

# Public Document Pack

<b>MEETING:</b>	Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 24 June 2020
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	THIS WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY
<b>PUBLIC WEB LINK:</b>	<a href="https://barnsley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts">https://barnsley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts</a>

## AGENDA

1. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests
2. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

### Minutes

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th June, 2020 (Cab.24.6.2020/3)  
(Pages 3 - 8)

### Items for Noting

4. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.24.6.2020/4)
5. Action Taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions - Officer Delegations Contained in the Council Constitution (Cab.24.6.2020/5)  
(Pages 9 - 10)

### Petitions

6. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.24.6.2020/6)

### Items for Decision/Recommendation to Council

#### Core Services Spokesperson

7. Six Monthly Analysis of Selective Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Severance (October 2019 to March 2020) (Cab.24.06.2020/7) (Pages 11 - 14)

#### Adults and Communities Spokesperson

8. Covid-19 Barnsley Care Home Plan (Cab.24.6.2020/8) (Pages 15 - 22)

#### Children's Spokesperson

9. Annual Report of the Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel (2019/20)  
(Cab.24.6.2020/9) (Pages 23 - 44)

To: Chair and Members of Cabinet:-

Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Lamb and Platts

Cabinet Support Members:

Councillors Charlesworth, Franklin, Frost, Saunders, Sumner and Tattersall

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair of Audit Committee

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive

Matt Gladstone, Executive Director Place

Melanie John-Ross, Executive Director Children's Services

Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Adults and Communities

Shokat Lal, Executive Director Core Services

Julia Burrows, Director Public Health

Michael Potter, Service Director Business Improvement and Communications

Neil Copley, Service Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Katie Rogers, Head of Communications and Marketing

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer

Martin McCarthy, Service Director Governance, Members and Business Support

Corporate Communications and Marketing

Please contact Martin McCarthy on email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk)

Tuesday, 16 June 2020

<b>MEETING:</b>	Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 10 June 2020
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Lamb and Platts

**Members in Attendance:** Councillors Franklin, Frost, Saunders and Tattersall

### 257. Chair's Introduction

The Chair noted this would be Rachel Dickinson's last meeting as Executive Director for People.

Members expressed their huge thanks to Rachel, on behalf of the Council, the people and especially the children of Barnsley for everything she has done during her time here.

Members agreed Rachel leaves the Borough in a much better place to when she arrived and may be rightly proud of everything she has achieved for both Adults and Children's Services.

### 258. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

### 259. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 had been called in.

### 260. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th May 2020 (Cab.10.6.2020/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 261. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.10.6.2020/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the week ending 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were noted.

### 262. Action Taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions - Officer Delegations Contained in the Council Constitution (Cab.10.6.2020/5)

**RESOLVED** that the action taken by Executive Directors under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations, as contained within the Appendix attached to the report now submitted and detailed below, be noted:-

1 Council Timetable 2020/21

**263. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.10.6.2020/6)**

**RESOLVED** that the report notifying the receipt of the following petitions be noted and the recommended actions for responding to them be endorsed:-

- (a) Containing the signatures of 278 signatories, in respect of a 30mph speed limit on Staincross Common and Windhill Lane.

BMBC Traffic Team does not support this proposal. The 40mph section is predominantly agricultural land to its northern side with properties set back from the road on the southern side, with the 30mph transition coming in where the building density increases. The existing 40mph speed limit was designed in accordance with the guidance set out in Department for Transport Circular 01/2006 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. To lower it would do little for road safety but would potentially present an additional (and avoidable) burden in terms of trying to secure compliance. Also to be considered is the loss of the existing 30mph signs on the entry to the side roads. Historically we have had a backlash in such situations from residents on side roads who see this as impacting on the safety on their roads. The views of those residents would need to be sought and considered before making changes.

We have discussed this proposal with South Yorkshire Police's Principal Traffic Management Officer, who stated that "from a policing perspective we cannot support a lowering of a speed limit which would abstract our officers to the task of enforcing an artificially low or ill-conceived restriction, or leave us managing the expectations of local residents who may see little impact on traffic passing their homes".

Periodic mobile speed enforcement is conducted on Windhill Lane and we will send a request South Yorkshire Police's Safety Camera Manager to ask that that this is undertaken more frequently.

The last speed survey was undertaken in late 2017. This was conducted after the fixed speed camera had been bagged for a number of weeks, so those using the road regularly knew that it was not in use.

Average speed: 34.8mph  
85th%ile: 39.8mph

**Core Services Spokesperson**

**264. Corporate Performance Report - Quarter 4 January to March 2020 (Cab.10.6.2020/7)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the Corporate Plan Performance Report for Quarter 4 (January to March 2020) and the 2019/20 Year-End, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted; and
- (ii) that the Performance Report be shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform and support their ongoing work programme.

**265. Corporate Finance Performance Report Year End 2019/20 (Cab.10.6.2020/8)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the 2019/20 draft revenue final accounts position, as set out in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (ii) that the final position for the General Fund being an operational underspend of £6.9m, split between an operational underspend for Council Services of £6.0m and an operational underspend on Corporate budgets of £0.9m, as detailed in Section 5, be noted;
- (iii) that approval be given to £1.9m of the underspend be earmarked to support the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy with the remaining balance (£5.0m) being used to increase the Council's General Fund Minimum Working Balance from £15m to £20m to offer further protection against the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and other future financial risks;
- (iv) that agreement be given to earmark the carry forward revenue resources as identified in Sections 3 and 6 and Appendix 1, subject to further reports being submitted for individual approvals where necessary;
- (v) that the final position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) being an operational underspend of £2.4m and approve that £0.6m of the balance be earmarked to support the Covid-19 Recovery, with the remaining balance (£1.8m) being used to increase the Minimum Working Balance of the HRA from £5.2m to £7m;
- (vi) that approval be given to the write off of historic bad debt totalling £2.1m being £1.9m General Fund and £0.2m HRA as detailed in Section 4 of the report; and
- (vii) that the expected impact of Covid-19 on the Council's Financial Position be noted and that the Finance Recovery Strategy be identified and adopted.

**266. Capital Programme Performance Year Ending 31st March 2020 (Cab.10.6.2020/9)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the final position of the 2019/20 Capital Programme which totals £140.9m, as set out in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (ii) that project scheme slippage and the associated funding into future years to allow scheme completion, totalling £16.1m, be approved;

- (iii) that approval be given to the project net re-phasing of budgets and associated funding into 2019/20, totalling £4.7m;
- (iv) that a total net increase in scheme costs, funded from unallocated resources in 2019/20 totalling £1.7m be approved;
- (v) that the new schemes approved and included within the capital programme during the quarter totalling £46.5m be noted;
- (vi) that it be noted that all schemes in delivery during 2020/21 be reviewed in respect of deliverability risk, financial risk and other risks in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic; and
- (vii) that all schemes that are due to commence during 2020/21 be reviewed in terms of both ongoing appropriateness and in respect of deliverability risk and financial risk in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, as outlined in the Council's Financial Recovery Strategy, be noted.

**267. Annual Report on Treasury Management Activities 2019/20 (Cab.10.6.2020/10)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the Treasury Management Activities undertaken for the period 2019/20, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted; and
- (ii) that the latest expectations for interest rates as outlined in Section 4 of the report be noted;
- (iii) that the Prudential and Treasury Indicators as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted; and
- (iv) that the proposed (temporary) increase in investment limits, as outlined in paragraph 6.3 of the report, be approved.

**268. Barnsley's Recovery and Renewal Strategy - Moving on from COVID-19 (Cab.10.6.2020/11)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the Barnsley MBC Recovery and Renewal Strategy, as set out in the report now submitted, be endorsed;
- (ii) that the proposed governance and roadmap to support the Strategy be noted; and
- (iii) that further reports be submitted as appropriate to advise on progress.

**Children's Spokesperson**

**269. National Assessment and Accreditation Scheme for Child and Family Social Workers: Evaluation of the Phase Two Pilot in the Borough (Cab.10.6.2020/12)**

**RESOLVED** that the outcomes emerging through the piloting of the National Assessment and Accreditation Scheme (NAAS) in the Borough and the benefits to be accrued in the quality of practice, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

**270. Future Commissioning Of Resourced Education Provision For Pupils With Sensory Impairments (Cab.10.6.2020/13)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the recommended Option 5 is the preferred method for continuing to meet the educational needs of children with sensory impairments in the Borough, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020; and
- (ii) that the Sensory Team's Peripatetic Service to local mainstream schools for the purpose of supporting the education needs of children with sensory impairments, be reviewed for effectiveness, as part of the quarterly performance and finance reporting framework, for services to children and young people with special educational needs.

**Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson**

**271. Demolition of 35 Eldon Street and Associated Temporary Highway Works (Cab.10.6.2020/14)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the Service Director Regeneration and Culture be authorised to appoint Henry Boot Contractors using the existing partnering agreement to undertake the demolition works and associated temporary highway works of 35 Eldon Street, Barnsley including all surveys required for safe demolition of the site and reconfiguration of the highway; and
- (ii) that the Service Director Regeneration and Culture be authorised to appoint successful tenderers for all additional survey work required for demolition; and/or consider whether the works, services or goods can be provided in-house, in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, subject to value for money considerations.

**272. Recognising the Impact of Covid-19 and the Contributions Made (Cab.10.6.2020/15)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the concept of developing a Memorial Sculpture which also recognises the contribution of key workers, as set out in the report submitted, be endorsed;

- (ii) that approval be given to the introduction of the Mayor's Special Award Medals;
- (iii) that the review of the Freedom of the Borough Scheme in 2021 incorporate an opportunity to recognise the impact of Covid-19 and the contributions made; and
- (iv) that approval be given to a virtual Book of Condolence being established.

**273. Barnsley Youth Zone (Cab.10.6.2020/16)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that, as a consequence of the debilitating financial impact of Covid-19, agreement be given for the Barnsley Youth Zone to be initially paused for a period of six months pending a fuller understanding of the Council's overall financial position and in particular the Government's response to that, as set out in the report now submitted;
- (ii) that a further report be brought forward when the position is more fully understood; and
- (iii) that, in light of the current Covid-19 emergency, a further financial review with the provider OnSide be undertaken of the Youth Zone business model.

.....  
Chair



**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CORE SERVICES**

**Action Taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions –  
Officer Delegations Contained in the Council Constitution**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To inform Cabinet of action taken as a matter of urgency under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations contained in the Council Constitution.

**2. Recommendations**

**That the action taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations, as contained within the Appendix attached to the report, be noted.**

**3. Background**

Individual actions taken following consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Spokesperson are detailed by Cabinet Portfolio in the Appendix to this report. In accordance with Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations contained in the Council Constitution these actions are reported into the next available Cabinet meeting.

**4. Implications**

There are no local area, crime and disorder, financial, employee or human rights implications arising directly from this report.

**5. Background Papers**

Decision notices of action taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations contained in the Council Constitution available for inspection in the Council Governance Unit, subject to the notice not containing personal information as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998 or exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Officer Contact:** Martin McCarthy  
**Date:** June 2020

**Email:** [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk)

**Action Taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions –  
Officer Delegations Contained in the Council Constitution**

	<b><u>Date of Decision</u></b>
1. <b><u>Statement of Gambling Policy Review Consultation 2020</u></b>	
That the Statement of Gambling Policy be approved and advertised as required for implementation from the 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2020.	3 June, 2020
2. <b><u>2020/21 Pay Policy Statement</u></b>	
That approval be given to implement the 2020/21 Pay Policy Statement contained at Appendix 1 with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020.	31 March, 2020
3. <b><u>Appointment of Monitoring Officer and Designated Scrutiny Officer</u></b>	
(i) that in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) Martin McCarthy, Service Director Governance, Member and Business Support be appointed as the Monitoring Officer of the Council with effect from 1 June 2020; and	1 June, 2020
(ii) that in accordance with Paragraph 9FB of the Local Government Act 2000, Shokat Lal, Executive Director Core Services be appointed the Council's Designated Scrutiny Officer with effect from 1 June 2020.	

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, BUSINESS  
IMPROVEMENT, HUMAN RESOURCES &  
COMMUNICATIONS**

**SIX MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF SELECTIVE VOLUNTARY EARLY  
RETIREMENT AND VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE  
October 2019 to March 2020**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information in respect of the Selective Voluntary Early Retirements and Voluntary Severances which have taken place during 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the report be received in accordance with the required procedure.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In November 1998 as part of the response to the Audit Commission's report on early retirement it was agreed to submit quarterly reports to Members in respect of the costs and numbers of employees taking voluntary early retirement.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 This report covers the period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020

**5. CONSULTATIONS**

- 5.1 None required.

**6. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

- 6.1 There are no potential conflicts with Convention Rights in this report.

**7. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

- 7.1 No implications.

**8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

**9. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 None arising from this report.

10. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

10.1 Appendix 1 – Analysis 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020

11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 None arising from this report.

Officer Contact: Michael Potter – Service Director

Date: 01.06.2020

**SERVICE DIRECTOR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT, HUMAN RESOURCES & COMMUNICATIONS**

	Data					
Directorate	Sum of Cost of Redund.	Sum of Cost of PIL	Sum of Strain Costs	Sum of Total Cost	Sum of Total Saving	Sum of NET COST/ SAV
Core	£69,489	£0	£145,535	£215,024	£524,600	£309,576
People	£115,219	£0	£605,312	£720,531	£819,214	£98,683
Place	£12,780	£0	£0	£12,780	£134,469	£121,689
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£197,488</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£750,847</b>	<b>£948,335</b>	<b>£1,478,283</b>	<b>£529,948</b>

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## BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan**

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADULTS & COMMUNITIES**

#### **COVID-19 BARNSELEY CARE HOME PLAN**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To share with Cabinet Members Barnsley's recent submission of the template 'local authority's care home planning' and supporting letter outlining Barnsley's system wide offer to care homes as part of the covid response.
- 1.2 To inform Cabinet Members of the current support offered to care homes in response to the Covid 19 crisis.

##### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Cabinet Members note the contents of this report and attached submission.

That Cabinet notes that all Care Home plan submissions are being reviewed through the regional Better Care Fund team and that formal feedback will be provided. Where required the plan will be amended subject to this feedback.

##### **3. INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 Barnsley care homes support over 1800 residents across 72 homes. A large number of homes are occupied by elderly residents who are classed as vulnerable to covid 19, as such the need to wrap those homes with support is essential in response to the covid outbreak.
- 3.2 Care homes provide invaluable support to some of Barnsley's most vulnerable residents. Very early into the Covid 19 outbreak we recognised the significance of getting alongside both our care home market and our home care market to ensure their preparedness for Covid, to share understanding of the potential risks and what we could do together to reduce them, ensuring that across adult social care, community health, the hospital and public health we were doing all that we could to keep residents and staff as safe as possible.
- 3.3 Care homes also play an invaluable role in the discharge 2 assess model ensuring fast discharges from hospital beds to ensure there is capacity to support those needing acute care as a result of covid 19.

- 3.4 As a response to the challenges within the care sector the government launched the Adult Social Care plan which described the four pillars :
- 1) Controlling the spread of infection.
  - 2) Supporting the workforce.
  - 3) Supporting independence, supporting people at the end of their lives, and responding to individual needs.
  - 4) Supporting local authorities and the providers of care.
- 3.5 Following increasing media coverage of care homes during Covid 19 the government issued further guidance and communications to councils with a requirement that each council working alongside health partners develops a care home plan to evidence how care homes are being supported and that the planning return is submitted by 29 May. The return consisted of a letter that sets out a short overview of our current activity and forward plan alongside a short template that confirms the current level of access to the support offer.

The return includes homes that the local authority does not directly commission from, as well as details of issues and support needs.

Engagement with the residential care sector was undertaken to enable the plan to be collated and 100% of the homes in Barnsley participated in the completion of the plan.

- 3.6 Data from the return will be incorporated into Barnsley's broader care home assurance and delivery plan. The governance of this plan will be overseen by the Bronze health and social care cell and reported to both cabinet members and the CCG's governing body as required.

#### **4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION**

- 4.1 That Cabinet note the content of the report and specifically the actions within Barnsley's Care Home Plan.
- 4.2 That Cabinet notes that all Care Home plan submissions are being reviewed through the regional Better Care Fund team and that formal feedback will be provided. Where required the plan will be amended subject to this feedback.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS**

- 5.1 Barnsley's approach to supporting its care homes ensures that care homes are given the support, advice, guidance and tools they need to safely support residents through this outbreak and to ensure staff working in care homes are supported to continue their caring role.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council was allocated CV-19 funding to support key frontline services including adult social care as well as an additional infection control funding of £3m to specifically support care providers to reduce the rate of transmission in and between care homes and to support workforce resilience.



- 6.2 The total payments made to date (and committed) as direct support to care providers in Barnsley against the impact of the CV-19 pandemic is **£7.0M**, analysed as follows:

Whom	Purpose of funding	£
Care home providers	<b>Infection control:</b> to reduce the rate of transmission in and between care homes	2.3M
Domiciliary care & Supported Living providers	<b>Infection control:</b> to support wider workforce resilience in relation to Covid-19 infection control measures	0.7M
All care providers (including care homes)	Support to care sector to ensure financial resilience and to cover additional cost pressures arising from: use of temporary staff; increased statutory sick pay; cost of procuring personal protective equipment (PPE)	3.1M
Care homes providers	On-going payment for voids as a result of the deaths in care homes during the pandemic period	0.7M
Domiciliary care & Supported Living providers	Providers are being paid 'on plan' i.e. based on the planned care hours (rather than actual hours of care provided)	0.2M

### ***Infection control funding***

- 6.3 The Infection Control Funding is ring-fenced for adult social care. The grant conditions require 75% of the funding (£2.250m) to be paid directly to care home providers (on a per beds basis) and must be used to fund a range of infection control staffing costs, including paying the wages of staff self-isolating; recruitment of additional staff; limiting staff to segregated CV-19 residents; limit the use of public transport by staff and providing accommodation for staff to limit social interaction outside work.
- 6.4 Consideration is currently being given to allocating the balance of the infection control funding £0.752m to other care providers (domiciliary care, supported living, etc.) to support wider workforce resilience in relation to Covid-19 infection control measures.
- 6.5 The funding is conditional on care home providers completing the NHS Capacity Tracker on a consistent basis. Funding is allowed to be clawed back from providers if it is unused or has not been applied for infection control purposes. The Council is required under the grant conditions to submit a certified statement on the use of the funding on the intended measures by 30 September 2020.

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 All care providers are being sent a regular information bulletin with updates on guidance, links to useful information and information relating to Barnsleys' covid response plan.
- 7.2 Each Local Authority is required to publish their Care Home Plan alongside transparent data regarding rate uplifts and other extra funding available to care providers e.g. cash flow support etc and that this information is published by 29 May 2020.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The care home plan is reflective of a system wide approach to supporting care homes. The plan was produced with representatives from the following organisations: BMBC/SWYPFT/Barnsley CCG/Barnsley Healthcare Federation/BHNFT.

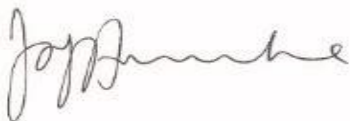
## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Barnsley Care Home Support Template  
Covering Letter

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made

**Report author:** Sharon Graham

Financial Implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (10/06/2020).....

*(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer to confirm the financial implications in the report)*



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**Sarah Norman**  
**Chief Executive**

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**BY E-MAIL**

[CareandReform2@communities.gov.uk](mailto:CareandReform2@communities.gov.uk)

My Ref: CEX/AH  
Your Ref:  
Date: 29 May 2020  
Enquiries Sarah Norman  
Direct Dial: 01226 775831  
E-Mail: [sarahnorman@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:sarahnorman@barnsley.gov.uk)

**Barnsley's Care Home Plan**

This covering letter outlines the partnership arrangements in place in Barnsley to ensure care market resilience, the enhanced offer of support to all Care Homes and our forward plan as per the request.

**Introduction**

Care homes provide invaluable support to some of Barnsley's most vulnerable elderly and disabled residents.

Very early into the Covid-19 outbreak, partners across health and social care recognised the significance of getting alongside the care sector to support their response to Covid-19, sharing an understanding of the potential risks and considering what we could do together to manage those risks. This ensured that across adult social care, community health, the hospital and public health, we were doing all that we could to keep residents and staff as safe as possible.

In developing Barnsley's Care Home Support Plan, we have utilised the existing joint commissioning arrangements and partnership agreements across health and social care.

The plan has been aligned to the Enhanced Health in Care Home Framework, ADASS Confidence Matrix, the NHS response to Covid-19 and key principles for care homes to form a shared assurance and delivery plan for Barnsley. It details Barnsley's support offer in its entirety, including key areas such as infection, prevention and control (IPC), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), workforce and financial sustainability and aligns with all current regional and national guidance.

Executive leadership has been driven by the Director of Adult Social Services, Director of Public Health and the CCG's Chief Nurse.

A Care Home Assurance and Delivery Group has been established with senior representation from key partners. This group is responsible for ensuring all operational requirements within the plan are delivered, identifying gaps in support and proposing new developments/opportunities.

The group currently reports into a Bronze health and social care cell, escalating challenges/barriers as necessary.

Engagement with care homes during the Covid-19 outbreak has been integral to the development of Barnsley's plan. Long term the plan will form part of Barnsley's Excellence in Care Programme, and providers will play an active role in its further development and implementation.

**Confidence Level**

A number of elements of support detailed in the plan have been implemented and there are established assurance and governance arrangements in place to oversee this.

## **Data Collection**

All care homes are contacted daily by telephone from a member of the Virtual Care Home Team. This call includes data collection to be added to daily reports which are shared with all partners alongside offering advice, guidance and support to care homes as required.

Data collected via this call focuses on the presence of Covid-19 within the care home, resident deaths and recovery.

Barnsley's joint commissioning team carry out further data collection to inform occupancy rates, PPE stocks and staff capacity. This data is used to form a care home dashboard.

Additionally, all care homes have an allocated Contract Officer within the Joint Commissioning Team.

Contract Officers act as a point of contact for Registered Managers and escalate queries/concerns via the Head of Service who forms part of the Bronze cell. The Bronze cell is chaired by the CCG Chief Nurse and attended by colleagues from South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust, the local GP Federation, Barnsley Hospital National Foundation Trust and Barnsley Council.

Significant work has been done in recent weeks to increase the number of care homes providing data via the NHS Capacity Tracker. Once implemented, other data collection will be stood down and the tracker used as the main source of data.

## **Financial Support**

Through its joint commissioning arrangements Barnsley has a history of working in partnership with its care providers.

The following details Barnsley's current approach to addressing financial pressures in the care home sector:

- In 2018 work was undertaken to determine the average cost of residential care across the borough. The outcome of this work led to a 14.9% increase in weekly residential/nursing fees between 2017 and 2019.
- An interim uplift of 5.2% has been implemented from April 2020 to reflect the changes to National Living Wage however there is a current proposal to increase fees by a further 8.2%. This is subject to an agreement that the increase will be passed to care workers and is currently subject to negotiation with care home providers.
- In response to the Covid-19 crisis and to address costs pressures facing care home providers, the council has made one off payments to all care homes it did business within the financial year 2019/20. Payments, ranging from £5000 to £50000, were made in March 2020 and reflect an increase in excess of 10% of profiled 3-month payments to care providers in 2019/20. This is in line with Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and Local Government Association (LGA) advice / guidance.
- The council has additionally committed to a payment to plan position including the temporary on-going payment of voids caused as a result of the death of a service user funded by the council at the time of death.
- We will shortly be issuing payments to all care homes via the Infection Prevention Control grant allocation based on CQC registered bed numbers.

Partners will continue to review this position and have given a clear message to all providers that should they be facing financial pressures they should contact us directly to discuss further support.

### **Alternative accommodation**

The majority of care homes in Barnsley have to date had the capacity and capability to isolate residents returning from the hospital in line with the national guidance on Infection Prevention and Control.

Concerns have been addressed on a case by case basis. They have included alternative approaches such as an extended stay in the hospital for those testing positive for Covid-19 until the risk of transmission is reduced.

Commissioners have additionally secured twenty beds in one care home with the ability to operate hot and cold units. The beds have been commissioned under a short-term block contract agreement and reflect an Intermediate Care offer.

Several other homes have 'empty' units which can be secured at short notice should the demand arise.

### **Workforce**

Barnsley is part of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System 'Bring Back Staff' (BBS – wave 2) to care homes process led locally by the CCG Chief Nurse.

Should a person wish to return to work in a care home in Barnsley, the Chief Nurse would work with the Joint Commissioning Team to ascertain where the individual would best be placed, based on need at any given time.

To date, there have been no cases of returning staff expressing an interest in working in a care home and little demand from care home providers with providers utilising their own staff to cover absences to reduce the risk of covid transmission in the home.

Our enhanced offer to care homes does include the use of volunteers to support with non-care tasks; such as administration to reduce the burden of care homes. The council also has an emergency resilience team on standby should the need arise and Commissioners have issued a shared Memorandum of Understanding across all care homes to support access to staff from other homes where this is required and safe to do so.

As requested, this letter gives a brief summary of our current and long-term approach to supporting care homes across the borough. It is backed up by a detailed and comprehensive plan that will be used to further develop our partnerships with care homes and improve on the quality of care being delivered.

We would welcome further discussions with colleagues from the national team regarding this plan to contextualise Barnsley's offer.

Yours sincerely



**Sarah Norman**  
**Chief Executive**

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**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan**

**REPORT OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)  
TO CABINET**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BARNSELY CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL (2019/20)**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present for Cabinet's consideration the latest Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That Cabinet notes the progress and achievements made by the Panel in supporting children and young people in care, together with care leavers, during this period.**

**3.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 Both the Children Act (2004) and the Children (Leaving Care) Act (2000) continue to place a statutory duty upon the Council to protect children from suffering significant harm and to provide continued financial and transitional support for care leavers aged up to 25.
- 3.2 More recently, Part 1 of the Children and Social Work Act (2017) and the publication of subsequent statutory guidance, requires the Council to give due regard to act in the best interests of and to secure the best outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. As part of this, the publication of a 'Local Offer' to young people leaving care, including provision of a personal advisor, was considered and approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**4.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**

- 4.1 Please see Paragraph 5.1 of this report.

**5.1 PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION**

- 5.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel's latest annual report, attached as Appendix 1, demonstrates its continuing compliance with the responsibilities indicated in Paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 above and the added value which it brings to the experience of children and young people both in and leaving care, particularly in helping them stay safe and healthy; improve their aspirations and prospects as well as enjoy enriching lives in accordance with the Council's 'Pledge' to children in care and care leavers in the Borough.

5.2 Notably, Section 3.0 of the annual report outlines the role and responsibilities of the elected member as a corporate parent whilst Sections 7.0 and 8.0 detail the progress and achievements made by the Corporate Parenting Panel towards improving the range of outcomes for children in care and care leavers, including on the following, during 2019/20:

- Safeguarding and protection.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Achieving their potential through education.
- Permanence, quality of placements and placement stability.
- Promoting engagement, participation and inclusion.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AND SERVICE USERS**

6.1 The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel includes ensuring that all children in need of care in any part of the Borough, together with those from other areas who are placed in the Borough, receive the help and support which they require in order to stay safe and healthy, gain a good education and to lead rewarding lives.

6.2 During a period in which social distancing, self-isolation and restrictions upon the public's movement could, potentially, impact upon provision, the Council and its partners have continued to ensure that the full range of our statutory responsibilities, as noted in Paragraph 3.2 of this report, continue to be met and that no children in care or care leavers are exposed to a greater risk of harm as a result of the lockdown

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this annual report. Financial performance, namely resources, budget and spend in relation to discharging the Panel's responsibilities is regularly reported through the Council's budgetary procedures.

## **8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no direct employee implications emerging through consideration of the Panel's Annual Report.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct legal implications arising through consideration of the Annual Report.

## **10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Similarly, the Annual Report has no adverse implications for young people or their carers in being able to access relevant services through various channels.



## **11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The Annual Report will be published and promoted via the Council's Web Site in order to make stakeholders aware of the importance of the Panel's work and the value it adds to supporting vulnerable children and young people in the Borough.
- 11.2 This is the second annual report of the Panel to have been published following Ofsted's standard inspection of Local Authority Children's Services in the Borough (2018) which awarded 'Good' judgements in every key area of the inspection, including services for children in care and care leavers. Moreover, in a follow-up visit to the local Test of Assurance undertaken by the Government's National Implementation Advisor for Care Leavers in 2018, Barnsley was cited as an exemplar for good corporate parenting in his first annual report.
- 11.3 These outcomes have provided assurance, to our communities, of the Council's continuing commitment towards fulfilling our 'Pledge' for children in care and in delivering our 'local offer' to care leavers.

## **12.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 The Annual Report has been drafted with the valuable help and input of children in care and care leavers, including representatives from the Barnsley Care4Us Council.

## **13.0 THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

- 13.1 The role and responsibilities discharged by the Corporate Parenting Panel support numerous Strategic Priorities of the Borough's Children and Young People's Plan (2019-22) relating to children in care and care leavers. These strategic priorities are as follows:
- Keeping Children and Young People Safe.
  - Improving Education, Achievement and Employability.
  - Tackling Child Poverty and Developing Stronger, Resilient Families.
  - Supporting All Children, Young People and Families To Make Healthy Lifestyle Choices.
  - Encouraging Positive Relationships and Strengthening Emotional Health.
- 13.2 In addition, the Panel's work supports one of the Council's Corporate Priorities, notably by ensuring children and young people in care are kept safe from harm and are enabled to have their say in overseeing the quality and effectiveness of local services, as part of improving their potential and life chances.
- 13.3 Performance relating to the data set of relevant, local indicators, including the outturn data for Quarter 4 (2019/20) and direction of travel from 2017/18, is noted in Section 9 of the Annual Report (Appendix 1). This shows that in comparison with the corresponding quarter over the last 3 years, performance continues to improve on many of the local indicators and in many instances, is better than the National Average and the average among statistically comparable local authorities.

## **14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

- 14.1 A crucial element of the Council's 'Pledge' to children in our care, together with care leavers, is to promote, support and respect their identity. Therefore, it will be an ongoing responsibility for the Panel to ensure the specific needs of any children in care and care leavers belonging to groups with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act (2010) are met in a way which respects their identity.

## **15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY**

- 15.1 Please see Paragraphs 13.1 and 13.2 of this report.

## **16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

- 16.1 A key responsibility of the Panel is helping ensure improvements take place in the health of children and young people in care. According to the latest published data on the timeliness of both health and dental assessments, our performance remains stable and is above the National Average. A priority during 2020/21 will continue to be ensuring access to timely therapeutic treatment for children and young people experiencing mental ill health.

## **17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

- 17.1 The Panel's role in supporting the Council's 'Pledge' includes overseeing and challenging the effectiveness of local services which are responsible for keeping them safe from harm (including abuse, exploitation and neglect) as well as preventing them from adopting risky behaviour which can harm their wellbeing as well as the safety of local communities.
- 17.2 Through listening to children and young people's experiences of being in care and ensuring this perspective informs improvement, the approach of the Panel has nurtured esteem among young people and minimised the risk of alienation which can contribute to them going missing from care and the risks this exposes them to.

## **18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 18.1 There are no direct risks emerging through consideration of the Annual Report.

## **19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES**

- 19.1 Please see Paragraph 6.2 of this report.

## **20.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

- 20.1 The Panel's Annual Report is compatible with the Articles and Protocols of the EU Convention, particularly in supporting the rights of all children to be safeguarded from serious harm.

## **21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY**

- 21.1 There are no implications for the local environment or the conservation of biodiversity arising from the report.

## 22.0 GLOSSARY

22.1 None, applicable.

## 23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

- 23.1 Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report (2019/20)
- Annex to Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme (2020/21)

## 24.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

24.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made

**Report author:** Deborah Mercer (Service Director – Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding)

Financial Implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (02/06/2020).....  
(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer  
where there are no financial implications)

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## **Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel**

### **Annual Report: 2019-2020**

#### **1.0 Context**

- 1.1 This report sets out an annual update on the corporate parenting arrangements in Barnsley, with progress and outcomes for children in care and care leavers for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 inclusive. It reminds members of key legislation and guidance, advising on local performance and service improvement, as well as progress made by the corporate parenting panel. The report aims to strengthen the role and responsibilities of corporate parents in improving outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.2 The data contained within this report is correct as at 31 March 2020 and therefore signifies our year-end outturn for the 2019-20 reporting year.

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

- 2.1 The Children Act 1989 and the Leaving Care Act 2000 place clear statutory duties upon the Council to protect children from suffering significant harm and to provide continued financial and transition support to care leavers aged up to 21 (or 25 if in full time education). Underpinning corporate parenting is a wide range of national policies, guidance, regulations and legislation, which are subject to change by High Court rulings, such as the Southwark ruling in 2009.
- 2.2 The revised care planning regulations and guidance, including The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume Two: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review; Volume Three: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers; and the Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children March 2010, place increased emphasis on effective care planning with a focus on the child, and are designed to improve the quality and consistency of care planning, placement and case review for looked after children. They also aim to improve the care and support provided to care leavers.
- 2.3 The UK Government made significant reforms to the youth remand framework with the implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act in December 2012. The Act implicitly attributes further responsibility to Local Authorities by means of children and young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation, being treated as children looked after and being eligible for leaving care services if they are looked after beyond 13 weeks.
- 2.4 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced new provisions for care leavers. There is now a legal requirement upon councils to provide Personal Advisers (PA's) to care leavers up to the age of 25 and for councils to publish a local offer for care leavers.
- 2.5 Associated statutory guidance for the Children and Social Work Act 2017 focuses on supporting the education of children in care and previously looked-after children and how extending Personal Advisers for care leavers up to 25 should be implemented.

Key duties for professionals involved with these groups of children and young people are outlined in the statutory guidance. For children in care in schools, the new guidance states that, *'Social workers, [Virtual School Heads], [Independent Reviewing Officers], school admission officers, and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) departments should work together to ensure that, except in an emergency, appropriate education provision for a child is arranged at the same time as a care placement.'*

- 2.6 Virtual Head Teachers (VHT), who have the lead role for promoting the educational achievement of looked-after children, should ensure that appropriate training needs for professionals responsible for young people's education are met.

### **3.0 Corporate Parenting – The Role and Responsibility of Councillors**

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

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

### **4.0 The Barnsley Pledge to Children and Young People in Care**

- 4.1 What all children and young people in our care can expect from us:

- We'll look after children in care in a safe and caring home;
- We'll promote, support and respect their identity;
- We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education;
- We'll support children in care to be healthy;
- We'll prepare children in care for the future; and
- We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen

## **5.0 Corporate Parenting in Barnsley**

- 5.1 Children in care are those children and young people aged 0 -18 years who cannot safely remain with their family and are cared for by the local authority. The local authority has continuing responsibilities for young people up until they are 25 years of age who have been in care for a period of at least 13 weeks (or periods amounting to 13 weeks) to many of these. This includes all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and children with multiple disabilities. Children in Care and Care Leavers are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.
- 5.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel is responsible for children in care, children at the edge of care and children and young people who have left care.
- 5.3 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel have agreed that their role is to act as 'pushy parents' for our children in care and care leavers. The litmus test being *"would this be good enough for my child?"*, irrespective of age.

## **6.0 Corporate Parenting Panel Overview and Membership**

- 6.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is chaired by the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding).
- 6.2 The Panel meet every two months and there continues to be good attendance at meetings by the full range of members, which include:
- Elected Members, BMBC
  - Executive Director, People Directorate, BMBC
  - Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
  - Virtual Head Teacher for Children in Care, BMBC
  - A Care-Experienced Young Person - Representative for the Care4Us / Children in Care Council
  - Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, BMBC
  - Foster Carer/s from the Barnsley Foster Carers Association
  - Named Nurse for Children in Care, SWYPFT
  - Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children / LAC, NHS Barnsley CCG
  - Designated Doctor, BHNFT
  - Head of Service, Children in Care Services, BMBC
  - Managers for Children in Care and Care Leavers Teams, BMBC
  - Scrutiny Officer, BMBC (Observer)

## **7.0 Corporate Parenting Work Programme in 2019-2020**

- 7.1 At each of its meetings the Corporate Parenting Panel receives the following standard reports for scrutiny and challenge:
- Looked After Children Performance Report; a bespoke performance report which captures data, provides a commentary and performance rating against all key performance indicators of relevance to children in care and care experienced young people. Panel members receive a cover report which highlights the areas of concern and invites and encourages member challenge

- A Children in Care Status Report; a report which sets out numbers, locations and types of placements of Barnsley's children to support members in asking questions about trends and the implications for children's wellbeing

## 7.2 Other standard agenda Items:

- Minutes of the Education of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Health of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Care4Us Council

## 7.3 In addition to the performance management information and data, over the past year the Panel has requested and considered the following thematic reports for discussion and challenge:

## 8.0 Progress and Outcomes for Children in Care & Care Leavers in 2019-2020

Report Title	Date of Meeting
1. Takeover Challenge 2018 report – Joanne King/Jon Banwell 2. Care Leavers Local Offer – Jon Banwell 3. CIC and Care leavers Website live Demo – Jon Banwell 4. Improving LAC Health Needs assessments – Angela Fawcett 5. Feedback from Foster Carers Ball – Mel John-Ross (verbal)	Monday 15 April 2019
1. Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2018/19 – Mel John-Ross 2. Improving Timescales for LAC Health needs assessments – Karen Clayton	Monday 03 June 2019
1. Annual Report of the IROs – Steph Evans 2. Annual Report of the Fostering & Adoption Services – Steph Evans 3. Stay Put Tenancy Agreement – Sharon Wood 4. Care4Us Council Presentation – Jon Banwell 5. Adoption Timescales – Jon Banwell 6. LAC Review Post 16 Years – Phil Holmes	Monday 29 July 2019
1. CIC Chairing their own LAC Reviews Report – Phil Holmes 2. CIC Exam Results – Liz Gibson 3. Annual Health Report – Angela Fawcett 4. Placement Sufficiency Strategy Refresh – Mel John-Ross	Monday 02 September 2019
1. Results and outcomes of the Aspiration audit – Jon Banwell 2. Housing Sufficiency for Care Leavers Accommodation – Jon Banwell 3. Care Leavers and ETE – Tom Smith 4. Care4us council 5. CAMHS Q2 Report – Kate Jones	Monday 28 October 2019
1. Update from CIC Awards Event – Clare Barwell 2. Stability of Placements Update (MI-29 Cohort) – Jon Banwell 3. SDQ Analysis - Andrea Fawcett 4. CIC who didn't attend their LAC review update – Phil Holmes	Monday 02 December 2019
1. CAMHS Report Q3 – Kate Jones 2. Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2020 – Mel John-Ross 3. Stability of Placements Update (MI-29 Cohort) – Jon Banwell 4. Takeover Challenge 2019 report – Joanne King/Jon Banwell 5. Mockingbird – Sharon Wood 6. Audit of CIC and care leavers who are young parents and its impact on ETE	Monday 03 February 2020
1. Takeover Challenge 2019 report – Joanne King/Jon Banwell 2. Feedback from Foster Carers Ball – Mel John-Ross (Verbal) 3. Berneslai Homes to attend to discuss Support for Care Leavers 4. Care Leavers Local Offer – Jon Banwell	Monday 23 March 2020



- 8.1 At the end of March 2020, the official year-end outturn for the reporting period 2019-20, there were 303 children in care (CiC). The rate of CiC was therefore 59.7 per 10,000, which is below the 2018/19 national average (65 per 10,000), regional average (74 per 10,000) and well below statistical neighbours (102.5 per 10,000). At the end of March, there were 89 care experienced young people aged 18 to 21 years, 73% of whom were in employment, education and/or training<sup>1</sup>.
- 8.2 We know that Barnsley has stable communities, with well-established extended family networks that frequently support vulnerable children within the family. This factor has an impact on both the numbers of children with protection plans and the numbers of children in our care, which we continually scrutinise. One of our key strengths is the effectiveness of our permanency planning for children in care; current data tells us that Barnsley continues to rank high<sup>2</sup> nationally for the percentage of children leaving care who were adopted in the last twelve months (26.2%). This factor also has an impact on the number of children in care. Our performance evidences that children in care have their care plan reviewed in a timely manner.
- 8.3 Children in care and care experienced young people have strong, stable relationships with their allocated worker who know them well and see them regularly, over and above regulatory requirements. This is evidenced through our quality assurance activity; reviews; case file auditing and direct observations of practice. Our ambition, as set out in our Placement Sufficiency Strategy, is that all children in our care are looked after in family type placements, apart from in very exceptional circumstances where a family setting will not meet their needs. Whilst Barnsley has not experienced the significant rise in numbers of children in care as reported nationally and regionally, the local demand for care placements, particularly for adolescents, has impacted upon our placement stability.
- 8.4 Children in care have attention given to their health needs with regular health needs assessments and dental care to promote their health and wellbeing. Waiting times for assessments to CAMHS for children and young people in care has significantly improved this year and we have introduced a Pathway to CAMHS support and consultation for children in care. A priority for 2020-21 remains, to support the improvement in the timeliness for treatment and intervention.
- 8.5 In recent years, we have focused on improving the volume and quality of responses to the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) for our children in care, achieving 73.6% at the end of the 19/20 reporting period, slightly below our target of 75%.
- 8.6 Our CiC running club, led by a children's social worker and former health colleague, continues to be enormously successful, in engaging with growing numbers of children in care and their carers to promote healthy lifestyles and to have fun!
- 8.7 The robust education planning and tracking systems of the virtual school continue to have a measurable impact on positive outcomes for looked after children. The use of real time data for monitoring of attendance and exclusions enables early identification

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<sup>1</sup> 73% equates to 65 young people in EET, out of the full cohort of 89. It should be noted that the official DfE measure only considers care-experienced young people aged 19-21yrs inclusive. Performance for this specific cohort is 65.6%, against a corporate target of 65%.

<sup>2</sup> Barnsley performance provisionally ranks first in the country; 26.2% against benchmarks of 12-15% regionally and nationally.

of children where educational engagement is at risk. The weekly virtual school briefing paper is now well embedded and supports the planning of collaborative intervention activity between the virtual school and social care teams to improve outcomes. As a result of this activity we have made real progress in improving school attendance for our children in care. A good example of the impact of this work is the 23 children with persistent absence (PA) attendance rates who have been supported to secure good attendance and are no longer at risk of PA.

- 8.8 The proportion of looked after children with a Personal Education Plan (PEP) remained high at 99.5% though just below the 100% target. The proportion with a termly PEP was also dropped just below the target of 98%, recording 95.7% in Q4.
  
- 8.9 The proportion of looked after children attending schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted improved this year, rising to 78.9% from 70.1% in 2018/19.
  
- 8.10 School attendance for looked after children in primary declined slightly in 2019/20, from 97.1% last year to 96.7%. Attendance for secondary school age looked after children showed a similar marginal reduction year on year from 95.4% to 95%.
  
- 8.11 The proportion of looked after children with one or more fixed term exclusion (FTE) reduced from 2018/9. For primary aged children, the figure improved from 3.1% from 2.1%. For secondary school aged looked after children, the figure dropped from 16.2% to 12.9%.
  
- 8.12 Our performance evidences that CiC have their care plan reviewed in a timely manner.
  
- 8.13 Children in care benefit from a high standard of life story work and family time is promoted for children in care. We have strong performance for looked after children who have had 3 or more placement moves since entering care. However, children who are in the same placement for 2.5 years is an area we want to improve. The Council's Corporate Parenting Panel has maintained oversight of this performance area. Deep dives evidence positive outcomes for some children in this cohort, i.e. a move to a long-term foster placement, a move to a parent or family member. Our Fostering Assessment Team has been hugely successful in working with local communities to recruit new, additional carers. This success had put a strain on our Fostering Support Team who support existing carers and placements. Consequently, a service review has been completed which will provide an additional three Fostering Social Workers, to support carers and promote stability for children. Whilst Barnsley has not experienced the significant rise in numbers of children in care as reported nationally and regionally, the local demand for long term care placements, particularly for adolescents, has impacted upon our placement stability.
  
- 8.14 Monthly management deep dives are undertaken for any child who has been missing from care. Children are tracked and responded to in live time, with their plans and responses overseen by the multi-agency Vulnerable Young People and Missing Panel. We invited North Yorkshire Children's Services to scrutinise and challenge the timeliness and quality of return home interviews when children are reported missing from home and care to inform our improvement plan in response to this recommendation (Ofsted 2018). The methodology for the PIP challenge, conducted on the 8th March 2019 was live auditing of return to care interviews and case files,

conducted with the Missing Officers and Social Workers and a live observation of our Vulnerable Young People & Missing Panel. The review identified 8 areas of strength and 4 areas for consideration. These all focused on improving process to support and evidence continuous improvement, i.e. a review of the return interview template to support practitioners in identifying any worries the young person may have and in turn, consideration of how these may be impacting and what would need to happen to prevent further missing episodes. We have learned from the review and we remain curious about the quality of our return to care interviews, as set out in our CSIP.

- 8.15 Geographically, Barnsley is an area with a high volume of private children in care placement providers. There were 201 children placed in Barnsley by other LAs at the end of March 2020. We facilitate a Private Placement Provider Forum, which is also attended by SY Police, the Virtual Head teacher and Specialist Nurse for children in care. We also have a multi-agency Vulnerable Young People's Panel which quality assures intervention and planning for any vulnerable young person and young people who go missing.
- 8.16 An area for improvement from the Ofsted 2018 inspection was the regular review of the use of private fostering arrangements to ensure that they remain appropriate to meet children's needs. An action plan was put into place to strengthen both our assessments of private foster carers and, our assessment and planning for children subject to these arrangements. All Private Fostering (PF) cases have been audited and reviewed since the inspection in 2018 with a focus on permanency. As of 31 March 2020, there were three PF cases, with only one of the three from the cohort inspected in 2018. Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership maintains oversight of this group of children given their potential vulnerability, and the action we intend to take to deliver further improvement is set out in the CSIP.
- 8.17 Barnsley Council's children legal team is appropriately resourced. We have good partnership arrangements with CAFCASS and the South Yorkshire Family Courts. Whilst outcomes for children in care and permanency planning is strong, we need to improve the timeliness of concluding legal care proceedings within 26 weeks, focusing on how we frontload and prepare for care proceedings more effectively.
- 8.18 Mark Riddell MBE, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, provided a follow up visit in December 2018 to the test of assurance he undertook in May 2018. The outcome of the stocktake was positive and consistent with the Ofsted 2018 findings relating to care leavers. Barnsley is cited as an example of good practice for corporate parenting in the DfE National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers: First year report (2018).
- 8.19 Involving young people and supporting their participation is embedded into how we work, plan and deliver our services. The Council champions National Takeover Day a programme now led by what jobs and careers young people are interested and aspire to, both in public services and private business.
- 8.20 Young people attend Cabinet to present their own reports on events. We have active Children in Care Council (Care4Us) and a care experienced young person is a full and equal member of our Corporate Parenting Panel, representing the CIC Council. Care experienced young people have co-produced a new Health Passport for children in care and our Pledge to children in care was designed and led by the Care4Us Council. The Council has a good Local Offer for Care Leavers, co-produced and reviewed with

them in 2018/19. Care leavers became exempt from council tax payment in April 2018 following a decision from the Council's Cabinet.

- 8.21 Barnsley Christmas Dinner for Care Leavers Project is entirely led by one of our own care experienced young people. The project supported by Officers and elected members, successfully raised significant funds for a second Christmas day dinner and festivities in December 2019. Planning for a third iteration of this event is underway.
- 8.22 As 'pushy parents', we strongly promote and support regular contact with all our care experienced young people. There is sufficient and suitable accommodation for care leavers, but we are developing an even better offer. Our performance is accumulative and the three young people who we have judged not to be in suitable accommodation are those placed by the youth justice system in custody and bail hostels.
- 8.23 We have good relationships with our local housing provider, Berneslai Homes who prioritise all care leavers for housing upon the age of 18 years. We have designated training flats for care leavers and local semi-independent accommodation for vulnerable young people has been recommissioned, now provided by CenterPoint. We promote and support staying put arrangements for all children in care placed with foster carers, irrespective of the fostering agency.

## 9.00 Key Performance Highlights for 2019/20

<i>LAC Reviews within timescales</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	99.0%	98.5%	99.0%

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>LAC Visits Timeliness</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	98.7%	98.8%	98.9%

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>LAC Visits Timeliness (as per 'Regulations')</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	99.2%	99.5%	99.5%

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>LAC Health Assessment Timeliness</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	99.9%	95.7%	99.0%	94.2%	90.0%

<i>LAC Dental Assessment Timeliness</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	99.2%	99.5%	99.0%	89.0%	85.0%

<i>LAC Strengths &amp; Difficulties Questionnaire (Percentage of Cohort with valid SDQ Return)</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	61.8%	76.7%	73.9%	83.1%	78.0%

Information collected from Q4 2017/18;

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable (DfE notional target of 75%)

<i>Personal Education Plans (PEPs)</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	98.6%	100.0%	99.5%

Information collected from the start of 2015/16;

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>Termly Personal Education Plans (TPEPs)</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	97.3%	98.0%	95.7%

Information collected from the start of 2016/17;

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>LAC Education: Attendance (Primary &amp; Secondary)</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	93.8%	95.5%	95.8%	96.1%	95.7%

<i>LAC Placement Stability: Three (or more) Placement Moves</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	12.6%	11.0%	7.0%	9.5%	10.0%

<i>LAC Placement Stability: Stable Placement 2.5yrs+</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	67.9%	64.1%	59.4%	68.5%	69.0%

<i>Adoptions - Days from 'Placement Order' to 'Adopter Match'</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
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<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	184.6	212.4	289.6	199.0	201.0
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<i>Care Leavers - Percentage in Education, Training and/or Employment</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	61.8%	62.5%	65.6%	49.6%	52.0%

Information collected from the start of 2016/17

(This information is for 19-21yr olds, in line with the national DfE-led PI)

<i>Timeliness of Visits to Care Leavers (Percentage of Visits within 8 weeks)</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	75.6%	78.4%	91.6%

Local Indicator – Benchmark Comparators Unavailable

<i>Care Leavers - Percentage in Suitable Accommodation</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	95.6%	95.4%	95.3%	91.9%	87.0%

Information collected from the start of 2016/17

(This information is for 19-21yr olds, in line with the national DfE-led PI)

<i>LAC subject to Final Warning, Conviction or Reprimand</i>	<b>17/18 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Outturn</b>	<b>19/20 Outturn</b>	<b>18/19 Stat. Neighbours</b>	<b>18/19 National</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	5.0%	4.1%	3.5%*	5.1%	4.0%

\*2019/20 outturn figure is provisional at the time of writing

<i>Children's Residential Units Ofsted Ratings - Updated</i>	<b>Newsome Avenue</b>	<b>Spring Lane</b>
<b>Barnsley Performance</b>	'Good'	'Good'

## 10. Governance Arrangements

- 10.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is established within the Council's Constitution and has specific Terms of Reference which emphasise the above responsibilities and its overarching responsibility to ensure that the Council, through elected members, officers and partner agencies, fulfils its corporate parenting role. Although the Corporate Parenting Panel does not possess Executive powers, the Panel is able to refer matters to the Council's Cabinet to consider any actions which the Panel recommends. The Council's Scrutiny Committee may, in turn, receive any of those issues which are referred to Cabinet and which the Cabinet feels would benefit from

an in-depth investigation in open session. It is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Panel annual report is considered by both the Cabinet and the Full Council meeting.

**10.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel has links with the following groups:**

- Children in Care Health Improvement Group – the Chair sits on the Corporate Parenting Panel and formally reports back each meeting. It was agreed to further strengthen this by having one of the Corporate Parenting Panel Councillors also sitting on the group. Minutes of meetings of this group are considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- The Virtual School Governance Group is attended by Officers, the Virtual Head teacher for LAC, members of Corporate Parenting Panel and partners. The group is chaired by Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential).

**10.3 Any areas of concern may be referred to Cabinet which may refer for Scrutiny Committee consideration.**

## **11. Children in Care Council**

**11.1** The Children in Care – Care4Us Council directly supports the Corporate Parenting Panel to measure and monitor the effectiveness and quality of ‘Corporate Parenting’ to children and young people; according to the views and experiences of the children who are in care. The panel remains fully committed to listening to the voice of service users and the active involvement of children and young people within the decision-making processes.

**11.2** The Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding) with the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) and Service Director meets regularly with representatives from this group. This is to ensure that there is strong and direct feedback from children and young people; to be assured that they feel well cared for, safe, are happy, having their needs met and promoted, as well as to hear and respond to any other issues raised by them.

## **12.0 Continuous Service Improvement Framework**

**12.1** Barnsley had an Ofsted standard ILACS inspection in October 2018 and was found to be ‘good’ across all judgement areas. Barnsley had accurately assessed its effectiveness in 2018. We concluded that we were providing consistently good services to children in Barnsley (Self-Evaluation of Social Work Practice 2018). The Council and the Children’s Partnership welcomed the outcome of the inspection and at the fifth joint BSCP and TEG event on 29th November 2019 reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the Continuous Service Improvement Framework (CSIF) a tested approach that we know works. There will be no let-up in pace in our work as a partnership to continue to improve and to deliver services that are outstanding to the children and young people of Barnsley. The recommendations from the October 2018 inspection have been addressed in the Continuous Service Improvement Plan (CSIP) alongside our even better ambitions for vulnerable children and young people in the borough.

### **13.0 Priorities for the Corporate Parenting Panel for 2020-2021**

- Manage effectively the Placement Sufficiency Strategy
- Improve placement stability
- Improve the timeliness of legal care proceedings concluded within 26 weeks
- Improve our adoption timeliness from decision to adoption
- Improve school attendance; progress and attainment outcomes for children in care
- Improve the numbers of care leavers engaged in employment, education and training
- Improve transitional planning for disabled children in care and care experienced young people into adulthood
- Improve the timely access to emotional help, support and treatment for children in care and care experienced young people



## **14.0 Conclusion**

- 14.1 Corporate Parenting Panel is where the responsibility and accountability for the wellbeing and prospects for Barnsley children in care ultimately rest.
- 14.2 A good corporate parent must offer everything that a good parent would. It must address both the difficulties which children who are looked after experience and, the challenges of parenting within a complex system of different services.
- 14.3 Like any good parent, we must continually strive to do 'even better' for our children in care and care experience young people, promoting and supporting their aspirations, their potential, their progress and achievements.
- 14.4 Further improvements for children in care and care leavers have been achieved during 2019-20, as evidenced within the Continuous Service Improvement Plan, the Children's Social Care Monthly Performance Reports, the Quality Assurance Framework and activity (case file audits, observations of practice) and as measured against key performance indicators.

***See Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Work Programme in 2020-21***

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### **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - Work Programme 2020/21**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance Report Q3</li> <li>2. CAMHS Report Q3 – Kate Jones</li> <li>3. Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2020 – Mel John-Ross</li> <li>4. Takeover Challenge 2019 report – Joanne King/Jon Banwell</li> <li>5. Mockingbird Presentation – Sharon Wood / Jon Banwell</li> </ol>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Berneslai Homes to attend to discuss Support for Care Leavers</li> <li>2. Care Leavers Local Offer – Jon Banwell</li> </ol>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance Report Q4</li> <li>2. CAMHS Report Q4 – Kate Jones</li> <li>3. LAC Review Post 16 Years Update – Phil Holmes</li> <li>4. Feedback from Foster Carers Ball – Mel John-Ross (Verbal)</li> </ol>	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2019/20 – Mel John-Ross</li> <li>2. Annual Report of the IROs – Phil Holmes / Di Drury</li> <li>3. Care4Us Council Annual Report – Jon Banwell</li> </ol>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance Report Q1</li> <li>2. CAMHS Report Q1 – Kate Jones</li> <li>3. Care4Us Council attending - Emma Baines</li> <li>4. Annual Report of the Fostering &amp; Adoption Services – Steph Evans</li> </ol>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CIC Exam Results – Liz Gibson</li> <li>2. Health Annual Report – Nikki Shepherd</li> <li>3. Placement Sufficiency Strategy Refresh (to be confirmed) – Sarah Sinclair</li> <li>4. Ambassadors for Mentoring – Jon Banwell</li> </ol>	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - Work Programme 2020/21

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance Report Q2</li> <li>2. CAMHS Report Q2 – Kate Jones</li> <li>3. Care4Us Council attending – Emma Baines</li> </ol>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outline Programme for the Children in Care Awards Event – Clare Barwell</li> <li>2. SDQ Analysis - Andrea Scholey</li> </ol>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Performance Report Q3</li> <li>2. CAMHS Report Q3 – Kate Jones</li> <li>3. Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2021/22 – Mel John-Ross</li> <li>4. Takeover Challenge 2020 report – Joanne King/Jon Banwell</li> </ol>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Care Leavers Local Offer – Jon Banwell</li> </ol>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021

PLEASE NOTE - The above does not include exception reports