

Public Document Pack



MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 12 January 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

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 Meetings *(Pages 5 - 36)*

To approve the minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee:-

Full Committee, held on 8th September 2020 (Item 3a attached)

Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream, held on 13th October 2020 (Item 3b attached)

Special Call-in Meeting, held on 26th October 2020 (Item 3c attached)

People Achieving Their Potential, held on 3rd November 2020 (Item 3d attached)

Strong & Resilient Communities, held on 1st December 2020 (Item 3e attached)

Overview and Scrutiny Issues for the Committee

4 Provisional Education Outcomes in Barnsley 2019-20 *(Pages 37 - 44)*

To consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Children's Services in respect of the Provisional Education Outcomes in Barnsley for the 2019-20 academic year.

5 Measures to Strengthen and Support Barnsley's Exam Cohort for 2020-21 *(Pages 45 - 54)*

To consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Children's Services (Item 5 attached) in respect of supporting the 2020-21 exam cohort.

6 Children's Social Care Performance *(Pages 55 - 60)*

Redacted report provided for information only (Item 6).

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 Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS): Annual Conversation with Ofsted (Pages 61 - 100)

To consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Children's Services (Item 8a attached) in respect of the annual conversation with Ofsted, the accompanying Self-Evaluation of Children's Social Work Practice in BMBC (Item 8b attached) and the letter from Ofsted in response to the meeting and self-evaluation (Item 8c attached).

Reason restricted:

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

9 Children's Social Care Performance (Pages 101 - 152)

To consider a cover report relating to Children's Social Care Performance (Item 9a) in relation to the Data Report (Item 9b) and the Explanatory Document (Item 9c).

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, Gillis, Gollick, Green, Daniel Griffin, Hand-Davis, Hayward, Higginbottom, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, Lofts, Makinson, McCarthy, Mitchell, Newing, Noble, Phillips, Pickering, Richardson, Smith, Stowe, Sumner, Tattersall, Williams, Wilson and Wraith MBE together with co-opted Members and Statutory Co-opted Member Ms. G Carter (Parent Governor Representative)

Electronic Copies Circulated for Information

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive

Shokat Lal, 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

Items 4 & 5: 2.00pm

- Nick Bowen, Head Teacher at Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance
- Paul Crook, Principal at Penistone Grammar School and Chair of the Barnsley Alliance Secondary Heads Group
- Yiannis Kouris, Principal, Barnsley College
- Mel John-Ross, Executive Director Children's Services, BMBC
- Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, BMBC
- Darren Dickinson Interim Head of Barnsley Alliance, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher, Looked After Children & Vulnerable Groups, BMBC
- Angela Stephens, Business Improvement & Intelligence Advisor, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services, BMBC

Item 8: 3:00pm (approx.)

- Mel John-Ross, Executive Director Children's Services, BMBC
- Debbie Mercer, Service Director Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
- Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services, BMBC

Item 9: 3.30pm (approx..)

- Debbie Mercer, Service Director Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services, BMBC

This page is intentionally left blank

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee - available on https://barnsley.public-i.tv/
DATE:	Tuesday, 8 September 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Carr, T. Cave, Clarke, Gollick, Daniel Griffin, Hayward, Higginbottom, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, Lodge, Lofts, Makinson, Newing, Noble, Phillips, Richardson, Smith, Tattersall, Williams and Wraith MBE together with co-opted member Ms. G Carter

24 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

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

25 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

The following declarations of non-pecuniary interests were received:

Councillors Tattersall and Williams are members of the Corporate Parenting Panel and are Virtual School Governors; Councillor Newing works for the NHS, Councillor Lodge is a Virtual School Governor; Councillors Makinson and Carr are members of the Corporate Parenting Panel; Councillor Hayward is a member of the Fostering Panel and Gemma Carter is a Director of Alternative Education Provision.

26 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings held on 12th May (Full Committee Meeting), 9th June (Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream), 9th July (People Achieving Their Potential Workstream) and 21st July (Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream) were approved as a true and accurate record.

Councillor Johnson requested that promised feedback with regard to concerns raised by Members regarding speeding in the Borough be shared with Members as soon as possible. Member were informed that this issue has been added to the scrutiny work programme and will be discussed in the meeting scheduled to take place on 1st December 2020.

27 Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2019-20

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSAB
Wendy Lowder, Executive Director – Adults & Communities, BMBC
Julie Chapman, Service Director – Adult Social Care & Health, BMBC
Cath Erine, Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Manager, BMBC
Cllr Jenny Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson – Adults & Communities, BMBC

Susan Brook, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults, Barnsley CCG
Becky Hoskins, Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, SWYPFT
Chief Superintendent Sarah Poolman, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP) attempted to join the meeting; however, was unable to due to technical issues

Cllr Platts 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:

It was acknowledged that substance misuse was having a great impact on vulnerable adults and the wider community. Substance abuse can often lead to other issues such as self-neglect and hoarding. There has been a lot of preventative work to keep people who are misusing substances and their family members safe. Substance abusers often present with a cocktail of issues and partnership working is essential, as evidenced by the work done by the organisation Humankind in terms of behaviour change and housing issues. There are specific challenges in some communities and an offer was made to discuss such specific issues outside of the meeting with individual members. Substance issue may be an area for Scrutiny to consider as part of its work programme.

It was reported that there are more safeguarding referrals from care homes than anywhere else although this has reduced from last year. Many of the issues do not require further action but are reported by care home providers in order to demonstrate that they take safeguarding seriously. Reassurances have been given to providers that if incidents and concerns are dealt with appropriately (i.e. using the decision support guidance and keeping records of concerns not shared with adult social care) they will meet the requirements set out by the CQC. Care homes are monitored and the training offer to care homes is to be increased, and the appointment of a multi-agency trainer will assist with this.

There is a regular programme of announced and unannounced visits to care homes carried out by BMBC, partners and the CQC to raise standards and offer challenge. A multi-agency Quality Improvement Panel is to be set up shortly and will use information from a variety of sources to pull together an analysis of issues and actions. All care homes have a Visitor's Book which is often well used. A member felt that care home workers should be commended for the work they do, particularly throughout the pandemic, and for their vocation and commitment to the role. It was acknowledged that there is a challenge in recruiting and retaining nurses

and carers in the private sector, particularly when pay rates for providing nursing care in private nursing homes are below those provided in the public sector.

Lessons have been learned from the case studies within the report and practice is shared across the whole system. The Adult Multi Agency Trainer will bring the case studies to life and will be used as a training tool. The post has gone out to advert and it is hoped the postholder will start work within the next couple of months. A quarterly newsletter is also produced for wider circulation. It was pointed out that all agencies have responsibilities towards their staff and there is always room for improvement.

Barnsley is at the forefront of work around self-neglect and hoarding and its policies and procedures have been adopted by others. It appears that the pandemic has helped to raise awareness of people living within the community with these issues, which have to be tackled tactfully as often people have lived this way for some time. Actual numbers relating to hoarding will be provided after the meeting.

Anecdotal information indicates that levels of domestic abuse have increased. Members were reassured that the lines of communication and liaison processes are robust between the hospital, the community and services, particularly emergency duty teams. Patients are subject to facilitated conversations and are signposted to services or can make a formal referral if they want to do that. The Violence Reduction plan is due to be brought to Cabinet shortly and Members will have the opportunity to contribute to it. The MARAC meets fortnightly and works closely with all partners including probation, adult and children's social care using a case management approach. IDAS has recently been received from the Ministry of Justice which will help with this work.

RESOLVED that:

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

28 Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report 2019-20

The following witnesses were invited to the meeting:

Bob Dyson, Independent Chair, BSCP
Mel John-Ross, Executive Director, Children's Services, BMBC
Debbie Mercer, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
Nigel Leeder, Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager, BMBC
Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson – Children's Services
Tracy-Ann Taylor, Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT)
Angela Fawcett, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Emma Cox, Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Professions, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)

Chief Superintendent Sarah Poolman, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP) attempted to join the meeting; however, was unable to due to technical issues.

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

Bob Dyson introduced the report, explaining that this is the first report of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) which replaced the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) from the beginning of April 2019, bringing together senior representatives from the statutory, voluntary, and community sectors with a responsibility for delivering services to children and young people. Managers and the BMBC design team were thanked for their contributions to the report.

Members were informed that the Partnership works in a similar way to the Board, with similar sub groups and working in a similar way. When the Board changed to a Partnership, the biggest change was that safeguarding was no longer the sole responsibility of the Council but is now a shared responsibility between the Council, Health and the Police. These three partners have stepped up to the mark with joint governance responsibility. The work of the partnership is constantly evolving in response to new threats, risks and guidance. The safeguarding of vulnerable children remains a priority and whilst there have been no cuts to funding, there is a need to ensure that partners continue to resource the partnership sufficiently to keep people safe. The Barnsley safeguarding partnerships (Adults and Children) have the smallest budgets in South Yorkshire and the lowest staffing levels, thus representing value for money, albeit with a smaller population. The Board Manager and Trainer have developed an innovative income stream for the partnership through providing training for the Safeguarding Lead Officers in schools. Although the Board Manager is very busy, the partnership is not looking for more money to support the partnership.

In terms of the 17-25 age group and transition arrangements, there are a number of children who will not meet the criteria for services but are nonetheless vulnerable. A new multi-agency panel is being developed and will meet later this month (having been impacted by Covid and the summer period). Terms of Reference have been agreed and the panel will look at young people who may have been involved with social care as younger children and who may find the transition to adulthood difficult. The Panel will bring together services such as work, training and college to ensure a seamless positive move into adulthood.

Although there appear to be no specific cases of children in Barnsley being exploited through online gambling, online exploitation of children does happen in Barnsley and is always addressed, primarily through schools and through the PREVENT officer. Where Members are aware of any type of exploitation of children, whether online or in the community, they should contact social care. A Member highlighted that the online gambling market equates to £14bn annually and can impact on the whole family. The PREVENT Officer can provide Members with an update in terms of what is being done on internet safety, which has become more of an issue during Covid-19 when children aren't at school. The difficulty is that apps change so quickly and move to different platforms, which leads to difficulty in providing up to date advice. CEOP keep up to date with changes and give very helpful advice on their site and

are the professionals in this field. It was acknowledged that social media in particular is difficult to police and although they may be made aware of the risks, some people will always be prepared to take that risk.

The Independent Chair is confident that all organisations are committed to keeping vulnerable people safe but that does not prevent incidents from taking place. It is not possible to keep every child safe. There may be an incident which cannot be predicted and could happen in a family not engaged in services. Cases are audited which raises issues and learning which is then picked up in training.

The Central Area Council has commissioned the Youth Association to work with young people in the area on a variety of issues. Whilst the Partnership itself is not operational, individual agencies within the partnership may be interested in working together on these types of issues. The audit of cases has included those where a decision has been made not to progress as a safeguarding issue. The audit showed that appropriate decisions are being made.

Although there have been some changes to staffing, many of the staff in the Police and Social Care are the same, which ensures continuity, whilst in other areas (such as the hospital) new people are around to look at things with a fresh pair of eyes and bring about new energy and perspective.

The Children in Care Council have raised an issue around bullying in schools. The Partnership has a strategy and action plan in place which is currently being revised and will be shared with young people at the Partnership/TEG awayday in November. It was highlighted that every school carries out a section 175 self-assessment every year and is provided with a checklist of areas which should be covered. All schools have an anti-bullying policy in place which fits with their own circumstances and plans are in place to ensure that the voices of all children are heard.

RESOLVED that:

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

29 Children's Social Care Performance

Members of the Committee were provided with a redacted copy of the children's social care report for the month of July, which contains an overview of the major performance indicators for children's safeguarding and social care, has been provided to place the document in the public domain.

RESOLVED that the summary report be noted

30 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 by Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

31 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.

Specific topics discussed included: Early Help Assessments; Social Worker vacancies, caseloads, recruitment and retention; the Mockingbird Programme and the impact of Covid-19. Social Workers in attendance responded to questions about their work and spoke about their experiences during Covid-19. It was highlighted that social workers have continued with their work during lockdown, although home working and other challenges presented themselves which necessitated a flexibility of approach and different ways of working in order to reach out to children and their families.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update and
- (ii) Front-line workers be thanked for the work they continue to do in difficult circumstances, particularly throughout the pandemic.

Chair



MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 13 October 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, Clarke, Gollick, Green, Hayward, Hunt, W. Johnson, Lodge, Mitchell, Newing, Pickering, Richardson, Smith, Sumner and Tattersall together with co-opted members and Ms. G Carter

32 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

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

33 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

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

The following declarations were made with respect to Minute No. 35 on the agenda:

Councillor Tattersall is a member of Berneslai Homes' Board; Councillors Lodge, Noble and Pickering are tenants of Berneslai Homes and Councillor Lodge works for a partner organisation with a connection to Berneslai Homes.

34 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2020 were received. The minutes will be formally approved in January 2021.

35 Berneslai Homes

Members were invited to consider a report of the Chief Executive, Berneslai Homes and the Executive Director Core Services, BMBC regarding an update on Berneslai Homes including: the impact of Covid 19; the Berneslai Homes Strategic Plan and the Berneslai Homes Annual Report to Tenants.

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Amanda Garrard, Chief Executive, Berneslai Homes
 Anthony Brown, Interim Director of Assets, Regeneration & Construction, Berneslai Homes
 Kat Allott-Stevens, Tenants First Service Manager, Berneslai Homes

Matt Gladstone, Executive Director – Place, BMBC
Richard Burnham, Head of Housing & Energy, BMBC
Sarah Cartwright, Group Leader Housing Growth, BMBC
Tom Smith, Head of Employment & Skills, BMBC
Cllr Tim Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson – Place – Regeneration & Culture.

The Chief Executive of Berneslai Homes explained how Berneslai Homes' contract had been renewed until 2031, on a 5 plus 5 year basis, linked to the Barnsley 2030 vision. A 10-year terms enables longer term planning and provides reassurance for staff. Current responsibilities, joint working with BMBC, the new Strategic Plan, employment and training initiatives, the impact of Covid 19 together with the Annual Review were outlined in detail to Members.

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

Customer Support

The organisation is currently working with the finance team to explore the possibility of additional funding within the Tenant First Team, which had experienced an increased demand for support due to Covid-19. A holistic support model is currently used, mainly around intervention and mental health support. This has been a very successful project with good outcomes. The Tenants First Team has 6 key workers who work with 10 families at a time. There are 4 officers offering mental health advice and support to between 15 and 20 individuals. Tenant support officers can deal with a caseload of around 20 to 30 per day depending on officer capacity. There are a number of Tenants and Residents Association (TARAs) operating in the Borough. A good strong relationship has now developed with them and the customer panel works well.

Employment and Skills

It was reported that the £1.6m European Social Fund (ESF) scheme would impact 360 participants over a 3-year period, providing specialist support around employment, training and digital skills from October 2020. Other initiatives include apprenticeships, work placements, 2 x community refurbishment schemes and a Care Leavers scheme. Members were reassured that despite the UK leaving the EU in December, ESF funding has been confirmed and committed until 2023.

It was recognised that the impact of Covid 19 impact on the economy will not be seen until the current job protection scheme ends. Unemployment rates are already increasing, and Berneslai Homes officers are proactively contacting people over the telephone and using social media to offer individual and targeted advice and support. Tenant Support Officers will assist with claims for universal credit and ESF funding has been used to provide two Digital Champions to embed digital skills within the community.

Void Properties

Members expressed concern about the standards of properties recently let, highlighting individual cases they were aware of where properties were in a very poor condition but where prospective tenants felt pressured into taking a tenancy for a property which was in a poor condition for fear of being moved down the waiting list.

Reassurances were given that improvements had been made, including those which arose as a result of the recommendations to Cabinet by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that this would continue. An increased budget of £50,000 has been made available, which includes decoration allowances. Although not as many properties have been let recently due to Covid-19, decoration allowances have continued to be given out. It was acknowledged that decorating can be expensive, and many tenants are on limited incomes. Of the properties which have been turned down recently, only two of these were due to the poor standard of decoration. The decorating allowance for each tenant is calculated by the Housing Officer, based on the number of rooms to be decorated and the individual tenant's circumstances. The average is over £168 per property. However, the reality is that there is a limited budget and best use must be made of the funds available. A Member was aware of a tenant who had to move into a new tenancy very quickly and enquired if the decorating allowance could be applied for retrospectively. Such cases should be referred to the Housing officer. The Housing Officer will also look at why a property has been refused. Individual tenants have varying needs and incentives can be added when needed.

There is a minimum standard for void properties. All properties are inspected when they become empty. Any remedial works are carried out and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) issued prior to letting. Work to voids is completed to a minimum standard. Systems and processes are in place to iron out any issues. Supervisors then check the standard of work carried out. If the work fails to meet the standard there is a process to follow. Major works shouldn't be done when the tenant is in the home unless the tenant needs to be in the property quickly. The Construction Services Team now have iPads which they use to photograph the condition of void properties. Berneslai Homes are now working with a new contractor, Wates (formerly Kier) to deliver voids. A new policy is in place and changes have been made to pre and post inspections to tighten up on the type of issues described, holding the contractors to account. Performance, turnaround time and quality are closely monitored. This is a priority and will continue to improve.

Covid-19 impact

There has been an unprecedented increase in anti-social behaviour during the Covid-19 pandemic. A Berneslai Homes presence on estates makes a massive difference and anti-social behaviour is now coming steadily back under control. This will continue using safe working practices even if Barnsley moves into Tier 3. The Courts have now reopened so enforcement actions and associated evictions will recommence. Estate walkabouts are continuing.

Everything is done to ensure workforce and tenant safety during the pandemic. Risk assessments are carried out, face masks are worn by contractors and arrangements made for tenants who are isolating. The number of Covid-19 'refusals' for servicing and repair is tracked carefully. Tenants who are isolating are provided with carbon monoxide detectors until contractors can access properties for gas servicing.

Waiting list

The number of empty homes is now down to 144 from 200. Some of these need major works. Routine repairs were initially delayed due to Covid-19 but are done within 7 days. There are currently 8000 households on the waiting list. The average waiting time for a property depends on the area and how flexible the prospective

tenant can be. There are around 1300 lets per year. There were 148 Right to Buys last year, with 120 to 130 predicted this year. This is offset somewhat by acquired properties, with around 150 new affordable properties and acquisitions annually. Acquisitions are a mix of properties to meet need. Within the first 10 years Right to Buy properties can be bought back by the Council. Larger 4 bed houses and 3 bed bungalows are always in demand. The Acquisition Policy outlines the requirements when looking at buying back properties.

There is a programme of new affordable homes through private developers under S106 agreements and Berneslai Homes will also buy properties from developers but the budget for this is limited. Work is underway with Housing Associations to increase stock where possible. Berneslai Homes get 100% nomination rights on first lets through Housing Associations and 50% thereafter so it is possible to identify where Housing Association properties are and what is coming through the planning system. Some areas of the Borough have a sufficient supply of affordable provision.

The customer profile within the Strategic Plan indicates that 59% of tenants have a disability and over 32% are aged 66 years and above. All indications are that people are living longer with increasing support needs but with the desire to remain independent in their own home. It was highlighted that over £2m is spent on equipment and adaptations each year to address this demographic. Berneslai Homes are currently appointing an In-house Occupational Therapists (OTs)., Independent Living Schemes are developed with partners and a strategic housing assessment has been completed. This indicates that Barnsley has 4300 bungalows which is deemed sufficient. A balance must be achieved, and many properties can be adapted to meet the needs of those with a disability which can then be returned to housing stock when people move on. Joined up work takes place with the Fire Service who carry out fire risk assessments, provide living aids (to ensure residents can live safely) and install smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are tested as part of gas servicing and are changed if required. The in-house Occupational Therapists deliver equipment and adaptations assessments quickly, with a 7-day turnaround for minor adaptations. Major adaptations take longer but the OT will help to bring this time down once other options such as moving home have been explored.

The Lettings Policy Review will be underway within the next few months and will go through the Council's Cabinet system. Elected Members and stakeholders will be fully involved, with implementation from April next year.

Members expressed concern that sometimes tenants with problems and high levels of support needs are concentrated in one area. It was explained that often the background of a tenant is unknown until they move in. Local lettings policies are in place where issues are prevalent. For example, in Honeywell, more restrictions are to be put in place for lettings, working with the Police and the community to look at solutions.

Officers have a good working relationship with the Police, drug services and wider support organisations. Often tenants presenting with problems have underlying issues including mental health, unemployment, debt, depression etc. which need to be addressed with a holistic multi-agency package of support. Enforcement action is used as a last resort when all other opportunities are exhausted.

Green Energy

It was reported that properties are to be retro fitted with green energy systems over the next few years as part of the Zero Carbon Strategy, but this will be challenging. Proposals to be put forward include air and ground source heat pumps and correct insulation. Smaller electric vehicles have been piloted and new larger vans have just come onto the market so the fleet may be expanded. Charging points are already in place. Covid-19 has reduced the carbon footprint through staff working at home.

Members were aware of difficulties with heat source pumps sheltered housing facilities in various locations across the Borough. These are being explored and Councillors will be fully involved when looking at such systems in terms of management, minimising down time and costs and how efficiently and effectively they work. There are problems with the equipment, but older people seem to have difficulties understanding ambient heat and how to regulate it without using electricity to boost it, which is expensive.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution
- (ii) Anthony Brown to engage with Cllr Lodge regarding issues with heating sources in properties in his Ward.
- (iii) Information regarding the waiting list (to include out of authority applications) to be provided to the Committee, and
- (iv) The possibility of inviting Housing Associations to a future meeting of the Committee to be considered

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank



MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Special Meeting to Consider the Call In of a Cabinet Decision
DATE:	Monday, 26 October 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Carr, T. Cave, Clarke, Fielding, Gillis, Daniel Griffin, Hayward, Higginbottom, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, Lofts, Makinson, McCarthy, Noble, Pickering, Richardson, Stowe, Sumner, Tattersall, Williams, Wilson and Wraith MBE

Also in attendance: Councillors Greenhough, Lodge and Kitching

1 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

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

Ms G Carter (Parent Governor Representative) did attempt to attend the meeting but was unable to do so due to technical difficulties.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Lofts declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute No 3 (Call-in of the Cabinet Decision regarding the Award of the A628 Dodworth Road/Broadway Junction Main Civil Works Contract) in view of his membership of the Friends of the Earth.

3 Call-In of the Cabinet Decision regarding the Award of A628 Dodworth Road/Broadway Junction Main Civil Works Contract (Cab.07.10.2020/11)

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and set out the relevant constitutional guidance under which the meeting would be conducted.

In accordance with the Council's Standing Order 25 (2), Councillors Fielding and Kitching were permitted to speak at the meeting, but not submit a motion or vote.

A report of the Executive Director Core Services was received in respect of the call-in request of a Cabinet decision regarding the Award of the A628 Dodworth Road/Broadway Junction main Civil Works Contract.

It was noted that the Cabinet had resolved:

- (i) that the progress of the delivery of the approved A628 Dodworth Road / Broadway Junction Improvement scheme (Cab.25.07.2018/15), as detailed in the report submitted, be noted;

- (ii) that approval be given to the award of the main civil works contract outlined in Section 4, noting the financial implications (as detailed in Section 7, Financial Implications);
- (iii) that the release of additional monies from the Council's capital reserves (as detailed in Section 7, Financial Implications) to support the delivery of the civil works contract and also accommodate wider project cost increases arising since project approval was granted in 2018, be approved; and
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Place be authorised to undertake all necessary steps to ensure continued delivery of the scheme.

The reasons for the call-in were set out in detail by the proposing Member Cllr Fielding.

In summary, it was suggested the objecting Members, including Councillors Greenhough, Lodge, Lodge and Kitching felt that in the current uncertain financial climate, the course of action required to prudently manage the spiralling costs of this project needed to be given further consideration. In particular it was suggested that:

- 1 The information presented to Cabinet regarding estimates, project management and financial management was incomplete, inaccurate and misleading and prevented the Cabinet from fully scrutinising the reasons for the increase in costs;
- 2 No alternative approaches to financing the overspend were considered or presented to Cabinet
- 3 No consideration had been given to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on traffic volumes and patterns to enable the need to complete the scheme at this time to be properly assessed

Councillor Fielding then went on to outline recommended alternative courses of action to that proposed by Cabinet. In summary:

- A to carry out a full Internal Audit of events, including estimates, cost increases, financial reporting and authorisation and to additionally report on the value for money of the cost of the scheme;
- B to appraise the advice received from external consultants to assess whether any wrong advice contributed to the increases in costs and seek financial redress accordingly; and
- C to suspend the project pending a further review of the changes of traffic volumes and patterns due to the COVID 19 pandemic and use the remaining project capital to restore the green space to public use pending the review OR to fund the remainder of the project from savings in the existing Capital Programme and/or seek additional external funding sources

In making his presentation Councillor Fielding presented further detailed information

- to support the justification for the call-in;
- highlight concerns about the rising costs of the project, the exclusion of foreseeable expenditure from the original estimates particularly in relation to noise insulation and ground stabilisation works and the use of Capital Reserves; and
- support the suggested alternative options

The Chair thanked Councillor Fielding for his detailed presentation and welcomed the following witnesses to the meeting and invited them to respond:

Matt Gladstone – Executive Director Place
 Rachel Allington – Major Projects Group Leader
 Ian Wilson, Group Manager – Highways and Engineering
 Andrew Jones – Principal Engineer, Highways Design
 Mark Bell – Strategic Finance Manager
 Joe Jenkinson – Head of Planning, Policy and Building Control
 Councillor Lamb – Cabinet Member for Place (Environment and Transport)
 Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE – Leader of the Council

Matt Gladstone opened the witness statements and made particular reference to the following:

- the report presented to Cabinet provided an update on progress of the scheme, sought approval to award the Civil Works Contract together with additional funding required to support the delivery of the project including cost increases.
- He reminded the Committee of the rationale for and background to the project which was designed to meet current as well as projected future demand (as also detailed within the Local Plan)
- The scope of the project had widened in relation to landscaping, noise insulation works, ground stabilisation works and extensive security works and the reasons for this were referred to
- In relation to the specific call in points:
 - A detailed explanation was provided about the background to the development of the project and the seeking of planning permission.
 - A financial appendix had been provided as required and the report outlined in detail the funding arrangements which also included grant aid from the Sheffield City Region.
 - The way in which estimates for the scheme had been calculated was outlined. Reference was also made to the way in which estimates for the additional works, with comparisons to the original budget estimates, had been calculated. Information was also provided on the way in which funding had been utilised together with the rationale for the request for additional finance of £3.05m
 - Whilst the report had been considered in private by Cabinet due to commercial sensitivities, a redacted version had been provided so as to provide as much transparency as possible
 - A requirement of the grant funding from the Sheffield City Region was that all cost overruns or increased delivery budgets had to be borne by the authority, hence the reason for the request for additional finance. This had also been built into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy

- Reference was made to the traffic modelling that had taken place which had informed the development of the approved project. Whilst this scheme utilised more of the green space within the area, it did not result in the demolition of properties and was designed to meet greater future demand including the possible expansion of Horizon Community College as well as the development of a further 600-900 place school in the area
- In relation to the impact of COVID 19, whilst there had been an initial reduction in traffic volumes to approximately 35% of 'normal' at the time of lockdown, this had now increased to 90%. On that basis, the completion of the scheme was still needed to cope with current and future growth aspirations in line with the approved Local Plan

The Chair then invited Members of the Committee and 'objecting Members' to ask appropriate questions.

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were raised, and answers were given to Members questions where appropriate:

- Responses to Committee Members questions
 - In the event that the project did not go ahead, the Authority would have to repay the £2m secured from the Sheffield City Region as part of the non-completion of the scheme. In addition, the Authority would have to reinstate the land to its former condition at a cost of approximately £250,000 - £500,000 dependent upon the scope of the reclamation works required. In addition, the Authority was striving to obtain additional grant funding towards the cost of the footbridge, a complementary scheme to the main scheme, and any grant funding obtained would, therefore, be lost
 - It was suggested that the Council had reached a point of no return, as to reinstate the Park to its original condition would mean that the Council had spent up to £7m for no benefit. This view was shared by the Executive Director Place particularly in view of the potential impact on future growth aspirations for the borough
- Responses to 'Objecting Members' Questions
 - Concern was expressed as to where the additional £3.05m now sought would leave the Council's Reserves position particularly as these appeared to be dwindling. Reference in this respect was made to the Council's Capital Reserves position in relation to the Glassworks project and to the potential for a No-Deal Brexit which would also impact on those reserves. Questions were asked, therefore, about the current position with regard to those reserves and whether, following release of the additional money sought, whether the Council's Reserves were sufficient and whether or not this was a prudent approach to take. The Executive Director Place commented that this funding would be sought from Capital and not Revenue. The Council had an excellent track record around financial health and resilience, but it was also acknowledged that COVID would have an impact on the Council's finances. The Council had reserves in place and was prudent in their use. The Council was also working with the Sheffield City

- Region and other organisations and bodies in order to lever in additional finance. The Council was not overly concerned about its current position with regard to Capital Reserves
- Given that the costs of this project had increased by £3.05m over the original estimate, questions were asked as to how confident the Council could be about the impact on the Capital Budget of a global pandemic. It was noted that the original estimates for this scheme had been produced in 2017/18 which had included a contingency budget for unforeseen issues. It was felt that a robust process was in place both to build and manage those budgets as well as the contingency, particularly as estimates transpired into actual costs. It was also reported that there was over £22m in unused/unallocated reserves which meant that the Authority was in a very strong Capital Reserves position
 - Within the context of a changing world and increased costs, a question was asked as to what level of cost the project would become unviable. The Executive Director Place stated, however, that it was very clear that this scheme was still needed. He accepted that the COVID pandemic had significantly impacted on traffic volumes, but these had pretty much reverted back to 'normal' levels. This was expected to continue given the expanding economy, the inward investment and the potential growth around the M1 corridor. Congestion was expected to continue and, therefore, the scheme was viewed as being essential. In relation to the M1 Junction 37a which had been reported in the Transport for the North document, this was a longer-term aspiration and no details had been received from Highways England or from Transport for the North. This current scheme was still viable and needed to progress
 - The Sheffield City Region had required a robust business case and there had also been an equally robust appraisal process. This had been undertaken independently. The business case had demonstrated the need for the scheme including the benefits that would be provided. The project was also about unlocking current and future growth aspirations and capacity both for the borough and the Sheffield City Region
 - In response to questions about the 'upper level' cost at which the scheme could be considered unviable, the Executive Director Place commented that the Authority had tested the market and the awarding of the contract was at the cost stated, accepting that contingencies had been built in for unforeseen issues. It was not anticipated that there would be any further significant increase in costs. Arising out of this, the Group Manager, Highways and Engineering commented on the form of contract that had been utilised on this project which also allowed the contractor to provide cost saving benefits to both the contractor and the Council. He also commented on the nature of Civil Engineering works which would always mean that unexpected issues were identified. It was important, however, to recognise that the scheme unlocked potential development sites which was another benefit emanating from the project. This would assist in the regeneration of the borough

- Questions were asked about any lessons learned that would benefit future highways schemes. It was noted that this particular scheme had been drawn together and costed without the benefit of planning permission or the additional elements that had subsequently been required. What was difficult, however, was that there was a need to ensure that there was no pre-emption of the Cabinet or planning decisions and, therefore, on-site in-depth investigations couldn't be undertaken until July 2019 and this had a cost implication. Perhaps the Service could have gone on site earlier, but this would have pre-empted a planning application and decision which the Council would not normally want to do, but further discussion could be undertaken as to whether or not this was appropriate.
- Arising out of the above and in relation to the professional management of the scheme, it was reported that the original estimates had been obtained following a desk top exercise in order to obtain grant funding from the Sheffield City Region. It had always been known that there would be additional costs above that, and this had been reported to Members with contingency being placed in the schemes to cover such outcomes. This had been done correctly step by step by the professional officers concerned. In terms of getting on site and undertaking in depth investigation into possible further costings, this would have had to be undertaken before the planning application had been considered. In such circumstances the Council could have been criticised. In terms of finance, the Council had sufficient Capital Reserves to cope with this scheme, the impact of COVID, as well as any other capital schemes. With regard to the financial and engineering management, the scheme was just as valid today as when it had originally been designed. Indeed, its validity was even more vindicated given that in the middle of a pandemic the traffic volumes within the area were at 90% of 'normal' and this was anticipated to be at 100%+ once 'normality' returned
- Arising out of the above, Councillor Fielding stressed that the 'objecting' Members were in no way questioning the professional management of the scheme or the officers concerned, they were merely questioning the processes around the scheme costs and development
- Clarification was sought as to whether this would be the final request for additional money in order to complete the scheme and questions were asked if there were any other schemes funded via the Sheffield City Region that had been under-estimated that might result in a request for further funding from Capital Reserves. The Executive Director commented that the authority had underspent on City Region Schemes. On this particular scheme, however, as previously reported, there was scope for the target price to decrease and to offer up cost savings. The major area where the costs had increase, had occurred in relation to the ground stabilisation works which had now been completed. There were, therefore, no other contracts to procure
- Clarification was sought about the claw-back provisions of the Sheffield City Region Grant. It was stated that 100% of any grant obtained would have to be paid back. This would be approximately £2m should the scheme not go ahead

- Questions were asked as to why the Cabinet had not discussed alternative options including funding options other than utilising Capital Reserves. The Executive Director Place stated that there were a number of thoughts as to what aspects of the scheme could be excluded in order for costs to be reduced (reduced landscaping/security etc), however, on balance it was felt that these should be included and, therefore, a number of alternatives had indeed been explored. The view of the Finance Service was to allocate the £3.05m as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Reference was made to the way in which schemes were prioritised and to the advice of the Section 151 Officer, particularly in relation to the use of reserves. These reserves and their use were externally audited and assessed in terms of CIPFA requirements. He felt that the alternatives had been examined closely but, in addition, it was important to ensure that the planning conditions were met. The market had been tested and no additional finance would have been forthcoming from the Sheffield City Region. The Leader commented that he had already sought advice as to alternative funding sources, but all other options had been closed off.
- Arising out of the above, reference was made to the way in which the Council utilised savings from other Capital Schemes in order to build up the Capital Reserves pot. A strategic view was then made as to where this finance should be allocated
- An explanation was given as to the reasons for the redactions to the report which was because of commercial sensitivity in relation to the winning tender price for the Civil Works Contract. It would be unredacted following the completion of the procurement and legal processes

The Chair thanked Members of the Committee and 'objecting' Members for their questions, and Officers and the Leader of the Council for their responses.

Closing Statements were then invited by the Chair.

Councillor Fielding thanked both Members and officers for attending the meeting and for answering questions. He didn't feel, however, that the concerns expressed in the call-in had been fully addressed. The concerns around escalating costs and why these had not been brought to the Council's attention earlier had not been satisfactorily answered. He felt he had presented a fairly clear case as to why it would have been expected to see some costs for the ground stabilisation works included, as he felt it was self-evident that time that ground stabilisation was needed. He accepted that the extent of the ground stabilisation couldn't have been foreseen fully until the intrusive investigation had been undertaken. What he also cast doubt on was that it wasn't possible to do that intrusive work prior to the bids being submitted so that there was a better reflection of the costs. It was normal practice on most development sites that when planning applications were submitted, they were accompanied by the results of intrusive investigations and he was sure that this could not be seen as predetermining any planning application. He felt, therefore, that these investigations could have been undertaken earlier as in fact they had been for the footbridge scheme.

He was not satisfied that a better approach could not have been made about estimating costs and the funding required. Similarly, the noise insulation scheme

was a statutory requirement and had been referred to prior to the first Cabinet report as was the need for security. He still, therefore, felt that there was a strong case for having some sort of audited investigation into how the costs were arrived at, how the scheme was managed throughout and why issues hadn't been brought to the Council's attention earlier. This would enable lessons to be learned for the future.

Matt Gladstone, Executive Director Place commented that the completion of this scheme was a fundamental requirement to provide sufficient capacity to meet current and future projections for the borough. For the reasons discussed today, he felt the need to ask Cabinet to release the additional £3.05m for the award of the contract which would enable the Civil Works to be completed. As outlined, this was a target price for the contractor, the market had been tested in the current climate and as demonstrated, the COVID impact on travel levels had bounced back up to 90% of 'normal' and it was, therefore, critical that the scheme progressed.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Committee supports the Cabinet's original decision, this decision stands and can be implemented from the date of this meeting.

Chair



MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - People Achieving Their Potential Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 3 November 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Present Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Carr, T. Cave, Fielding, Frost, Daniel Griffin, Hayward, W. Johnson, Makinson, Mitchell, Newing, Tattersall and Williams

1 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

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

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute number 4 as she works for the NHS. There were no further declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October were received. The minutes of the 'Call in' Meeting of the Committee held on the 26th October, 2020 will be published on the website in draft once prepared and will be submitted for noting to the meeting to be held on the 1st December, 2020.

4 Public Health and Covid 19

Members were invited to consider a report of The Director of Public Health, and the Executive Director, Core Services. The aim of this report was to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) about the Public Health approach to COVID-19 in Barnsley. The report provided an overview of the role of the Public Health Team and current knowledge about COVID-19, described measures to prevent and manage COVID-19 in Barnsley; work to identify and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 together with a summary of ongoing challenges and future plans.

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:-

Julia Burrows, Executive Director - Public Health, BMBC
 Carrie Abbott, Service Director, Public Health & Regulation, BMBC
 Alicia Marcroft, Head of Public Health (Children and Young People), and Head of Service Public Health Nursing, BMBC
 Helen Watson, Public Health Registrar, BMBC
 Dr Kirsten Vizor, Public Health Registrar, BMBC

Dr Andrew Snell, Public Health Consultant, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

The Executive Director of Public Health, BMBC, reminded Members of the Committee of the gravity of the situation and the challenges it presents. Dr Andrew Snell delivered a brief but bleak presentation, reporting that in England we are now seeing between 50,000-100,000 new cases daily. The Barnsley case rate stood at around 496 for the 7 days to 28th October and remains high across the Borough. The spread of COVID-19 in Barnsley has been across all of Barnsley, affecting all areas, all ages and all groups. This is ahead of, but similar to, the regional and national situation and serves as a reminder that everyone has a part to play in reducing transmission and harm. It is anticipated that a multiple burden will be seen throughout the winter, not least because of indirect harm and other challenges such as unemployment (particularly amongst young people); impact on the BAME communities and those with less secure financial situations and/or physical and mental health problems.

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

TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

Members expressed concern at the perceived inadequacy of the current testing and contact tracing systems. Members were reassured that the local testing capacity has now increased. Turn-around times for testing are improving (with a mean time of 39 hours) with some test results back within 24 hours. A local testing system was introduced at the end of August to complement the national service, however there is no local access point for local testing facilities, and the national portal and national booking system must be used. The recently increased capacity means that the additional tests are now showing as available.

A live follow up service from 26th October is geared up to contact and support local people with Covid-19 and also picks up those 'lost' by the national service. A new text messaging service starts tomorrow (4th November 2020) and will include emails, calls and visits to positive cases, offering support and advising on isolation. In addressing concerns about people not engaging with the follow up service, it was noted that West Yorkshire found that a local person/local phone call is more effective (than national calls) and helps to reassure people that this is not a scam. Text messages sent out to Barnsley residents will include the phone number of the follow up system so that residents know who they are being contacted by.

Some older people may not have access to smartphones and apps (and therefore the NHS Covid-19 app). There is no failsafe mechanism for contacting everybody and keeping them informed but attempts are made to communicate in many formats. People are asked to leave details when at a restaurant/workplace etc. and businesses are obliged to collect information for track and trace purposes.

Antibody testing was available for NHS and social care staff as part of a study. However, it was reiterated that antibody testing is not useful for behaviour change, which is the best way to tackle the virus. Nonetheless, national research is underway to explore antibodies and vaccine development, which cannot be done locally.

CARE HOMES

74 care homes in Barnsley are supported. There is individual support for care home managers and weekly meetings with SWYFT, Barnsley Hospital and social care to find out challenges, concerns and provide guidance. There is also a weekly bulletin to answer any questions. The infection prevention and control offer comprises training for staff and managers on everything from correct use of PPE to self-swabbing. There is also support from Public Health England during care home outbreaks. It was confirmed that there are no shortages of PPE. Equipment can be obtained locally and through the national portal.

STAFF

It is important that the wellbeing of all staff is supported. A mental health first aid training programme has been commissioned by Human Resources together with a 24hr support number for staff as part of the employee assistance programme. Managers are recommended to have regular 1:1 meetings with staff and there is a whole range of mental health and befriending services. There is a balance to be struck to ensure that mental health services are not overwhelmed due to Covid-19. Many people will have suffered hidden harm throughout the pandemic due to non-Covid conditions. After the early peak, recovery for non-Covid illnesses progressed well.

HEALTH IMPACTS

The longer-term impacts of 'long Covid' in Barnsley are not yet known and are dependent on national research. Intelligence will develop over time - there is a need to monitor those who have tested positive and continue to seek medical advice going forward.

It was reported that the number of new infections and the number of patients in hospital is now higher than in the April peak. The hospital is now very busy and it is challenging to manage the level of demand. There are clear plans across the region to manage hospital capacity. The hospital will be able to provide exact figures around capacity. There are huge pressures on all health services at the moment. GPs are frustrated at not being able to see patients but have tried to shift to a mix of phone calls/video calls and visits where possible. It is likely that this challenge will grow again as winter approaches.

A multi-agency Outbreak Control Board was established in June and is continuously developing and monitoring the Outbreak Control Plan, which is a legal requirement.

Members expressed concern that cancer and non-cancer screening and inoculation programmes will have been affected by the pandemic. It was explained that it is unclear how the latest lockdown will impact, although some screening programmes have continued throughout the summer. The Health Protection Board meets tomorrow and the situation will be updated. Barnsley is part of a wider South Yorkshire Screening and Immunisation Oversight Group (SIOG) and is in regular contact with NHS England and local colleagues. It was highlighted that the influenza vaccination programme is now more important than ever. Barnsley had unprecedented levels of early demand for the flu vaccine, which initially led to appointment delays. However, Barnsley has sufficient NHS funded vaccine for all

those in eligible groups and is leading across South Yorkshire in terms of uptake, which is closely monitored.

Members expressed concern around oral health worsening due to lack of availability of dental services. Members were reassured that the oral health of children has always been a priority and some improvements have been seen. Prevention is more important than dental services and the good oral hygiene message continues to be shared as far as possible, although some nursery toothbrushing clubs have been impacted by the pandemic.

Some hospitality and leisure businesses in Barnsley are aggrieved that although they were fully Covid-19 compliant and had no reported infections they have had to close. It was reiterated that unfortunately it is not possible to pinpoint the source of some infections and no businesses can be 100% sure that their workplace is free from Covid-19 transmission. Any social mixing is a risk, as this is where transmission takes place. When positive test information is received, this is carefully examined on a daily basis and followed up by Regulatory Services when appropriate. Previous clusters have been linked to workplaces and work with Public Health England takes place to make sure nothing is missed.

Numbers of people who may be asymptomatic are not known unless they are tested - population estimates vary from 4% to 50% asymptomatic. People are at their most infectious level 2 days before they develop symptoms (presymptomatic). There may be as many as 1 in 40 people with coronavirus, hence the need to act as though everyone has it and follow the guidelines to minimise risk. Members were aware of instances where parents picking children up from school were not observing the 2-metre rule and were urged to reinforce this message wherever possible.

A vaccine is anticipated maybe early in the new year. This will need to be distributed as quickly as possible and will pose a huge logistical challenge. It is likely to be prioritised, with the most vulnerable and NHS and key workers first. Talks are underway with NHS England colleagues and the Local Resilience Forum as to what a mass vaccination plan would look like.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution, and
- (ii) Figures relating to hospital capacity should be obtained and shared with the Committee
- (iii) A Member requested the email contact information to be involved in a research project into Covid drug trials.
- (iv) Feedback to be provided on access to GP appointments during lockdown and to what extent appointments are being done by video calls or face to face.

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank



MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 1 December 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, Fielding, Higginbottom, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, McCarthy, Phillips, Pickering, Smith, Wilson and Wraith MBE.

5 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.

6 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

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

7 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

To minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee held on 26th October and 3rd November, 2020 were noted.

8 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's (BMBC's) Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), Zero Carbon Engagement, Governance and Delivery Proposals

The following witnesses were invited to the meeting:

- Paul Castle, Service Director, Environment & Transport, Place Directorate, BMBC
- Richard Burnham, Head of Housing & Energy, Place Directorate, BMBC
- David Malsom, Group Leader, Housing & Energy, Place Directorate, BMBC
- Cllr Chris Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson - Place (Environment and Transportation)

Members were invited to consider the report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Place regarding BMBC's Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), which sets out the Council's ambitions for Zero40 and Zero45 and how it plans to achieve these targets through engagement, the adoption of key principles and partnership working. It was explained that Barnsley's approach will consist of 5 year 'chunks' of activity to improve people's lives concentrating on fuel poverty, an inclusive economy and putting young people at the heart of our economy, with the three elements of civic leadership, positive engagement and positive action.

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

Councillor Wraith referred to an issue which had arisen around additives in diesel causing problems with Council vehicles. An explanation of the problem was provided by Councillor Leech. It seems there was too much water in the additive which is mixed with the fuel and caused a problem with the vehicles. This issue has been addressed with suppliers who have identified an issue with the facility and re-using of barrels whereby a residual amount of water was being left in the barrels which affected the mixture. Discussions are ongoing with the suppliers and the issue will be resolved within the next few days.

A member raised concerns regarding the cost of bio mass boilers and ground source heat pumps in Berneslai Homes communal properties. In these instances the residents are unable to switch suppliers to save money on the open market. Officers are aware of the higher costs in communal schemes but were under the impression that the cost is subsidised to similar levels as in other properties. Discussions with Berneslai Homes are ongoing and further information will be provided outside of the meeting. It is imperative that higher costs associated with de-carbonisation do not fall on vulnerable people.

Members sought reassurance that the Economic Recovery Plan post-Covid will be in line with carbon neutral targets. It was acknowledged that Covid has affected society in many ways, but with some positives in terms of a reduction in carbon already seen as a result of behaviour changes and also by presenting opportunities to reduce carbon emissions by retro-fitting housing, creating jobs and thus aiding the economy. It was explained that the Government has made available various grants and initiatives for decarbonising private sector property and public sector buildings, partly to aid recovery and also to reduce carbon emissions and aid achievement of the carbon reduction targets.

Partners and stakeholders in the climate action agenda include Berneslai Homes, Barnsley Premier Leisure, schools, Sheffield City Region, Leeds City Region; Sheffield University (who are a world leading facility in food production), Energise Barnsley and Northern Powergrid. A lot of work is being done, but there is a need to do more, particularly in terms of encouraging and growing the capacity of community groups and working with the private and voluntary sector. There is a need for an open dialogue with 'big emitters' - such organisations need to make changes themselves, with an input from Central Government in terms of initiatives and sanctions for carbon emissions, whilst ensuring that companies don't decide to move businesses abroad to avoid sanctions. A programme is being developed to help SMEs to become more efficient, grant funding dependent. In addition the Council has an ambitious aim to plant 10,000 trees in the Borough, working with a range of partners including the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Water and others. Work with younger people is crucial in the carbon neutral agenda as it is about their future.

The biggest threats to achievement of the targets set is the cost and responsibility thereof. For example, by 2035 every property should have an EPC certificate. At the moment 85,000 homes in Barnsley will need work to bring up to EPC C standard which will cost around £1billion, with no clear plan in place to do this. BMBC has no

jurisdiction in terms of private property compliance. Transport and industry are other areas which need attention and depend largely on the actions of central Government.

Strong local engagement and consultation is key to the development of the 2030 Framework and Plan within the Sustainable Barnsley theme.

Barnsley ran a scheme called Better Homes Barnsley which attracted funds which were invested in private sector and owner-occupied households to improve energy efficiency. This is no longer running, but funding from other sources is being explored and pilot programmes will be put in place. There is expertise within the team to support householders, publicising schemes via various means whilst recognising that there is no statutory obligation placed on households to comply.

RESOLVED that:

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

9 Road Safety in Barnsley

The following witnesses were invited to the meeting:

- Paul Castle, Service Director, Environment & Transport, Place Directorate, BMBC
- Matt Bell, Head of Highways & Engineering, Place Directorate, BMBC
- Phil Ainsworth, Public Health Senior Practitioner, BMBC
- Cllr Chris Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson - Place (Environment and Transportation), BMBC
- Cllr Dave Leech, Barnsley Councillor and Chair of South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership (SYSRP)
- Joanne Wehrle, Safer Roads Manager, SYSRP
- Superintendent Paul McCurry, Head of Operations, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Inspector Jason Booth, SYP
- Scott Dernie, Safety Camera Manager, SYSC

Members were invited to consider the report of the Executive Director Core Services, the Director of Public Health and Executive Director Place in respect of Road Safety in Barnsley. The purpose of this report was to inform the Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the findings of the recently completed Road Injury Health Needs Assessment (HNA) 2020, detailing the number of people injured or killed in the borough broken down into three broad age groups, and the next steps required to respond to those findings. It was highlighted that it is too early to say how COVID-19 has impacted on road injuries in Barnsley, although the report considers how residents may have been affected. In addition, the report outlines the road safety activities carried out in 2019, by both BMBC and its partners, and the local governance arrangements for road safety in Barnsley.

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

Members expressed concern that the report indicated a 229% increase in the number of people killed and injured between 2015 and 2018, with child injuries three times the national average. It was explained that in 2016 a new recording system for road traffic collisions was introduced, which reclassified how accidents were recorded, making it impossible to compare pre 2016 and post 2016 when system came in. The Department for Transport acknowledges that comparison is not possible and produced adjustment factors which show that killed and serious casualties would have been much higher pre 2016 if an injury based recording system had been in place earlier. A graph showing this was to be shared after the meeting. Whilst any loss of life on our networks is not acceptable, the number of deaths has remained consistent across the years, with between 8 and 13 deaths on the network. Road safety was reviewed around 18 months ago, with a change of perspective from an engineering/highway point of view. The road safety education, training and publicity function had transferred to public health, which demonstrates how important it is to address the issues. Financial constraints have made this a challenging period. However, it is important to acknowledge that there were over 1,697 fewer casualties reported as injured on the roads in South Yorkshire in 2019 than 10 years ago (5,437 casualties in 2009 and 3,231 casualties in 2019). The number of people killed and seriously injured has increased across all age groups and road user types, not just for the 0 to 15 age group.

A Councillor reported that In the UK, 2.1 million speeding fines are issued annually (with a minimum individual fine of £100); meaning that £210 million is raised, £6.5 billion from vehicle excise duty and £28 billion from vehicle fuel duty. However, there appears to be no money available to save lives, which is deeply frustrating for local councillors, who are passed from agency to agency without resolution.

It was reiterated that responsibility for the roads network is taken seriously. There are around 740 miles of highway in Barnsley to look after. Unfortunately, there is a £70m backlog for works. Resources are limited and approaches are data driven, using a 'worst first' approach to prioritise. However, a gap remains. Some initiatives are to be brought forward in the New Year, including an expansion of the Radar Box Programme to try to leverage local needs out of the wards and put investment into them, which will go to Cabinet in February. An issue regarding speeding at Ardsley was taken to the Safer Roads Partnership earlier in the year but remains unresolved. It was acknowledged that this year in particular has been challenging in terms of communications, although efforts have been made to involve all Area Councils, contact details for reporting highways issues will be re-issued.

A Member felt that more enforcement is needed. It was explained that the Police had seen a decrease in resources along with other public sector agencies and it is not always possible to respond to individual issues. However, use is made of Community Speedwatch delivered via the local Neighbourhood Teams, although this has slowed recently due to Covid, which has led to increased frustration. Social media is used to highlight the amount of work which is done. Barnsley now has 18 new community concern sites for mobile camera enforcement, identified within the last 12 months and South Yorkshire Safety Cameras is happy to receive new requests from Council members or the community through the website.

Data on life changing injuries is not routinely broken down to that level of detail and is not published in the report. There are 3 levels of severity within the serious category. Some initial analysis has been undertaken but more detailed work is required to look at the split. SYSRP is currently carrying out some benchmarking with other Safer Roads Partnerships across the country. Some partnerships are setting targets for the reduction of fatal and the highest level of serious injury.

A Councillor was aware of 4 local fatalities due to driver error and speed, particularly with younger drivers. It was acknowledged that younger drivers are over-represented in accident statistics. Education and training is offered through the Safer Roads Partnership. A Young Driver Package is currently being developed which gives access to classroom sessions and e-modules through to post-test practical training. All young people from Year 12 onwards are eligible to access the sessions via schools, colleges and driving instructors, free of charge. Normally around 6000 young people access the training across South Yorkshire annually. BMBC also has a Road Safety Technician who delivers training in schools but this has been difficult this year due to the virus. During 2018/19, 29 interventions were delivered in primary schools and 1100 in secondary schools and colleges. Road Safety is very much on the curriculum in schools and colleges and is also on the agenda for all recently passed drivers. HGV drivers have to take a refresher test every 12 months and would reduce accidents if this was rolled out amongst other drivers.

A Councillor felt that a central referral point is needed to refer issues to, with the expectation of a timely response, which is not always received. This will be provided after the meeting. Barnsley, in line with other authorities, uses a transparent data driven process to identify where investment needs to go. Local initiatives brought forward next year may help with this. Also, as explained earlier, SYP now identifies new locations of 'community concern' whereby preventative enforcement is carried out on sites without the serious accident data.

Barnsley has Local Neighbourhood Teams who can be a first point of contact for any local issues, PCSOs attend many local meetings and can listen to concerns.

It was felt that performance indicators relating to road safety should be included within the Corporate Performance Data Set. This will be taken away and raised with the Director of Place. The Safer Roads Partnership incorporates all 4 South Yorkshire Authorities, with a county wide strategy and full governance structure in place, reporting to the South Yorkshire Chief Executives and Leaders. It was felt that the budget is inadequate and needs to be at a realistic level. In the future the emerging Barnsley Road Safety strategy and the complementary South Yorkshire Safer Roads Strategy will report into the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Barnsley Board before going to Cabinet/Full Council.

SYSRP will be running a drink driving campaign over the Christmas period from 1st December through to 1st January. However, drink driving and drug driving enforcement is carried out all year round. A media launch has already taken place and paid for advertising will run throughout the month. Additional measures have been put in place for Covid, against a backdrop of fewer pubs, works parties etc. and results will be put out over media channels.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) Graphs showing the adjusted data regarding accidents due to a change in recording method be circulated to the committee;
- (iii) Officers re-issue contact information to Members with regards to reporting highways/road safety concerns;
- (iv) Consideration be given to the inclusion of Road Safety Key Performance indicators within the corporate performance data set, and
- (v) Consideration be given to key reports on Road Safety to be taken to Full Council.

Chair

Item 4

**Report of the Executive Director Core Services
and the Executive Director Children's Services,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 12 January 2021**

Provisional Education Outcomes in Barnsley 2019-20

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the provisional education outcomes for children and young people in the Borough for Key Stage (KS) 4 and Key Stage 5. Due to the impact of Covid, all GCSE and A level examinations were cancelled and outcomes for all students nationally were awarded based on centre assessed grades.
- 1.2 In addition, all statutory tests for Early Years Foundation Stage, Phonics, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 were cancelled and no benchmark data will be made available by the Department for Education (DfE) for 2020.
- 1.3 With regards to KS4 and KS5, originally, the DfE advised they were not going to publish any data nationally, stating that outcomes for 2020 would not be used for accountability. As a result, many local authorities did not collect 2020 outcomes. Due to the good relationships we have with our schools, we however worked with them to gather and verify pupil level data which enabled us to provide a breakdown of outcomes by pupil group.
- 1.4 Since then, the DfE have changed their position and have now made national data and Local Authority Level data available on their statistics website. No performance tables will be published for 2020 outcomes. However, the methodology used by DfE differs from previous years and schools were not given the usual opportunity to check and amend their data. As a result of this, the data reported for Barnsley is based on 13 settings, as opposed to the usual 12.
- 1.5 The additional setting used in the DfE data is Barnsley College, with results relating to 123 pupils whose results would not usually be included in the Local Authority outcomes. Of these pupils, 49 attended Barnsley College in year 11 through the newly introduced Direct Entry scheme. The focus of this provision is to support young people with an alternative curriculum offer to reduce the risk of non-engagement with education. Barnsley College is one of the few colleges in the country to offer this scheme and therefore, our published results, do not compare directly to other local authorities within the region. The remaining 74 were electively home educated pupils enrolled on GCSE courses at Barnsley College but would previously have been on roll at one of our secondary schools in year 10 or year 11.
- 1.6 The inclusion of these 123 pupils in our published results, which under normal circumstances would have been removed during the cancelled June checking exercise, has been raised with DfE, however at the moment there are no plans for them to revise the data that is currently available. Our local data used in this report was provided by schools and has been analysed using our software system which applied the usual methodology rules, excluding Barnsley College and therefore provides a more accurate picture than the DfE underlying data.
- 1.7 National KS4 data used in this report relates to All Schools. National KS5 data relates to All State Funded Schools and Colleges.

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 as at 1st September 2020.

	Maintained Schools	Academy	Total
Primary	36	42	78
Secondary	1	9	10
Special		2	2
Pupil Referral Unit		1	1
Total	37	54	91*

2.2 *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.

2.3 There are 15 Multi-Academy Trusts working in Barnsley. 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.

3.0 Highlights of Outcomes for 2020

3.1 Performance of Note:

- Outcomes at Key Stage 4 have continued to improve in The Basics in both the standard and strong pass, as has the Attainment 8 score.
- The improvement seen in the Attainment 8 score is greater than the improvement seen nationally.
- The percentage of pupils achieving a Standard pass in The Basics remains above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils achieving a Strong pass in The Basics also remains above the national average.
- Improvements in the Average A Level Grade and percentage of students achieving AAB including 2 facilitating subjects.
- The Average A Level Grade is now equal to national.
- Outcomes for Looked After Children at Key Stage 4 are above 2019 outcomes.

4.0 Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Outcomes

4.1 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.

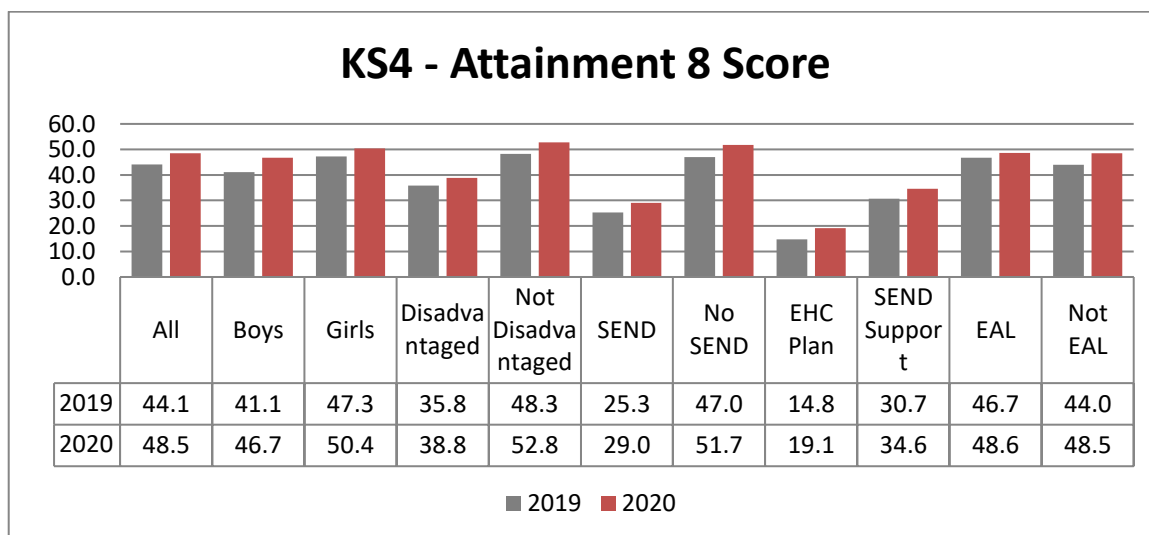
4.2 Another change to measures at GCSE is a switch from reporting grades as letters (e.g. A-C) to reporting as numbers, with grades ranging from 1 to 9, with a 9 indicating the highest grade possible. Within the number grading system, a grade 4 is equivalent to a standard C and a grade 5 considered a 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.

4.3 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”.

4.4 Due to the impact of Covid, all GCSE exams were cancelled, and students were awarded a centre assessed grade. As a result, DfE will not be publishing any national data for 2020 and therefore no benchmarking data is available. All schools shared their headline outcomes with us, on the understanding that the data was not made publicly available.

Attainment 8

- 4.5 The average attainment 8 score for Barnsley increased from 44.1 to 48.5. This is above the national average of 48.0. The increase seen locally between 2019 and 2020 of 4.4 is also above the increase seen nationally of 3.3.
- 4.6 As the graph below illustrates, all pupil groups saw an improvement between 2019 and 2020 with boys having the largest increase.

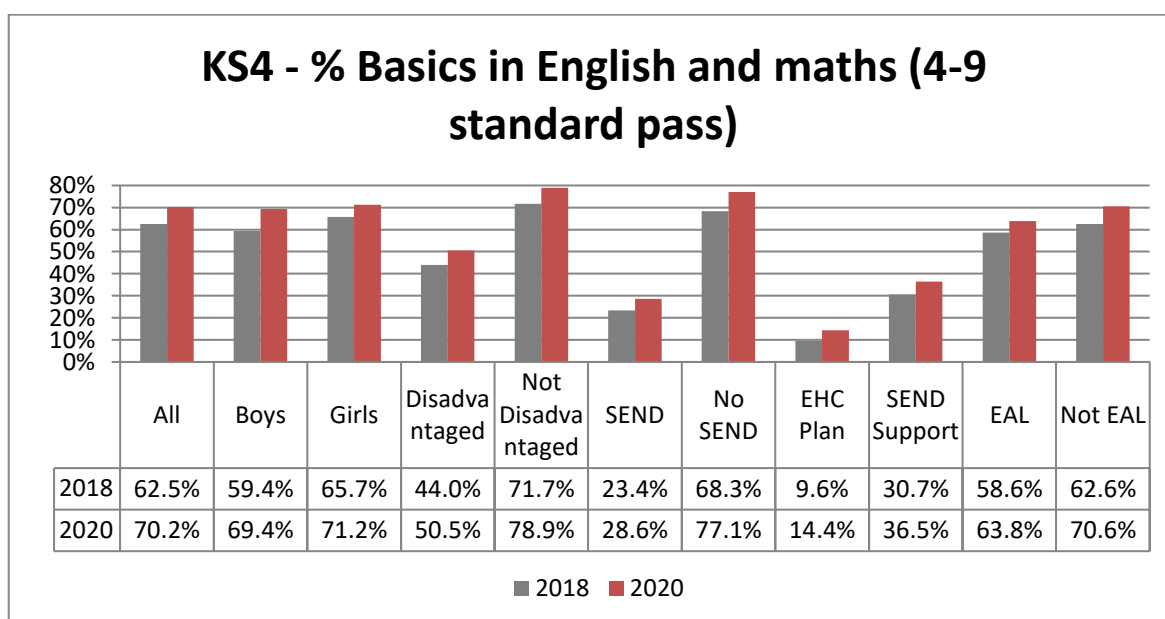


Progress 8

- 4.7 A reliable progress score is not available as the methodology for this indicator requires 2020 national data which has not been published by the DfE.

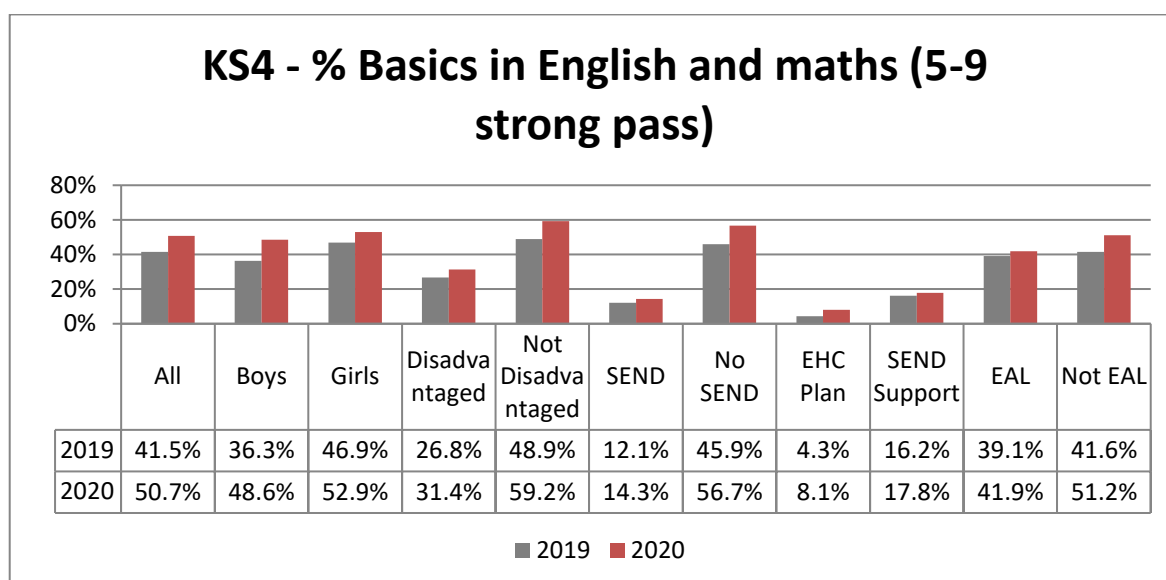
Standard Pass in English Language/Literature and Mathematics (The Basics)

- 4.8 In 2020, Barnsley improved its position further with 70.2% of students achieving a standard pass at grade 4-9 in The Basics in comparison to 62.5% in 2019. This is above the national average of 65.9% which also increased from 59.8% in 2019. Furthermore, Barnsley's increase of 7.7 percentage points between 2019 and 2020 is greater than the national increase of 6.1 percentage points.
- 4.9 As the graph below illustrates, all pupil groups saw an improvement between 2019 and 2020 with boys again having the largest increase.



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

- 4.10 In 2020, Barnsley saw a further improvement with 50.7% of students achieving a strong pass at grade 5-9 in The Basics in comparison to 41.5% in 2019. This is above the national average of 46.3%. Furthermore, Barnsley's increase of 9.2 percentage points between 2019 and 2020 is greater than the national increase of 6.3 percentage points.
- 4.11 As the graph below illustrates, all pupil groups saw an improvement between 2019 and 2020 with boys again having the largest increase.



5.0 Key Stage 5 (A-Level) Outcomes

- 5.1 Due to the impact of Covid, all A Level exams were cancelled and students were awarded a centre assessed grade. As a result, DfE have only published national data for 2020 and therefore no regional benchmarking data is available. Both Penistone Grammar School and Barnsley College shared their headline outcomes with us, on the understanding that the data was not made publicly available.

A Level Average Grade

- 5.2 The average A Level grade improved from a C in 2019 to a B in 2020. This is equal to the average A Level grade in 2020 for all state funded schools and colleges.

Percentage achieving AAB including 2 Facilitating Subjects

- 5.3 The percentage of Barnsley students achieving an AAB combination of grades (including two facilitating subjects such as history, geography and physics) increased from 9.6% in 2019 to 12.0% in 2020. This is below the national average of 21.2%

6.0 Outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC)

- 6.1 Due to the impact of Covid, there will be no publication of national data for looked after children (LAC). Our local data is limited to the KS4 LAC cohort for 2020 outcomes.
- 6.2 This cohort had lower prior attainment than last year's cohort. Almost half (47%) had special educational needs. Preliminary analysis confirms results are positive with 13/16 achieving their personal targets. Multiple vulnerabilities and placement breakdown impacted on the three students that did not secure qualifications indicative of their ability, however the lower scores for these three do accurately reflect their current poor educational engagement.
- 6.3 There are some notable achievements including a young mum who achieved her results despite significant time away from school as a result of pregnancy and early motherhood. One young person attended a special residential school and achieved a pass in all her subjects as a result of accelerated

progress over the last two years. Six young people weathered significant periods of instability in KS4 but secured their target grades despite this. All pupils have a post 16 destination.

Attainment 8

- 6.4 The average Attainment 8 score for the 2020 KS4 LAC cohort was 27.3. This is an increase from 26.1 in 2019.

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

- 6.5 In 2020, 31.2% of the KS4 LAC cohort achieved a grade 4-9 in The Basics, an improvement of 8.2 percentage points in comparison to 2019. 50% achieved a grade 4-9 in English Language/Literature, an improvement of 11.6 percentage points in comparison 2019. 50% also achieved a grade 4-9 in Mathematics, an improvement of 19.3 percentage points in comparison to 2019.

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

- 6.6 In 2020, 12.5% of the KS4 LAC cohort achieved a grade 5-9 in The Basics, an improvement of 1.4 percentage points in comparison to 2019. 25.0% achieved a grade 5-9 in English Language/Literature, an improvement of 1.3 percentage points on 2019. 12.5% also achieved a grade 5-9 in Mathematics, an improvement of 2.8 percentage points on 2019.
- 6.7 The Post 16 plans in place for each young person in the cohort are considered to be robust and appropriate.

7.0 Outcomes for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- 7.1 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.

Key Stage 4

- 7.2 The KS4 2020 SEND results are based on Centre Assessed Grades and are therefore not directly comparable to results from 2019 and 2018. Results in 2020 are based on 308 SEND pupils, 111 with an EHC Plan and 197 with SEND Support needs. National data is for State Funded Schools.
- 7.3 The Attainment 8 score of SEND pupils improved in 2020 but remained below the national average for the group. However, the increase of 3.7 points in comparison to 2019 was above the national increase of 3.1 points.

KS4 Attainment 8 Score	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley - SEND	25.4	25.3	29.0
National - SEND	27.2	27.6	30.7

- 7.4 The Attainment 8 score of SEND pupils with an EHCP improved in 2020 and remained above the national average for the group. The increase of 4.3 points was above the increase of 1.5 points seen nationally.

KS4 Attainment 8 Score	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley – EHC Plan	17.2	14.8	19.1
National – EHC Plan	13.5	13.7	15.2

- 7.5 The Attainment 8 score of SEND pupils with SEND Support improved in 2020 but remained below the national average for the group. However, the increase of 3.9 points was just above the increase of 3.8 points seen nationally.

KS4 Attainment 8 Score	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley – SEND Support	30.1	30.7	34.6
National – SEND Support	32.2	32.6	36.4

- 7.6 The percentage of SEND pupils achieving a Standard pass in the Basics improved in 2020 but remained below the national average for the group. The increase of 5.2 percentage points from 2019 was also below the increase seen nationally of 6.4 percentage points.

KS4 Basics 4-9 Standard Pass	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley - SEND	22.2%	23.4%	28.6%
National - SEND	25.8%	26.7%	33.1%

- 7.7 The percentage of SEND pupils with an EHC Plan achieving a Standard pass in the Basics improved in 2020 and is now above the national average for the group. The increase of 4.8 percentage points is also above the national increase of 3 percentage points.

KS4 Basics 4-9 Standard Pass	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley – EHC Plan	13.3%	9.6%	14.4%
National – EHC Plan	10.5%	11.1%	14.1%

- 7.8 The percentage of SEND pupils with SEND Support needs achieving a Standard pass in the Basics improved in 2020 but remains below the national average for the group. The increase of 5.8 percentage points is below the national increase of 7.6 percentage points.

KS4 Basics 4-9 Standard Pass	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley – SEND Support	27.3%	30.7%	36.5%
National – SEND Support	31.3%	32.3%	39.9%

- 7.9 The percentage of SEND pupils achieving a Strong pass in the Basics improved in 2020 but remained below the national average for the group. The increase of 2.2 percentage points was also below the national increase of 2.7 percentage points.

KS4 Basics 5-9 Strong Pass	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley - SEND	11.9%	12.1%	14.3%
National - SEND	13.5%	13.8%	16.5%

- 7.10 The percentage of SEND pupils with an EHC Plan achieving a Strong pass in the Basics improved in 2020 and is now above the national average for the group. The increase of 3.8 percentage points was also greater than the 1.0 percentage point increase seen nationally.

KS4 Basics 5-9 Strong Pass	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley – EHC Plan	2.0%	4.3%	8.1%
National – EHC Plan	5.3%	5.5%	6.5%

- 7.11 The percentage of SEND pupils with SEND Support needs achieving a Strong pass in the Basics improved in 2020 and is now above the national average for the group. The increase of 1.6 percentage points was also greater than the 0.4 percentage point increase seen nationally.

KS4 Basics 5-9 Strong Pass	2018	2019	2020
Barnsley – SEND Support	17.4%	16.2%	17.8%
National – SEND Support	16.5%	16.9%	17.3%

8.0 Action to Improve Education Outcomes

- 8.1 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. The key priorities of the Education Improvement Strategy are set out below. The Local Authority and Alliance leaders are working with schools and academies to understand their specific support needs as a result of the current pandemic and school recovery plans form the basis

of risk assessment activity for the 2020/21 academic year. In addition to this, and despite the disruption to children's learning caused by COVID-19, the Alliance continues to focus support and challenge activities on the key priorities within the strategy:

- 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 More and Better Jobs Strategy.
- In addition to the priorities set out above, the Alliance continues to address the need to improve inclusion in Barnsley schools and academies by focusing on developing practice to support children and young people with SEND.

9.0 Invited Witnesses

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

- Nick Bowen, Head Teacher at Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance
- Paul Crook, Principal at Penistone Grammar School and Chair of the Barnsley Alliance Secondary Heads Group
- Yiannis Kouris, Principal, Barnsley College
- Mel John-Ross, Executive Director Children's Services, BMBC
- Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, BMBC
- Darren Dickinson Interim Head of Barnsley Alliance, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher, Looked After Children & Vulnerable Groups, BMBC
- Angela Stephens, Business Improvement & Intelligence Advisor, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services, BMBC

10.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

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

- Which areas of performance are you most pleased and disappointed with and why?
- How many young people appealed against their grades and what was the outcome of this?
- How has Covid-19 impacted upon data collection relating to pupils?
- What have been the biggest challenges with ensuring fairness and equity amongst pupils with regards to centre-assessed grades being reflective of their ability?
- What strategies have been implemented to support pupils with SEND to improve their education outcomes and how do you know these are effective?
- How many of the Y11 exam cohort have gone on to be NEET (not in education, employment or training)?
- What impact did the disruption to A-level exams have on young people in Barnsley gaining university places?

- To what extent has the cohort taking GCSEs at Barnsley College increased this year as a result of attainment in 2020?
- What are your biggest concerns for pupils who have had their exams disrupted as a result of Covid-19?
- How can Elected Members support the work to improve educational outcomes for children in Barnsley?

11.0 Background Papers and Useful 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>

12.0 Glossary

BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
GCSE	General Certificate in Education
KS	Key Stage
LAC	Looked After Children

13.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Overview & Scrutiny Officer, Scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk
21st December 2020

Item 5

Report of the Executive Director Core Services
and the Executive Director Children's Services,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 12 January 2021

Measures to Strengthen and Maximise Support For Barnsley's Exam Cohort 2020-21

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the current context relating to the challenges faced, particularly in relation to schools and settings with pupils scheduled to take exams next summer, and to detail the support available to Barnsley pupils in Year 11 and students in Year 13 following consultation between the Barnsley Alliance and schools and further education (FE) providers.
- 1.2 The report also seeks to inform the committee of the range of stakeholder views in relation to the potential for disruption to exams and sets out a summary of the programme which has been developed, from within funding previously allocated, to further support the 2021 exam cohort.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Pupils currently in years 11 and 13 will be expected to sit GCSE and A Level / Level 3 assessments next summer.
- 2.2 The Government and Ofqual, the regulator for qualifications, examinations and assessments in England, have announced that exams will go ahead in summer 2021, with an extended exam season in operation.
- 2.3 The exam schedule has been delayed to that in previous years to allow some additional time to prepare. Clearly, there will need to be contingencies and dispensations in place to allow for the disruption already experienced and likely to be further experienced in the run up to summer 2021. It is important therefore, that we plan for the different eventualities involved in any late change in national policy.
- 2.4 As part of this, on 3rd December, the Department for Education (DfE) in conjunction with Ofqual announced further measures to support children and young people taking exams in England next summer.
- 2.5 For this reason, the proposals set out in this report to support pupils with preparation for exams would also pivot flexibly, if needed, to focus on how to ensure good outcomes in the event of a move to teacher-led assessments. This would involve focusing on the skills required to produce good quality coursework and assist with techniques to motivate pupils, particularly those most in need, and keep them engaged with the process throughout.
- 2.6 The eventual results will be announced to students between 24th and 27th August 2021 to allow pupils to start the 2021/22 academic year as normal but taking into account the delay to the exam schedule.
- 2.7 The current pandemic presents significant challenges to students and schools / FE providers to ensure they are as ready as they can be for their final assessments. Pupils and students in years 11 and 13 have already experienced significant disruption to their education during the 2019/20 academic year and this is persisting in 2020/21, despite the full return in September 2020, due to 'bubble' closures as a result of positive cases of Covid-19.
- 2.8 In early October the Council's Cabinet discussed the importance of ensuring that everything that can be done to support students in this respect was being done. Also, that consideration be given to anything further the Council could do or facilitate, to add value to the arrangements put in place by the education sector, to ensure our young people are not further disadvantaged as a result of the disruption to their learning caused by the pandemic.

- 2.9 This report sets out the results of an initial consultation with schools and FE leaders to establish the support that is currently in place and scope proposals as to how the Council could enhance and / or support these approaches without duplication and to maximise positive impact.

3.0 Context & Scale of Challenges

Attendance

- 3.1 As previously indicated, the Department for Education (DfE) have advised that GCSE and A levels will go ahead in 2021, on the basis that exams are the fairest way of judging a student's performance and that contingency planning by the DfE in consultation with the sector will be produced before Christmas.
- 3.2 Notwithstanding this, the impact of coronavirus on children's education and the 2020/21 exam cohort in areas in the north of England, including Barnsley, have seen increased and high rates of coronavirus, which has significantly affected children's education, many of whom are already from disadvantaged communities.
- 3.3 Since the start of the pandemic there has been a disproportionate impact on children's school attendance due to coronavirus, in the North of England. Between 5 July and 25 October 2020 there have been a total of 217,074 cases in the North, compared with 181,614 for the rest of England. That is despite the North having less than a third of the whole population.
- 3.4 New figures published in response to a parliamentary question show that on 15th October 2020, 17 out of the 23 local authorities where secondary school attendance had been below 80 per cent were in the North of England.
- 3.5 The three regions of the North (the North-East, North-West, and Yorkshire & the Humber) also have the lowest secondary school attendance in the country. Secondary schools in the North West and Yorkshire & the Humber had the joint lowest attendance rate at 81 per cent, followed by the North East at 83 per cent.
- 3.6 By contrast, secondary schools in the South West had the highest rates of attendance, with 90 per cent of pupils in school, while the South East and the East of England had 89 per cent attendance.
- 3.7 On Thursday 22nd October, according to data submitted to DfE via the daily submission form, attendance in Barnsley secondary schools was 73% in comparison to 83% nationally. Attendance was slightly higher in primary schools at 84% but still well below the 90% reported nationally and 11% of pupils were absent for Covid related reasons in comparison to the estimated 6% to 7% nationally.
- 3.8 Local attendance data for the first half term of the 2020/21 academic year showed that attendance for our Year 11 pupils had dropped to 92% in comparison to 94% for the same period in 2019/20. However, this figure does not include the high number of pupils who have been absent for Covid related reasons. When these are taken into account, actual attendance for Year 11 pupils in the first half term of 2020/21 was 85%.

GCSE and A level Exams 2021 – Research Indications

- 3.9 Whilst there is a duty for schools to provide remote education during these periods, there is little available research on the quality of remote education. However, research from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) reported in '*Learning during the lockdown: real-time data on children's experiences during home learning*' (May 2020) found that:
- Primary and secondary students are each spending about 5 hours a day on average on home learning. However, secondary school children are more likely to have online classes and to spend their leisure time online.
 - Higher-income parents are much more likely than the less well-off to report that their child's school provides online classes and access to online videoconferencing with teachers. 64% of secondary pupils in state schools from the richest households are being offered active help from schools, such as online teaching, compared with 47% from the poorest fifth of families. 82% of secondary school pupils attending private school are offered active help, with 79% being provided with online classes.

- Children from better-off families are spending 30% more time on home learning than those from poorer families. Children in the highest-income quintile of families spend 5.8 hours a day on educational activities, over 75 minutes more than their peers in the poorest fifth of households (4.5 hours). Over the 34 days (minimum) that schools will be closed, students in the best-off families will have done more than 7 full school days' worth of extra learning time. If schools do not go back until September 2020 and current rates of home learning continue, the gap would double to 15 full school days. This could have very substantial long-term consequences in light of evidence that even one extra hour a week of instructional time can significantly raise achievement.
- Better-off students have access to more resources for home learning. Within state primary and secondary schools, parents in the richest families are around 15 percentage points more likely than those in the poorest fifth to report that their child's school offers active resources such as online classes, or video or text chatting. More than half (58%) of primary school students from the least well-off families do not have access to their own study space.
- Many parents of both primary and secondary school students report struggling with supporting home learning. Almost 60% of the parents of primary school children and nearly half of the parents of secondary school children report that they are finding it quite or very hard to support their children's learning at home.
- School closures are almost certain to increase educational inequalities. Pupils from better-off families are spending longer on home learning; they have access to more individualised resources such as private tutoring or chats with teachers; they have a better home set-up for distance learning; and their parents report feeling more able to support them.

3.10 The report highlights the inequalities for children from disadvantaged and poorer backgrounds and the risk that for these children, the attainment gap will widen due to coronavirus.

4.0 Support Currently Offered Through Schools and FE Providers

4.1 Schools and FE providers have worked hard to ensure that students have access to appropriate technology to facilitate remote learning and to enhance learning through the additionality which remote resources can bring.

4.2 In addition, a range of approaches have been / are being applied in respect of Year 11 and Year 13 learners.

4.3 In schools and academies:-

- School leaders are confident that current pupil predictions remain broadly in line with trajectories
- Schools report that most pupils have returned to school with a high level of positive engagement, determination and focus – recognising the work they themselves need to do to avoid falling behind
- Pupils are being frequently assessed to ensure their progress remains on track
- Curriculum delivery has been reconsidered to take account of lost learning time and the knowledge that now needs to be built as a priority focus
- Schools are targeting support to pupils, based on subject trajectory / pupil ability – particularly in the core subjects of Maths and English
- Schools are using a range of interventions to support pupils including where necessary 1-1 support, additional lessons before and after-school, remote learning to enhance what's happening in school and ensuring pupil progress is closely tracked and monitored
- Barnsley schools have been supporting each other and drawing from best practice through the regular meetings of secondary head teachers with some really good examples of creative working such as online masterclasses, specific interventions in core areas of the curriculum and the increased use of remote facilities to enhance school-based learning activity. Some really good examples can be seen by following these links:
 - <https://www.northerneducationtrust.org/remote-learning-secondary/>
 - <https://www.dartonacademy.org.uk/online-academy3>
- Resources have been made available by the Government through the 'catch-up' Pupil Premium funding and a National Tutoring Programme, which is intended to support disadvantaged pupils identified by their schools and schools will focus this to ensure maximum impact
- In addition to the Government's access to technology scheme, some schools have identified pupils who require access to their own, dedicated device (Chromebooks, laptops, tablets) who wouldn't

have qualified under the Government scheme and have distributed devices accordingly. However, not all schools have the resources available to do this so there is likely to be disparity across the borough

- Schools are working with pupils and partners to identify and respond to any anxieties in respect of the pressures of examinations during this unprecedented time
- Support to the emotional health and wellbeing of pupils is also being offered through a number of initiatives through the Barnsley Alliance including trauma-informed practice training for school staff, the Return to Education Wellbeing project which has produced training resources and webinars for school staff and programmes of support and training developed through the Educational and Community Child Psychology Service

4.4 In further education:-

- Students are being assessed on a regular basis to identify gaps in learning with additional staff recruited in Barnsley College to support this
- Interventions include regular reviews, tracking and monitoring of student progress
- Additional sessions have been introduced by the College for some core subjects with these taking place during evenings and holidays
- The College has introduced a new pastoral and enrichment package
- Barnsley College has also ensured Year 13 students have access to appropriate technology and has distributed devices to help with this
- Additional funding has been made available to post-16 education providers to mitigate the impact of the pandemic

5.0 Challenges & Rationale

5.1 Given the scale of the challenges experienced so far this academic year, the winter months and beyond may bring even greater levels of disruption to learning and so our responses therefore need to be flexible and adaptive to a rapidly changing need among pupils and students.

5.2 School and FE leaders have reflected that they have worked hard to ensure disruption to learning is kept to a minimum and that learning can still be delivered when learners are unable to attend physical campus. There remains, however, a continuing concern that learners affected most, may well be those already significantly disadvantaged, and it is therefore potentially helpful to consider how the Council can support these cohorts from a central perspective.

5.3 Sector leaders have also reflected that subject-specific support is unlikely to be appropriate or particularly helpful for a variety of reasons including full understanding of pupil ability levels and that the sequencing of the delivery of curriculum objectives is likely to vary from setting to setting.

5.4 The proposals set out, particularly in paragraph 6.6 below, are therefore intended to maximise the Council's ability to support learning in a way that enables better engagement with learning tools and methods, improves access to study and revision skills tutoring and where necessary, helps to support with digital technology and connectivity.

6.0 Additional Support For Barnsley's Exam Cohort 2020-21

6.1 It is recognised that not all young people are able to access quiet study facilities, nor do all young people have access to appropriate technology. In addition, some young people struggle to maintain sufficient motivation to ensure they remain engaged fully with their learning.

6.2 Exams and other forms of assessment are known to create higher levels of anxiety among young people and this is even more the case currently, with pupils feeling anxious about the impact of the pandemic on their long-term life chances as well as the immediate impact on their family and friends. It is important therefore that support mechanisms are in place for young people to manage their anxieties and not allow this to impede their ability to engage with their education.

6.3 The challenge from the Council's Cabinet was to explore all possibilities to ensure Barnsley's young people are not disproportionately impacted by the effects of the pandemic on their education. While there

have been resources and funding made available to schools and FE providers for approaches such as one to one tuition, this is likely to be in high demand and we know that capacity is limited at national level.

6.4 The Sheffield Hallam University 'GROW' programme has a strong evidence base in motivating young people to study by using recent graduates from the local area to engage with young people directly, offering a tried and tested approach to ensure a large number of pupils receive the learning support they need. It has the added benefit of recruiting recent graduates locally, enhancing long-term employment prospects for this cohort.

6.5 There is the potential to maximise the use of community facilities by encouraging young people to seek out quiet study space as near to their homes and communities as possible. In addition to the proposals below we can work through our network of public libraries, subject to Covid-secure guidance at the time, to offer:

- Free access to public computers, bookable for 1-2 hours per day
- Free Wi-Fi
- Quiet study space – option to introduce as a bookable resource at some libraries
- Free access to a range of online reference resources from home or library with library membership e.g. Encyclopaedia Britannica, Oxford Reference Online, Access to Research, British Newspaper Archive
- Introductory online sessions to resources for mentors and teaching staff

6.6 The following proposals and ideas for development therefore are intended to blend a range of approaches to support pupils and students identified by their settings as in need of specific, targeted support while allowing young people, where appropriate, to self-identify and opt into the support available. In brief, these proposals are:

1. The introduction of a 'Support for Learning' Programme Manager
2. Improved access to facilitated study space
3. Additional Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance
4. Improve access to technology
5. Sheffield Hallam University to implement GROW student mentoring programme for year 11 pupils & develop and implement a programme for year 13 students

6.7 Appendix A shows a summary of each of these proposals, including the benefits, resource requirement and cost attached to each. It should be noted that these are non-recurrent costs in 2020/21 and will be funded from £0.5M earmarked reserves set aside by the Council for school improvement.

7.0 Invited Witnesses

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

- Nick Bowen, Head Teacher at Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance
- Paul Crook, Principal at Penistone Grammar School and Chair of the Barnsley Alliance Secondary Heads Group
- Yiannis Koursis, Principal, Barnsley College
- Mel John-Ross, Executive Director Children's Services, BMBC
- Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, BMBC
- Darren Dickinson Interim Head of Barnsley Alliance, BMBC
- Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher, Looked After Children & Vulnerable Groups, BMBC
- Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services, BMBC

8.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

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

- How did you decide upon the activities chosen to support this year's exam cohort? What information did you use?

- How have you involved young people in deciding how they would be best supported?
- What alternative approaches have you considered to boost this year's exam cohort and why were they discounted?
- How will you manage the balance between pupils' progress and their wellbeing?
- Can you give examples of what the catch-up premium is being spent on and how this will improve outcomes for pupils?
- How will support be tailored to address the needs of different types of pupils, so that it is equitable across the cohort and every child has the chance to achieve their potential?
- Are there any barriers to pupils accessing the proposed support, such as travel to learning centres?
- When will the plan be fully operational given that staff may have to be recruited?
- How are teachers being supported to manage their own wellbeing?
- How can Elected Members assist the work to strengthen and maximise support for Barnsley's 2020-21 exam cohort?

9.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

Government Press Release, October 2020: Students to be given more time to prepare for 2021 exams:-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/students-to-be-given-more-time-to-prepare-for-2021-exams>

Government Press Release, December 2020: Extra measures to support students ahead of next summer's exams:-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summers-exams>

Government Guidance on the Covid 19 Catch-Up Premium:-
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium?es_c=CB00C9611C363D90552209427917D344&es_cl=64F463847F765BE92A7AB17926EA6188&es_id=9d%c2%a3o3

Government Guidance on the Covid 19 Tuition Fund for 16-19 year olds:-
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-16-to-19-tuition-fund?es_c=CB00C9611C363D90552209427917D344&es_cl=027EF797DE4FD25B5271E35D19572D7F&es_id=9d%c2%a3o3

Institute for Fiscal Studies Report - Learning During the Lockdown; Realtime data on Children's Experiences During Lockdown, May 2020:-
https://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/Edited_Final-BN288%20Learning%20during%20the%20lockdown.pdf

Sheffield Hallam University 'GROW' Mentoring Programme:-
https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/grow/our-programme/?doing_wp_cron=1607514260.8647170066833496093750

10.0 Glossary

BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
DfE	Department for Education
FE	Further Education

11.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Overview & Scrutiny Officer, Scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk 21st December 2020

Summary of Proposal	Approach and Summary of Benefits	Resource Requirement	Cost				
<p>1. Support for Learning Programme Manager</p>	<p>Co-ordinate and support implementation of the programmes to support schools and colleges – ensure resources targeted to right pupils and students</p>	<p>One full-time, temporary post to end of 20/21 academic year</p>	<p>£34,000</p>				
<p>2. Improve access to facilitated study space through a combination of opening dedicated spaces within libraries, family centres, community resource centres and IKIC centres.</p>	<p>Aim to facilitate supported study space within our network of Family Centres and IKIC centres for Year 11 students for a period of 23 weeks between February 2021 and July 2021</p> <p>Supportive environment that will provide access to the internet and IT equipment, a warm study friendly environment, access to healthy study foods, provision of mindfulness/meditation activities, information and advice around specific related issues (e.g. managing stress and emotional wellbeing) provided by suitably trained staff.</p> <p>Six three-hour sessions per week – one in each area council area, hosted at either a Family Centre or IKIC Centre. Each session would be held either on a weekday evening or on a Saturday morning and the sessions would rotate across each area council locality to ensure that there is both a weekend and evening offer available.</p> <p>Provided from alternating spaces / ensure access is equitable across borough – one in each Area Council area – to ensure Covid-secure practice.</p> <p>Installation of corporate Wi-Fi at two sites to ensure access to good, reliable internet.</p>	<p>Fit for purpose, accessible community venues</p> <p>Bank of suitably skilled sessional staff</p> <p>Rollout of Wi-Fi</p> <p>1 Grade 9 EIP worker, 1 Grade 3 Outreach Worker and 1 Grade 4 TYS Support per session</p> <p>Summary of costs:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1576 1174 1915 1431"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1576 1174 1778 1305">Staffing Costs</td> <td data-bbox="1778 1174 1915 1305">£30,503</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1576 1305 1778 1431">Facilities Management</td> <td data-bbox="1778 1305 1915 1431">£7,820</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Staffing Costs	£30,503	Facilities Management	£7,820	<p>£84,703</p>
Staffing Costs	£30,503						
Facilities Management	£7,820						

		<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Catering</td> <td>£1,380</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public access computers (40)</td> <td>£30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Installation of corporate Wi-Fi at 2 sites</td> <td>£15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>£84,703</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Catering	£1,380	Public access computers (40)	£30,000	Installation of corporate Wi-Fi at 2 sites	£15,000	TOTAL	£84,703	
Catering	£1,380										
Public access computers (40)	£30,000										
Installation of corporate Wi-Fi at 2 sites	£15,000										
TOTAL	£84,703										
3. Improve access to technology including hardware for disadvantage pupils and provide 4G connectivity for those without internet access at home– 4G connectivity addresses barrier to learning where no internet access is available in family home	<p>Schools / college identify additional pupils where access is limited - most schools / academies have already done this – propose a contingency fund for cases where access is limited but pupils wouldn't qualify under the Government scheme and their school / academy doesn't currently have the resources to plug the gap.</p> <p>A Y11 fund that parents / carers can apply to in order to secure Wi-Fi access</p>	<p>£180 - £200 per device (estimate 550 required)</p> <p>Approximately £6 per month per device (7 months x 550)</p>	<p>£50k</p> <p>£25k</p>								
4. Additional Targeted Information, Advice & Guidance	<p>Focus on the mental health and resilience of young people in Y11 / post – 16 learning and motivations to remain engaged with learning.</p> <p>Build on TIAGs current ESF Pathways offer to schools and young people in Y11. Working alongside schools it has identified and targeted students at risk of becoming NEET and put in place additional IAG to that already delivered. This offer will be extended to provide support for young people in Y11 and Y13 struggling with their emotional and mental health and wellbeing</p>	2 additional TIAG Advisors @ £45k each	£90k								

	<p>as a result of current covid-19 restricted delivery models of learning.</p> <p>Intervention and support would be provided to identified young people to help them overcome the challenges they face and to re-engage and/or keep them engaged in learning.</p> <p>An additional resource of 2 Advisors experienced in working with young people who have low level mental health issues would be required.</p> <p>The beneficiaries of this would be young people who are likely to fall through current gaps in support but are vulnerable for a myriad of reasons and often go unnoticed.</p> <p>Utilising existing resource within the Education Welfare Service to undertake targeted home visits to families to direct them to study support within the school and community.</p> <p>Good study info guide to be hosted on the family services directory – advice around good study environments, study foods, importance of sleep with tips to getting enough sleep and rest - aimed at both young people and their parents and carers. To include hints and tips from previous Y11 students. What helped them focus what supported and motivated them.</p>	<p>Term time staff working additional hours in the Feb/Easter break</p> <p>Commissioned</p>	<p>£15k</p> <p>£20K</p>
5. Strategic partnering with Sheffield Hallam University to implement GROW student mentoring programme for year 11 pupils	7-week programme = 300 pupils x 2 = 600 pupils in total. Pupils mentored by recent graduate. Evidence-based programme already delivered through pilot in some South Yorkshire schools (Horizon in Barnsley). Scale-up and roll-out at pace.	Detailed costings provided by SHU (£88k to deliver two cohorts)	£88k
6. Develop and implement GROW programme for year 13 students	<p>Programme currently targeted at year 11 could be quickly developed for year 13.</p> <p>Additional advantage of recruiting graduates from Barnsley, would support Contingent on recruitment of graduates</p>		£88k
TOTAL			£494,703

This page is intentionally left blank



Meeting:	Safeguarding Private Member Briefing
Date of meeting:	12 January 2021
Report Title:	Children's Social Care Monthly Report – November 2020
Author:	Matt Biggs, Business Improvement Advisor

1.	<p>Background</p> <p>Members of the Committee will be aware that the People Directorate has a monthly children’s social care report, which contains an overview of the major performance indicators for children’s safeguarding and social care.</p> <p>The November 2020 edition of the children’s social care report is attached. It includes a summary section with an overview of performance, using RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings and direction of travel for most indicators. Barnsley’s historical performance and comparisons with other local authorities are also included.</p> <p>More detailed information against most indicators can be found in the main body of the report, where members will find graphs, tables and a management performance analysis at the top of each page, which highlights areas of performance considered good and areas where improvement is required.</p>
2.	<p>Summary</p> <p>Below is a summary of key performance issues highlighted in the report.</p> <p><u>Early Help Assessments</u> Trends in previous years show seasonal variations in the numbers of Early Help Assessments (EHAs) completed although the peaks and troughs differ slightly as a result of the pandemic this year. 197 EHAs had been completed at the end of November which is 5 less than in October (192). The number of interventions closed in November (87) was also less than in October (110).</p> <p><u>Contacts</u> Contacts during November (275) show an increase from October’s performance (247) but a reduction from November 2019 (377). The percentage of contacts proceeding to referral increased from 74% in October to 85.5% in November.</p> <p><u>Referrals</u> The number of referrals rose in November to 229, 47 higher than October and above the average of the last 12 months (218). Expressed as a rate per 10,000 under 18 year olds, the year to date figure at the end of November was 514.3; below the 2018/19 statistical neighbour (627.0) and the national (544.5) average. We continue to see a high proportion of referrals going to assessment, with 99.6% in November.</p> <p>Re-referrals reduced from 19.2% in October to 13.1% in November – though higher than November 2019 (9.4%). Our year to date performance of 13.6% is currently below the 2018/19 Statistical Neighbour average (19%), as well as the national (23%) and regional (25%) averages.</p> <p><u>Assessments</u> The number of assessments undertaken has increased from 217 in October to 271 in November. The number of assessments in November have decreased slightly compared to November 2019 (283). The rate of assessments for the year to date of 546.2 per 10,000 for the 0-18 population is below the 2018/19 statistical neighbour average (734) but above the national (539.3) average.</p>



The percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days of referral remained high at 100% in November, in line with October and well above the 2018/19 national (83.1%) and statistical neighbour (77.2%) averages.

Performance for the percentage of assessments undertaken in under 20 working days increased from 22.5% in October to 34.1% in November and is higher than the same point in 2019 (28.4%). Year to date performance of 35% is on target (35%) and above the 2018/19 statistical neighbour (26.4%) and national (32%) averages.

The proportion of assessments ending in no further action has increased from 10.3% in October to 18.1% in November.

Section 47 Investigations

The number of S47 investigations undertaken increased to 101 in November from 58 in October but is lower than November 2019 (125). When expressed as a rate per 10,000, the year to date figure (212.8) is above the 2018/19 national benchmark (168.3) but below our statistical neighbour average (232).

Percentage of S47s converting to child protection conferences decreased from 28% in October to 22% in November and remains below the 2018/19 statistical neighbour (39%) and national (38.5%) averages.

The proportion of Section 47 investigations ending in no further action decreased in November to 13% from 16.2% in October.

Child Protection (CP)

The number of children with a CP plan at the end of November (256) represents an annual low and 13 less than the November 2019 figure (269). That figure equates to a rate of 50.4 per 10,000 under 18 year olds, above the 2018/19 national average (43.7), but below our statistical neighbour (59) average.

Performance remains strong for timeliness of initial child protection conferences (ICPC) with the exception of October 2020. The proportion of conferences within timescale for November is 100%, above target (85%) and above the 2018/19 statistical neighbour (79%) and national averages (79%).

The proportion of children becoming subject of a child protection (CP) plan for a second or subsequent time ever was 16.1% for year to date at the end of November, below the internal target of 18%. Throughout the last 12 months, 54 children have been subject to a CP Plan for a second or subsequent time ever. Comparatively, performance remains below the 2018/19 statistical neighbour (21%), and national (20.8%) averages.

6 CP plans were open for 2 years or more at the end of November, a decrease from 7 in October. This equates to 2.3% of all plans, below the 3% target, but above the 2018/19 statistical neighbour (2.2%) and national (2.1%) averages.



Performance for the timeliness of child protection reviews has remained at or close to 100% since May 2016, with a 100% year to date average. This is above 2018/19 statistical neighbour (91.3%) and national (91.8%) averages. The timeliness of child protection visits has remained close to 100% since December 2016, with 99.6% in November and 99.8% for the year to date.



Care Proceedings

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The average age of concluding cases over a 12 month period has risen slightly to 36.2 weeks and is higher than the same point last year (35.1).

Looked After Children (LAC)

The number of looked after children reached an annual high of 345 in November, increasing from 336 in October. Barnsley's current rate of LAC (67.9 per 10,000) is well below statistical neighbours average rates (102.5 per 10,000) but above the national average (65.0 per 10,000). The number of children coming into care in November was 20, which was above the number leaving (13).

The proportion of looked after children with three or more placements (in the previous 12 months) decreased for the third consecutive month to 4.1% in November. This is below the 9.5% target, and continues to compare well against 2018/19 statistical neighbour (9.5%) and national (10%) averages.

The proportion of children looked after continuously for 2.5 years, and in their current placement for more than 2 years, increased to 63.4% in November, below the 68% target and below the 2018/19 statistical neighbour (68.5%) and national (69%) averages.

The number of looked after children going missing remained consistent, with 12 incidents in November compared to 13 in October. Performance in November was above the 12 month average (7).

The proportion of looked after child cases reviewed within timescales was above target (97%) at 100% for November and 99% for the year to date. The proportion of LAC visits in time was 99.1% in November and year to date performance (99.8%) is just below target (100%).

The proportion of health assessments for looked after children completed on time was 98.6% in November, improving slightly from 97.2% in October. Performance locally remains above the 2018/19 national (90%) and statistical neighbour (94.2%) averages. The proportion of children looked after for 12 months or more who have had a dental assessment declined for the ninth consecutive month to 50.7% in November, as a consequence of COVID19.

The proportion of looked after children (aged 4 to 16 years inclusive) recorded as having a completed Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire was 95.7% at the end of November, a decrease from 98.8% in October but well above the 80% target.

The proportion of looked after children with a Personal Education Plan (PEP) remained high at 99% in November just below the 100% target. The proportion with a termly PEP was also high at 99% for November.

Quality of Schools Attended by Looked after Children

The proportion of looked after children attending schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted improved slightly in November compared to the previous month, rising from 78.4% to 78.8%.

School Attendance and Absence of Looked after Children

In November, primary school attendance for looked after children increased slightly from 98.5% to 98.9% which represented a new annual high. No unauthorised absence or exclusions were recorded. Both absence and persistent absence recorded annual lows at 1.1% and 1.0% respectively.

Secondary attendance for looked after children increased slightly from 94.6% to 94.7% in November. Exclusions were recorded by 10.1% of secondary CIC in November. Both absence and persistent absence were comparatively high in November at 5.3% and 13.8% respectively.



	<p><u>Adoption</u> With the exception of 2013/14, Barnsley's performance has remained well above statistical neighbours, regional and national benchmarks.</p> <p>In relation to the timeliness of our adoption processes, against the target of 120 days between a placement order and a child being matched, timescales decreased significantly to 157.4 days in November, from 182.7 in October and 300.2 in November 2019.</p> <p><u>Care leavers</u> Care Leaver performance is measured 'accumulatively', using information recorded at the last visit, relevant to those care-experienced young people who have a birthday within the current month. This is then added to the previous performance, recorded since April, and builds up over the year. Reporting for care leavers can fluctuate significantly due to the small numbers of young people in the cohort.</p> <p>Performance for November shows that 79.5% of the cohort aged 19-21 were engaged in EET. Comparatively, the data is well above the 2018/19 statistical neighbour (49.6%) and national (52%) averages.</p> <p>The timeliness of care leaver visits decreased slightly in November (99%) compared to October (100%) but remains above the measure at the same point in 2019 (93.2%).</p> <p><u>Children in Need</u> There was 1,730 open Child in Need (CIN) cases at the end of November, a slight increase from 1,727 in October but 25 less than November 2019. When comparing against 2018/19 benchmarks, Barnsley's rate of 340.6 remains lower than Stat Neighbours (464) but above the National average (334.2).</p> <p><u>Caseloads</u> November 2020 data shows continued decreases to the caseloads of the Assessment/JIT and Safeguarding Teams, which decreased from 22.2 in October to 20.5 cases per worker. Caseloads in other teams remain consistent.</p>
	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>The committee is asked to review the attached report in a private session and challenge performance. Any areas for investigation or improvement can be agreed for formal detailed discussion at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Attachments/background papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's Social Care Monthly Report – November 2020
<p>5.</p>	<p>Possible Areas for investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does the data tell you about the overall picture of children's social care in Barnsley? What are our families experiencing?• What are the priorities for children's social care over the coming months?• What have been the key factors in improving the performance for assessments carried out within 20 working days and what more needs to be done?• How do you know that the right children are being progressed to the next stage of the process?



- Some service areas have not made any EHA referrals for the 12 months shown. Does this concern you and how do you work with them to improve this process?
- When sharing Child Protection Reports with parents and families, what support is available so that they fully understand the content and the implications of the report?
- What are the SDQ's telling you and can you give an example of how you have responded to the findings?
- How has Covid impacted upon the school attendance of looked after children?
- Why has the time taken between a placement order and a child being matched with prospective adopters decreased dramatically and how can this be improved further?
- What can members do to support the work of children's social care in Barnsley?

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 8a

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 9a

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank