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MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Sustainable Barnsley Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 8 February 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

AGENDA

Sustainable Barnsley Workstream

Councillors Cain, K. Dyson, Ennis OBE, Frost, Gollick, Green, Hand-Davis, Hayward, Kitching, Richardson, Stowe and Wraith MBE.

Administrative and Governance Issues for the Committee

1 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

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

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

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

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting *(Pages 3 - 8)*

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 11th January 2022.

Overview and Scrutiny Issues for the Committee

4 Violent Crime in Barnsley *(Pages 9 - 22)*

Enquiries to Jane Murphy, Scrutiny Officer

Email scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk

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

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Bowser, Cain, Clarke, Coates, K. Dyson, Felton, Fielding, Frost, Gollick, Green, Hand-Davis, Hayward, D. Higginbottom, Kitching, Lodge, Lowe-Flello, Markham, McCarthy, Mitchell, Newing, Noble, Osborne, Pickering, Richardson, Risebury, Smith, Stowe, Sumner, Tattersall, Wilson, Wraith MBE and Wray together with 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

2pm

Paul Brannan, Head of Safer Barnsley, Bernaslai Homes

Phil Hollingsworth, Service Director Safer Stronger Healthier Communities, BMBC

James Abdy, Detective Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police

Mark Miller, Violence Reduction Unit, South Yorkshire Police

Ian Bailey, Violence Reduction Unit Partnership Manager, South Yorkshire Police

Rosemary Clewer, Senior Commissioning Manager, BMBC

Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Adults and Communities, BMBC

Cllr Jenny Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson Adults and Communities, BMBC

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 11 January 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	The Civic, Barnsley - The Civic

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Bowler, Bowser, Cain, Clarke, Coates, Fielding, Green, Hayward, Kitching, Lodge, Lowe-Flelo, Markham, McCarthy, Mitchell, Noble, Osborne, Smith, Stowe, Sumner, Tattersall, Wilson, Wraith MBE and Wray together with co-opted member Ms. G Carter

37 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

Due to the absence of Councillor Ennis, Councillor Noble was proposed as Chair for the meeting.

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

38 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 40, 41 and 43 due to her role as Cabinet Support Member for Children's Services, membership of Barnsley Schools Alliance, Corporate Parenting Panel and her role as school governor. Councillors Bowser, Lodge and Wilson also declared non pecuniary interests in the same Minute Nos. above due to their roles as school governors

Gemma Carter (Parent Governor Representative) declared an interest in Minute Nos 40, 41 and 43 due to her role as Director of alternative provision.

39 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the following meetings: Full Committee – 7 September 2021; Sustainable Barnsley Workstream – 12 October 2021 and Growing Barnsley Workstream – 2 November 2021 were deferred to the next full meeting of the Committee.

The minutes of the Healthy Barnsley Workstream meeting held on 30th November were approved as a true and accurate record.

40 Provisional Education Outcomes Across the Borough 2020/21

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Mel John-Ross, Executive Director Children's Services, BMBC
Jane Allen, Service Manager for Education Welfare, Children's Services Directorate, BMBC
Helen Collins, Business Improvement and Intelligence Advisor, Core Services Directorate, BMBC
Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher, Looked After Children and Vulnerable Groups, Children's Services Directorate, BMBC
Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, Children's Services Directorate, BMBC
Neil Wilkinson, Projects and Contracts Manager, Place Directorate, BMBC
Anna Turner, Interim Head of Education and Partnerships, Children's Services Directorate, BMBC
Yiannis Koursis (CEO and Principal of Barnsley College)
Lee McClure, Headteacher at Springvale Primary School and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance
Ken Merry, Vice Principal for Quality, Barnsley College
Councillor Trevor Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services, BMBC

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee were provided with a report detailing the provisional education outcomes for children and young people in the borough for Key Stage (KS)4 and Key Stage (KS)5. It was explained that due to the impact of Covid, all GCSE and A level examinations were cancelled, and outcomes for all students nationally were awarded based on teacher assessed grades. Results are therefore not directly comparable to results from 2020 and 2019. Teacher assessed grades considered a range of evidence, including practice exams and coursework, whereas in 2020 GCSE students were awarded centre assessed grades based on what their teachers expected them to achieve in exams. 2019 was the last year that students achieved results based upon the examinations they sat.

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

T levels are being offered as an alternative to A levels as a pilot in 2020/21 in Barnsley. Students can access gold standard qualifications highly regarded by employers, which will add value to the workplace, introduce higher level skills to the area and mean that more students will be accessing university degrees in subjects they have already studied at T level 3, such as engineering. Entry requirements for T levels are currently 5 x GCSEs at grade 4 and above plus an assessment. In the future there may be options for awarding T levels at 4/5. The overall aim is to find entry placements with employers for all T level students. This can be challenging but can be overcome by working creatively and collaboratively with partners.

The % of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) was 5.1% in January, February and March. This compares favourably to regional figures (6.3%) and national (5.5%). Numbers are kept low due to collaborative working between the Local Authority and partners such as Barnsley College. The TIAG team supports every single young person who is NEET and provides targeted intervention. Current year data was taken during the time when the country went into lockdown, which hindered work as staff were not able to visit young people at home. 99.8% of young people are offered some form of education and training, a figure which has been consistent over a number of years.

The top skills required by employers are: working in teams, work readiness, communication, collaboration, readiness to learn and having aspirations. Through the Barnsley Alliance these skills are built into the curriculum, with close collaboration between all phases of education, from primary through to College. By starting in primary school with 'apprentice' type initiatives and experiences, this provides a fantastic opportunity for secondary education to work with.

Numbers of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) has risen by 35% during the pandemic, which is a concern as children may be missing out on social interaction and engagement and there may be safeguarding concerns. School attendance orders to enforce a return to school are required if education is not deemed efficient and suitable however in most cases these are not required as either the education improves or children return to school. A EHE advisor visits families, and if education is deemed to be unsuitable families are supported and the advisor will work alongside them. 84 former EHE children have returned to school in the last academic year without the need for a legal order. Families are visited at the point of notification and support is offered in partnership with the schools involved. A parental guide and a guide for young people is available setting out what EHE means and what resources and support is available. There is a suite of resources which parents are directed to, but it is parental choice. Health services remain in place for those with health needs and/or safeguarding plan. In the case of children with an EHCP or disability, the EHE advisor will support families in the annual review meeting and works alongside other professionals. EHE is overseen by the safeguarding partnership as it is a concern, particularly with the most vulnerable. Safeguarding relies on partnership working and information sharing. Children not in the school system are identified through health and the voice of the child is always captured. A review is currently underway, looking at how the young people are supported and if increased capacity is needed.

Reasons for EHE as a choice vary. It may be for philosophical reasons; due to health concerns since the pandemic or dissatisfaction with school. Lots of work takes place between the school and the family to find a way back. Children will be returned to their original school but if this is not appropriate the Local Authority would work with parents and the Barnsley Schools Alliance. Families do not always fully understand their responsibilities with regard to education whilst some children have thrived in the home environment during the pandemic.

The EHE advisor gets to know the families well and works with them to understand the reasons for their choices. Where there are no concerns families are fully supported and signposted to various community groups. The EHE advisor has recently been nominated (by a parent) for a national award.

During the first lockdown, disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils became a priority. A tracking system was introduced, working alongside Education Welfare, to ensure pupil safety, with a result that more vulnerable children were seen in school in Barnsley than elsewhere. The breadth of the curriculum is on offer to these children, including staying fit and healthy, citizenship and PHSE. The Barnsley Alliance shares assessment and prediction data in clusters. Pupils re assessed by schools and support targeted where appropriate.

Throughout the pandemic schools have been supporting each other, sharing best practice and working creatively to ensure pupils are in the best position to mitigate effects of the disruption. Most children are enthusiastic to be back in school. There will be a mental health impact but work is ongoing with emotional wellbeing projects developed in partnership with the CCG to minimise this. Collaborative work with youth services takes place and schools are supported to access digital resources which have been developed. There is a collective focus on all children but particularly the most vulnerable. A full CPD and leadership programme is in place for staff. Children are supported through educational psychology and trauma informed practice. The Literacy Launchpad closes the gap in primary schools for disadvantaged children, alongside SALT programmes so that children catch up as soon as possible. Results for Looked After Children continue to improve year on year and every child is tracked closely. Children are taught in smaller groups in school, which has led to increased progress for some, particularly in phonics and reading skills. Adolescents have found the return to school based learning challenging, but are helped to readjust and integrate, with a personalised service for every child.

Disadvantaged children are identified in a number of ways: through Pupil Premium, those accessing social care support and those with an EHCP. Pupil Premium is triggered by receipt of free school meals - parent have to self-identify and apply. It was felt that schools should promote Pupil Premium as it helps both children and schools. Looked After Children (and previously Looked After) and Forces children are automatically identified. Pupil Premium for Looked After Children is specifically for that child, whereas for other children it is given to the school for them to support the whole cohort, not just the individual child. It can help with a myriad of things and when used effectively will close the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children. The introduction of universal free school meals removed the incentive for parents to register for Pupil Premium. Once a child receives this, it stays with them throughout their education and can help a school enormously.

A Post 16 Education Advocate works closely with TIAG to ensure that each looked after young person is supported individually, targeting specific interventions for those who are struggling and broader than focussing on education. There is a clear gender and attainment gap, with girls outperforming boys on a number of indicators. This has been a trend for some time and has not been helped by Covid. Specific strategies in Early Years, Primary and Secondary are needed, with early intervention and tracking essential. A key line of enquiry is looking at remote learning. Schools are able to track remote learning and who is engaged with it, inviting those who are not able to access remote learning are invited to stay in school.. Staff absence during Covid has had an impact and this is a national issue. Data will be available by the end of January and where concerns are identified Barnsley Alliance will intervene. Girls outperform boys in subjects such as engineering, but the data is skewed by student numbers.

Mental Health support for staff is available along with a wellbeing network for peer to peer support. The Local Authority is keen to ensure support is in place for employees. CPD is available through webinars. Barnsley Alliance meets weekly with cluster leads and representatives from their area.

It was felt that there is a consistency of approach across the Borough. Low numbers of appeals indicate strong communication with fair and accurate judgements. Internal monitoring and support takes place within schools and with peer challenge. Monitoring and assessment activities are built into schools' calendars. Assessment processes will recommence within the primary sector shortly.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) Data relating to the number of NEET young people who have received interventions (and how many have been positively impacted) will be provided to the Committee, and
- (iii) For those families entitled to free school meals, schools should be advised to look at ways to increase the number that take them up.

41 Children's Social Care Performance Cover Report October 2021 (Redacted)

Members were invited to consider a cover report relating to Children's Social Care Performance. The redacted report was provided for information only.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

42 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press 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.

43 Children's Social Care Performance Cover Report October 2021 (Redacted)

Members were invited to consider a cover report relating to:

7a – Children's Social Care Performance Cover Report October 2021

7b – Children's Social Care Performance Report October 2021

7c – Understanding Children's Social Care Performance Public Document Pack

7d – Outcomes of the Annual Ofsted Conversation Between the Director of Children's Services and Ofsted

Mel John-Ross introduced the report, explaining that the service was last subject to a full OFSTED inspection in October 2018 and received a judgement of 'good'. A letter from Ofsted has now been received, following the most recent, annual engaged meeting with Ofsted. Items discussed within the letter included Ofsted inspection activity, care leavers in unsuitable accommodation,

school attendance (including persistent absence and exclusion) for Looked After Children, sector led improvement, social worker recruitment and retention, wellbeing and caseloads. The next inspection activity could be either a focused visit, a JTAI or a short inspection. Additional Family Support Workers (assigned to Social Workers) have been recruited whilst we recruit to the new and additional Social Worker posts. Barnsley is recognised as an 'Employer of Choice' for Social Workers.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The performance report be noted;
- (ii) Members be provided with a breakdown of children not in suitable accommodation, and
- (iii) Members be provided with national and regional comparator data for caseloads.

Chair

Report of the Executive Director Core Services
and the Executive Director Adults and
Communities,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(OSC) on 8th February 2022

Violent Crime in Barnsley

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) with an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership and South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit in Barnsley towards tackling violent crime and its impact on the communities of Barnsley.
- 1.2 Item 4b (attached) shows the current performance against priorities and the associated actions, as at 14th January 2022, and the governance arrangements in place.

2.0 Background

- 2.1. In April 2018 the government outlined a national commitment to addressing violence and how it affects people in England and Wales in the Serious Violence Strategy. The commitment was prompted by high profile coverage of issues of violence in the national media, including apparently worrying trends in most serious violence (MSV) including knife and gun crime (often referred to as weapon enabled violence). The strategy set out the context and aims within the following headers:-
- Trends
 - Risk factors
 - Emerging crime types associated with drugs such as county lines
 - Early intervention and prevention approaches
 - Supporting communities and local partnerships
 - Law enforcement and criminal justice
 - Delivery
- 2.2 To support the delivery aims of the strategy in 2019 the Home Office made funding available to the 18 Constabulary areas in England and Wales identified as having the highest per capita incidents of crime. The funding was designed to enable these areas to consider developing a more systemic approach to the prevention and reduction of violence based around public health modelling and informed by learning from areas such as Glasgow where such approaches had been effectively in place for over a decade. South Yorkshire was one of the constabulary areas identified. The funding and approach required that a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) be established in South Yorkshire and that this Unit, directed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, would be responsible for establishing a comprehensive local profile of violence across the county and develop and account for the delivery of a strategy to prevent and reduce violence in the county.
- 2.3 From the local profile, the Safer Barnsley Partnership have been able to identify the key thematic and locality problems associated with violence in Barnsley and develop and implement a targeted action plan aimed at addressing these concerns.

2.4 The key points identified in Barnsley for the Area Profile were as follows:-

- According to Hospital Episodes Statistics, those who suffer an injury from violent crime tend to be younger, with 20 to 29 year-olds over-represented by 293% in the data. This supports the conclusion of the area profile that young people are the most affected by violence.
- 'Assault by a sharp object' was less common in Barnsley hospital data, at 11%, compared to the South Yorkshire average of 16%. Whilst knife crime is still a concern in Barnsley, this also reinforces that the majority of violent crimes are committed without a weapon.
- By average rate per 10,000 population per month, Barnsley Central, Dearne North, Kingstone and Worsbrough were all in the top 20% of all South Yorkshire wards for 'violence with injury' crime.
- Suspects of 'violence with injury' crimes came from all wards, but Barnsley Central, Dearne North, Kingstone, Monk Bretton, St Helens and Worsbrough were all in the top 20% of wards in South Yorkshire for the rate at which suspects originated from them. This can be used as a rough metric for the degree to which a ward's residents are "involved in violence".
- Dearne North, St Helens and Worsbrough were in the most deprived 20% of wards in South Yorkshire, and also represent wards with high rates of 'ward of origin' for violence with injury.

2.5 Using the information gleaned in the Area Profile, and utilising the role of the Violence Reduction Link Officer who works between the VRU and the Safer Barnsley Partnership, Barnsley has been able to establish a local Violence Reduction Action Plan (Item 4b – attached). The intervention framework for the plan includes:-

- Primary prevention - stopping violence before it starts
- Secondary prevention - halting the progression of violence once it has already occurred
- Tertiary prevention - providing a way out for those already entrenched in violence
- Criminal justice and enforcement - holding people accountable when they are criminally culpable
- Attitudinal change - aiming to shift cultural norms in society

2.6 An action and delivery plan has been developed to respond to what are deemed to be the priority issues relating to violence within Barnsley. The plan has considered the comprehensive evidence produced as part of the area and ward profile work undertaken by the Violence Reduction Unit, and the strategic themes outlined within the violence reduction strategy.

2.7 The plan is underpinned by the assumption that violence is reflective of broader societal factors such as inequalities, deprivation, environmental, opportunity and economic circumstance and that broader plans already exist in the borough to action these circumstances. The action plan has also been developed in conjunction with other direct plans and activity aimed at addressing the various causal factors of violence and where appropriate such plans and existing governance arrangements have been referenced in the plan.

2.8 Additionally, the action plan attempts to incorporate a public health outlook in terms of prevention, attitudinal and causation dimensions which can influence the emergence and prevalence of violence within Barnsley and proposes interventions which are aimed to tackle both those for whom violence is already a feature of their lives and prevent others from being drawn into violence.

2.9 Within Barnsley the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit are engaged in several strategic partnerships and organisations with a view to achieving the actions of the Safer Barnsley Violence Reduction Action Plan (Item 4b). These include the Barnsley Alcohol Alliance, Alcohol Care Team, Youth Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Board, The South Yorkshire Police Serious Violence Programme and Early Help Steering Group, The Barnsley Evening and Night-Time Economy Group, amongst others.

3.0 Current Position

3.1 The Barnsley Violence Reduction Action (Item 4b – attached) plan is a ‘living’ document that was generated and developed in conjunction with Barnsley Council’s partner agencies. The action plan is updated and administered by the Barnsley Council/ South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit Link Officer.

3.2 There are six main themes to the action plan which were agreed via the Safer Barnsley Partnership at the outset of the action plan in early 2020. These are:-

- Neighbourhoods - Considering which locations across Barnsley have a disproportionate experience of violence and feature within the top 20% of wards in South Yorkshire.
- Alcohol – The clear correlation identified between the consumption of alcohol and the prevalence of violence in all settings.
- The Evening and Night-Time Economy – Increased levels of violence associated with interactions taking place during evening and night-time activities in the town centre and principal towns.
- Young People – The overrepresentation of young people, between the ages of 15 and 30, as both perpetrators and victims of violence.
- Domestic Abuse – Acknowledging that domestic abuse remains a priority concern in Barnsley and that increased awareness and confidence are required to ensure problems are prevented and addressed appropriately.
- Weapon Enabled Violence – Focussing on the need to continue to keep Barnsley in a relatively strong position in terms of comparatively low levels of weapon enabled violence but acknowledging the need to ensure that environments and dynamics where the use of weapons become more apparent are prevented.

All categories are in line with the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit’s 16 themes of violence.

3.3 To work to achieve the aims of the action plan, the SYVRU have initiated and funded numerous programmes including:-

- **Plan B Custody Navigators.** Based at Shepcote Lane Sheffield but deploying to Barnsley and Doncaster custody suites as necessary. This is a tertiary approach to crime reduction to pull people already entrenched in violence out of criminal activity. Navigators support detainees, arrested for violent offences, in an attempt to break offending cycles. Using Trauma Informed Practice, they explore what has happened in the detainees past that has, potentially, led to this detention. They engage young adults, offering long-term support, signposting and practical guidance, assisting them into employment, education, training, housing and towards counselling. The support provided continues after the detainees leave custody if so desired by the detainee. It is not an alternative to the criminal justice system, as any proceedings will continue to their conclusion. The ages of the young people who are able to access this service is currently being reviewed in conjunction with SYP and Operation Fortify to engage with younger people between the ages of 10 to 15 who have been arrested for offences that may indicate their involvement with Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and county lines crime.
- **Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme.** This is an initiative aimed at primary violence reduction and targets young people aged between 11 and 16 years. The Mentors in Violence Prevention programme (MVP) is a leadership and bystander programme. The programme is designed to educate schoolteachers, staff and pupils on the bystander model. (A bystander is somebody who sees or knows about a certain situation such as bullying that is happening to someone else. If a bystander does nothing about the situation,

they can be seen as condoning this behaviour.) The MVP Programme places young people within realistic and relevant scenarios. The aim of these scenarios is to: raise awareness (of the issue), challenge thinking (around the issue), open dialogue (within peer groups), and inspire individual leadership (around the issue). The discussions created within MVP permit young people to share, the often, healthy norms that most of them believe in. These discussions also aim to reassure young people. A simple but effective toolkit is shared to individuals allowing them to be the friends they want to be. A young person feeling safe and supported in any learning environment, will attain. This programme sits within the RHSE (Relationship Health and Sex Education) or PSHE (Personal Social Health Education) part of the curriculum.

- **Wrong Look, Wrong Time, Wrong Place (WLWTWP)** is an intervention arranged with and through Yorkshire Mentoring for small group work with secondary age young people (Years 9+), usually around six hours in total. In summary, this scheme is delivered through schools and youth organisations by way of a video, documenting the fatal stabbing of a young male in Bedfordshire, the aftermath of his death and the subsequent emergency services activity. A 'training for trainers' day has been commissioned by SYVRU to commence immediately and will train up to 15 employees and youth workers to deliver and facilitate the programme within their respective organisations. Barnsley College is extremely interested in delivering this resource in their establishment.
- **StreetSmart** is an initiative that provides wrap-around support for young people at street level – a setting where parents, schools and most other services have little reach. The scheme aims to contribute to a reduction in violence and crime uptake among young people and is underpinned by increased levels of knowledge and understanding of key issues, improved mental wellbeing and increased hopes and aspirations. These aims have led us to pursue the following outcomes:-
 - Young people improve understanding of crime and violence
 - Young men develop their understanding of masculinity
 - Young people improve mental wellbeing and self-awareness

At the core of the programme the aim is to improve drugs education, reduce violence against women and girls, improve mental wellbeing and challenge violence as a socio cultural norm.

- **Barnsley Evening and Night-Time Economy Group (Barnsley ENTEG).** South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit work closely with partner agencies in this field. BMBC public health managers lead this group, and a meeting is held every quarter for all partners to discuss the running of the group and Barnsley Town Centre evening and night-time economy work. Lately, given the small increase in reports of drink spiking and violence against women and girls the SYVRU and OPCC have provided funding to the Barnsley ENTEG to purchase devices for glasses to make the administering of noxious substances much more difficult. This is a short-term solution and the longer-term remedy is being negotiated now with Yorkshire Mentoring. This initiative is aimed at a target audience of 11 to 18 year-olds to challenge inappropriate attitudes and behaviour towards their female peers and others.

- 3.4 To ensure that the priorities are reflective of emerging trends in violence The VRU regularly monitors rates of all types of violence across the county and any emerging national trends relating to criminality. In addition, broader societal factors such as the impact of the pandemic, local economic circumstances, local community dynamics and any other contributory factors are considered within the context of how these may contribute towards impacting upon the likelihood of violence. It is hoped that by operating in this way the local plan to reduce violence, the impact of violence and the causal factors of violence can be delivered most effectively.

4.0 Future Plans & Challenges

- 4.1 Work has started with Targeted Youth Support and the Youth Justice Service to fund and appoint a Navigator within the Barnsley Hospital Emergency department. This Navigator will offer support and signposting to victims of assault using the hospital. The role will bring many advantages to all services including early identification of young, vulnerable and repeat victims; resource usage reduction and intelligence for all services and partners. Work continues to involve Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) from secondary schools in and around Barnsley to improve the early involvement of bespoke resources with young people. Meeting with DSLs from all schools is planned for the next quarterly meeting for all such leads.
- 4.2 More recent national profile has been given to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) with a number of horrific stranger related incidents of violence against women receiving significant media attention. In addition, “drink spiking” which is usually (not exclusively) associated with offending against women and girls has also hit the headlines in recent months. The VAWG agenda remains an area which requires further understanding and dissemination to enable effective actions are put in place to prevent and deal with it. A key aim for the VRU is to refresh all local plans to consider the evidence in relation to violence against women and girls and how best local partnerships can tackle this.
- 4.3 Most Serious Violent Crime (MSV) is defined as crime which causes the most harm to an individual or attempts to cause serious harm. **Barnsley typically has lower rates of MSV than the rest of South Yorkshire.** Figures 1 and 2 below show the rates of Most Serious Violence in Barnsley and the breakdown of Most Serious Violence by ward. Central Ward has the highest rate of MSV. However, this is usual as there are far more people using the area than its resident population would suggest, and town centres are typically the focus of the night-time economy which increases the possibility of violent interactions. Notwithstanding Barnsley’s relatively positive position in comparison to our near neighbours it is apparent that the trend for MSV has been increasing over the past 3 years and as such the Violence Reduction Action Plan will be reviewed to reflect this and focus more specifically on the causes of MSV.

Figure 1. Rate of Most Serious Violence in Barnsley

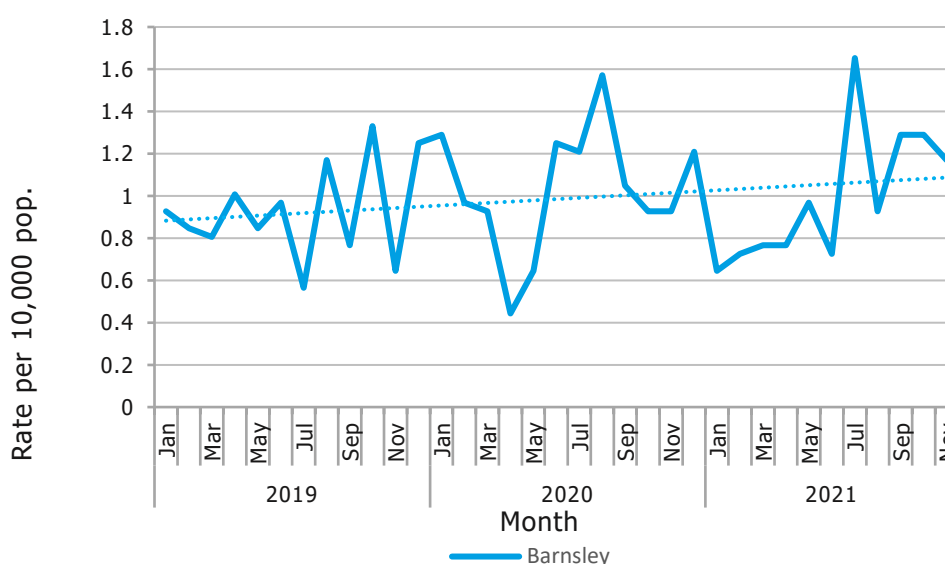
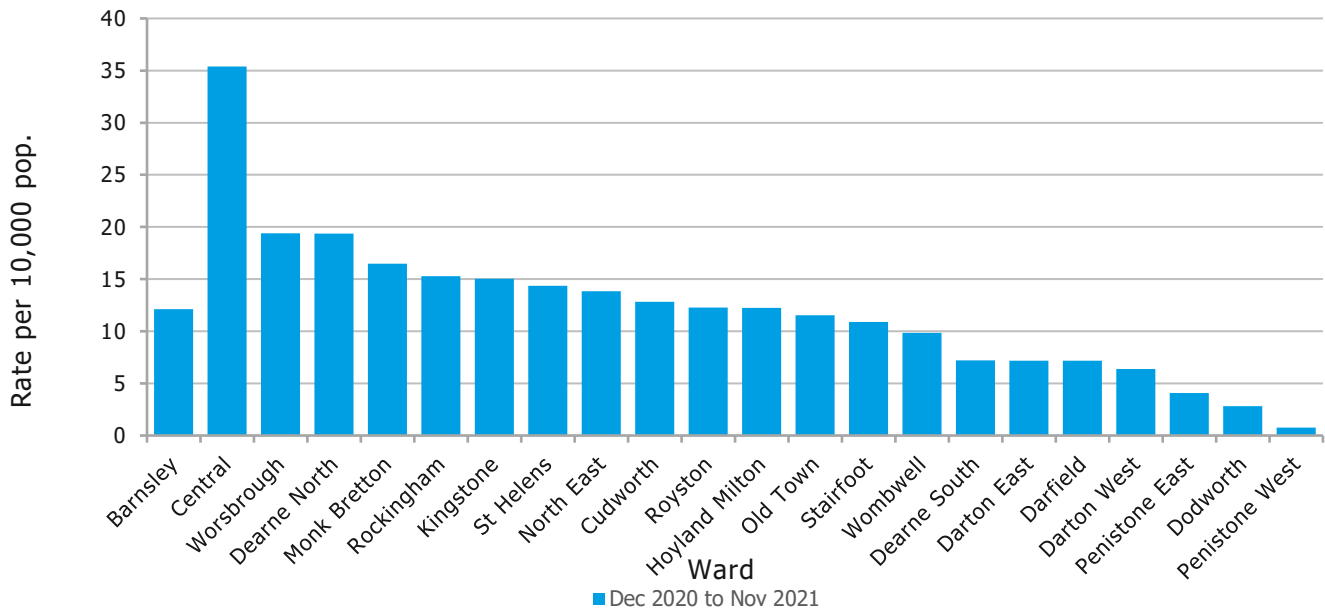


Figure 2. Rate of Most Serious Violence by Ward



- 4.4 Barnsley is a safe area in which to work and live. The Area Profile clearly evidences a correlation between social and economic deprivation and violence. To this extent, it is likely that any worsening of circumstances in any of our communities could potentially result in increases in violence and the impact of violence. The legacy of COVID, and the fact that negative outcomes from COVID seem to have widened the equalities gap, may indeed create a greater challenge for our aims to prevent and reduce violence. However, it should further emphasise why a systemic model is required which considers violence as one of the range of symptoms associated with overall social and economic circumstances.

5.0 Invited Witnesses

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

- Paul Brannan, Head of Safer Barnsley, Bernaslai Homes
- Phil Hollingsworth, Service Director Safer Stronger Healthier Communities, BMBC
- James Abdy, Detective Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police
- Mark Miller, Violence Reduction Unit, South Yorkshire Police
- Ian Bailey, Violence Reduction Unit Partnership Manager, South Yorkshire Police
- Rosemary Clewer, Senior Commissioning Manager, BMBC
- Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Adults and Communities, BMBC
- Cllr Jenny Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson Adults and Communities, BMBC

6.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

- 6.1 Members may want to ask questions around the following areas:-

- Which areas of performance are you most pleased with, what could be better?
- What areas of performance are you most concerned about and why?

- What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the partnership?
- What is the greatest challenge to reducing the impact of alcohol on violence in Barnsley? When do you expect to see an improvement in the progress to achieving this priority?
- What barriers are you facing when working with young people and schools, particularly those who are hard to reach (eg. elective home educated) and those that refuse to engage with the Plan B Custody Navigators? How do you plan to overcome them?
- How has Covid impacted upon the number of domestic violence incidents and what more needs to be done to achieve the 10% target for those leaving violent relationships?
- Is the response to the rise in violence against Women and Girls sufficient and at an appropriate pace?
- How is the 'residents' voice' reflected in your work? What are they telling you?
- What can be done to increase public confidence in the reporting and investigating of crimes and how do you manage expectations?
- What do you hope to achieve by shifting 'cultural norms within society'?
- How is data recorded and how confident are you that that this data is robust?
- What does success look like, and how will you know whether you have achieved it? How will you measure the impact?
- When will the action plan be refreshed to take account of newly emerging priorities and are completed actions to be removed or will they be embedded into day-to-day service delivery?
- Are there sufficient resources to achieve the priorities and how do you ensure that these are fairly, effectively and efficiently deployed across the borough?
- How has SYP invested in technology across Barnsley in order to make residents safer and how is crime being 'designed out' across the borough?
- What can Members do to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership and the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit?

7.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- Item 4b (attached) Barnsley Violence Reduction Action Plan
- HM Government Serious Violence Strategy 2018:-
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf
- South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit:-
<https://southyorkshireviolencereductionunit.com/>
- Yorkshire Mentoring:-
<https://www.yorkshirementoring.org.uk/>

8.0 Glossary

ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BDGH	Barnsley District General Hospital
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Leads
ENTEG	Barnsley Evening and Night-time Economy Group
MVP	Mentors in Violence Prevention (SYVRU initiative)
NPT	Neighbourhood Policing Team
OCGs	Organised Crime Groups
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
OSC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
PVP	Protecting Vulnerable People (Safer Barnsley Partnership)
SOC	Serious and Organised Crime
SYENTEG	South Yorkshire Evening and Night-time Economy
SYP	South Yorkshire Police
SYVRU	South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit
TYS	Targeted Youth Support (Barnsley MBC department)
WLWTWP	Wrong Look Wrong Time Wrong Place
YJS	Youth Justice Services (Barnsley MBC)
YOT	Youth Offending Team

9.0 Officer Contact

Jane Murphy, Overview & Scrutiny Officer Scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk
31st January 2022

Barnsley Violence Reduction Action Plan – Updates Against Themes & Priorities – As of 14.01.2022

1. Place – Reduce violence in the streets and locations where it is most common.

Action	Responsible	What Does Good Look Like?	R/A/G
Identify top 6 wards	Violence Reduction Unit	Worsborough, Dearne North, Central, Kingstone, Monk Bretton, St Helens – (Complete)	
Granular profile of violence in each ward	Violence Reduction Unit, Police Analyst	Establish key features of violence in each ward – Revised to end January 2021	
Prioritise local targeted interventions according to profile to include both prevention and disruption initiatives	Safer Barnsley Partnership Board	Deliver at least two, targeted interventions per ward according to key feature identified and theme per calendar year.	

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Alcohol- Reduce the impact of alcohol on violence in Barnsley.

Action	Responsible	What Does Good Look Like?	R/A/G
Embed GP representation into the Alcohol Alliance	Clinical Commissioning Group, Alcohol Alliance Group, Integrated Wellbeing Team BMBC Public Health	Improved sharing of data in relation to harm caused by alcohol related violence by March 2021	
Encourage broader take up of responsible retail practise	Responsible Retailer – BMBC Public Health & BMBC Regulatory Services	Increase number of retailers bought into 'reduce the strength' campaign by 10% per year	
Introduction of Alcohol Care Team based in Barnsley hospital to provide specialist support, to all patients that are referred	Alcohol Care Team	Hospital navigators piloted at BDGH by March 2021	

and consent to intervention (not all dependant)			
The impact of Alcohol factored into all multi agency problem solving and prevention plans	Safer Neighbourhood Teams/NPT's - Multi-Agency Action Group, Vulnerable Adults Panel. BMBC Public Health	Increase proportion of alcohol related interventions as part of multi-agency forums' problem-solving plans by November 2020	
Prompt and robust action to stop/close locations and events where violence is a repeated problem	BMBC/SYP Licensing	Reduce violence associated with licensed events and locations to be evaluated quarterly from January 2021	

3. Evening and Night time Economy – Reduce the instances of violence associated with the evening and night time economy in Barnsley

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Action	Responsible	What Does Good Look Like?	R/A/G
Obtain sanitised data from Accident & Emergency department relating to injuries relating to violence as a result of or linked to the evening and night-time economy (Cardiff Model – Dr Jonathan Shepherd)	Violence Reduction Unit	Barnsley endorses and introduces the “Cardiff model”.	
The roll out of Smart Tag deployed when incidents of violence occur. Project has equipped Barnsley venue door staff with ‘Smart Water’ (forensic liquid in spray format with unique ID)	SYP Initiative acting as a primary prevention method to deter incidents of violence. When deployed, it places those involved evidentially at the scene	All town centre and principal town door staff equipped with smart tag by December 2020.	
Annual dedicated workshops and monthly tactical briefings for door-staff and others involved in working in the night-time economy to add to their existing skills.	BMBC Public Health / BMBC Communities – Barnsley Evening and Night-Time Economy	Embed door staff, street marshals and street pastors into the “Joining Forces” initiative in the town centre by December 2020.	
Targeted Communications Campaigns to focus on preventing and deterring violence linked to busy and festive periods	SYP/BMBC Communications	2 targeted campaigns by March 2021 and 3 per year thereafter.	

4. Address disproportionate levels violence (both victim and perpetrator) associated with young people between the ages of 15 and 30.

Action	Responsible	What Does Good Look Like?	R/A/G
Embed "Mentors in Violence Prevention programme" within school curriculum.	Violence Reduction Unit with assistance from BMBC Early Intervention & Prevention, education leads and secondary school leadership teams. Engagement and delivery to be led by BMBC Targeted Youth Support with support from the SYVRU.	All secondary schools include violence prevention in their core curriculum by September 2021.	
Early Help / Children & Family service – Screening to identify those at higher risk of becoming involved in violence.	BMBC Early Help – Via the Early Help Referral, Assessment and Action Plan Framework.	"Risk of violence" metrics are embedded into assessment and screening tools of early years services by March 2021.	
Commission violence reduction focussed third sector intervention in schools in locations of greatest concern.	MVP Consultant – Contracted by the Violence Reduction Unit to deliver the programme	At least one bespoke commission per calendar year into the 3 schools in geographic areas where violence is more apparent by March 2021	
PREVENT – Radical & Far Right Extremism Programme			

5. Domestic Abuse - Work to end domestic abuse and create zero tolerance towards domestic abuse in Barnsley.

Action	Responsible	What Does Good Look Like?	R/A/G
Education – speak up campaigns to create zero tolerance towards Domestic Abuse within communities across Barnsley.	BMBC Communities and BMBC Communications	Increase the reach and impact of the "speak up" campaign measured via media hits and evaluation	
Further increase reports of domestic abuse ensuring those vulnerable feel safe and supported to report abuse and violence.	BMBC Communities	Year on year net increases in recorded incidents of domestic abuse	

Increase number of people supported to leave a violent relationship.	BMBC Communities	Increase by 10% per year those who leave violent relationships.	
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6. Weapon Enabled Crime – Prevent the escalation of the use of weapons in Barnsley and disrupt the activity of those for whom weapons are a feature of their criminal activity.

Action	Responsible	What Does Good Look Like?	R/A/G
Further profiling of weapon enabled violence in Barnsley to better understand the dynamics and prevalence in the borough	SYP Analyst	Production of robust analysis about the use and types of weapons by November 2020 and 2 targeted campaigns per year specific to the needs identified thereafter.	
Offer ways out of crime by expanding programmes such as Plan-B, custody programme (navigator based) project offering a way out of crime and violence	Violence Reduction Unit	Mainstream Plan B navigators into custody arrangements in Barnsley by March 2021.	
Further embed multi agency activity to prevent and disrupt violence associated with organised criminality	SYP & Serious Organised Crime Coordinator (BMBC)	Increase number of disruption interventions delivered by none police partners to target organised crime. Monitored quarterly through the SOC Silver	
Connect mentors in violence programme in schools to the prevention of young people being drawn into gangs and Child Criminal Exploitation	BMBC Early Intervention & Prevention, BMBC Safer Barnsley, Violence Reduction Unit	By 31 March 2022	

Governance to Drive Delivery

The following arrangements are in place to oversee the delivery of the local action plan:-

- Safer Barnsley Partnership Board – Responsible for delivery of plan and links to other strategic boards including Safeguarding Adults and Children and Health and Wellbeing
- Safer Barnsley Partnership Performance and Delivery Group – Responsible for driving delivery
- Safer Barnsley Partnership Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP), Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Crime Sub-Groups – Responsible for delivery of specific actions
- Barnsley Alcohol Alliance – Responsible for delivery of specific actions
- Evening and Night-Time Economy Group – Responsible for delivery of specific actions
- Children and Young People's Partnership and Youth Offending Team (YOT) Board – Responsible for delivery of specific actions
- Area Councils and Ward Alliances – Responsible for delivery of specific local actions

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