can take to recruit new members of staff, a lack of flexibility in approach to gradings to respond to market pressures, and some inflexibility in relation to specific requirements for some roles. There is also a need to ensure ease of access to performance data in key HR delivery areas such as HR sanctions and casework.

Councillors, like officers, always need of keeping their skills and abilities up to date, despite the inevitable time pressures that they face. This is particularly important in organisations with ambitious plans and locally devolved decision making. As such, members should be encouraged or incentivised to attend both mandatory and optional training, so that they can keep pace of change.

The council's scrutiny function appears to work well. Members are knowledgeable about the areas they scrutinise and they are appropriately inquisitive about the subject matter, with good working relationships with officers. The work and impact of scrutiny could be further enhanced if members' activities and achievements in shaping and improving policy through overview and scrutiny were pulled together in an annual report, which is then reported to Full Council on an annual basis.

Although the council has a suite of appropriate policies and procedures, the implementation of core policies is not always consistent. This results in staff in different parts of the organisation getting a different experience in the frequency

and priority given to requirements. For example, 1:1's, team meetings, cascading of information and the process to apply for or be selected for training. The council could therefore use the range of organizational changes planned to review and re-communicate expectations and ways of working.

4.4. Financial planning and viability

The council has a strong financial grip on both its expenditure and performance against its planned savings programme, and testing has taken place against CIPFA's resilience indices. Like other councils it faces risks due to the size and scale of the future savings it needs to make, increases in service demand and other anticipated changes to local government finance, some of which bring uncertainty and are therefore harder to anticipate and plan for.

The current council tax collection rate is 96.15%, business rates collection is 96.6% and the achievement of £4.4m efficiency savings for the current year is on track. The revenue budget requirement for 2019-20 is £169m. The council took advantage of additional flexibility by raising an extra 4.5% of council tax through the adult social care precept for the last 2 years.

Since 2010 the revenue support grant for Barnsley Council has fallen by £95m and the savings programme is anticipated to deliver £107m of overall reductions by 2019-20. Although the funding reductions have been managed well with most targets being achieved as planned, the extent of the savings and the fragility of the local economy mean planning the council's finances is challenging due to the variables arising from the fair funding review, the comprehensive spending review and any future changes to adult social care funding and public health grant. There are concerns that the proposed increased business rates retention scheme to 75% will not provide any significant benefit to the council's finances due to the relatively low growth of the local economy. This prospect therefore creates a further degree of uncertainty for which the council must plan.

The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) sets out a balanced budget for 2022. However, the council acknowledges that it is at a tipping point, and pressures on the revenue budget through the term of the current MTFP mean that it faces what the external auditors describe in their most recent report as "increasingly difficult financial challenges" each year going forwards.

The Corporate Plan quarterly performance information reported to councillors is set out across the council's twelve priority outcomes, including financial performance for each outcome. For the most recently available report of December 2018 ten of the twelve outcomes showed on-track or better performance. One, for planning fee income, was rated amber and one was rated red, for an increase in home to school transport costs of £440,000 during the current financial year.

The total capital programme value is £433.6m, including the Housing Revenue Account. During 2018 the council secured a 27-year low interest loan with Deutsche Pfandbriefbank to part fund regeneration capital investment for the

Glass Works town centre scheme. Barnsley is only the second council in the UK to have secured an arrangement with the lenders.

The Courthouse Campus is a regeneration scheme developed by the council to encourage modern high-tech businesses to expand and move to Barnsley. A mixed development, plans include college facilities, high quality office accommodation and housing in the town centre on the site of a former car park, and is based on a vision of 'green and sustainable living conditions with a cutting edge learning environment'.

Care has been taken to ensure that Barnsley town centre is not the only area of focus for investment and regeneration, and attention is given to high streets in other parts of the borough. The Principal Towns Investment Fund of £5m from 2017-2020 includes a wide range of support including grants of up to £5,000 for new businesses to support their initial start-up and promotion costs; and support for upgrading shop fronts; highways and public realm improvements. This fund would benefit from an injection of new ideas to promote economic vitality in local centres, and could be linked to the refresh of Area Council plans.

There is a £350,000 staff innovation fund which enables employees to bring forward new ideas for income generation. An example of this is the creation of a new pet cemetery in Barnsley which utilises existing capacity and creates income for the council.

The council currently benefits from early forward thinking and planning when austerity first began: the current period of political stability and relative financial stability could be used to begin to prepare for the council's budget post 2022.

Although there is much activity across all departments and all levels of the council, and ongoing transformation is clearly underway, there is also a need for greater acknowledgement that transformation will not provide all of the answers to the council's financial issues going forward, simply because the scale of the financial challenge is too great. Where other councils are still taking funding out of the areas of highest expenditure in children's and adults social care, this will be harder in Barnsley because it is already a low spending council, relative to its statistical neighbours, and one which has significant demand. This means that there will be further challenges ahead and more difficult decisions to make which will test the council further, and a possible increasing emphasis on the council's finance function.

In 2017 the council approved a 3-year budget proposal to 2020 and changed the way it communicated the budget to residents, in accordance with its community engagement strategy 2017-2020. This includes greater emphasis on the council's website and social media, as well as specific consultations on elements of service change. In doing so it has moved away from what would be regarded as the more usual good practice of annual budget consultation undertaken each year by most councils. A more extensive consultation process would be welcome.

4.5. Capacity to deliver

Looking forward the council continues to be well-placed to deliver for the future. The culture of the council is positive, and councillors and employees feel they belong to an organisation which is well-led, worthwhile and is making a difference, with clear pride in both Barnsley the council and Barnsley the place, and collectively what is being achieved. The council can point to a track record of innovation and forward thinking, both of which deliver a positive position for the future.

Work is ongoing to shape the next Organisational Improvement Strategy from 2020 onwards and consideration is being given to:

- More emphasis on added social value to the council's activities
- Further devolution to ward level to encourage communities to do more for themselves
- Investment in technology equipment through the Digital First programme

Sickness absence is low, continues to decrease and reflects high levels of motivation within the workforce. However, there are some signs of stress from staff who have a number of concerns, including that the workforce has reduced by around 40% in recent years, yet they feel that workloads are the same. Some told us they feel stressed by the sheer number of initiatives underway or planned and are not always clear about which are and are not priorities. Care needs to be taken therefore to continue the conversations and support for staff, so they feel as supported as possible and that initiatives and innovation is phased or streamlined to allow the organizational capacity to achieve the council's ambitions.

We also heard of concerns about how people feel valued relative to their working conditions, with a perception that those working in the council's large buildings at Westgate and Gateway Plaza had a better environment than those working elsewhere, particularly at the depot. Some small-scale improvements in some of the buildings would be helpful in improving how those staff feel engaged and valued by the council overall.

There is however some uncertainty about the future from staff, some of which relates to the general uncertainty that all councils face about future funding. In addition, the retirement of the Chief Executive in May 2019 is creating uncertainty for staff, who have concerns that the values, culture and direction may change with her replacement.

Councillors also feel that neighbourhood working has developed partnership working, led to tangible physical improvement in some areas and developed members' skills. There are clearly some excellent projects underway or completed since the initiative began and some of these are being showcased through newsletters. The organic development of neighbourhood working has given rise to a patchwork of service provision, where commissioned services may be available in some communities but not in others. This creates a dilemma, which the council is aware of: if the council steps in and fills any gaps in provision across the whole area, it goes against the principle of communities doing things for themselves.

Best practice could be evaluated more overtly so that learning can be shared more widely across the neighbourhoods. from both what has gone well but also what could have been done differently, with the benefit of hindsight.

Barnsley suffers from high levels of deprivation, being ranked the 39th worst in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, 18th on economic deprivation and 10th worst on education, skills and training. Between the 2010 and 2015 Indexes, Barnsley fell from 47th to 39th after a period of relative improvement from 2004 to 2010 Indexes. The town centre renewal offers a huge opportunity for the most excluded of Barnsley's residents through local procurement, local supply chains, social value commitments and coordinated approaches to local workforce development. The area working approach could also be utilised to drive this economic growth at local level and reach the most disadvantaged and support their skills development, employment potential and work opportunities. Moreover, even in adopting this approach, it is also important to ensure those areas of greatest deprivation where it is harder to motivate the self-sufficiency that the Council is encouraging, do not lose out to other more developed neighbourhoods.

Using the library network as a means to digitally enable and upskill communities through a programme of ICT investment is a particularly good example of the intention to grow community capacity in terms of digital expertise. This strategy is aligned with the delivery of the digital campus site in the town centre and is a clear indicator of the aspiration to grow the digital economy. The recent investment in the council's back office ICT capability has been well received particularly by the extended leadership team. Key staff have been digitally enabled through the roll out of personal lap tops which not only allows a greater level of digital interaction with internal systems, but also supports the drive to extend flexible working leading to increased productivity. In both cases the ICT investment has created a sound platform for the next phase of digital transformation, as outlined in the aspirational draft digital Barnsley Strategy.

The current digital first strategy with its emphasis on equipment and the council's IT requirements reads to the outsider as more like an IT strategy rather than a demand management, digital or transformational strategy. Whilst the council was a relatively early adopter of agile working, especially in cleansing and street scene services, this in some areas appears to have stalled, for example, in keeping pace with equipment and technological capacity.

The draft Digital Barnsley Strategy sets out a sound and wide-ranging action plan to deliver the desired aspirational improvements for both the town and the council as an organisation. The challenge initially is to develop and adopt the strategy whilst also, in tandem, putting in place the necessary underpinning plans and resources to deliver the actions. An important part of this exercise will be to ensure that the action plan is properly sequenced and orchestrated to achieve the desired outcomes. Plans should also and properly recognise all sectors of the community and their differing abilities/desires to engage digitally including giving consideration to non-networked employees and the delivery of the extranet.

A council can only truly digitally interact with customers and communities if its customer facing and back office processes have been subject to end to end digital

remodeling. The council is in the early stages of this metamorphosis and needs to remain focused on achieving digital by default to secure the desired return on the investment in digital infrastructure.

Strong progress has been made to date using a distributed model of transformation resources where project and change management capacity has remained seated in directorate structures. To deliver the next, more challenging phase of transformation, a centralised model is recommended where resources are pooled into a single unit to drive change and consistently apply sound project management standards.

The council has a great deal of data and information at its disposal, and the neighbourhood working model adds to this rich source of intelligence. A whole borough overview could be developed to evaluate where there are gaps in service provision and support for the most vulnerable.

The council works well with partners within its boundaries, and it plays a strong role within the sub-region, which has the potential to bring in further investment to the area. Clearly defining its role within the sub region and using regional economic planning to focus on its strengths could be used to develop inclusive economic growth and helping to fulfil a key ambition of supporting local people to do more for themselves.

4.6 The council's approach to Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND)

There are good levels of self-awareness about SEND service development issues including concerns about high and growing costs, and the risks that these bring to the council. There is evidence of good relationships between the council and schools, supported by a Schools Alliance that has strengthened collaborative working. The drive to achieve improvement by council leaders and senior staff is recognised by head teachers. Schools and the council collaborate well and have developed peer review approaches to drive improvement across the borough.

Educational achievement is improving in Barnsley albeit from a low base, and some indicators now exceed the statistical neighbour and national averages. Progress and attainment for children with EHCPs is improving at all levels. The gap between children with SEND and other pupils is also closing in some key stages. This level of performance demonstrates significant improvement for children in Barnsley and reflects the prioritisation and investment by the council over the last decade.

The SEND transport policy has been reviewed following a detailed analysis of the reasons for high levels of expenditure. A range of approaches to reduce transport costs, improve support levels and widen approaches to build independence have been implemented. A pilot programme for personal transport budgets started in September 2018, and greater take up is anticipated in the coming year.

There is a range of other successes:

- Take up of post 16 education provision for young people with SEND exceeds national levels.

- The apprenticeship route for 10% of 16 – 18-year old's in Barnsley is seen as a developing success with a corporate apprenticeship programme that protects two places for young people with SEND
- The single speech and language service is an example of partnership working between the council and CCG, providing a timely service and avoiding duplication.

However, the challenges facing SEND services will only be effectively addressed through a partnership owned approach which focusses on the lives of children and their families, co-production, both strategically and operationally, and the equity of offer across the system. A significant change in approach is needed if financial pressures are to be tackled as the issues cannot be successfully addressed or sustained by a single partner.

Several strategies aimed at improving the quality and range of provision for children with SEND are in place. Some strategies, such as those to address educational attainment in schools, have been delivered and now demonstrate improvement. In the other areas of health and care, initial progress appears to have lost traction or stalled, and it is unclear which parts of the system are accountable for driving progress and addressing delay. Although there is activity, more ownership is needed so that key partners can work together strategically and operationally to drive transformational change across the whole system.

There are high numbers of children with education, health and care plans (EHCPs), in comparison with statistical neighbours and regionally. The council currently maintains over 2000 plans – an increase of 700 in the last five years. Whilst this is a pressure felt nationally, as responsibilities have extended to age 25, wider issues affecting demand have been identified in Barnsley. The council has undertaken detailed analysis, highlighting some concerns about the reduction in the identification of SEND in the early years, combined with a significant increase in needs identified in key stages 1 and 2, which reflects a substantial change in the SEND population in the last 5 years. There are lower than expected numbers of children requiring SEN support in the borough and higher numbers of EHCP plans suggesting that the early intervention support arrangements are not effective in meeting need or preventing the escalation of need.

A SEN support threshold document has been developed and shared with schools, but has not yet been accepted, owned by all members of the partnership, or implemented. Addressing this gap needs to be a priority so that everyone is working towards the same levels of support.

There appears to be variable understanding of SEND and SEND support in schools. There is a large number of individual academy trusts across the borough, and no single approach to workforce skills development across the school system or a shared understanding of the impact of SEND and how children's needs are met. A partnership approach to skills development should be a key contributor in addressing the poor progress of those pupils with SEN support needs. Forthcoming changes to Ofsted inspection frameworks also mean that in the near future, all schools will be tested on how they can demonstrate inclusion.

There are low numbers of children receiving SEND support yet there are high numbers of referrals for EHC assessments: this suggests that some children are not offered early intervention but are escalated to EHCP processes unnecessarily.

Concerns were shared, but not evidenced, about perceptions of a growing number of children, including children with SEND, being off-rolled. The council is aware of this and of the broader concern about increasing numbers of children who are electively home educated. They are taking this matter seriously and have arrangements in place to address both issues.

The proportion of children with SEND and those with EHCPs who are subject to fixed term or permanent exclusions in Barnsley is too high and is much higher than those of statistical neighbours and nationally. This raises concerns about inclusivity in Barnsley schools. When considered alongside high numbers of EHE children, it is an area that affects many other children who do not have SEND. The problem requires further examination and analysis by the Schools Alliance to understand and address the root causes. This will allow a focused integrated approach to identifying the best solutions.

Children with SEND are reported as struggling in the transition phase between primary and secondary education with reports of some children (who were successfully supported and performed well in KS2), being excluded within weeks of arriving in secondary school. Examples were shared of children who were not considered to have complex needs that would justify such provision, quickly being placed in high cost external provision following exclusion.

Waiting lists for children for ASD / ADHD assessments and OT provision are too long. Multi-disciplinary assessment pathways have been in place for a number of years, but do not appear to meet children's needs effectively. This continues to be a serious problem with no apparent solution and most efforts appear to be focused on waiting list management, which have not worked. We were told that children aged over eleven will not be offered an appointment for ASD assessment until at least May 2020, against a national target of 18 weeks. As only one assessment a week is currently completed against an average demand of 10 referrals a month, this means waiting lists are continuing to grow.

A recent report to the CCG governing body proposed significant additional investment to improve children and young people's access to diagnostic pathways and support. The Children and Young People's Partnership will need to assess the impact of this additional support and the CCG governing body will need to review it on a regular basis to ensure that the investment is having the desired outcomes.

Children's mental health needs are addressed through implementation of the local transformation plan. Information provided suggests that children are responded to more quickly at a referral stage, but this can be followed by delays in treatment, resulting in escalating need. The role of Mindspace, as a schools based therapeutic service is positively viewed, although the number of young people accessing the service over a period of more than two years is low, at 306.

The council acknowledges that the approach and quality of EHCP planning and processes, require modernisation. This is an area of work already underway, with a

planned service redesign. Completion of this work will assist in recruitment of permanent staff, which will be welcomed by partners who find the frequent changes of staff in the service difficult to manage and navigate.

Consistent parental engagement is a challenge in Barnsley. The council has struggled to develop an effective parent/carer forum following the previous one ending, after a series of problems. If it is to contribute to changing culture and approach, co-production with parents needs to apply across all services where there is any responsibility for children with SEND and their parents. This means that all services, need to consider how they can adapt to achieve more person-centred and co-production approaches, to strategic and operational planning and delivery.

Some of the performance data provided to us was out of date and out of kilter with the strength of corporate performance reporting. Managers not having easy access to accurate and timely data presents a risk that managers and leaders are unable to rely on timely information about activity, performance, cost and demand levels and as such hampers service improvement prospects.

Recommendations for SEND:

- Responsibility for addressing the overall pressures in SEND needs to be shared collectively and collaboratively by the whole partnership. A good starting point would be the development of a single vision for SEND
- Clarify where lead responsibilities sit so that partners can hold each other to account
- Similarly, the partnership needs to work together to agree how children in Barnsley can be provided with more effective SEND support that is inclusive, avoids unnecessary escalation and sets the reduction in exclusion and EHE as key success measures. It should then be implemented without delay
- Children's health needs should be assessed and met in a more timely manner
- Develop an integrated approach to workforce development across the partnership.
- Develop co-production and engagement with parents in the SEND arrangements across the partnership

5. Next steps

Immediate next steps

We appreciate the senior managerial and political leadership will want to reflect on these findings and suggestions to determine how the organisation wishes to take things forward.

As part of the peer challenge process, there is an offer of further activity to support this. The LGA is well placed to provide additional support, advice and guidance on a number of the areas for development and improvement and we would be happy to discuss this.

Mark Edgell, Principal Adviser is the main contact between your authority and the Local Government Association (LGA). His contact details are: mark.edgell@local.gov.uk

In the meantime, we are keen to continue the relationship we have formed with the Council throughout the peer challenge. We will endeavour to provide signposting to examples of practice and further information and guidance about the issues we have raised in this report to help inform ongoing consideration.

Follow up visit

The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge process includes a follow up visit. The purpose of the visit is to help the Council assess the impact of the peer challenge and demonstrate the progress it has made against the areas of improvement and development identified by the peer team. It is a lighter-touch version of the original visit and does not necessarily involve all members of the original peer team. The timing of the visit is determined by the Council. Our expectation is that it will occur within the next 2 years.

Next Corporate Peer Challenge

The current LGA sector-led improvement support offer includes an expectation that all councils will have a Corporate Peer Challenge or Finance Peer Review every 4 to 5 years. It is therefore anticipated that the Council will commission their next Peer Challenge before 2024.

Item 5

Report of the Executive Director Core Services
and the Executive Director People
to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 7 January 2020

Provisional Education Outcomes in Barnsley (2019)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the provisional education outcomes for children and young people in the borough at each stage of the National Curriculum, from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (age 4/5) to Key Stage 5 (A-level) for 2019, including Children Looked After (CLA) and those with Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND).
- 1.2 The report includes comparisons to other South Yorkshire authorities and national performance of state-funded primary and secondary schools where possible.
- 1.3 In addition, the report also details the priority areas for further improvement, as identified and included in the Barnsley Alliance Education Improvement Strategy, in order to continue to close the gap with the national average.

2.0 Profile of Schools in Barnsley

- 2.1 The table below indicates the number of local authority maintained schools and those which have converted to academies in the borough.

	Local Education Authority (LEA) Maintained Schools	Academies	Total
Primary	40	38	78
Secondary	1	9	10
Special	0	2	2
Pupil Referral Unit	0	1	1
Total	41	50	91*

*There are 91 state-funded schools in Barnsley. Holy Trinity is an all-through 3-16 academy but is counted here as two settings, one primary and one secondary.

- 2.2 There are 13 Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) working in Barnsley.
- 2.3 In addition to primary and secondary schools, there are two main providers of Post 16 / Key Stage 5 provision-Barnsley College and Penistone Grammar School. Both providers are included in the data for KS5.

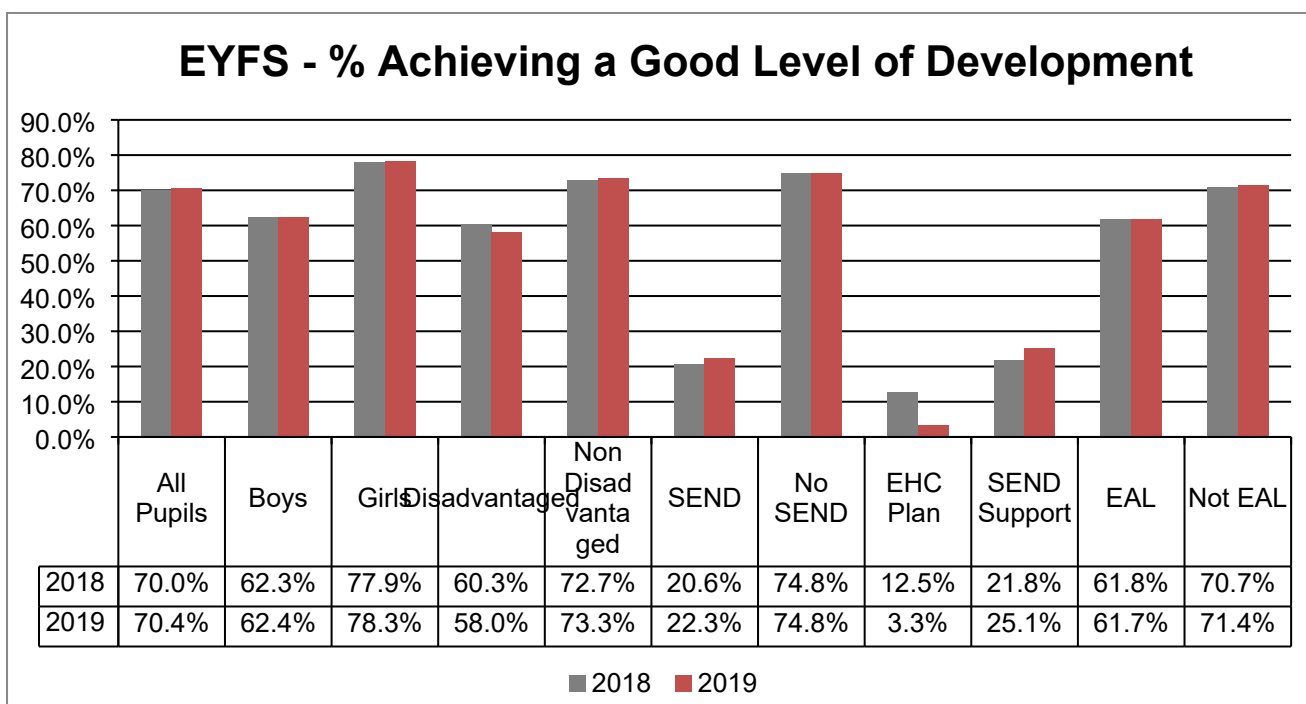
3.0 Highlights of Pupil Outcomes for 2019

- 3.1 The percentage of pupils achieving a strong pass in English Language/Literature and Mathematics (The Basics) at Key Stage 4 is above national for the very first time since its introduction in 2016/17.
- 3.2 The positive gap with national for a standard pass in The Basics at Key Stage 4 has improved further to 3 percentage points above national. Barnsley is ranked 92nd out of the 150 local authorities in England reporting this measure. Back in 2010/11 when a performance measure for GCSE English and Mathematics was first introduced we ranked 149th and were 14.9 percentage points below the national average.
- 3.3 Attainment 8 is now close to the national average with Barnsley being ranked 112th out of 150 local authorities in England. In 2010/11, Capped Average Point Score was used to report the best 8 results. At this time we ranked 148th out of the 150 local authorities reporting this measure. Due to the different scoring systems used for the two measures, a gap with national is not comparable.

- 3.4 The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined at Key Stage 2 is now 1 percentage point above the national average. Barnsley is ranked 51st out of the 151 local authorities in England for this measure. In 2012/13 (when the measure was Level 4B and above in reading, writing and mathematics) we ranked 136th and were 5 percentage points below the national average.
- 3.5 The positive gap with national in Key Stage 2 mathematics at the expected standard has improved further and boys now outperform their peers nationally.
- 3.6 Progress in reading at Key Stage 2 was not significantly below national for the first time since the new measures were introduced in 2016.
- 3.7 Progress in mathematics at Key Stage 2 improved further and remained significantly above national.

4.0 Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (5 Years Old) Outcomes

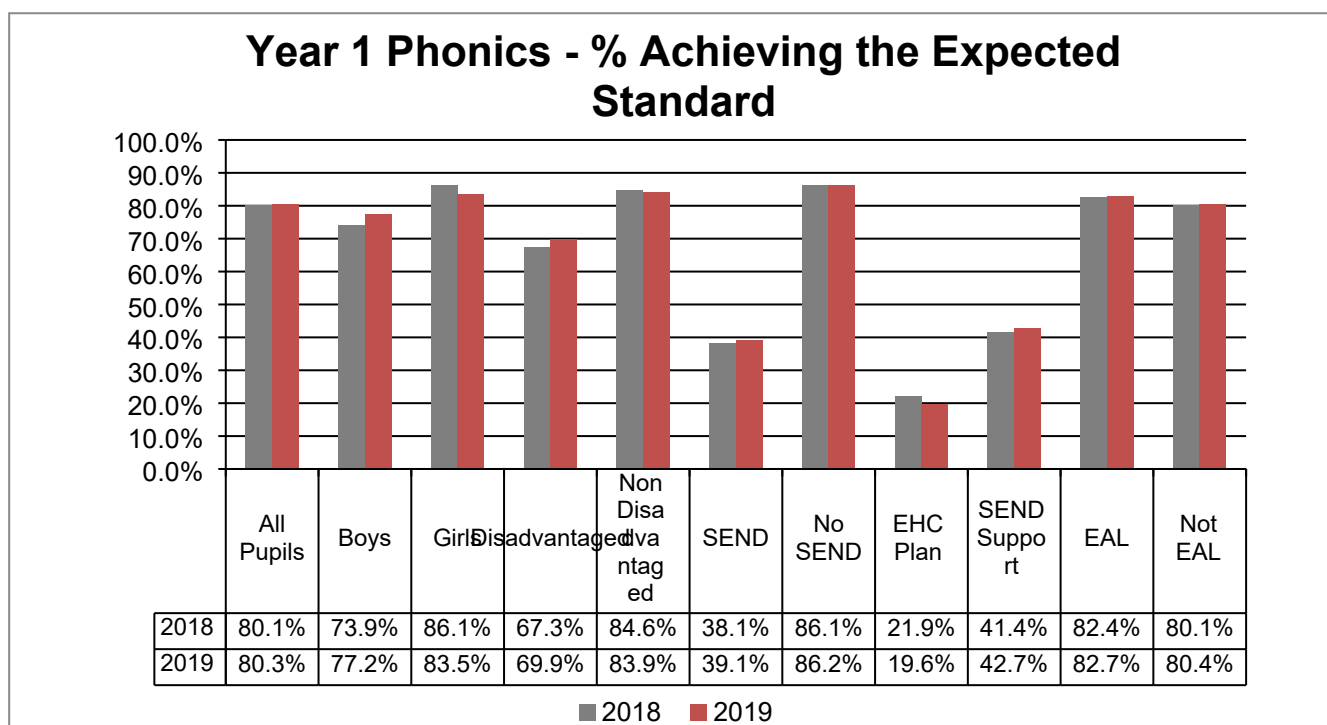
- 4.1 The key measure in EYFS is the percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD).
- 4.2 The percentage of pupils reaching a Good Level of Development in Barnsley has increased from 70% in 2018 to 70.4% in 2019. National results have improved from 71.5% to 71.8% therefore the Barnsley/national gap has closed from 1.5 percentage points to 1.4 percentage points below.
- 4.3 Barnsley ranks 105th in comparison to all 151 local authorities in England in terms of the percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) in 2019. This is a slight decrease on 2018 when we were ranked 104th.
- 4.4 67% of Barnsley schools achieved a GLD in line with or above the national average compared with 58% in 2018. A school is classed as in line with national if any negative difference equates to less than one pupil.
- 4.5 As illustrated in the graph below, there was an improvement across most pupil groups between 2018 and 2019 with the exception of disadvantaged pupils and SEND pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Girls continue to do better than boys. SEND Support pupils showed the greatest improvement with an increase of 3.3 percentage points.
- 4.6 In comparison to other local authorities in South Yorkshire, Barnsley remained below Doncaster (72.5%) but is now above Rotherham (70.3%) and Sheffield (70.0%) in 2019.



5.0 Key Stage 1 (KS1) (6 – 7 Years Old) Outcomes

Year 1 Phonics

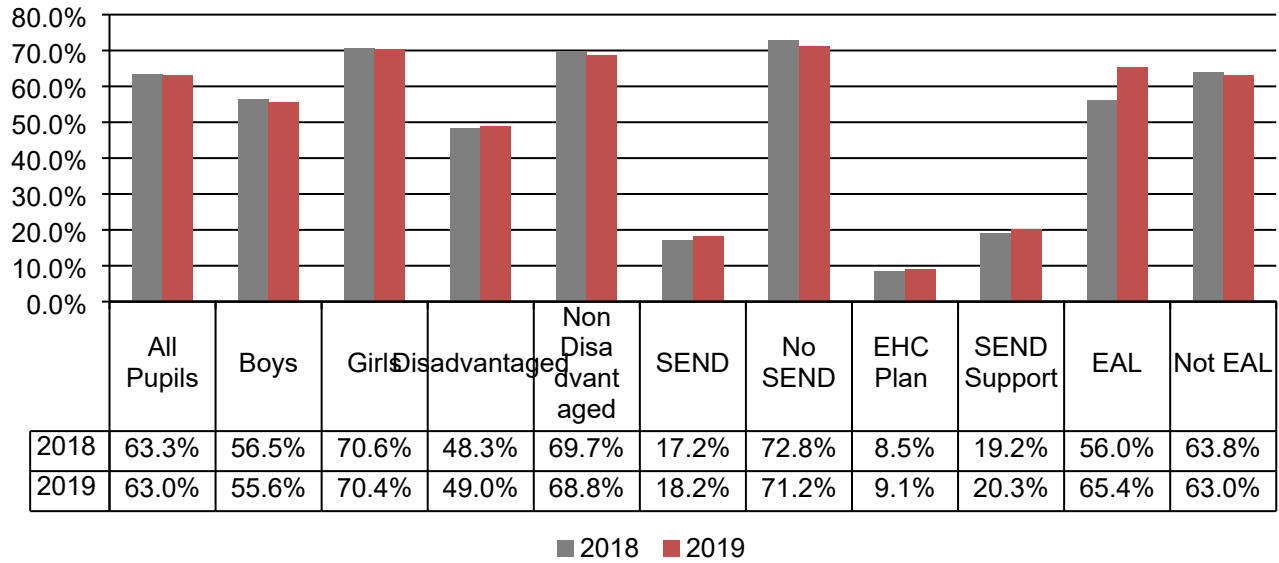
- 5.1 At the end of Year 1, children are assessed on their phonics knowledge. The gap between results for Barnsley children and national performance narrowed again in 2019 from 2.4 percentage points below to 1.6 percentage points below. 80.3% of Barnsley children are now working at the expected standard in comparison to 80.1% in 2018. Outcomes nationally decreased by 0.6 percentage points.
- 5.2 In comparison to all 151 local authorities in England, Barnsley ranks 113th in terms of the Year 1 Phonics outcomes. This is an improvement in comparison to 2018 where we were ranked 125th.
- 5.3 44% of Barnsley schools are in line with or above the national average, compared with 55% in 2018.
- 5.4 As illustrated in the graph below, improvements were seen for most pupil groups although outcomes for girls, SEND pupils with an EHCP and non-disadvantaged pupils performed at a lower rate in 2019 in comparison to 2018. Boys continued to perform below girls.
- 5.5 In comparison to other local authorities in South Yorkshire, Barnsley performed at the same rate as Doncaster (80.0%) and Rotherham (80.0%) but outperformed Sheffield (77.0%) in 2019.



Key Stage 1 Outcomes (Reading, Writing and Mathematics)

- 5.6 At Key Stage 1 the percentage of Barnsley pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics dropped to 63.0% in 2019 from 63.3% in 2018. Nationally there was a greater drop and therefore the gap between Barnsley and national closed from 2.0 percentage points below to 1.9 percentage points below.
- 5.7 Data is not published nationally for all local authorities for this indicator therefore it is not possible to provide information on rank or performance against South Yorkshire local authorities.
- 5.8 68% of Barnsley schools are in line with or above national in 2019. This is a further improvement on the 65% in 2018.
- 5.9 As illustrated in the graph below, most pupil groups saw a decrease between 2018 and 2019 although disadvantaged, SEND and EAL pupils improved. Boys continued to perform below girls.

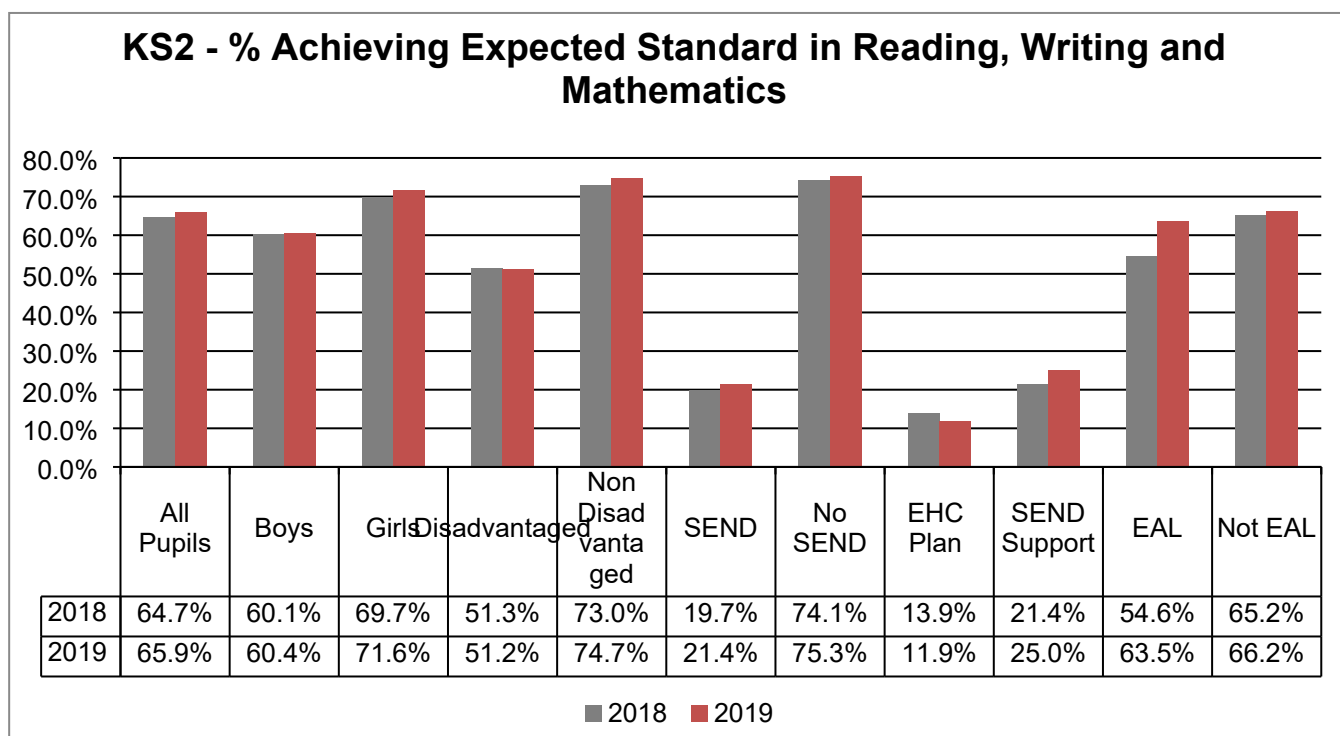
KS1 - % Achieving Expected Standard in Reading, Writing & Mathematics



- 5.10 The gap with national is still widest in Reading although results for Barnsley pupils increased from 71.6% to 72.3% with the gap with national closing from 3.8 percentage points below in 2018 to 2.6 percentage points below in 2019. Nationally there was a decrease in this subject. In terms of the percentage of pupils working at a greater depth in Reading the gap with national has widened to 4.4 percentage points below due to Barnsley outcomes reducing at a greater rate than the reduction seen nationally. 20.6% of Barnsley pupils were assessed as working at a greater depth in 2019 in comparison to 21.5% in 2018.
- 5.11 Barnsley is ranked 117th in comparison to all 151 local authorities in England in terms of the percentage of Key Stage 1 pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading in 2019. This is an improvement on 2018 when we ranked 124th.
- 5.12 In Writing the gap with national at the expected standard closed in 2019 and is now 2.2 percentage points below national. There was again no change to the 67.0% of pupils in Barnsley working at the expected standard although nationally there was a decrease from 69.9% to 69.2%. At greater depth the gap also closed in Writing to 1.9 percentage points below as Barnsley reduced at a slightly lower rate than the national average. 12.9% of pupils were assessed as working at a greater depth in comparison to 13.9% in 2019.
- 5.13 Barnsley is ranked 105th in comparison to all 151 local authorities in England in terms of the percentage of Key Stage 1 pupils achieving the expected standard in Writing in 2019. This is an improvement on 2018 when we ranked 116th.
- 5.14 In Mathematics the gap with national at the expected standard also closed in 2019 and is now 1.1 percentage points below. Although outcomes fell from 74.6% to 74.5% in 2019 there was a greater reduction nationally. At greater depth the gap has widened to 2.3 percentage points below as the reduction from 20.0% in 2018 to 19.4% in 2019 is greater than the reduction of 0.1 percentage point nationally.
- 5.15 Barnsley is ranked 79th in comparison to all 151 local authorities in England in terms of the percentage of Key Stage 1 pupils achieving the expected standard in Mathematics in 2019. This is an improvement on 2018 when we ranked 89th.
- 5.16 At the expected standard in Reading Barnsley performed equal to Rotherham and Sheffield (72%) but just below Doncaster (73%). In Writing Barnsley performed equal to Sheffield (67%) and just below Doncaster (68%) and Rotherham (68%). In Mathematics Barnsley outperformed Doncaster (74%), Rotherham (73%) and Sheffield (74%).

6.0 Key Stage 2 (KS2) (11 Years Old) Outcomes

- 6.1 The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics increased from 64.7% in 2018 to 65.9% in 2019 and is now above the national average. Nationally there was a 0.2 percentage point decrease. However the percentage working at the higher standard dropped from 9.0% in 2018 to 8.1% in 2019 resulting in the gap with national increasing to 2.4 percentage points below.
- 6.2 Barnsley is ranked 51st in comparison to all 151 local authorities in England in terms of the percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined in 2019 which is an improvement on the rank of 72nd in 2018.
- 6.3 69% of Barnsley schools are in line with or above national in 2019. This is an improvement on the 60% in 2018.
- 6.4 As illustrated in the graph below, most pupil groups saw an improvement between 2018 and 2019 although boys continued to perform below girls.



- 6.5 Attainment in Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Barnsley remains higher than Doncaster (60%), Rotherham (59%) and Sheffield (63%) at the expected standard.
- 6.6 The gap with national at the expected standard is now widest in Writing. In 2018 Barnsley performed 0.1 percentage points above national but in 2019, at 77.1%, we are 1.4 percentage points below. However the gap in Reading has improved from 1.9 percentage points below in 2018 to just 0.6 percentage points below in 2019 with 72.6% of pupils working at the expected standard. In Mathematics our positive gap with national has improved from 0.8 percentage points above to 2.1 percentage points above with 80.8% now working at the expected standard.
- 6.7 The gap with national at the higher standard is widest in Reading. In 2018 Barnsley performed 3.5 percentage points below national but in 2019, at 22.2%, we are 4.7 percentage points below. The gap in Writing has also widened from 2.0 percentage points below in 2018 to 4.0 percentage points below in 2019 with 16.1% of pupils working at greater depth. However in Mathematics our gap with national has closed from 0.8 percentage points below to 0.7 percentage points below with 25.9% now working at the higher standard.
- 6.8 Rates of progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 decreased slightly in Reading from -0.04 to -0.08 but is no longer significantly below the national average of 0.0. Progress also decreased in Writing from a positive 0.50 above national to -0.06 although this is not significantly different. Outcomes remained

significantly above national in Mathematics, improving further from 0.65 above the national average to 0.82.

6.9 Progress data based on provisional data is not published for all local authorities so it is not possible to provide information on our rank or comparisons to South Yorkshire local authorities.

7.0 Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Outcomes

7.1 Previously the key performance measure at Key Stage 4 was the percentage of students achieving 5 A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics. This measure is no longer reported on. The significant performance measures now are Attainment 8, measuring students' attainment across a range of 8 qualifications and Progress 8, which measures the average progress of each school's students against their average attainment level at the end of primary school. A progress score of 0.0 means that the progress students have made is, on average, in line with what is expected, given their starting point. A positive score means students on average, have made better than expected progress and a minus (-) score, less than expected progress.

7.2 Another change to measures at GCSE level is a switch from reporting grades as letters (e.g. A-C) to reporting as numbers, with grades ranging from 1 to 9, with a 9 indicating the highest grade possible. Within the number grading system a grade 4 is equivalent to a standard C and a grade 5 considered a strong C. Thus the percentage of students achieving a grade 4 or above is broadly equivalent to the old measure of grade C and above.

7.3 We also report on the percentage of students achieving a grade 4 or above in both English Language or Literature and Mathematics – referred to as “The Basics”.

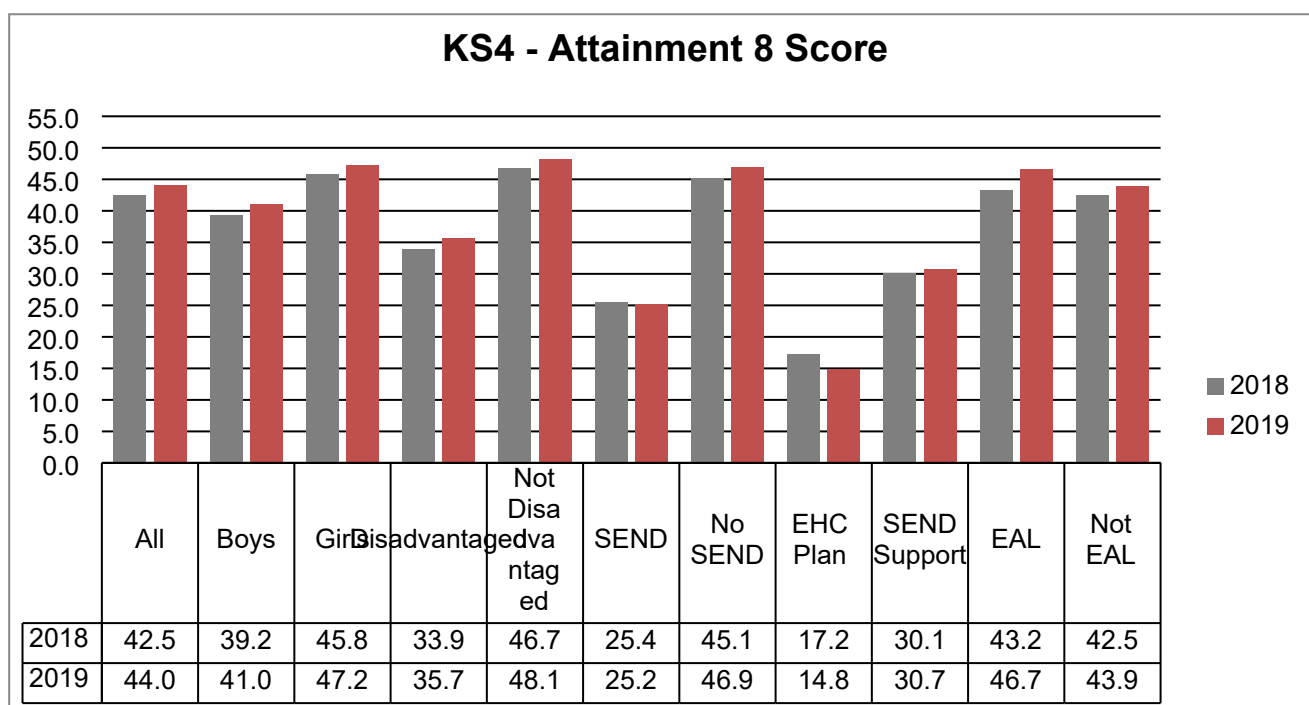
Attainment 8

7.4 The average Attainment 8 score for Barnsley pupils increased from 42.5 in 2018 to 44.0 in 2019 and is now just below the national average, which remained at 44.5.

7.5 Barnsley is ranked 112th in comparison to all 150 local authorities in England in terms of our Attainment 8 score (City of London not included in the published data). This is an improvement on the 2018 rank of 140th.

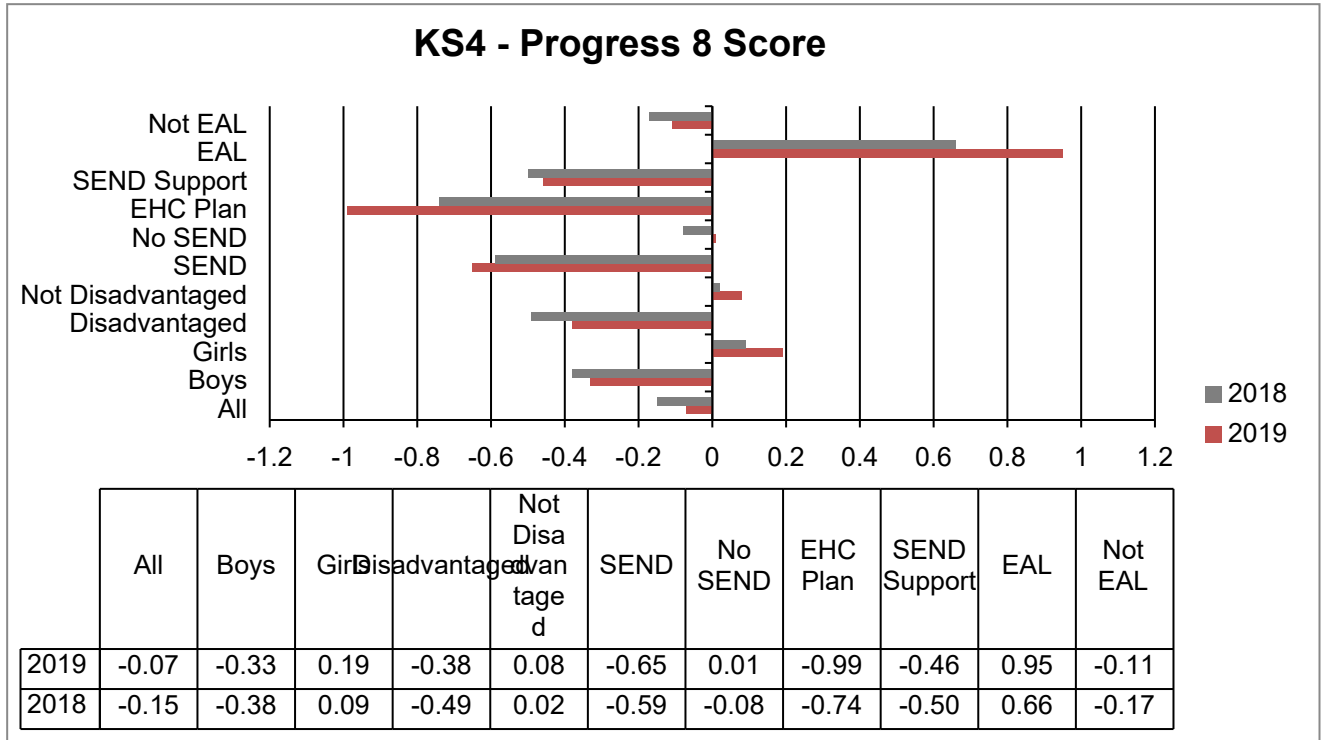
7.6 As the graph below illustrates, almost all pupil groups saw an improvement between 2018 and 2019. Only SEND as a group overall and pupils with an EHCP saw a decrease.

7.7 Barnsley now outperforms Doncaster (43.8) but remains below Rotherham (44.3) and Sheffield (44.8).



Progress 8

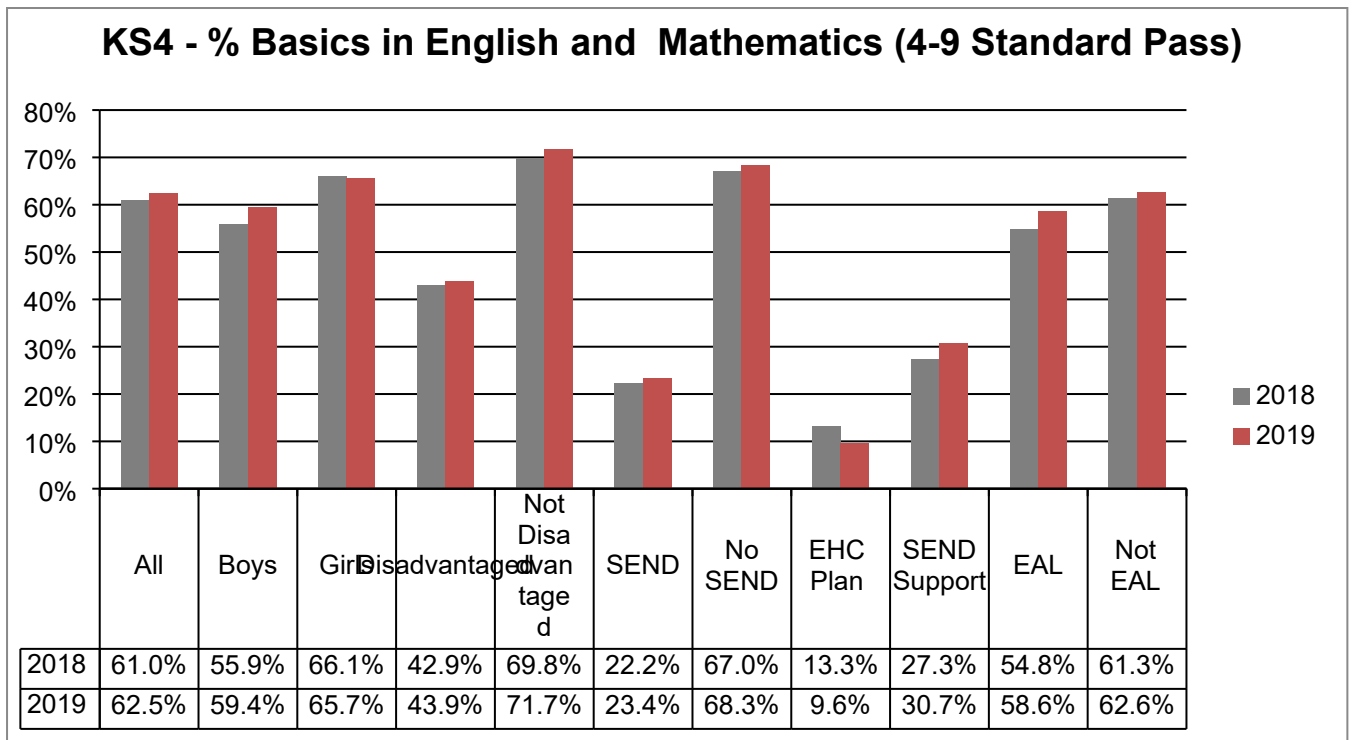
- 7.8 In 2019 the average Progress 8 score for Barnsley students improved from -0.15 to -0.07 but remains significantly below the national average.
- 7.9 In comparison to all 150 local authorities in England Barnsley is ranked 82nd in terms of our Progress 8 score which is an improvement on the 2018 ranked position of 112th.



- 7.10 As the graph above illustrates, almost all pupil groups saw an improvement between 2018 and 2019. Only SEND as a group overall and pupils with an EHCP saw a decrease.
- 7.11 Barnsley now outperforms Doncaster (-0.10) and Rotherham (-0.14) but remains below Sheffield (-0.03).

Standard Pass in English Language/Literature and Mathematics (The Basics)

- 7.12 In 2019 Barnsley improved its position further with 62.5% of students achieving a grade 4-9 standard pass in The Basics in comparison to 61.0% in 2018. The increase nationally was smaller, from 59.4% in 2018 to 59.5% in 2019.
- 7.13 Barnsley is ranked 92nd in comparison to all 150 Local Authorities in England in terms of the percentage of pupils achieving a standard pass in The Basics (grades 4-9 in English Language or Literature and Mathematics). This is an improvement from the rank of 107th in 2018.
- 7.14 As the graph below illustrates, almost all pupil groups saw an improvement between 2018 and 2019. Only Girls and pupils with an EHCP saw a decrease.



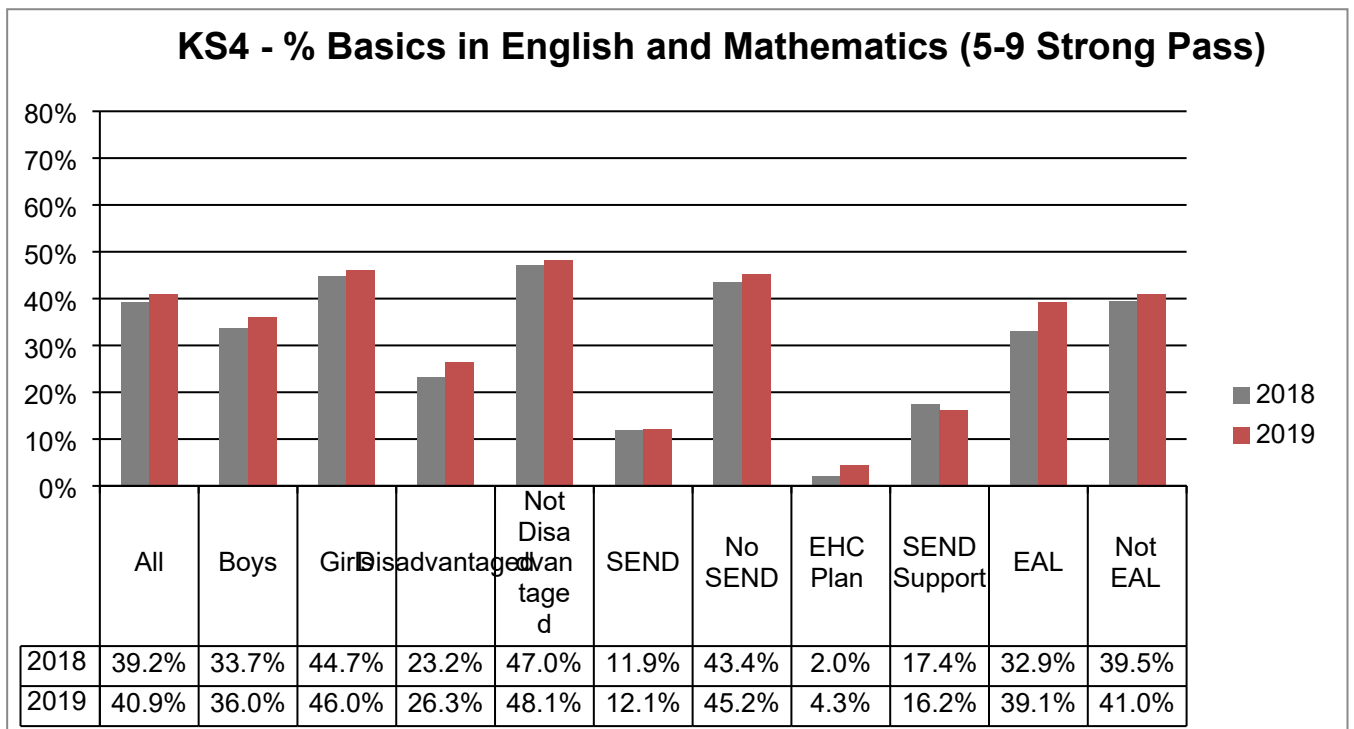
7.15 Barnsley once again outperformed Doncaster (61.9%), Rotherham (58.8%) and Sheffield (59.2%).

Strong Pass in English Language/Literature and Mathematics (The Basics)

7.16 In 2019, Barnsley outperformed national for the first time in a strong pass in English and Mathematics. Barnsley continued to improve its position with 40.9% of students achieving a grade 5-9 strong pass in The Basics in comparison to 39.2% in 2018. Nationally there was a reduction from 40.2% in 2018 to 39.8% in 2019.

7.17 Barnsley is ranked 87th in comparison to all 150 local authorities in England in terms of the percentage of pupils achieving a strong pass in The Basics (grades 5-9 in English Language or Literature and Mathematics). This is an improvement on the rank of 113th in 2018.

7.18 As the graph below illustrates, almost all pupil groups saw an improvement between 2018 and 2019. Only SEND Support pupils saw a decrease.



7.19 Barnsley now outperforms Doncaster (37.9%), Rotherham (37.7%) and Sheffield (38.5%).

8.0 Key Stage 5 (A-Level) Outcomes

- 8.1 The Average Point Score per Entry for all Level 3 Qualifications (A level and equivalent) decreased further in Barnsley from 31.04 in 2018 to 29.20 in 2019. Barnsley is now 4.01 points below the national figure of 33.21.
- 8.2 Barnsley is ranked 127th in comparison to all 151 local authorities in England in terms of APS/Entry for All Level 3 qualifications. This is a decrease from 2018 when we were ranked 85th.
- 8.3 Barnsley now performs below Doncaster (31.30), Rotherham (30.18) and Sheffield (31.62).
- 8.4 For the percentage of students achieving 3 or more A*/A grades Barnsley decreased further from 9.6% in 2018 to 6.8% in 2019 and is now 5.5 percentage points below the national average of 12.3%.
- 8.5 Barnsley is ranked 107th in comparison to all 151 local authorities in England in terms of the percentage of pupils entered for and achieving 3 or more A*/A grades. This is a decrease from 2018 when we ranked 69th.
- 8.6 Barnsley continues to outperform Doncaster (6.0%) and Rotherham (4.8%) but remains below Sheffield (12.5%).
- 8.7 The percentage of Barnsley students achieving an AAB combination of grades (including two facilitating subjects such as history, geography and physics) reduced from 12.0% in 2018 to 9.0% in 2019. Outcomes are now 6.8 percentage points below the national average of 15.8%.
- 8.8 Barnsley is ranked 107th in comparison to all 151 Local Authorities in England in terms of the percentage of pupils achieving AAB including 2 facilitating subjects. This is a decrease from 2018 when we ranked 80th.
- 8.9 Barnsley remains above Rotherham (6.9%) and Doncaster (7.6%), but below Sheffield (16.0%).

9.0 Outcomes for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- 9.1 National data for SEND pupils has not yet been published so this report therefore provides a commentary for SEND pupils on roll in Barnsley schools only. Numbers of SEND pupils across the authority are generally quite low and therefore outcomes can vary year on year due to the different primary needs of pupils in the cohorts.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (5 Years Old) Outcomes

EYFS - Good Level of Development	2017	2018	2019
Total SEND	18.0%	20.6%	22.3%
EHC Plan	2.6%	12.5%	3.3%
SEND Support	20.6%	21.8%	25.1%

- 9.2 The percentage of SEND pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) is improving year on year.
- 9.3 SEND pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) saw an improvement in 2019 in comparison to 2017, although results were not as high as the 2018 outcomes. However, the results relate to a small group of pupils across the local authority – 38 in 2017, 33 in 2018 and 30 in 2019.
- 9.4 Outcomes for SEND pupils with SEND Support needs have been improving year on year with the cohort reducing from 228 in 2017, to 225 in 2018 and 199 in 2019.

Year 1 Phonics Outcomes

Y1 Phonics Expected Standard	2017	2018	2019
Total SEND	36.7%	38.1%	39.1%
EHC Plan	19.7%	21.9%	19.6%
SEND Support	39.9%	41.4%	42.7%

- 9.5 The percentage of SEND pupils achieving the expected standard in Phonics at the end of Year 1 is improving year on year.
- 9.6 Outcomes for SEND pupils with an EHCP have remained fairly static since 2017 with an increase seen in 2018. Again results relate to small groups of pupils across the local authority – 66 in 2017, 64 in 2018 and 56 in 2019.
- 9.7 Outcomes for SEND pupils with SEND Support needs have been improving year on year with the cohort reducing from 346 in 2017, to 314 in 2018 and 307 in 2019.

Key Stage 1 (KS1) (6-7 Years Old) Outcomes

Key Stage 1 Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics Combined	2017	2018	2019
Total SEND	13.6%	17.2%	18.2%
EHC Plan	2.7%	8.5%	9.1%
SEND Support	15.8%	19.2%	20.3%

- 9.8 The percentage of SEND pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 1 has been improving since 2017.
- 9.9 Outcomes for SEND pupils with an EHCP have been improving year on year with a varying cohort of 73 in 2017, 94 in 2018 and 88 in 2019.
- 9.10 Outcomes for SEND pupils with SEND Support needs have been improving year on year with a varying cohort of 354 in 2017, 422 in 2018 and 374 in 2019.

Key Stage 2 (KS2) (11 Years Old) Outcomes

Key Stage 2 Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics Combined	2017	2018	2019
Total SEND	15.8%	19.7%	21.4%
EHC Plan	9.0%	13.9%	11.9%
SEND Support	17.3%	21.4%	25.0%

- 9.11 The percentage of SEND pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2 has been improving since 2017.
- 9.12 SEND pupils with an EHCP saw an improvement in 2019 in comparison to 2017, although results were not as high as the 2018 outcomes. However the number of pupils with an EHCP at the end of Key Stage 2 has been increasing year on year – 89 in 2017, 101 in 2018 and 135 in 2019.

- 9.13 Outcomes for SEND pupils with SEND Support needs have been improving year on year with a reducing cohort of 398 in 2017, 370 in 2018 and 360 in 2019.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Outcomes – Attainment 8

Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 Score	2017	2018	2019
Total SEND	21.4	25.4	25.2
EHC Plan	15.2	17.2	14.8
SEND Support	25.3	30.1	30.7

- 9.14 The Attainment 8 score of SEND pupils improved in 2019 in comparison to 2017 but was not quite as high as the 2018 score.
- 9.15 The Attainment 8 score of SEND pupils with an EHCP has fluctuated since 2017 with results being based on 96 pupils in 2017, 98 pupils in 2018 and 94 pupils in 2019.
- 9.16 The Attainment 8 score of SEND pupils with SEND Support needs has been improving year on year. The cohort size has increased from 151 in 2017 to 172 in 2018 and 179 in 2019.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Outcomes – Progress 8

Key Stage 4 Progress 8 Score	2017	2018	2019
Total SEND	-0.79	-0.59	-0.65
EHC Plan	-0.87	-0.74	-0.99
SEND Support	-0.75	-0.50	-0.46

- 9.17 The Progress 8 score of SEND pupils improved in 2019 in comparison to 2017 but progress for this group was highest in 2018.
- 9.18 The Progress 8 score of SEND pupils with an EHCP improved in 2018 in comparison to 2017 but dropped in 2019.
- 9.19 The Progress 8 score of SEND pupils with SEND Support needs has been improving year on year.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE) - Standard Pass in English Language/Literature and Mathematics (The Basics)

Key Stage 4 The Basics Grades 4-9 Standard Pass	2017	2018	2019
Total SEND	15.4%	22.2%	23.4%
EHC Plan	9.4%	13.3%	9.6%
SEND Support	19.2%	27.3%	30.7%

- 9.20 The percentage of SEND pupils achieving a Standard pass in The Basics has been improving year on year.
- 9.21 The percentage of SEND pupils with an EHCP achieving a Standard pass in The Basics has improved since 2017 although outcomes were highest in 2018.

- 9.22 The percentage of SEND pupils with SEND Support needs achieving a Standard pass in The Basics has been improving year on year.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE) - Strong Pass in English Language/Literature and Mathematics (The Basics)

KS4 Basics 5-9 Strong Pass	2017	2018	2019
Total SEND	4.9%	11.9%	12.1%
EHC Plan	3.1%	2.0%	4.3%
SEND Support	6.0%	17.4%	16.2%

- 9.23 The percentage of SEND pupils achieving a Strong pass in The Basics has been improving year on year.
- 9.24 The percentage of SEND pupils with an EHCP achieving a Strong pass in The Basics has improved since 2017 but saw a slight drop in 2018.
- 9.25 The percentage of SEND pupils with SEND Support needs achieving a Strong pass in The Basics has improved since 2017 although outcomes were highest in 2018.

10.0 Statutory Outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA)

- 10.1 The Statistical First Release (SFR) for children looked after is not due to be released until January 2020. This report therefore provides a brief commentary on the outcomes for BMBC children looked after compared with the outcomes for all Barnsley children. The national outcomes for children looked after for the previous year (2018) have been provided to give an indication of where the results are likely to fall in comparison with national outcomes once released.
- 10.2 SFR cohort refers to the cohort of all pupils looked after by Barnsley on 31 March 2018, having been in care continuously for the previous 12 months in each group. This cohort is used in the national statistics published in documents entitled Statistical First Releases (SFR). This is the cohort to be used when comparing Barnsley with the performance of children looked after nationally. ARE refers to age related expectations.
- 10.3 Overall the results suggest that while they are not as high as the previous year they are likely to be above national CLA results. The results remain well above the results of 2017. There were some real stand-out individual results this year with one child achieving 9 GCSEs at grade 7-9 and another with strong foster carer support securing 4s across the board - a grade above their predicted target grades in all subjects.

Early Years Foundation Stage Data for Children Looked After (CLA)

EYFS (2 Children)	2017 Outcome	2018 Outcome	2019 Outcome	3 Year Trend	Outcome compared with all Barnsley Pupils
Children achieving GLD	20%	36%	50%	upward	Gap narrowing

- 10.4 There is no 2018 national CLA data published for EYFS outcomes, therefore comparisons cannot be made.

Year 1 Phonics Check Data for Children Looked After (CLA)

Y1 Phonics (11 Children)	2017 Outcome	2018 Outcome	2019 Outcome	3 Year Trend	Outcome compared with all Barnsley Pupils
Passing the Y1 Phonic check	14.3%	62%	50%	Upward	Gap widened in 2019

10.5 There is no 2018 national CLA data published for phonic outcomes, therefore comparisons cannot be made.

End of Key Stage 1 Statutory Outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA)

10.6

Key Stage 1 (9 Children)	2017 Outcome	2018 Outcome	2018 National	2019 Outcome	3 Year Trend	Outcome compared with all Barnsley Pupils
Securing ARE in Reading	28.6%	40%	51%	50%	Upward	Gap narrowing
Securing ARE in Writing	28.6%	40%	42%	50%	Upward	Gap narrowing
Securing ARE in Mathematics	42.9%	60%	49%	62.5%	Upward	Gap narrowing
Securing ARE in RWM combined	28.6%	40%	37%	50%	Upward	Gap narrowing

End of Key Stage 2 Statutory Outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA)

10.7

Key Stage 2 (10 Children)	2017 Outcome	2018 Outcome	2018 National	2019 Outcome	3 Year Trend	Outcome compared with All Barnsley Pupils
Securing ARE in Reading	45%	12.5%	51%	55.5%	Upward	Gap narrowing
Securing ARE in Writing	45%	25%	49%	66.6%	Upward	Gap narrowing
Securing ARE in Mathematics	40%	31.3%	47%	77.7%	Upward	Gap narrowing
Securing ARE in Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (GPS)	50%	25%		66.6%	Upward	Gap narrowing
Securing ARE in RWM	25%	6.3%	35%	55.5%	Upward	Gap narrowing

EE

End of Key Stage 4 Statutory Outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA)

10.8

Key Stage 4 (13 Children)	2017 Outcome	2018 Outcome	2018 National	2019 Outcome	3 Year Trend	Outcome compared with All Barnsley Pupils
Average attainment 8 score	18.5	28	18.9	25.5	Upward	Gap widened in 2019
Grade 4 and above in English	21%	43.8%		38.4%	Upward	Gap widened in 2019
Grade 4 and above in Maths	15.7%	43.8%		30.7%	Upward	Gap widened in 2019
Grade 4 and above in both English & Maths	14.3%	43.8%	17.6%	23%	Upward	Gap widened in 2019
5 GCSE at grade 4 and above plus English & Maths	14.3%	37.5%	15%	23%	Upward	Gap widened in 2019
5 or more GCSEs grade 4 and above	-	37.5%		38.4%	Upward	Gap widened in 2019
Secured other qualifications	-	93%		93%	Main-tained	Maintained

- 10.9 The Key Stage 4 2019 cohort was a lower ability cohort than 2018 with 46% having identified SEND and 31% having an EHCP compared with 25% identified SEND and 7% with a statement/EHCP the previous year. For this reason we were not expecting the same level of attainment as in 2018.
- 10.10 The results for achieving grade 4 in English and Maths combined (23%) are not as high as we had hoped with three children missing their targets of grade 4 in English and Maths. As there are only 13 children in the cohort this makes a big difference to the percentages. It is notable that all three had placement breakdowns in KS4 indicating that stability is, as ever, a key factor in securing good educational outcomes.
- 10.11 All except one child in the cohort has an identified post 16 destination. The young person without a post 16 destination has a planned location move as part of the care plan and will receive targeted intervention advice and guidance support over the coming weeks to identify appropriate provision in the new locality.

11.0 Attendance & Absence: 2017-18 Academic Year

Primary School Attendance: 2017-18 Academic Year

Primary Schools (years 1-6) Academic Year (September to July)	2017/18 Published Data		2018/19 Local Data		
	National	Barnsley	All	Male	Female
Cohort numbers			16104	8231	7873
Attendance %	95.8	95.4	95.4	95.4	95.5
Overall Absence %	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5
Authorised Absence %	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.7
Unauthorised Absence %	1.1	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Persistent Absence 10%	8.7	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.7
Authorised Reasons for absence (as a % of total absence)					
I - Illness	57.7	50.3	48.7	48.0	49.5
M - Medical	5.4	4.9	5.1	5.4	4.8
S - Study Leave	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
H - Agreed Family Holiday	2.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
E - Exclusion	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.1
C - Other Authorised Absence	5.6	5.3	4.8	5.5	4.0
Unauthorised Reasons (as a % of total absence)					
G - Family Holiday not agreed	11.8	21.4	22.8	22.0	23.6
U - Arrived after register closed	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3
O - Other Unauthorised Absence	12.5	13.2	13.8	14.1	13.5
N - Reason not yet provided	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.1

Sources: 2017/18 DfE SFR, 2018/19 Capita One, January School Census 2019 and Key to Success (provisional local data which may differ from published data)

- 11.1 Primary attendance for the academic year 2017/18 was 95.4%, compared with the national figure of 95.8%. The most common reason for absence was illness which was also the most common reason nationally.
- 11.2 Barnsley had a much higher percentage of absences due to family holiday not agreed than the national average.
- 11.3 Local data for the 2018/19 academic year indicates no change in attendance. Illness continues to be the most common reason for absence with an increase in the percentage of absence due to agreed family holidays.

Secondary School Attendance: 2017-18 Academic Year

Secondary Schools (years 7 – 11) Academic Year (September to July)	2017/18 Published Data		2018/19 Local Data		
	National	Barnsley	All	Male	Female
Cohort numbers			11914	6054	5860
Attendance %	94.5	93.6	93.3	93.1	93.5
Overall Absence %	5.5	6.4	6.7	6.9	6.5
Authorised Absence %	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.3
Unauthorised Absence %	1.6	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.1
Persistent Absence 10%	13.9	17.6	19.6	19.7	19.6
Authorised Reasons (as a % of total absence)					
I – Illness	52.2	36.8	33.9	32.2	35.5
M – Medical	6.1	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.9
S – Study Leave	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
H – Agreed Family Holiday	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
E – Exclusion	2.8	6.9	5.6	7.5	3.7
C – Other Authorised Absence	6.4	7.3	8.6	9.1	8.1
Unauthorised Reasons (as a % of total absence)					
G - Family Holiday not agreed	4.9	9.6	9.2	8.5	9.1
U - Arrived after register closed	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.8
O - Other Unauthorised Absence	22.4	33.2	37.9	38.2	38.2
N - Reason not yet provided	1.5	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2

Sources: 2017/18 DfE SFR, 2018/19 Capita One, January School Census 2019 and Key to Success (provisional local data which may differ from published data)

- 11.4 Secondary attendance for the academic year 2017/18 was 93.6%, compared with the national figure of 94.5%. The most common reason for absence was illness which was also the most common reason nationally.
- 11.5 Barnsley had a much higher percentage of absences due to “Other” unauthorised absence in comparison to the national average. Unauthorised absence is used when the school is not satisfied with the reason given for the absence or has not authorised the absence and it is not covered by any other reason.
- 11.6 Local data for the 2018/19 academic year indicates a decrease in attendance with the most common reason for absence now being “Other” unauthorised absence.

12.0 Primary School Exclusions: 2017-18 Academic Year

- 12.1 An ‘X’ indicates that data has been suppressed due to small pupil numbers. Sheffield is not a Statistical Neighbourhood but is provided for South Yorkshire comparisons.

Permanent Exclusions from Primary Schools: 2017-18 Academic Year

Area	Permanent Exclusion Rate			Rank Position	
	2016/17	2017/8	17/18 Diff	2016/17	2017/18
England	0.03	0.03	0.00		
Yorks & Humber	0.02	0.02	0.00		
Stat Neighbours	0.02	0.02	0.00		
Barnsley_ England Gap	-0.01	-0.01			
Barnsley	0.02	0.02	0.00	40	77
Doncaster	0.01	0.02	0.01	26	73
Durham	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	1
Halton	0.04	0.06	0.02	79	140
Hartlepool	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	1
North East Lincs	0.04	0.04	0.00	79	122
Redcar & Cleveland	x	0.00	x	x	1
Rotherham	0.03	0.01	-0.02	63	44
St. Helens	x	0.03	x	x	108
Wakefield	x	0.00	x	x	29
Wigan	0.00	0.01	0.01	1	64
Sheffield	0.03	0.04	0.01	63	124

- 12.2 The latest published data available for exclusions relates to the 2017-18 school year. The table above shows permanent exclusions in primary schools for 2017-18, including comparator information.
- 12.3 The permanent exclusion rate for all primary schools in Barnsley remained at 0.02 percentage points in 2017/18. There was also no change nationally, regionally and for our Statistical Neighbour average. This means that we once again had a lower rate than the national average.
- 12.4 Barnsley primary schools ranked 77th nationally in terms of the permanent exclusion rate for 2017. This is a decrease on 2016/17 and in contrast to 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 when we were ranked the highest in England with zero permanent exclusions.
- 12.5 In comparison to other Local Authorities in South Yorkshire, Barnsley's permanent exclusion rate was below Sheffield but above Rotherham and Doncaster.
- 12.6 Local data for the 2018/19 academic year indicates a decrease in permanent exclusions in Barnsley primary schools.

Fixed Term Exclusions from Primary Schools: 2017-18 Academic Year

Area	Fixed Period Exclusion Rate			Rank Position	
	2016/17	2017/18	17/18 Diff	2016/17	2017/18
England	1.37	1.40	0.03		
Yorks & Humber	1.52	1.51	-0.01		
Stat Neighbours	1.41	1.45	0.04		
Barnsley_ England Gap	0.62	0.51			
Barnsley	1.99	1.91	-0.08	135	125
Doncaster	2.13	2.15	0.02	141	137
Durham	1.55	1.51	-0.04	106	101
Halton	1.62	1.68	0.06	114	112
Hartlepool	0.23	0.52	0.29	3	16
North East Lincs	1.77	1.59	-0.18	123	105
Redcar & Cleveland	0.49	0.91	0.42	13	39
Rotherham	1.70	1.66	-0.04	120	111
St. Helens	1.33	1.11	-0.22	87	57
Wakefield	2.00	1.96	-0.04	137	127
Wigan	1.25	1.41	0.16	78	90
Sheffield	2.15	2.14	-0.01	142	135

- 12.7 The fixed period exclusion rate for Barnsley primary schools remained above the national average in 2017/18. However the gap between Barnsley and England narrowed, going from 0.62 percentage points to 0.51 percentage points above national. Between 2016/17 and 2018/19, Barnsley saw a decrease of 0.08 percentage points which was greater than the regional decrease of 0.01 percentage points. In contrast, national performance and that of Statistical Neighbours (average) increased.
- 12.8 In comparison to all other local authorities in England, primary schools in Barnsley were ranked 125th in terms of the fixed period exclusion rate, an improvement on the previous year when we had a rank of 135.
- 12.9 In comparison to our Statistical Neighbours, Barnsley again had the third highest fixed period exclusion rate, with only Wakefield and Doncaster having a higher rate. Barnsley had the second lowest fixed period exclusion rate in 2018 of all South Yorkshire local authorities, with Rotherham having the lowest rate.
- 12.10 Local data collected for the 2018/19 academic year indicates a further decrease in the fixed period exclusion rate.

Average Number of Days Lost per Excluded Primary Pupil: 2017-18 Academic Year

Area	Average Number of Days Lost Per Excluded Pupil			Rank Position	
	2016/17	2017/18	17/18 Diff	2016/17	2017/18
England	4.21	4.09	-0.12		
Yorks & Humber	4.53	4.15	-0.38		
Stat Neighbours	4.23	4.22	-0.02		
Barnsley_ England Gap	0.96	-0.06			
Barnsley	5.17	4.03	-1.14	136	78
Doncaster	4.68	4.25	-0.43	122	95
Durham	4.54	4.39	-0.15	113	105
Halton	4.98	4.78	-0.20	131	130
Hartlepool	2.58	3.04	0.46	3	7
North East Lincs	4.26	4.70	0.44	88	125
Redcar & Cleveland	4.29	4.10	-0.19	91	83
Rotherham	4.23	4.23	0.00	84	94
St. Helens	3.85	3.39	-0.46	50	30
Wakefield	4.49	4.33	-0.16	110	102
Wigan	4.44	4.97	0.53	105	136
Sheffield	5.08	4.39	-0.69	135	106

12.11 The average number of days lost for each excluded pupil was lower than the national, regional and Statistical Neighbour average in 2017/18. Barnsley primary schools were ranked 78th in terms of the average number of days lost per excluded pupil in 2017/18 which is a significant improvement on 2016/17 when we were ranked 136th.

12.12 The decrease of -1.14 days was greater than the decrease seen nationally and regionally and much greater than the decrease for our Statistical Neighbour average.

12.13 In comparison to our Statistical Neighbours, Barnsley primary schools saw the greatest decrease in terms of the average number of days lost per excluded pupil in 2017/18 and is now the third lowest, only Hartlepool and St Helens rank above us.

12.14 In comparison to other South Yorkshire local authorities, Barnsley had the lowest outcome in terms of the average number of days lost per excluded pupil in 2017/18.

13.0 Secondary School Exclusions

Permanent Exclusions from Secondary Schools: 2017-18 Academic Year

Area	Permanent Exclusion Rate			Rank Position	
	2016/17	2017/18	17/18 Diff	2016/17	2017/18
England	0.20	0.20	0.00		
Yorks & Humber	0.16	0.19	0.03		
Stat Neighbours	0.26	0.28	0.02		
Barnsley_ England Gap	-0.04	0.15			
Barnsley	0.16	0.35	0.19	49	127
Doncaster	x	0.21	x	x	77
Durham	0.25	0.32	0.07	95	119
Halton	0.46	0.18	-0.28	140	62
Hartlepool	0.33	0.20	-0.13	117	72
North East Lincs	0.41	0.41	0.00	135	139
Redcar & Cleveland	0.15	0.72	0.57	45	151
Rotherham	0.12	0.19	0.07	34	68
St. Helens	x	0.06	x	x	14
Wakefield	0.36	0.34	-0.02	127	125
Wigan	0.03	0.18	0.15	5	65
Sheffield	0.34	0.33	-0.01	119	122

- 13.1 In comparison to all local authorities in England, Barnsley secondary schools ranked 127th in terms of the permanent exclusion rate for 2017/18. This is a decrease in comparison to 2016/17 when we were ranked 49th and in contrast to 2012/13 when we were ranked the best in England.
- 13.2 The permanent exclusion rate for all Secondary Schools in Barnsley increased again in 2017/18. The increase was also greater than that seen regionally and for our Statistical Neighbour average. Nationally there was no change.
- 13.3 The permanent exclusion rate for all Secondary Schools in Barnsley is 0.15 percentage points above the national average in contrast to being below in 2016/17.
- 13.4 The increase of +0.19 percentage points between 2016/17 and 2017/18 is the second highest of all our Statistical Neighbours, exceeded only by Redcar and Cleveland.
- 13.5 In comparison to other Local Authorities in South Yorkshire, Barnsley's permanent exclusion rate is above Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster.
- 13.6 Local data collected for 2018/19 indicates a further increase in the permanent exclusion rate in Barnsley secondary schools.

Fixed Term Exclusions from Secondary Schools: 2017-18 Academic Year

Area	Fixed Period Exclusion Rate			Rank Position	
	2016/17	2017/18	17/18 Diff	2016/17	2017/18
England	9.40	10.13	0.73		
Yorks & Humber	15.99	15.89	-0.10		
Stat Neighbours	19.78	28.41	8.63		
Barnsley_ England Gap	35.56	35.99			
Barnsley	44.96	46.12	1.16	150	146
Doncaster	50.80	57.04	6.24	151	150
Durham	7.34	9.54	2.20	51	81
Halton	8.24	8.39	0.15	73	61
Hartlepool	26.12	87.53	61.41	147	151
North East Lincs	17.20	12.94	-4.26	138	120
Redcar & Cleveland	29.52	50.51	20.99	149	149
Rotherham	17.17	17.40	0.23	137	137
St. Helens	13.06	12.14	-0.92	128	112
Wakefield	20.01	19.77	-0.24	143	141
Wigan	8.34	8.84	0.50	77	71
Sheffield	18.59	14.05	-4.54	141	124

- 13.7 The fixed period exclusion rate for all secondary schools in Barnsley increased further in 2017/18 and remained significantly above the national average.
- 13.8 This increase was above the increase seen nationally, in contrast to the decrease seen regionally but well below the increase in our Statistical Neighbour average.
- 13.9 Despite the increase, in comparison to all other local authorities in England, Barnsley was ranked 146th in terms of the fixed period exclusion rate, which is a slight improvement on the previous year. This improvement is due to other local authorities seeing a much greater increase.
- 13.10 In comparison to our Statistical Neighbours, Barnsley had the fourth highest fixed period exclusion rate in 2017/18, exceeded only by Hartlepool, Doncaster and Redcar and Cleveland.
- 13.11 In comparison to other South Yorkshire local authorities, Barnsley is below Doncaster but above Rotherham and Sheffield.

Average Number of Days Lost per Excluded Secondary Pupil: 2017-18 Academic Year

Area	Average Number of Days Lost Per Excluded Pupil			Rank Position	
	2016/17	2017/18	17/18 Diff	2016/17	2017/18
England	4.47	4.46	-0.01		
Yorks & Humber	5.26	5.40	0.14		
Stat Neighbours	5.13	5.23	0.09		
Barnsley_ England Gap	1.63	1.65			
Barnsley	6.10	6.11	0.01	147	139
Doncaster	5.88	6.12	0.24	142	140
Durham	5.22	5.19	-0.03	124	125
Halton	3.99	3.72	-0.27	48	32
Hartlepool	7.05	7.18	0.13	151	149
North East Lincs	4.07	3.81	-0.26	58	43
Redcar & Cleveland	5.17	7.36	2.19	122	150
Rotherham	5.33	5.52	0.19	129	132
St. Helens	3.94	3.68	-0.26	43	28
Wakefield	6.23	5.78	-0.45	149	136
Wigan	4.45	3.90	-0.55	90	48
Sheffield	4.81	4.78	-0.03	113	110

13.12 The average number of days lost per excluded pupil remains above the national average and the increase seen locally is in contrast to the decrease seen nationally. However the increase was below that seen regionally and below the average of our Statistical Neighbours.

13.13 In comparison to all other local authorities in England, Barnsley secondary schools were ranked 139th in terms of the average number of days lost per excluded pupil in 2017/18. This is an improvement on 2016/17 but is the result of other local authorities increasing at a greater rate.

13.14 In comparison to our Statistical Neighbours, Barnsley had the fourth highest figure in terms of the average number of days lost per excluded pupil in 2017/18, exceeded only by Doncaster, Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland.

13.15 In comparison to other South Yorkshire local authorities, Barnsley had the second highest outcome in terms of the average number of days lost per excluded pupil in 2017/18.

14.0 Elective Home Education (EHE)

14.1 All parents have a duty to ensure that their children receive an efficient, full time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (under section 7 of the Education Act 1996). However, the law allows parents to educate their children at home instead of sending them to school.

14.2 Parents may decide to exercise their right to home educate their child from a very early age, so some children may never have been enrolled in school. Others are withdrawn from mainstream school at various stages up to the end of compulsory school age.

- 14.3 We want the home educated child to have a positive experience by developing productive and supportive working relationships with parents and by working together to ensure the best educational interests of the child.
- 14.4 The breakdown of children and young people who are educated at home as of the beginning of September 2019 is shown in the table below. This equates to: 4 pupils of pre-school age; 94 of primary school age and 294 of secondary school age. In terms of the number of pupils per Key Stage (KS) this equates to: Pre School – 4 pupils; KS1 – 30 pupils; KS2 – 64 pupils; KS3 - 137 and KS4 – 157 pupils:

Year Group	Number of Pupils
Pre-School	4
Reception	5
1	7
2	18
3	11
4	19
5	19
6	15
7	32
8	48
9	57
10	68
11	89
Total	392

15.0 Action to Improve Education Outcomes

- 15.1 Enabling all pupils to achieve their potential through attendance at a good school, will better equip them to continue to be engaged in training, education and employment; access the local labour market and become more resilient against the effects of deprivation.
- 15.2 Barnsley continues to work with school and academy leaders to deliver a sector-led education improvement strategy. This model has proved effective in driving up standards in Barnsley schools and academies. This means that school improvement activity is led by those who understand the sector best. Building on these provisional outcomes, the Barnsley Alliance Education Improvement Strategy has identified priority areas for improvement in order to realise our ambitions for children and young people across Barnsley:-
- To continue to improve attainment and progress.
 - To further improve the quality of teaching and learning so that it is consistently good or better.
 - To close the achievement gap between vulnerable groups and their peers with a particular focus on those pupils who have a special education need or disability and / or are eligible for pupil premium funding, including children in care and those eligible for free school meals.
 - To improve attendance and develop better access to alternative provision for pupils at risk of exclusion.
 - To build leadership capacity which empowers leaders at all levels to develop a sustainable model of continuous improvement across all Barnsley schools.
 - To promote access to greater opportunity for children and young people through supporting the aims of the BMBC Employment & Skills Strategy: More & Better Jobs 2016-2020.
- 15.3 In addition to the priorities set out above, the Alliance has recognised the need to improve inclusion in Barnsley schools and academies by focusing on developing practice to support children and young people with SEND.

15.4 Continuing to improve the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and closing the gap in outcomes between such pupils and their peers, is a priority of the Barnsley Alliance for School Improvement. This is pursued, rigorously, by the Alliance's 'Developing Leadership Capacity' Sub Group and Special Educational Needs (including Disabilities) (SEND) Oversight Board. SEND improvements are identified as a specific priority within the Barnsley Alliance Education Improvement Strategy.

16.0 Invited Witnesses

16.1 The following witnesses have been invited to attend today's meeting to answer questions from the committee:

- Nick Bowen, Executive Principal of Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance
- Yvonne Gray, Headteacher, Churchfield Primary School and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance
- Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director - People, BMBC
- Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, People Directorate, BMBC
- Richard Lynch, Head of Barnsley Schools' Alliance, People Directorate, BMBC
- Jane Allen, Service Manager, Pupil Inclusion, Attendance & Education Welfare, People Directorate, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Virtual School Headteacher for Children Looked After (CLA), People Directorate, BMBC
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

17.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

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

- Which areas of performance are you most pleased and disappointed with and why?
- In summary, what does the performance tell us about the standard of education in Barnsley overall?
- Given that SEND data comparisons do not tell the whole story due to the nature of different cohorts, what qualitative measures are in place to assess whether they are being given the best chance of achieving their potential?
- Which particular key stages and areas of the curriculum have been identified as a priority for the coming year(s)?
- To prevent children being excluded, what work has been done with secondary schools; how do you know whether strategies are being used in the manner intended; and are they having the desired effect?
- In your opinion, do our schools currently foster the skills and talents that are needed in higher education and employment or is it general practice to narrow the curriculum at key times to ensure results?
- Anecdotally, are schools seeing the changes to the Ofsted framework being reflected in practice or do inspections still seem to be driven by academic results?
- Other than the education outcomes in this report, how do you know how well individual schools are doing; how often is this reviewed; and how are they supported to improve?
- Why do you think there has been a decrease in the number of schools that are in line with or above the national average for Year 1 Phonics outcomes?
- How do you monitor the correlation between education outcomes and Ofsted ratings at individual schools and how is this information used?

- Does the data include all schools and what agreements are in place with academies for data sharing?
- What research has been carried out to understand why we underperform in certain areas compared to other South Yorkshire authorities and the national average?
- What key documents and policies support schools in preventing and dealing with bullying; are they up-to-date; and do they include cyber-bullying?
- Our early years provision in Barnsley is excellent so why are only 70% of children achieving a GLD across only 67% of schools?
- How do you foster productive and supportive working relationships with parents of children who are educated at home?
- How can members support the work to improve educational outcomes for children in Barnsley?

18.0 Background Papers & Links

Barnsley Alliance Education Improvement Strategy 2019-21 –

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s59901/Appendix%201.pdf>

BMBC Employment & Skills Strategy: More & Better Jobs 2016-2020 -

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/3063/employment-and-skills-strategy.pdf>

19.0 Glossary

ARE	Age Related Expectations
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CLA	Children Looked After
DfE	Department for Education
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
EHE	Elective Home Education
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
GCSE	General Certificate in Education
GLD	Good Level of Development
GPS	Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling
KS	Key Stage
LEA	Local Education Authority
MATs	Multi-Academy Trusts
OSC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
RWM	Reading, Writing & Mathematics
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
SFR	Statistical First Release
Y1	Year 1

20.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer, 20 December 2019

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Item 6a

Report of the Executive Director Core Services
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 7 January 2020

Referral to Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee Regarding Transport in Barnsley (Item for Information Only)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report is to provide an update to Barnsley Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) regarding the referral made to Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SCROSC) regarding transport in Barnsley. This report also highlights the opportunity for Barnsley OSC members to share further comments with Cllr Ennis to shape this work.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 During Barnsley OSC's work programme planning session for the 2019/20 Municipal Year, public transport came up as an area of concern for a number of committee members. Members raised concerns over poor bus and train services in Barnsley, especially poor bus services. Given the role of Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority, it was felt that the issues raised would be better served by oversight and scrutiny by the regional committee, especially given the Bus Review consultation which was being undertaken at the time; therefore a referral was made to SCROSC in July 2019.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 In response to the referral by Barnsley OSC and the queries raised, a report was provided to the SCROSC on 17th October 2019 (Item 6b – attached). The report provides an update on the Bus Review including progress of the consultation process; an update on activity being undertaken to improve bus services and connectivity in Barnsley; an overview of SCR transport investment and performance measures; and an overview of activities to support alternatives to the car around schools.
- 3.2 Key current activities to improve transport in Barnsley were also included (Item 6b - Appendix 1 attached) as well as information on how South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) ensures services are value for money (VFM) in Barnsley compared to neighbouring areas (Item 6b - Appendix 2 attached).

4.0 Next Steps & Member Request

- 4.1 This report and the attached papers are provided to Barnsley OSC Members for information. Also to highlight that further to the referral, Cllr Ennis is due to have an enhanced role in the scrutiny of the Bus Review alongside Councillor Dale (Sheffield City Council) and Councillor Furness (Derbyshire Dales District Council). Therefore, if Barnsley OSC members have any comments or additional queries they wish to highlight, then please pass these to Cllr Ennis to incorporate in the SCROSC work.

5.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- Item 6b (attached) - Report provided to SCROSC regarding the Bus Review and referral from Barnsley OSC in relation to transport
- Item 6b - Appendix 1 (attached) - Key current activities to improve transport in Barnsley
- Item 6b - Appendix 2 (attached) - How SYPTTE ensures VFM services in Barnsley
- Sheffield City Region OSC:
<https://moderngov.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=138>
- Barnsley OSC 2019/20 Work Programme Report (Cab.24.7.2019/6):
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s55682/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20OSC%20Work%20Programme%20201920.pdf>

6.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer, 20th December 2019.

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Report to Sheffield City Region Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	17 th October 2019
Subject:	SCR Bus Review/Transport
Purpose of the Report:	To provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the bus review including progress of the consultation process; • An update on activity being undertaken to improve bus services and connectivity in Barnsley; • An overview of SCR Transport Investment and performance measures; • An overview of activities to support alternatives to the car around schools
The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:	Receive the update on the Bus Review and consider the responses to the questions raised by Barnsley MBC Scrutiny Committee.
Category of Report:	Open

Summary:

This report provides an overview of a number of transport related topics to support the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It specifically seeks to address the following:

- 1) An update on the Bus Review including the outcome of the consultation, the consultation process and how the findings will be utilised

At the OSC meeting on 18th July 2019, the Chair of the SCR OSC received a referral from the scrutiny committee at Barnsley MBC focused on transport in Barnsley and SCR transport funding. This report therefore provides information to respond to specific questions raised by Barnsley MBC Scrutiny Committee, these are:

- 2) An update on activity to improve public transport services to and from Barnsley generally and specifically to improve the bus services in Barnsley in relation to key performance metrics
- 3) An overview of SCR Transport investment and performance measures
- 4) An overview of activities to support alternatives to the car around schools.

1. Introduction/Context

As part of his manifesto and *Vision for Transport*, Mayor Dan Jarvis has asked Clive Betts MP to chair an independent commission reviewing the provision of bus services across South Yorkshire with a view to bringing forward evidenced, practical, ambitious recommendations for improvements to encourage patronage, improve viability and ensure the bus system is fit for the 21st century. This report updates on progress made by the Commission to date. Additional information is provided on transport in response to the referral from the Barnsley MBC OSC.

2. Matters for Consideration

Bus Review

As reported to the April Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Mayor Dan Jarvis asked Clive Betts MP to chair an independent commission reviewing the provision of bus services across South Yorkshire.

The Mayor recognises that the decline in bus patronage has a number of causes, including wider societal changes over which the SCR has little influence, but that if this trend continues there is a real risk that the service as we know it today will be simply unsustainable. The independent commission Panel is examining if and how regulatory powers would improve bus services. In setting aspirations and expectations for a future SCR bus service additional capital and revenue investment will be required. The Mayor does not however have the major public subsidies available to him that the Mayor of London has or indeed the more modest ones available in other fully established Mayoral Combined Authorities.

The expert panel of commissioners is gathering evidence in a number of ways:

- Key stakeholders (including local authorities, SYPTTE and the bus operators) have been invited to submit written evidence ahead of oral public evidence sessions starting 11th October where stakeholders will be questioned in more detail.
- The review includes a public call for evidence whereby existing and non-bus users and community groups have been invited to submit their views about existing bus service provision and/or improvements that they would like to be made. A survey, which was published online in May and will close at the end of September has received over 5,500 responses from individuals and representative groups.
- Public focus groups have been held by councillors, local authorities and the Chambers of Commerce; with a focus on eliciting the views of those people who don't currently use bus transport. The Review Secretariat is working with local authorities to make use of existing public consultation mechanisms so as not to duplicate efforts, to help to ensure geographic coverage and make it easier for the public to get involved.
- The Panel has undertaken field trips and examined best practice including in Reading, Bristol, Brighton and Manchester.

The consultation process is utilising multiple channels for engagement – written submissions, online engagement and meetings to help to ensure that all communities can contribute. The role of Community Transport is also in the scope of the Review. The SCR Youth Combined Authority has considered the topic.

The analysis of findings from the consultation will take place in October and November with interim findings reported to the Mayor in December. The Panel is taking a strategic overview of the whole system and is not looking at operational matters concerning specific services. It may however bring forward recommendations on operational matters in the round.

The Final report with recommendations will be presented to the Mayor in early 2020. The Mayor will publish a Mass Transit Implementation Plan in early 2020 which will reflect the recommendations which the Mayor wants to see taken forward. Progress in delivering the implementation plan will be reported to the SCR Transport Board.

Transport in Barnsley

The SCR Transport Strategy sets out commitments to improve transport within boroughs, across the region and to other regions. These commitments will be translated into actions set out in implementation plans, the first of which focused on rail was published in Summer 2019. Implementation Plans for roads, active travel and mass transit are currently being developed.

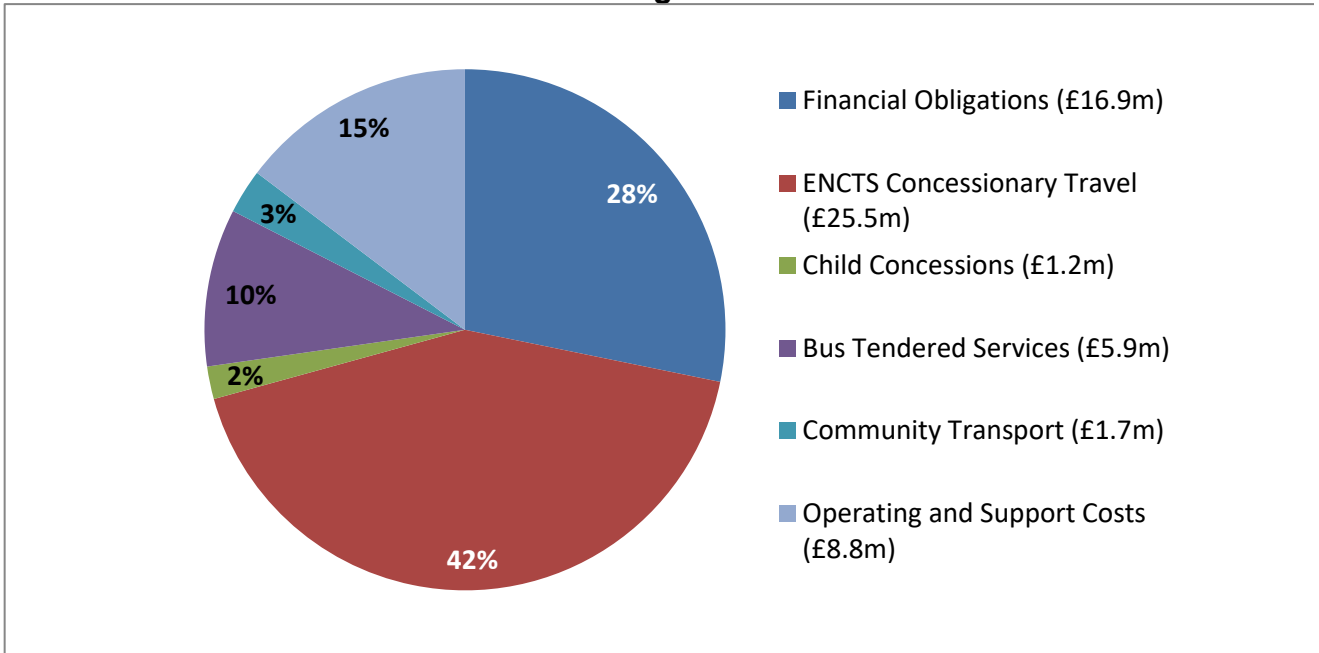
Key current activities to improve transport in Barnsley are included in Annex A for information. Appendix B includes information on how SYPTTE ensures services are value for money in Barnsley compared to neighbouring areas.

Spending on Transport by SCR

The principal funding source for the South Yorkshire Transport Revenue Budget, comprising the net expenditure of SYPTTE and the transport related costs managed directly by the Mayoral Combined Authority, is the annually agreed Transport Levy on the four South Yorkshire Local Authorities. Over 70% of SYPTTE's expenditure relates to mandatory and financial obligations including the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS), which provides concessionary travel for

people of state pension age and eligible disabled persons. The rules of the scheme are set nationally, but the cost is inevitably driven by demand. The 2019/20 Revenue Budget has total SYPTE expenditure is £59.736m illustrated below:

SYPTE Budget 2019/20



As partner budgets have come under increasing pressure, the Levy has been reduced. Since April 2010, the annual Levy has fallen by £38.9m (41%) from £94.7m in financial year 2010/11 to £55.8m for financial year 2018/19.

What subsidies are provided from government for concessionary fares and how are these spent?

Concessionary fares are funded exclusively through the transport levy, there are no government subsidies provided.

Appendix B contains information on the performance measures adopted by SYPTE to ensure value for money and to ensure the needs of diverse populations are being met.

SCR Local Growth Fund

The Local Growth Fund (LGF) is government funding award to Local Enterprise Partnerships for projects that support the local area and economy. To date £23.96m has been invested in transport. Appendix B contains information on the SCR appraisal process.

Alternatives to cars near schools

Although it is tempting to see the school journey in isolation, for many parents and carers it is part of a complex morning and evening routine. For primary schools there are now very few children who travel to school independently, so they are almost always accompanied by an adult. However, walking is still the most used mode for the school journey.

The government has dispersed grant funding for sustainable travel through the Department for Transport Access Fund. Currently a proportion of this is used to fund the Modeshift STARS programme in schools with staff working in each of the South Yorkshire Authorities. 39% (195) of schools are involved in the programme with 86 holding a bronze, silver or gold accreditation. National Modeshift statistics show that schools that have achieved STARS accreditation have collectively achieved a reduction in car use of 27% between 2012/13 and 2017/18. The Mayor and Active Travel Commissioner are leading on investing in active travel infrastructure and initiatives.

a. Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. It should be noted that the draft 2020/21 South Yorkshire Transport Revenue Budget & Capital Programme will be considered at the next Transport Executive Board and Transport Board in advance of the MCA in November.

b. Legal

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. It should be noted for context that in 2017, the Government introduced the Bus Services Act giving Mayoral Combined Authorities the choice to access bus devolution powers, enter into Enhanced Partnerships or upgrade existing statutory quality partnerships to advanced quality partnerships.

c. Risk Management

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

d. Environmental

There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

e. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no specific Equality Impact Assessment implications arising from this report. The report covers the performance measures used to identify services are meeting the needs of diverse populations.

f. Performance Management/Measuring Outcomes

SYLTE performance measures with respect to value for money and meeting the needs of the population are provided in the report.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

This section is not applicable for this update paper.

4. Issues the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider ...

Scrutiny Committee might wish to identify specific areas to examine in more detail.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the OSC consider the findings and recommendations of the Bus Review in early 2020.

6. Appendices/Annexes

Appendix A – Transport in Barnsley

Appendix B – Performance Measures

Report Author: Jenny Holmes
Job Title: Assistant Director, Strategic Transport (Interim)
Officer responsible: Mark Lynam, Director of Transport, Infrastructure and Housing
Organisation: Sheffield City Region
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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at:
11 Broad Street West, Sheffield, S1 2BQ

Other sources and references:

Key current activities to improve transport in Barnsley

Transforming Cities Fund

In September 2018, Sheffield City Region (SCR) were confirmed as eligible to submit a bid to the Department for Transport's £1.22bn Transforming Cities Fund. Working with Local Authorities, the SCR submitted a draft strategic outline business case (SOBC) to the Department for Transport (DfT) in June 2019 and is working to submit the final business case in November. The proposed interventions in SCR will include public transport, active travel and enhancing accessibility to/from and at rail stations.

The draft Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) submitted in June included three funding scenarios for the four-year programme as requested by DfT – these are labelled 'Low' (£183m), 'Medium' (£204m) and 'High' (£227m). TCF will invest in public transport on priority corridors, active travel and enhanced accessibility to and from train stations. Interventions in Barnsley include:

- Addressing a location of existing public transport delays on the A61 Wakefield Road, by a combination of bus lanes and junction improvements, linked to complementary corridor proposals in the Leeds City Region, along with active travel improvements along the corridor.
- Bus Rapid Transit between Barnsley and Doncaster – connecting the only remaining two main urban centres in the SCR which do not have a high-quality public transport link, via the housing and employment growth area in the Dearne Valley.
- Rail station (and station access) improvements across the corridor, including the access to/from the stations and improvements to facilities improved signing and information, accessible bench seating, CCTV and lighting enhancements.
- Connecting the housing and employment growth area in the Dearne Valley to the urban centre of Barnsley by providing improvements for active travel modes.

The Transforming Cities Fund bid will draw on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the recent appointment of an Active Travel Commissioner to start developing a network of active travel routes, taking advantage of the relatively low commuting distances across the SCR at present.

Officers in Barnsley have worked closely with SCR officers to provide the information required. The work is currently in the modelling phase and the Final Business Case is being drafted for submission in November.

Intercity Rail connectivity and town centre regeneration

The SCR Transport Strategy includes an ambition to achieve intercity rail connectivity direct into Barnsley town centre. It is closely aligned to the regeneration of the town centre and potential platform extensions could support an improved intercity offer. TfN are proposing an extension of a London-Sheffield MML inter-city train to Leeds via Barnsley as part of the Northern Powerhouse Rail. The Town Centre bridge work is included in the Transforming Cities Fund bid (£2.5m).

Opening up low usage or closed rail lines to new services

A Rail re-opening Study was commissioned by SCR in March arising from the BMBC Rail Vision. It looks at the initial feasibility of re-opening a number of freight or disused lines for passenger services. The final report due shortly, then we will be possible to decide whether / which routes to warrant further work to develop a fundable business case.

Leeds-Sheffield Hallam line journey time improvements

SCR officers are working with Barnsley officers and with TfN to secure Leeds-Sheffield Hallam line journey time improvements via their priority line speed improvements schemes.

Northern Powerhouse Rail Dearne Valley station

The SCR Integrated Rail Plan includes a new station in the Dearne Valley on the NPR line that has the potential to be served by HS2 and NPR services, supported by improved road connections between the M1 and A1 along the A635. TfN and SCR will work with Barnsley Council to undertake a study to look at the feasibility of building the station early and what services could potentially operate from the station.

Bus Services in Barnsley

The following activities are taking place to improve bus services in Barnsley:

Improving the frequency of service

Realistically increasing frequency is unlikely as operators are finding that maintaining existing frequencies is a challenge as journey speeds are reducing from 13.10 mph in April 2016 to 12.75 mph in March 2019, and journey times increasing, as consequence of increasing congestion on the network. Maintaining frequencies means that additional vehicles are required, which increases the costs of operation. Operators conclude this is not commercially sustainable as patronage is reducing by circa 6% per annum due to a number of external factors; reduced footfall in our town centres, internet shopping, flexible working, increased car ownership for example.

Improving connectivity between villages

The Barnsley Bus Partnership has worked to ensure that all communities in Barnsley retain a minimum level of service. Whilst it is difficult to improve connectivity due to the challenges mentioned previously, effective use of commercial and tendered services has improved the frequency of some services. For example: between Hoyland – Cortonwood – Wombwell / Barnsley, Hoyland and Sheffield from 60 to 30 minutes and introduced new connections to Meadowhall and Leeds.

Ensuring key local facilities such as GP surgeries, Dentists, Medical Centres, Community Centres, Job Centres are included on bus routes

The Partnership aims to provide services to as many of the key facilities as is possible. However, as pressure on the network continues, it is challenging to provide direct access in all cases. Generally key local facilities can be accessed by interchange and when facilities are relocated the Partnership will endeavour to maintain bus access. Where this cannot be achieved, Community Transport is an alternative option for passengers.

Improving services for those with disabilities e.g. suitable for wheelchair users

All bus services now operate with fully accessible buses, including access ramps and dedicated wheelchair spaces and drivers are provided with training to assist disabled users with their journey. An increasing number of Accessible Bus Stops are available; these provide raised curbs to allow the bus ramp to align with the bus stop and tactile paving to aid partially sighted or blind users to navigate from the stop to the bus safely.

Performance Measures

Ensuring services are value for money in Barnsley compared with neighbouring areas

The Partnership collectively is unable to determine the cost of adult ticket pricing as these can only be set by the commercial operators. A week's adult travel in Barnsley costs £13:00 and £15:00 for journeys extending into the Dearne Valley. By comparison, a weekly ticket in Doncaster is priced at £16:50 (or £15:00 if purchased in advance). However, a number of concessionary fares are provided for the elderly, young people (up to the age of 18) and for 18–21, which provide free or discounted travel. The concessionary schemes operate consistently across South Yorkshire.

What performance measures are used to ensure value for money?

- SYPTE employ a number of mechanisms to ensure it achieves value for money. Our procurement processes, as well as complying with relevant guidelines and legislation, apply best practice to ensure contracts are awarded that deliver value for money. This is achieved through Contract Standing Orders.
- As a public body the Executive needs to make standing orders with respect to the making of contracts for the supply of services, goods or materials or for the execution of works. Such standing orders should include provision for securing competition for contracts and for regulating the manner in which tenders are invited.
- Contract Standing Orders assist in ensuring that the Executive secures value for money through its procurement of goods, services and works. They also ensure that as a public body our procurement processes are transparent and beyond question. Contract Standing Orders also assist the Executive demonstrate good corporate governance.
- The Executive is a body subject to the EU Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The Executive's Contract Standing Orders are written to ensure that any procurement covered by the Regulations complies with those Regulations.
- The table below summarises the process for procurement of goods and services.

Estimated Contract Value	Min Requirement
Under £5k	2 Quotations/ Tenders
Above £5k, under £25k	3 Quotations/ Tenders
Above £25k under £100k	3 Tenders
Over £100k	4 Tenders

- Each contract will have its own success criteria defined which enables SYPTE to monitor the effectiveness of delivery against the initial specification.
- SYPTE's general use of resources is the subject of investigation through both Internal and External audit activities.

What performance measures are used to ensure we are meeting the needs of our diverse populations and what evidence can you provide of this?

- SYPTE engages with a wide range of stakeholders through a variety of means.
- We facilitate a number of user forums at both a local authority and regional level and conduct a number of ad hoc stakeholder meetings.
- We conduct user satisfaction surveys on both a periodic and ad hoc basis.
- We work closely with transport operators to monitor their operational performance and target activities to drive performance improvements.

SCR Local Growth Fund

A value for money assessment is undertaken as part of the SCR appraisal process. The SCR business case development process requests information on how schemes align with local policies on inequality, health and wellbeing, and thriving communities and neighbourhoods. This is then assessed to judge how effectively a scheme aligns to local, sub-regional and national policy. SCR also looks to see what impacts have been modelled such as impact on disadvantaged groups, Environmental and Social Impact and Distributional Impact Appraisal.

Item 8a

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