

<b>MEETING:</b>	Full Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday 29 September 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interests

To receive any declarations of interest of a pecuniary or non-pecuniary nature from Members in respect of the items on this agenda.

2. Minutes (*Pages 7 - 22*)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 July 2022.

3. Reflections on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and ascension of His Majesty King Charles III

To pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, and receive reflections from Members of the Council on recent events.

4. Communications

To consider any communications to be submitted by the Mayor or the Chief Executive.

### Recommendations to Council

*All reports detailed below are subject to Cabinet recommendation and are available to download from the Council's website. The Cabinet Spokesperson for the Service in question will respond to any comments or amendments concerning these minutes.*

5. Outcomes of the Joint Targeted Local Area Inspection (JTAI) of Children's Social Care (Cab.21.9.2022/9) (*Pages 23 - 36*)

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:-** That the outcomes of the Joint Targeted Local Area Inspection be considered.

### Substantive Items

6. Appointment of Independent Persons (*Pages 37 - 40*)

The Executive Director will submit a report seeking to appoint Mr D Waxman and Mrs K Widdowson as independent persons under the member code of conduct.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021-22 (*Pages 41 - 62*)

The Executive Director Core Services will submit the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report to inform the Council of the work undertaken by the Committee during 2021-22 and to publish the report for the public as evidence of

local authority as well as partner agency decision makers being held to account.

8. Appointment to Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies

**Appointment to Outside Bodies**

Berneslai Homes Board

Proposed – Councillor Osborne for a term of three years

**Minutes of the Regulatory Boards**

9. Planning Regulatory Board - 26 July 2022 (*Pages 63 - 66*)

10. Audit and Governance Committee - 27 July 2022 (*Pages 67 - 76*)

11. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various (*Pages 77 - 78*)

**Minutes of the Scrutiny Committees**

12. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Healthy Barnsley Workstream) - 19 July 2022 (*Pages 79 - 84*)

**Minutes of the Area Councils**

13. North East Area Council - 14 July 2022 (*Pages 85 - 90*)

14. North Area Council - 18 July 2022 (*Pages 91 - 100*)

15. Penistone Area Council - 21 July 2022 (*Pages 101 - 104*)

16. South Area Council - 2 September 2022 (*Pages 105 - 108*)

**Minutes of the Cabinet Meetings**

17. Cabinet - 27 July 2022 (*Pages 109 - 112*)

18. Cabinet - 17 August 2022 (*Pages 113 - 116*)

19. Cabinet - 7 September 2022 (*Pages 117 - 118*)

**(NB. No Cabinet decisions have been called in from these meetings)**

20. Questions relating to Joint Authority, Police and Crime Panel and Combined Authority Business

**Minutes of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, and Police and Crime Panel**

*Any Member of the Council shall have the opportunity to comment on any matters referred to in the following minutes.*

*The relevant representatives shall then be given the opportunity to respond to any comments made by Members on those minutes.*

21. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 25 July 2022 (Pages 119 - 126)

22. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (Draft)- 25 July 2022 (Pages 127 - 134)

23. Questions by Elected Members

To consider any questions which may have been received from Elected Members and which are asked pursuant to Standing Order No. 11.

a) Councillor P Fielding

*'What steps is the Council taking to replace the Council houses lost in the recent fires on Woodland Drive?'*

b) Councillor Crisp

*'Given the inevitable cost pressures that the council must be suffering, how will the council balance this year's budget?'*

c) Councillor Kitching

*'The new Conservative Prime Minister, Liz Truss, has clearly indicated her intention to reverse the laws banning fracking, despite ongoing concerns about the risks associated with this practice.*

*Under the new legislation, would Barnsley Council pursue licences for fracking operations on its own land?'*

d) Councillor W Fielding

*'We were all shocked and disappointed to read the news in the Chronicle about the children's home that has received another inadequate OFSTED rating.*

*Could the Cabinet Member please give his perspective on how this happened and what steps are now being put into place to both improve the situation and to stop this from happening again? In giving his answer could the Cabinet Member please detail when he expects the restriction of accommodation to be lifted so that further vulnerable children can be safely accommodated in this setting?'*

## Notices of Motion Submitted in Accordance with Standing Order No 6

### 24. Community Warm Spaces

Proposer – Councillor Denton

Seconder – Councillor Wray

#### **This Council** notes:

- a) The ongoing cost of living crisis is dramatically impacting the people of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough, and is predicted to get worse.
- b) The impact of fuel and heating prices, a major contributor to the cost-of-living crisis, has pushed residents into fuel poverty, and has resulted in some people stopping heating their homes – resulting in worsening physical and mental health, and reducing the productivity of workers and educational outcomes of children.
- c) Despite limited measures recently introduced by the government, the £2500 cap is still over double the amount many residents were paying last year.
- d) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council has a duty and responsibility to continue to do all within its means to reduce the financial burden on its residents, as well as to protect their health and wellbeing.

Therefore, **this Council** will instruct the Chief Executive to:

- i. Develop a deliverable plan to ensure residents of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council have reasonable free-of-charge access to a “Community Warm Space” this winter, reducing reliance on their own heating, and thereby reducing their energy costs.
- ii. Work with ward councillors to generate a list of suitable locations for this purpose, using existing public and appropriate private buildings across the borough to limit the need for residents to travel a significant distance.
- iii. Where possible, work with other bodies to also provide further relevant advice and support within these Community Warm Spaces.
- iv. Make these “Community Warm Spaces” open and available for as much time as is reasonably practicable.

Furthermore, **this Council** resolves that funding for these Community Warm Spaces will come from existing budgets and reserves, and that the plan will be developed, published and implemented as soon as possible.

**Questions from a member of the public - for information only**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SNO', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah Norman  
Chief Executive

Wednesday 21 September 2022

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<b>MEETING:</b>	Full Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday 28 July 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

### Present

The Mayor (Councillor Tattersall)

Central Ward

- Councillors M. Dyson and Moyes

Cudworth Ward

- Councillors Hayward and Houghton CBE

Darfield Ward

- Councillors Markham, Osborne and Smith

Darton East Ward

- Councillors Crisp, Denton and Hunt

Darton West Ward

- Councillors T. Cave and Howard

Dearne North Ward

- Councillors Bellamy, Cain and Gardiner

Dearne South Ward

- Councillors Bowler, Coates and Danforth

Dodworth Ward

- Councillors P. Fielding, W. Fielding and Wray

Hoyland Milton Ward

- Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Stowe

Kingstone Ward

- Councillors Mitchell, Ramchandani and Williams

Monk Bretton Ward

- Councillors Green and Richardson

North East Ward

- Councillors Ennis OBE and Peace

Old Town Ward

- Councillors Lofts, Newing and Pickering

Penistone East Ward

- Councillors Barnard, Hand-Davis and Wilson

Penistone West Ward

- Councillors Greenhough and Lowe-Fiello

Rockingham Ward

- Councillors Lamb, Sumner and White

Royston Ward

- Councillors Makinson, McCarthy and Webster

St. Helen's Ward

- Councillors Leech and Platts

Stairfoot Ward

- Councillors K. Dyson and Gillis

Wombwell Ward

- Councillors Eastwood, Frost and Higginbottom

Worsbrough Ward

- Councillors Bowser, Clarke and Lodge

### 32. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Barnard declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 39 'Appointments to Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies' in view of him being a member on the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.

Councillor Gardiner declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 39 'Appointments to Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies' in view of him being a member on the General Management Committee of the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.

Councillor Ramchandani declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item relation to the NHS in view of her being employed by the NHS.

### **33. Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20 May 2022 and the ordinary meeting held on the 26 May 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **34. Communications**

#### **Fires at Woodland Drive**

The Chief Executive reported that on Tuesday 19 July, unprecedented weather contributed to house fires at Woodland Drive in Kingstone. The Council's thoughts were with the people who had lost their homes and belongings in the devastating fire. Alongside its partners in the emergency services and Berneslai Homes, the Council would continue to provide support to these people, making sure they received longer-term support.

She was sure that Members would join her in saying a huge thank you to staff, Berneslai Homes staff and the emergency service partners for the support they had provided and continued to provide to the people and the communities affected.

A big thank you was also extended to the residents that came together to provide aid to those affected. This really highlighted the amazing community spirit that was so visible in Barnsley.

Councillor Wray asked to place on record his thanks to all staff, Berneslai Homes staff, the emergency services as well as local residents for the help and support provided. He also stated that local residents and businesses had raised over £25,000 to provide support for those affected.

Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE stated that this had been a significant incident and some families had been devastated as they had lost everything. He praised the actions of all the agencies involved as well as the local community and expressed gratitude to all who had come together to provide support which he felt demonstrated the spirit of the town and its people. He echoed the comments of the Chief Executive and thanked Councillor Wray for his comments. He also praised the actions of staff,



Bernerslai Homes staff, the emergency services and local residents in rallying together to provide support for the affected people.

**35. Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance 2022 (Cab.1.6.2022/13)**

Moved Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Osborne; and

**RESOLVED** that the Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance 2022 be approved.

**36. Adoption of updated Affordable Housing and Sustainable Travel SPDs (Cab.27.6.2022/8)**

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Osborne; and

**RESOLVED** that the updated Affordable Housing and Sustainable Travel Supplementary Planning Documents be adopted and approved.

**37. Urban Town Centre Urban Design and Sustainability Strategy Adoption (Cab.13.7.2022/7)**

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Osborne; and

**RESOLVED** that the Town Centre Urban Design and Sustainability Strategy produced by Urban be adopted and approved.

**38. Local Government Act 1972: Section 85: Absence from Meetings of the Authority; Councillor Wraith MBE**

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the absence from meetings of the Authority on behalf of Councillor Wraith MBE be approved on the grounds of ill health pending the receipt of medical certification that he is fit to resume his duties.

**39. Appointments to Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies**

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the following changes to representation on Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies detailed below be approved:

Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board

Add Councillor Bowler – Delete Councillor Makinson

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Add Councillor Williams – Delete Councillor Makinson

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Healthy Barnsley Workstream)

Add Councillors Smith, Sumner and Williams – Delete Councillors Cain, Peace and Makinson

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream)

– Add Councillors Cain and Peace – Delete Councillors Smith and Sumner

Planning Regulatory Board

Delete Councillor Makinson – one vacancy remaining

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Place, Health and Adult Social Care

Barnsley Local Access Forum

– Add Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways

Barnsley Magistrates Court Liquor Licensing Forum

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Barnsley Premier Leisure Board

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways

Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Place, Health and Adult Social Care

Minding the Gap Multi-Agency Steering Group

– Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways

Safer Barnsley Partnership Board

– Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Schools Forum

Add Councillor Newing – Delete Councillor McCarthy

Shaw Lands Trust

Add Councillor Makinson for a term of three years

Smokefree Tobacco Alliance

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

South West Yorkshire Foundation Trust (previously South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)

Add Cabinet Support Member Place, Health and Adult Social Care

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Audit, Standards and Risk Committee

Add Councillors Lofts and Councillor Richardson (Substitute) – Delete Councillors Clarke and Stowe

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Education, Skills and Employability Board

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Regeneration and Culture and Cabinet Support Member Regeneration and Culture (Substitute)

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Transport and Environment Board

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Regeneration and Culture and Cabinet Support Member Regeneration and Culture (Substitute)

South Yorkshire PCP Violence Reduction Unit Reference Group

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

South Yorkshire Sub-Regional Migration Group

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Stronger Communities Partnership

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Regeneration and Culture

Yorkshire and Humber Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Add Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

YPO Management Committee

Add Councillor Gardiner and Councillor Barnard (Substitute)

YPO Audit and Governance Sub Committee

Add Councillor Gardiner and Councillor Barnard (Substitute)

**40. Responsibility for Executive Functions - Officer Delegations**

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

**RESOLVED** that the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations as detailed within the document now submitted be approved.

**41. Audit and Governance Committee - 1st June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Lofts – Seconded by Councillor Barnard; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 1 June 2022 be received.

**42. Planning Regulatory Board - 7th June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Richardson – Seconded by Councillor Makinson; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on 7 June 2022 be received.

**43. Planning Regulatory Board - 5th July, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Richardson – Seconded by Councillor Makinson; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on 5 July 2022 be received.

**44. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 22nd June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board Panel meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 be received.

**45. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 22nd June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board held on 22 June 2022 be received.

**46. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub-committee - 8th June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub Committee held on 8 June 2022 be received.

**47. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various**

Moved by Councillor Shepherd – Seconded by Councillor Bowler; and

**RESOLVED** that the details of the various Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board Panels held in the last cycle of meetings together with their decisions be received.

**48. Health and Wellbeing Board - 9th June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Platts – Seconded by Councillor Makinson; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Health and Well Being Board held on 9 June 2022 be received.

**49. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) - 31st May, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor Newing; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) held on 31 May 2022 be received.

**50. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) - 28th June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor Newing; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) held on 28 June 2022 be received.

**51. North East Area Council - 26th May, 2022**

The Minutes of the North East Area Council held on the 26 May 2022 were:

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor Ennis OBE.

In moving the minutes, Councillor Hayward made reference to the ceremony held for former Councillor Dorothy Higginbottom when she had been presented with her MBE which was well deserved. The Mayor, Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE and Councillors Ennis OBE, Coates and Higginbottom all expressed their congratulations to Dorothy in receiving this award.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on 26 May 2022 be received.

**52. Penistone Area Council - 9th June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Barnard – Seconded by Councillor Markham; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on 9 June 2022 be received.

**53. South Area Council - 24th June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Markham - Seconded by Councillor Stowe; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on 24 June 2022 be received.

**54. Central Area Council - 6th July, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by Councillor Bowser; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on 6 July 2022 be received.

**55. Dearne Area Council - 11th July, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Coates – Seconded by Councillor Gardiner; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on 11 July 2022 be received.

**56. Cabinet - 18th May, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 18 May 2022 be received.

**57. Cabinet - 25th May, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 25 May 2022 be received.

**58. Cabinet - 1st June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 1 June 2022 be received.

**59. Cabinet - 16th June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 16 June 2022 be received.

**60. Cabinet - 27th June, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb;  
and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 27 June 2022 be received.

**61. Cabinet - 13th July, 2022**

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb;  
and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 13 July 2022 be received.

**62. Questions relating to Joint Authority, Police and Crime Panel and Combined Authority Business**

The Chief Executive reported that she had received no questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.

**63. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority - 9th June, 2022 (Draft)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**64. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 20th June, 2022 (Draft)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**65. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority - 6th June, 2022 (Draft)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**66. Police and Crime Panel - 6th June, 2022 (Draft)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**67. Questions by Elected Members**

The Chief Executive reported that she had received a number of questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 11.

(a) Councillor Lodge

*‘What enforcement action can be taken by the Council, against landowners who fail to maintain their land?’*

Councillor Makinson, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities thanked Councillor Lodge for his question. She stated that there were different ways in which 'a failure to maintain private land' could be applied. It wasn't easy to provide a specific response without details, but she would give an overview of the areas officers could look at.

1) If there was a nuisance complaint, it may be appropriate to use powers under anti-social behaviour legislation. To do this, the authority would need to establish:

- that there was a detrimental impact on people in the surrounding area
- that the situation was persistent or continuing
- that the conduct of the landowner was unreasonable.

In these circumstances, the Council could issue a Community Protection Notice. Failing to comply with a Community Protection Notice could lead to a fixed penalty notice or prosecution.

2) If the land contained household waste or other items likely to provide a food source and a home for rats or other vermin, the Council could serve a legal notice on the landowner requiring them to clear the land. If they failed to do this, the Council could enter the land, remove the items, and recharge the landowner.

3) If the condition of the land was judged to be adversely affecting the surrounding area, it may be more appropriate to consider planning legislation to get the landowner to clear their land. This would also be the case where the land was being used for purposes which were not allowed.

Councillor Lodge stated that despite requests, parcels of land had been left in a dire state in Worsborough for over a decade. This included land on Cross Street and Park Road. As such, he asked if the Cabinet Spokesperson could direct officers to investigate these areas and others as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Makinson, in response, stated that now this information about the specific locations had been provided and, if she could discuss this matter further with Councillor Lodge outside the meeting in order to obtain more information, she would contact the relevant officers to see what action could be taken.

(b) Councillor P Fielding

*'Given the significantly higher cost of energy for tenants having to use prepayment meters, can the cabinet member please advise how many Berneslai Homes tenants have prepayment meters installed and what is being done to reduce that number?'*

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture thanked Councillor P Fielding for his question. He stated that this information was not held, as tenants made their own arrangements with their utility supplier. However, the



Warm Homes Service had a fund to help families struggling with pre-payment meters, across tenure. This fund covered any costs associated with outstanding debt and the meter swap. Staff within Berneslai Homes Tenancy First Team were aware of this funding and could signpost tenants to information and support.

Councillor P Fielding thanked Councillor Frost for the response and, as a supplementary question, asked if Berneslai Homes replaced repayment meters with credit meters before a tenant moved in so that the new tenant could start their tenancy with access to the best energy tariffs and if not, why not?

Councillor Frost did not have this information to hand so would provide Councillor P Fielding with the information outside this meeting.

(c) Councillor Lodge

*'Given the varying uses of communal facilities and the variation in tenancies, should a review be undertaken of service charges at 'sheltered housing' operated by Berneslai Homes, in order to take away any burdensome costs from tenants during the current cost of living crisis and beyond?'*

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, thanked Councillor Lodge for his question. He stated that there was no sheltered housing owned by the Council and managed on its behalf by Berneslai Homes.

There were a number of Independent Living Schemes where the properties were under one roof and had some shared facilities such as communal lounges.

The service charge covered costs associated with door entry, communal cleaning, and water, which were essential services for people living in these properties.

There had not been an increase in general service charge costs over the last four years. There was a review of communal heating charges during 2021/22 and this resulted in a reduction in the price of heating for people.

Councillor Lodge did not ask a supplementary question.

(d) Councillor Hunt

*'At the Full Council meeting in February 2022, in response to my question, the Cabinet Support member confirmed that there had been a delay in the project to provide status updates to online requests raised by residents. The response provided stated. "I'm pleased to confirm that the rollout of this functionality is due to start by the beginning of March at the latest, initially providing updates to residents who report fly-tipping issues online. The work to obtain status updates will then be rolled out to other transactions, offering our residents status updates for their online enquiries". Please can a further update be provided as to my knowledge this functionality promised for March 2022 is still not in place?'*

Councillor Gardiner, Cabinet Spokesperson for Core Services thanked Councillor Hunt for his question and stated that the refreshed Fly Tipping tracking capability had been running as a pilot for approximately eight weeks. People reporting fly-tipping online could now track status updates through the updated pin on a map functionality. A review of the improved system developments would be undertaken

over the coming weeks with a view to making any further revisions for the benefit of residents and communities and informing the rollout of the approach to other relevant services and transactions.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Gardiner for his response and stated that it was good to see him back in the Chamber. This was the third time he had asked about this project, and it appeared that some progress had been made. He was still not confident, however, that the level of service that customers and residents should be receiving was being delivered and he asked, as a supplementary question, if the Cabinet Member would agree to meet him and officers to discuss this project so that they could look at it in more detail together.

Councillor Gardiner thanked Councillor Hunt for his supplementary question. As stated earlier, this project was being examined in depth with the Senior Management Team and with departments and services. He was, of course prepared to meet Councillor Hunt and anyone else who wished so that this issue could be progressed.

(e) Councillor Lodge

*‘A number of tenants in ‘sheltered housing’ have described feeling unsafe and feel this should be a priority of the Council and Berneslai Homes, as such should a review of additional safety measures e.g. CCTV be undertaken?’*

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, thanked Councillor Lodge for his question and stated that officers were unaware of tenants in the independent living schemes expressing feelings of being unsafe in their properties. If any tenants did feel unsafe, they were encouraged to contact their Scheme Manager or Housing Management Officer so help could be provided.

There was one person who had expressed concerns about wider anti-social behaviour in the area that they lived in.

In this community, the Service had been working closely with local elected members, Berneslai Homes and South Yorkshire Police to take action and tackle issues which had included installing CCTV.

Councillor Lodge asked, as a supplementary question, whether the Cabinet Spokesperson would like to attend the ‘Your Community, Your Say’ meeting on the 10 August 2022 for Worsborough residents so that he could understand the feelings from the tenants directly.

Councillor Frost stated that he would be happy to attend this meeting subject to other diary commitments.

(f) Councillor W Fielding

*‘Why does this Council insist on appointing a member of the ruling group to be chair of Overview and Scrutiny contrary to the LGA guidance on best practice?’*

Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE, Leader of the Council, commented that the statutory guidance for Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities stated that ‘the method for selecting a Chair was for each authority to decide for itself.’ It also stated that ‘the Chair should also possess the ability to lead and build a

sense of teamwork and consensus among Committee members.’ In his view, Councillor Ennis OBE had done an outstanding job in relation to that. As Members would be aware, it was the Annual Council that decided the Chair of the Committee and again this year Members had voted Councillor Ennis OBE as the Chair. An appointment that was unopposed.

Councillor W Fielding thanked Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE for his response and, as a supplementary question, asked if he thought it was right that a member of the ruling group had the sole power to waive the important scrutiny function of calling in key decisions of the ruling party so that other elected Members could not scrutinise that decision, as had happened recently.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE responded by stating that as the Local Government Association had been quoted, he was happy to continue to do that. The Council prided itself on good governance and it ensured it had an effective Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He assured Members that the Council did indeed have an effective Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in fact the Local Government Association Peer Challenge in March 2019 commented that ‘The Council’s scrutiny function appears to work well. Members are knowledgeable about the areas they scrutinise, and they’re appropriately inquisitive about the subject matter, with good working relationships with officers.’

It worked well in Barnsley because it was inclusive and non-partisan. Obviously, the Committee needed to be politically proportionate, which it was, but the Council went above and beyond that. Two of the Committees were Chaired by opposition members Councillor P Fielding and the other by a Member from the Conservative Group. So, in terms of proportionality, objectivity both now, in the past and in the future, he felt that Councillor Ennis OBE had done a tremendous objective job and he had his full support. Indeed, Councillor Ennis OBE had brought him to task on a number of occasions. The role that Councillor Ennis OBE played in this process and the Scrutiny Committee was as effective as it could be.

(g) Councillor P Fielding

*‘What has the Council done to date to prepare for the 5-year revision of the Local Plan in 2024 and what is the target date for the revised local plan to be adopted?’*

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, thanked Councillor P Fielding for his question. He stated that Officers within the Planning Service had produced monitoring reports and carried out general research relating to Local Plan Reviews.

The Planning Advisory Service had a toolkit which had been populated and would be published alongside the relevant Cabinet report along with a note from the Planning Officer’s Society, who had been appointed as a critical friend.

It was intended to update the Forward Plan shortly to confirm timescales for a report to Cabinet relating to the Local Plan Review.

Councillor P Fielding thanked Councillor Frost for his response. Given the recent census results that showed Barnsley’s population had increased by just 5% in the last 10 years, and was slowing down, and the working age population of Barnsley grew by just 2% in that period he asked, as a supplementary question, if the Local

Plan targets of 28,000 new jobs and a 20% increase in the number of houses were correct to meet the needs of the existing Barnsley residents or were they intended to attract new residents and grow the population even further.

Councillor Frost stated that the Local Plan covered the period to 2033, it therefore, took into account the type of issues raised by Councillor P Fielding.

(h) Councillor Greenhough

*'Back in 2018 residents of Fullshaw Cross, between Millhouse Green and Langsett in Penistone West, were promised that a significant chunk of the £1.4m A628 Road Safety Grant would be spent on remodelling that junction. There have been numerous accidents and near misses over the years and myself and my Penistone West colleagues get frequent reports from residents about yet another vehicle ending up in their garden. Initial plans were drawn up which remodelled the junction to clearly define turning priorities on and off the main road to reduce accidents. Since then we have heard nothing, despite frequent emails to the Highways Team to ask for updates. The other planned improvements connected to this grant are moving forward slowly but surely.'*

*Could the Cabinet Member please let us know what is happening with the plans for the Fulshaw Cross junction? This project is already funded, so why the hold up?'*

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways thanked Councillor Greenhough for his question and stated that the construction of the revised layout for the junction at Fulshaw Cross had been delayed due to difficulties in securing the land purchase necessary to deliver the proposed scheme, which extended beyond the current boundaries of the adopted highway.

Regarding the comment about *"frequent emails to the Highways Team to ask for updates"*, he asked if these could be forwarded to the member enquiries email address, as the Service would like to understand why these had not been responded to. Upon receipt of these, the Service would endeavour to answer any questions raised.

## **68. Cost of Living Emergency**

### **Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 6.**

Moved by Councillor Denton - Seconded by Councillor W Fielding

**That this Council** notes that:

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54%.
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).
- In 2021/22 Barnsley Foodbanks distributed food parcels at a rate of 3200 per 100,000 people – a total of 7265 parcels (Trussell Trust, 2022).

**That this Council** notes the decision taken in June 2022 to impose a ‘Windfall Tax’ on the super-profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a one-off payment of £400 to households later this year. Council notes that the Windfall Tax was called for by both Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, and Sir Keir Starmer MP, leader of the Labour Party. Though the Windfall Tax is welcome, Council believes it does not go nearly far enough and the Government should be doing much more to support local people through the Cost of Living crisis. This Council therefore declares a ‘Cost of Living Emergency’ and calls on the Government to:

- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household in Barnsley a further £600 this year.
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.
- Extend free school meals to all those families on Universal Credit.

**Therefore, that this Council** asks the Chief Executive and Council Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council’s demands for VAT to be cut to 17.5%, for the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored and for free school meals to be extended to all families on Universal Credit.

### **An Amendment was submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 8**

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb

This Council commends the Council’s administration for the work it has done to support people during the Covid Pandemic and the current cost of living crisis.

However, it notes:-

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54%.
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).
- In 2021/22 Barnsley Foodbanks distributed food parcels at a rate of 3200 per 100,000 people – a total of 7265 parcels (Trussell Trust, 2022).
- That the cost of living crisis is having a significant effect on Council budgets and the ability to deliver services to the most vulnerable.

Council welcomes the decision taken in June, 2022 to impose a windfall tax on the super profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a ‘one off’ payment of £400 later this year.

**The Council notes** that the windfall tax was first called for by Sir Kier Starmer, Leader of the Labour Party and then by Sir Ed Davey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats but initially rejected by Boris Johnson.

Though the windfall tax is welcome Council believes it does not go far enough, and the Government should be doing more to support local people during the cost of living crisis.

Rishi Sunak MP, one of the two candidates to be the next Prime Minister, has said in his campaign there is a national economic emergency in the UK.

**This Council agrees** and calls upon the next Prime Minister to declare a national economic and cost of living emergency and to:-

- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household in Barnsley a further £600 this year.
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.
- Extend free school meals to all those families on Universal Credit.
- Provide additional and fair funding to local councils to ensure continuity of service delivery.

**Council asks** the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's wishes on these matters.

**On being put to the vote, the Amendment was WON.**

The Amendment was then put as the Substantive Motion and:

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Council calls upon the next Prime Minister to declare a national economic and cost of living emergency and to:-
  - Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household in Barnsley a further £600 this year.
  - Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.
  - Extend free school meals to all those families on Universal Credit.
  - Provide additional and fair funding to local councils to ensure continuity of service delivery; and
- (ii) That the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's wishes on these matters.

.....  
Chair

# Item 5

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

TITLE: INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES CHILDREN'S SERVICES: OUTCOMES OF THE JOINT, TARGETED AREA INSPECTION OF THE MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF INITIAL NEED AND RISK AMONG VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN BARNSELY

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 SEPTEMBER 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

### Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of the outcomes of the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to the identification of initial need and risk among vulnerable children in Barnsley, together with the next steps.

### Council Plan priority

The JTAI and its outcomes primarily support the priority of a **Healthy Barnsley** within the Council Plan, by ensuring young people are effectively safeguarded from harm, together with the priority of a **Learning Barnsley** through enabling young people to have access to effective early help and support.

### Recommendations

1. That the outcomes of the JTAI, together with the next steps, be recommended for consideration by Full Council.
2. That the draft 'Written Statement of Proposed Action' in response to these outcomes be presented for Cabinet's approval at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, with this date subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee waiving its right to 'call-in' the Statement, if required (*Please see Paragraph 2.9 of this report*)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Together with focused inspections and the *Annual Conversation* between the Regional Director (Ofsted) and the Director of Children's Services, the JTAI forms part of the framework for the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS)

1.2 The Borough's JTAI took place between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May this year and was undertaken by a combination of inspectors from the following inspectorates:

- Care Quality Commission
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of (Police) Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services
- Ofsted

### 1.3 Scope and Methodology of the JTAI

1.4 The scope of the JTAI included an evaluation of the following:

- How effectively individual agencies in a local area identify and respond to contacts and referrals concerning initial need and risk among vulnerable children in need of help or protection
- The effectiveness of the local multi-agency safeguarding hub or MASH
- How effectively each local partner contributes to the multi-agency response, including early decision-making across early help, children in need of help and child protection
- How effectively the local statutory partners for safeguarding or the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership monitor, promote, co-ordinate and evaluate their work.
- The impact of leaders and managers upon the quality of practice and provision with children and families through the '*front door*' to children's social care
- The timeliness of this work and the impact of the local area's actions in improving the multi-agency response to children in need of help and protection
- How well current practice takes account of the relevant history in children's cases.

1.5 The methodology for conducting the JTAI included the following:

#### Pre-inspection activity

Each inspectorate shared an analysis of relevant information they held about the local area. An inspector from each of the inspectorates reviewed the information and then met to discuss arrangements for the inspection before local partners, including the Council were notified of the JTAI.

#### Week 1

- Inspectors requested information from the local partners to support the inspection



- Inspectors and local leaders held a set-up discussion which took place off site.
- Local agencies shared with each other, the information to support the inspection.
- Inspectors selected a cohort of children as the basis for evaluating their experiences and journey
- Inspectors concluded their planning and pre-inspection analysis for the JTAI.

### Week 2

- The local area audited children's experiences.
- Local agencies in the Barnsley LSCP shared information with inspectors to support the inspection.
- Inspectors carried out pre-inspection analysis and reviewed the information set out in Annex 'A'. of the guidance for conducting JTAs
- Inspectors worked with the local agencies to agree a fieldwork timetable.
- Inspectors met virtually with local leaders, staff and stakeholders, together with observing practice. These interviews included the Interim Executive Director (Children's Services) the Independent Scrutineer of local area arrangements for safeguarding children; Head of Public Protection, together with the Force's lead for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (South Yorkshire Police) and the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children (*formerly Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group and now the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board*)

### Week 3

- Inspectors carried out fieldwork as part of gathering evidence for the inspection
- Identification of any emerging issues of concern and recording evidence
- The findings of the Inspection were communicated to the Barnsley LSCP's Board at the end of Week 3

## **2. PROPOSAL**

2.1 The JTAI culminated in the publication of the inspectorates' findings in the letter attached as the Appendix to this report.

2.2 Outcomes of the JTAI

2.3 The JTAI's headline findings were that:

*"Most children in Barnsley receive the right support at the right time to identify risk and meet their needs across the 'front door' services. The recently formed Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership demonstrates ambition and commitment to improve outcomes for children and their families. However, it is too early to evidence consistent progress to improve services for all children"*

- 2.4 Many aspects of provision were commended in the report, including the following:
- The commitment of local partners to working together to improve outcomes for children
  - The quality of the multi-agency training offer to practitioners
  - The quality of early help offered
  - Tackling child protection concerns
  - The quality of child and family assessments
  - The multi-agency response to children missing from home
  - The effectiveness of both single and multi-agency audits in building upon the quality of practice.

2.5 However, the following areas of provision were identified as in need of improvement

- The quality and consistency of all agencies' in gathering, recording and responding to the expressed wishes and feelings of children with whom they work.
- The quality of referrals to the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), including the timeliness of those from general practitioners (GPs).
- The timeliness of the local authority sharing information with partner agencies, including the outcome of referrals and the minutes of child protection strategy meetings.
- The consistent application of thresholds for children stepping down to early help services.
- The provision of an appropriate adult when children are arrested by the police.
- The timeliness of the police response to all incidents when there is an identified risk to children.
- The availability of and the quality of the Emergency Duty Team's (EDT) response to children and partner agencies.

2.6 The detailed findings of the JTAI are outlined in the joint inspectorates' letter (*Please see Appendix*)

## 2.7 Next Steps

- 2.8 As a result, the JTAI has concluded that as the principal authority, Barnsley MBC, together with its local statutory partners in the Barnsley LSCP should compile a *Written Statement of Proposed Action* outlining how the local partners will appropriately own and respond to the findings in the JTAI's report via an action plan to be overseen by the Barnsley LSCP Board.
- 2.9 This Statement must be forwarded to the joint inspectorates by 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 for consideration and approval. Therefore, with Cabinet's agreement, it is recommended that the proposed Written Statement be presented for Cabinet's consideration and approval at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October prior to its submission to Ofsted.
- 2.10 Unlike the culmination of standard inspections of local authority children's services no judgement has been given to the JTAI and no additional intervention is contemplated.

## **3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

- 3.2 Consultation has taken place with representatives of the Service Director Finance (S151 Officer).
- 3.3 Whilst the requirement to submit a *Written Statement of Proposed Action* in isolation will not create any additional cost pressure, the actions highlighted within it may well do. With this in mind senior finance officers will work closely with colleagues within Children's Social care to determine any ongoing cost implications for the Council and report back to Cabinet and Full Council in due course.

### **3.4 Legal**

- 3.5 The JTAI letter did not expressly indicate any non-compliance with the Council's statutory responsibilities for meeting the needs of children in need of help or protection, together with children in need of care.

### **3.6 Equality**

- 3.7 There were no implications for promoting equality or eliminating unlawful discrimination expressly emerging through the JTAI.

### **3.8 Sustainability**

- 3.9 There are no implications for sustainability in the Borough arising through consideration of this report.

### **3.10 Employee**

- 3.11 The JTAI letter commends the quality of the overall multi-agency programme of training and development for professionals and practitioners. However, the JTAI has identified specific instances where the quality of practice is variable among the multi-agency partners. This will be addressed through the 'Written Statement of Proposed Action' and the multi-agency training programme.

### **3.12 Communications**

- 3.13 The outcomes of the JTAI have been disseminated with partners as part of formulating the 'Written Statement of Proposed Action' and instigating the improvements identified by the joint inspectorates.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The Barnsley Local Safeguarding Partnership and the Council's Senior Management Team have both been consulted on the outcomes of the JTAI and the next steps.

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The exclusive purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the findings of the recent JTAI and the next steps in responding to these findings.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Our ambition is to ensure the commissioning and provision of an outstanding and seamless range of services for all children, young people and families in the Borough. As part of this, we are committed to seeking all forms of external assurance on the quality and consistency of services, including benchmarking them with similar services in the Region and nationally.
- 6.2 External assurance, including the LGA's peer review of children's social care in the Borough and our own self-evaluation activity form an important triangulation with such inspections on the current quality of practice and provision. This will help in closing any gaps particularly in preparation for the Council's next full inspection under the Ofsted ILACS Framework.

## **7. GLOSSARY**

- 7.1 None, applicable

## **8. LIST OF APPENDICES**

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Joint Targeted Area Inspection of Barnsley – Letter from the Joint Inspectorates'

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**10. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Financial consultation &amp; sign off</b>	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date  Steve Loach (08/08/2022)
<b>Legal consultation &amp; sign off</b>	Legal Services officer consulted and date  <i>Jason Field 9/8/22</i>

**Report Author:** Sophie Wales  
**Designation:** Service Director (Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding)

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18 July 2022

Sophie Wales, Interim Executive Director of Children's Services, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Chris Edwards, Accountable Officer, NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group  
Alan Billings, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire  
Lauren Poultney, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police  
Jean Imray, Independent Scrutineer

Dear Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership

### **Joint targeted area inspection of Barnsley**

This letter summarises the findings of the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk in Barnsley.

This inspection took place from 23 to 27 May 2022. It was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

### **Headline findings**

Most children in Barnsley receive the right support at the right time to identify risk and meet their needs across the 'front door' services. The recently formed Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) demonstrates ambition and commitment to improve outcomes for children and their families. However, it is too early to evidence consistent progress to improve services for all children.

### **What needs to improve?**

- The quality and consistency of all agencies' gathering, recording and responding to the expressed wishes and feelings of children with whom they work.
- The quality of referrals to the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), including the timeliness of those from general practitioners (GPs).
- The timeliness of the local authority sharing information with partner agencies, including the outcome of referrals and the minutes of child protection strategy meetings.
- The consistent application of thresholds for children stepping down to early help services.
- The provision of an appropriate adult when children are arrested by the police.

- The timeliness of the police response to all incidents when there is an identified risk to children.
- The availability of and the quality of the emergency duty team's (EDT) response to children and partner agencies.

## Main findings

The BSCP has recently experienced changes to all its executive partners. This has resulted in some delay in agreeing future priorities. However, partners have used this delay constructively to review their structure and how they oversee front door services across the partnership. The partners are committed to working together and are ambitious for children and improving their lived experiences. A new independent scrutineer is supporting the partnership to review its priorities and how it functions to support children in Barnsley. Partners have started to make progress. For example, they have increased the frequency of meetings, created a MASH operational and strategic group, and are reviewing the performance data that the partnership receives. However, the pace of change has not always been sufficient to have a positive impact on improving children's lives.

The BSCP has a broad core membership, and this means that a range of professionals offer their knowledge and experience of front door services for children and contribute to forward planning. However, the private, voluntary and independent education providers are not currently represented on the BSCP. This is a missed opportunity to have these significant education providers contribute to future planning.

Partners in Barnsley are proactive in responding to local and national issues relating to safeguarding children. They have collectively commissioned external scrutiny to challenge and review their current practice to improve outcomes for children. Partners respond in a timely manner to significant incidents for children and jointly review children's circumstances to appropriately identify learning across the partnership workforce. However, the commissioning of child safeguarding practice reviews does not always provide partners with all the information they need to implement learning from significant incidents.

The staff training offer from the BSCP and individual agencies is highly valued by the wider workforce. Staff reported training to be easily accessible, including after-school hours and bite-sized learning sessions. School leaders reported an increased confidence and competence in leading early help plans for children and their families following training events.

The BSCP escalation policy is not used effectively. Strong professional working relationships in Barnsley often lead to informal conversations outside the agreed



policy. This means that there is a lack of transparency and recording of decisions made in relation to the safeguarding of children and young people.

Multi-agency referrals to the MASH are mostly timely. However, they vary in quality, detail and analysis. This means that MASH practitioners often need to seek further clarification or do more research to fully understand the concerns. For a small number of children, social workers do not seek this additional information from referrers, contributing to the delay in the decision-making for these children. This also means that some decisions are not always based on the full information available.

A number of health professionals reported that GPs do not refer concerns for children to the MASH at the earliest opportunity. Risks identified are too often passed to other health professionals to respond to and refer on to MASH, should they decide to do so. This means that some children will experience delay in having risk to them assessed in a timely way.

The MASH is resourced by the co-location of key social care, early help, police and health partners and appropriate virtual partners from other agencies. Although there is an education representative in the MASH, the effectiveness of this role is restricted because it provides limited information. The education representative's role does not require them to contribute to decision-making for children. The BSCP responded to concerns raised during this inspection and took action to ensure that a probation service representative would be available for future decision-making in the MASH.

Information-sharing processes between multidisciplinary health professionals are effective. However, social workers do not always inform all safeguarding partners of the outcome of their referrals. This means that professionals are too often required to chase the MASH staff for a response or might not be in receipt of important information that could inform their response with those children and families.

Concerns for children raised at the front door are responded to quickly. Most partners use the child and family's history well to inform decision-making. Consent is gained from parents to seek and share information and, when necessary, management oversight is clear to override consent when in the best interests of children. The MASH arrangements are effective in making immediate safeguarding decisions for most children to ensure that they receive the support and protection they need.

Early help is appropriately recognised and provided to support children and families when concerns or difficulties first arise. Assessments involve a varied range of statutory, community and voluntary services that are child-focused and are used well to meet children's needs effectively. For many children, early help support prevents an escalation of concerns to statutory services. However, for a small number of children, decisions to step down to early help are overly optimistic regarding the

sustainability of parental change and would be managed more effectively through statutory child in need intervention.

Daily MASH meetings review the needs of children who have gone missing, have been arrested or have presented at the emergency department overnight. They include a range of professionals who share relevant information to make appropriate decisions to progress interventions for these vulnerable children.

Child protection concerns are appropriately identified, and strategy meetings are held swiftly for most children. For these children, the key agencies involved in their lives attend strategy meetings, share information effectively and make decisions to reduce risk and safeguard them. For a small number of children, some key specialist agencies are not always invited to, or do not always attend, strategy meetings. This means that decisions are made without this potentially essential information being shared about the child.

The agreed actions from strategy meetings are too often generic and do not address all of the information shared at the meeting. Children's social care professionals do not share the minutes of strategy meetings in a timely manner. This means that professionals rely on their own written records without the benefit of accessing the multi-agency agreed account of the meeting.

Children are mostly visited promptly by social workers, and their views are sought; for some children, this influences decision-making. Social workers' observations of non-verbal or pre-verbal children are recorded well, and this provides a better understanding of what life is like for those children. However, some children are not seen quickly enough when there is a reported police incident and there is an identified risk to children. The delayed response from police officers has left these children at potential risk of harm.

Child and family assessments of need are comprehensive. They include the views of relevant professionals and clearly outline what life is like for the child. Children are visited at home and school, and alone when this is appropriate.

Practitioners in adult mental health and adult substance misuse services appropriately demonstrate professional curiosity to identify risk for children. Police officers take appropriate immediate action to safeguard children living in neglectful homes. However, for a small number of children, this could be better planned with social workers, prior to police protection powers being used.

When children are reported missing from home, their immediate needs are responded to promptly at the front door services. Police officers use the THRIVE police risk assessment tool consistently and effectively, and this means that risk is well understood. Children receive prevention interviews from police and are

encouraged to engage in return home interviews. This information then informs wider planning at a strategic level.

Professionals within the partnership submit intelligence about vulnerable children and their circumstances directly to the police. This approach means that, when decisions are made about risk and safety planning, they can be based on multi-agency information. This is positive practice and not always seen in other areas.

The provision of an appropriate adult for children arrested in Barnsley is ineffective. Out of hours, the appropriate adult service relies on volunteers who do not attend the police station to advocate for children unless to do so would expedite their release from custody. This means that children detained during those hours do not receive the appropriate support.

The structure and current function of the EDT mean that it does not routinely provide partners or children with an effective response to meet the safeguarding needs of all children outside normal office hours. This means that some children do not receive the most timely response to safeguarding concerns.

Workload demands for individual professionals across the partnership affect their capacity to consistently provide the right help at the right time. Most health professionals receive regular and supportive clinical and safeguarding supervision. For others, the variability in the quality and regularity of supervision affects how professionals progress their interventions to improve children's outcomes.

Inspectors saw some highly effective individual direct work with children from a variety of professionals, including police, education staff, health staff and social care. However, the gathering, recording and acting on the voice of the child are too variable, from individuals, single agencies and across the multi-agency partnership workforce. This means that not all children's views are being heard or their lived experiences fully understood by professionals.

The single and multi-agency audits carried out for this inspection by partners demonstrate professionals' ability to identify strong practice and areas that could be improved. However, it is of concern that a decision to reopen or change the direction of the planned intervention was identified for more than half the children of the sample. This means that the partnership cannot be wholly confident about the level of effective single agency management oversight and decision-making to safeguard all children.

### **Next steps**

We have determined that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is the principal authority and should prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in this letter. This should be a multi-agency response involving

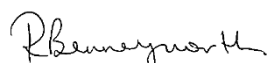
the individuals and agencies that this report is addressed to. The response should set out the actions for the partnership and, when appropriate, individual agencies. The local safeguarding partners should oversee implementation of the action plan through their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Barnsley should send the written statement of action to [ProtectionOfChildren@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:ProtectionOfChildren@ofsted.gov.uk) by Tuesday 25 October 2022. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single-agency activity by the inspectorates.

Yours sincerely



**Yvette Stanley**  
National Director Regulation and Social Care, Ofsted



**Rosie Benneyworth**  
Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services and Integrated Care, Care  
Quality Commission



**Wendy Williams, CBE**  
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

# Item 6

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT OF:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CORE SERVICES

**TITLE:** APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS UNDER THE MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>29 SEPTEMBER 2022</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	<b>Core Services</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Public or Private</b>	<b>Part Exempt</b> If private or part exempt complete the following: Exempt Information, Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A Part 1 Paragraph 1 – background papers contain confidential information

### **Purpose of report**

To seek Council approval to appoint independent persons under the member Code of Conduct

### **Council Plan priority**

Enabling Barnsley – ensuring good governance

### **Recommendations**

That Council:-

1. Approves the appointment of David Waxman and Karen Widdowson as Independent Persons under the Member Code of Conduct for a four year term.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The report advises Council of proposed appointments of two Independent Persons that assist the Monitoring Officer in dealing with Standards complaints, following a recent recruitment process.

## **2. PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a statutory framework for dealing with Standards Issues which requires each Council to adopt a Code of Conduct for members. The Council's Code of Conduct includes a procedure for investigating Standards Complaints that by law requires the involvement of Independent Persons, who must be appointed by the Council.
- 2.2 In addition, the role of Independent Person may also involve serving on a panel that would advise the Council on matters relating to the dismissal of any of the three Statutory Officers (Head of Paid Services, Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer).
- 2.3 The Independent Persons must be consulted at various stages of the complaint process and assist the Monitoring Officer in considering complaints that a Member may have breached the Code of Conduct.
- 2.4 The Council previously appointed two Independent Persons for a term of four years, which are coming to an end. The appointments were undertaken jointly with Sheffield City Council, the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Integrated Transport Authority with the remuneration of the posts shared.

## **3. Recruitment Process**

- 3.1 A recruitment process began in July 2022 to appoint two Independent Persons to the new posts. The posts were advertised for a two week period on the Councils' websites and also on the free job websites at the Sheffield Universities. The existing Independent Persons were eligible to apply for the new posts.
- 3.2 The shortlisted candidates were interviewed on 24th August 2022 and the new appointments were made jointly with Sheffield City Council.
- 3.3 The interview panel comprised of Cllr Colin Ross, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee (SCC), Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal and Governance/Monitoring Officer (SCC), Sukdave Ghuman, Service Director and Monitoring Officer (BMBC) and Jason Field, Head of Legal Services (BMBC) and Monitoring Officer for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Two candidates were interviewed by the panel.
- 3.4 Both applicants were considered by the panel to be of a satisfactory standard and had relevant related experience in dealing with standards complaints. The panel considered that the following two applicants should be appointed to the position of Independent Person for a four year term:
  - Mr. David Waxman
  - Mrs Karen Widdowson

## **2. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

The two Independent Persons receive their annual allowance of £787.04, split over a monthly basis which is equivalent to the allowance paid to co-opted members of the Council. The allowances are split between Sheffield City Council and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

### **3.2 Legal**

There are no legal implications beyond those set out in the report

### **3.3 Equality**

Not applicable – statutory recruitment process

### **3.4 Sustainability**

Decision-making wheel not completed because the subject matter is not project based

### **3.5 Employee**

None

### **3.6 Communications**

None

## **4. CONSULTATION**

Councillor Shepherd Chair of the Appeals Awards and Standards Regulatory Board regarding the recruitment process

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 None - the Council is required to ensure it has access to Independent Persons under the Localism Act 2011

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 See paragraph 3.4

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Application forms of both candidates [ Exempt Information, Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A Part 1 Paragraph 1 ]

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

**Report Author: Sukdave Ghuman/Jason Field**  
**Posts: Service Director, Law & Governance Services & Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal**  
**Date: September 2022**



# Item 7

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT OF:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CORE SERVICES

**TITLE:** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (OSC)  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Full Council</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>29 September 2022</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Public or Private</b>	<b>Public</b>

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the attached Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Annual Report is to inform Full Council of the work undertaken by committee members during 2021-22 and to publish the report for the public as evidence of local authority as well as partner agency decision makers being held to account.

### **Council Plan priority**

- Healthy Barnsley
- Growing Barnsley
- Sustainable Barnsley
- Learning Barnsley
- Enabling Barnsley

### **Recommendations**

That Full Council:-

1. Receive the OSC's Annual Report and note the contribution of the work undertaken during 2021-22 in further improving services across the borough.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Scrutiny was introduced in the Local Government Act 2000 as a means to hold Council Cabinets to account for their decisions. Since then, subsequent acts of parliament have bolstered Scrutiny by extending its remit beyond the council to the work of partner organisations as well. Much of this legislation was

consolidated in the Localism Act 2011. This includes Overview and Scrutiny having a specific role in exercising the Authority's powers in relation to the scrutiny of health services and the crime and disorder partnership in the borough.

1.2 Overview and scrutiny is carried out by non-Cabinet Members and is there to act as the 'check and balance' to decisions made by both the Council and its partners. The key principles of Overview and Scrutiny are to:

- Provide 'critical friend' challenge
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public
- Drive improvement in public services

1.3 In March 2019, the findings of the Corporate Peer Challenge of Barnsley Council, undertaken by the Local Government Association (LGA), were presented in a feedback report. As part of this it was acknowledged that 'The council's scrutiny function appears to work well. Members are knowledgeable about the areas they scrutinise and they are appropriately inquisitive about the subject matter, with good working relationships with officers'.

1.4 Within the LGA report it was recommended that 'the work and impact of scrutiny could be further enhanced if members' activities and achievements in shaping and improving policy through overview and scrutiny were pulled together in an annual report, which is then reported to Full Council on an annual basis'.

1.5 At the end of the 2018/2019 municipal year, the OSC annual report was introduced in response to this recommendation and serves to provide evidence of the work of committee members in the ongoing improvement of services delivered by the Council and those of its partners.

## **2. PROPOSAL**

2.1 The attached Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021-22 outlines the work of the committee, both in Barnsley and in partnership with neighbouring Councils, and its three task and finish groups, and demonstrates how this work contributes to the priorities of the council, thereby improving outcomes for the residents of Barnsley.

2.2 The report also highlights the findings from surveys completed by committee members and expert witnesses and this feedback will be used to drive improvements within the overview and scrutiny function.

2.3 Looking ahead to the 2022-23 municipal year, the committee will continue to take advantage of new ways of working and utilising technology to engage with a broader range of stakeholders.

2.4 The impact of Covid continues to be felt across services and our communities and it may be several years before the full extent is known, particularly around mental health services for both children and adults. The committee is also mindful of the impact that the 'cost of living' crisis will have on residents and has considered this when developing the work programme for 2022-23.

### **3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

#### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. It is noted however that the work of the committee helps to ensure the delivery of value for money services across the borough.

Scrutiny of service performance both of the Council and its partners contributes towards the effective control and mitigation of risks relating to the delivery of services including the protection of vulnerable adults and young people in the borough.

#### **3.2 Legal**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

#### **3.3 Equality**

Ensuring the wellbeing and safeguarding of our adults and children continues to be a priority for the Council and its partners. The work of Scrutiny contributes to this work in highlighting issues and ensuring appropriate plans are in place to address them.

As noted in the attached report, the committee's work for the year ahead will remain cognisant of the impact of Covid on services and the 'cost of living crisis', as both are likely to have a negative impact upon equality.

The work of Scrutiny promotes equality and diversity and social inclusion throughout all its work in considering the performance and improvement of services. The Committee will continue to consider the impact of service provision on all Barnsley communities including vulnerable groups. The involvement of co-optees on the OSC and its TFGs will also enable the committee to further involve those from our diverse communities; thereby promoting social inclusion.

#### **3.4 Sustainability**

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

#### **3.5 Employee**

There are no direct employee implications arising from this report.

#### **3.6 Communications**

It is noted that the work of Scrutiny keeps under review the performance of the Council and other relevant organisations in providing safeguarding and other services to Barnsley communities. Proactive communication about these services and activities takes place on a regular, planned basis as part of the communication strategy for each directorate.

In addition to ongoing communications, publication of an OSC Annual Report provides opportunity to document the Committee's activities and highlight its contribution to service improvement.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with members of the committee and the Council's Senior Management Team.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 No alternative options have been considered.

#### **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 By producing an annual report, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee demonstrates that role it has to play in the Council's commitment to sound, effective decision making, which is critical to ensure it meets the needs of the residents of Barnsley, providing 'critical friend' challenge, amplifying the voice of communities, and driving service improvements.

#### **7. GLOSSARY**

LGA – Local Government Association  
OSC – Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
TFG – Task and Finish Group

#### **8. LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021-22

#### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Local Government Act 2000:  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/22/part/1A/chapter/2/crossheading/overview-and-scrutiny-committees>
- Localism Act 2011:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/5959/1896534.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5959/1896534.pdf)

**Report Author:** Jane Murphy  
**Post:** Scrutiny Officer  
**Date:** 31 August 2022

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



# Chair's Foreword



I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function for 2021/22. This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by our committee members during the course of the year. This includes work undertaken as part of our committee meetings as well as our task and finish groups in considering services vital to the residents of Barnsley.

Overview and Scrutiny plays an important role in holding the local authority as well as partner agency decision makers to account. It helps to provide 'critical friend' challenge to ensure the effective delivery of public services and drive improvement. Although the committee is not a decision-making body, it is where parties come together to represent the voice of our diverse communities by influencing services and making recommendations.

During the last 12 months committee members have undertaken 38 meetings (committee meetings and task and finish group meetings), made 77 recommendations and considered 22 different topics covering the work of both the Council and its partners. Each of these contributed to the Council's priorities for 2021/22 :

## Barnsley - the place of possibilities

Healthy Barnsley	Learning Barnsley	Growing Barnsley	Sustainable Barnsley
People are safe and feel safe.	People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships.	Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all.	People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.
People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible.	Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment.	People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture.	Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy.
We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough.	People have access to early help and support.	People are supported to have safe, warm, sustainable homes.	Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking.

## Enabling Barnsley

We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council

We continue to undertake business by upholding the Council's values of being **Proud, Honest, Excellent** and **Working as a Team** and will continue this into our work during 2022/23.



Due to the global Coronavirus pandemic, the last year has brought new challenges to operating our Overview and Scrutiny function. In June we returned to 'in-person' meetings, and these were held at the Civic with Covid restrictions in place. However, it wasn't until October that we saw the committee return to the Council Chamber with the introduction of the hybrid working model allowing for the virtual attendance of Elected Members and witnesses. Despite the turbulence, I am proud to report that throughout the last 12 months we have continued to provide successful critical-friend challenge to a variety of issues and have made a number of recommendations in support of further improvements to services for the benefit of constituents. Our Task and Finish Groups were able to meet in person this year and they met with a variety of representatives including officers delivering services as well as service-users and young people. Hybrid working has presented new opportunities to meet with stakeholders we might previously have struggled to engage with, such as national agencies, and we hope to continue with this good practice over the coming years.

I would like to thank committee members as well as all those who provided information, attended meetings, and assisted with the Overview and Scrutiny function's work during the last 12 months, it is much appreciated. I look forward to the next 12 months and contributing positively to both the Council and our partners' work.

**Councillor Jeff Ennis OBE**

# Introduction

## What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny is the process of achieving open and democratic accountability of the provision of public services to ensure they meet the needs of local residents.

Like many other local authorities, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) operates the Cabinet system of governance for decision making, which is made up of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and eight other Elected Members.

Overview and Scrutiny is carried out by non-Cabinet Members and is there to act as the check and balance to the decisions being made by both the Council and its partners.

The key principles of Overview and Scrutiny are to:

- Provide 'critical friend' challenge;
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public; and
- Drive improvement in public services

Although Overview and Scrutiny is a key part of the political process, it is not party political. Elected Members involved in the process are from across all political groups and are there to work together to look objectively at borough-wide issues. It is not a mechanism for individual complaints from the public or Elected Members - the Council has separate procedures for these - nor can Overview and Scrutiny look at individual planning or licensing decisions.

## The Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Structure in Barnsley

There are 12 Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings per year. The full committee of 34 Elected Members plus our Parent Governor Co-optee meet in plenary mode three times a year to look at safeguarding topics, including a private briefing on Children's Social Care performance, and to consider other significant issues, such as substantial NHS changes.

For the remaining nine meetings, committee members allocate time to three workstreams (Healthy Barnsley, Growing Barnsley & Sustainable Barnsley) which each meet three times per year. Workstreams consist of 12 Elected Members plus our Parent Governor Co-optee; however, all Committee Members usually have an open invitation to attend all workstreams if they so wish. These workstreams were introduced in 2020/21 and are now well embedded, enabling the committee to continue to align to the priorities of the Council as it works towards 2030.

The OSC also carries out its work programme through three Task and Finish Groups (TFGs), each made up of around eight committee members. Each of the groups examine a topic in detail and then report their findings to Cabinet.



# Work Carried Out in 2021/22

## Healthy Barnsley Workstream

### **Improving Cancer Early Diagnosis & Current Cancer Restoration**

**Position:** In July 2021, this workstream considered the impact of Covid on the ambitions set by the government in the NHS Long Term Plan to have 75% of cancer patients diagnosed at Stage 1 or 2 by 2028. After expressing concerns, members were reassured that GPs had worked harder than usual under very challenging circumstances and had received specialist 'see the signs' training which aims to speed up cancer referrals.

Members provided additional challenge around appointment non-attendance and work done to understand the reasons; support for those with a learning disability who may be experiencing increasing anxieties due to Covid; the recruitment & retention of staff; and screening for prostate cancer.



**Dentistry in Barnsley:** At the next meeting of this workstream, in November 2021, members heard about the challenges associated with dentistry in Barnsley and how Covid had impacted upon services. Information was provided by NHS England/Improvement and Healthwatch Barnsley. Members were extremely concerned to hear that contracting arrangements, introduced by the government in 2006, are no longer fit for purpose and do not account for population growth. They were also concerned to hear that over 70% of recent calls received by Healthwatch were in respect of patients being unable to access routine dental appointments.

Members heard that Dentists were operating based on instructions from the Chief Dental Officer, with a 65% activity target, and faced tremendous difficulties including the increased need for PPE, the impact of social distancing requirements and stringent infection control measures. Members suggested that there is a need for a stand-alone urgent dental care centre in Barnsley; and challenged the lack of available data relating to demand across the borough; support for people in care homes; and the difference in appointment availability in the public vs private sector, which leads to a widening of health inequalities.



**Barnsley Urgent & Emergency Care Delivery Board Strategic Winter Plan 2021/22:** At the same meeting members heard about the plans to sustain health and social care services through the additional direct and indirect winter pressures associated with Covid. Members were keen for residents to be discouraged from using Accident & Emergency when it is not necessary and heard that although there are strong navigation and clear communications messages in place, many residents were attending as a last resort because they could not access GP services. Members sought reassurance that work is underway to try and address issues associated with accessing GP services; that the hospital had strong discharge processes; that elective care beds are protected throughout the winter to help with sustained recovery; the challenges associated with recruitment, particularly in the social care market; governance arrangements; and challenged the response times for Yorkshire Ambulance Services.

**Children & Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS):** In March 2022, the committee scrutinised the work of the CYPMHS, including CAMHS, Chilypep, and the Schools' Mental Health Team. Members heard about the key activities, plans and challenges facing Mental Health Service provision in Barnsley. Particular reference was made to the significant growth in demand for service provision. Members raised questions on addressing both the physical and mental health needs of those with eating disorders; the consistency of support in schools; the provision of a new Single Point of Contact for referrals; lessons learned as a result of the pandemic; transition arrangements to adult services; the benefits of 1-2-1 therapy compared to group work; and the mechanisms in place for reviewing the effectiveness of services. Members expressed serious concerns about the increasing number of young people presenting with eating disorders and were somewhat reassured to hear that work was being done with young people and families to effectively address the

increased demand. Members also heard that the bereavement service, which was described as 'overwhelmed', would soon be boosted by two additional posts and a review would then be undertaken to determine future arrangements going forward. Due to the increasing demand for mental health services and the impact on CAMHS wait times, the committee will scrutinise this topic again in the new municipal year.

**Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Provision in Barnsley:**

At the same meeting, members heard that the recent inspection of the SEND System resulted in officers providing Ofsted with a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to outline the arrangements for making improvements to the system



in Barnsley. Members sought clarity on the number of pupils registered with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP); the proportion of EHCPs in schools; and the gender breakdown of those with an EHCP. Members provided challenge on raising awareness of the 'Local Offer' with families; the annual review of EHCPs; the action being taken to reduce the number of SEND exclusions; and the importance of inclusive provision in schools, including enrichment activities. Following member challenge, it was explained that more proactive work needs to be done to recognise where support is not working in school, and interventions can then be put in place to avoid exclusions. To support a reduction in exclusions, schools need to ensure that they have inclusive behaviour policies that do not discriminate against pupils with additional needs. Also, that schools would be encouraged to share good practice, whilst poor practice would be identified and addressed. Members were reassured to hear that there was currently no backlog in the EHCP Annual Review Programme, mainly due to Council investment into the EHCP Team and better day-to-day management of processes. As there are further improvements to be made across the SEND system, the committee will scrutinise this topic again in the new municipal year.

**Overview & Scrutiny Healthy Barnsley Workstream Added Value**

Following the Cancer Diagnosis session, members now have the confidence to encourage and support constituents to go for cancer screening and appointments. Thought will also be given to the role of Area Councils and Ward Alliances in raising awareness of cancer symptoms and the various screening programmes.

As a result of the session on Dentistry the Committee outlined their concerns in a letter to Barnsley MPs requesting that they submit a Written Parliamentary Question (WPQ) to the Secretary of State. Three of the MPs responded, and the concerns were to be presented in the form of a WPQ at their earliest convenience.

Although members were reasonably reassured to hear that work is being done to address the issues currently faced by the CYPMHS and the local SEND system, there is still much to be done and they would like to continue to scrutinise these topics to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people in Barnsley.

By scrutinising these topics, the committee has contributed to the following outcomes:-

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- Reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough
- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment
- People have access to early help and support
- We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council

## Growing Barnsley Workstream

**Economic Renewal Action Plan:** In June 2021, members were invited to consider a report on the Economic Renewal Action Plan as part of the borough's economic recovery from Covid. Members heard about the funding opportunities available and the challenges faced around the distribution of grants for businesses. Members questioned what was being done to promote Barnsley as a place to invest; how principal towns as well as the town centre are being supported; sought clarity on the complexities of applying for grants and how that is communicated to businesses; and sought assurance that enough was being done to get young people work ready. Members were pleased to see that the whole Council and wider partners have worked collectively to provide a co-ordinated response to the pandemic, helping to provide resilience within the local economy. Several recommendations were made as a result of this session.



**Berneslai Homes Annual Performance Review:** As with previous years, at the beginning of November the Committee received a report regarding the annual performance of Berneslai Homes, together with the Annual Tenants Report which provided a more detailed reflection of the achievements and challenges faced during the year. Several members expressed serious concerns around anti-social behaviour and were pleased to hear that this has been identified as an area for improvement through partnership working. Members queried whether tenants were made aware of their rights and responsibilities under the tenancy agreement; sought reassurance that work would be done to improve satisfaction levels for grounds maintenance; and challenged the support provided for those experiencing rent arrears. As with previous years, members once again raised concerns that residents are, on occasion, moving into properties of a very poor standard and heard that although Barnsley spends less on void properties than neighbouring authorities, all properties let should be up to the minimum standard. However, delays may be experienced if an area is subject to an upcoming programme, such as kitchen installations, if the tenant moves in before the programme has begun.



**A Sustainable Workplace & Healthy Workforce:** In March 2022, members were informed of the initiatives developed to support the emotional and physical wellbeing of BMBC employees, particularly during the pandemic. Members challenged the work being done to reduce the gender pay gap and were pleased to hear that positive progress has been made. They found out that opportunities had arisen from the pandemic and different ways of working would help to sustain the organisation and drive it towards 2030; that BMBC aims to be an employer of choice by offering flexibility, apprenticeships and coaching opportunities; the return to office working will be closely monitored to ensure employee wellbeing and productivity and will be evaluated after six months; and that take up of the employee assistance programme has been slow. Members were reassured to hear that partnership working with the healthcare sector is more effective since the pandemic and that awareness of, and support for, employee mental health has improved. They were also pleased to hear that work is being done to ensure that female employees are not disadvantaged and are safe.



### **Overview & Scrutiny Growing Barnsley Workstream Added Value:**

By offering challenge and debate, engaging with officers, and making recommendations members are now better equipped to understand and support the economic recovery in Barnsley and will be able to offer effective signposting to support local businesses and help them flourish.

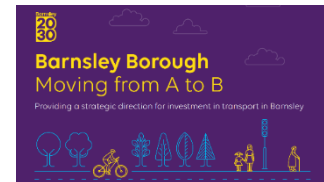
Members have also contributed to ensuring that Berneslai Homes continues to improve the standard of work and the condition of void properties, and effectively manages situations relating to anti-social behaviour.

As a result of recommendations made at the session in March, committee members have contributed to ensuring that employees are well supported, particularly those who suffer from poor mental health, and reducing inequalities within the workforce. The committee has also contributed to the following outcomes:-

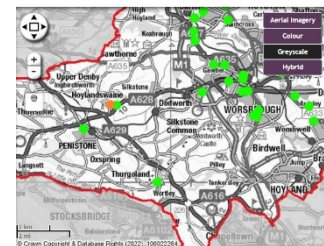
- People are safe and feel safe
- Reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough
- Business start-ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all
- People are supported to have safe warm, sustainable homes
- We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council

## Sustainable Workstream

**Barnsley Transport Strategy** – At the meeting in June 21, members met to discuss the revised Transport Strategy. Officers outlined the key drivers; the barriers encountered with existing transport provision; and the ambitions for bus, rail, the road network and sustainable travel. Members suggested that the decline in bus patronage was a long-standing issue and was exacerbated by an inadequate service in many parts of the borough. They heard that there is a need for significant investment to ensure that bus services are frequent, affordable and comfortable, and a whole range of schemes and priorities were being examined in order to progress this. Members expressed their opinions on what a quality bus service would look like for all residents and were pleased to hear that any concerns in their area should be shared with the Cabinet Spokesperson so that they could be fed into wider debate. They questioned what funding avenues had been explored to support infrastructure improvements, specifically for cyclists; the possibility of a park and ride scheme; how members of the public had been engaged in developing the strategy and wider work; the use of section 106 monies to fund sustainable travel; and raised concerns relating to the challenges faced with the existing ‘hub and spoke’ model, which offers limited connectivity between villages.



**Flooding Response:** In October 2021, the committee were presented with a report outlining the work done to prevent flooding in key areas across the borough. After questioning, members were satisfied that current monitoring levels are satisfactory, and work is being done to determine future risk areas to prioritise investment. They expressed concern that the benefits of the Principal Towns Project would be negated if specific areas were subject to widespread flooding and were reassured to hear that a scheme was being formulated to manage culverts in problem areas. Concerns were raised about the need to have sufficient resources and a maintenance programme to carry out prevention work and Members conveyed that residents are concerned and anxious, and were unhappy with some elements of the response during the events in 2019. Members were reassured to hear that a key element of the work is ongoing resident engagement, with officers actively listening to residents and involving them fully. In addition, a Berneslai Homes led task and finish group had been established to determine long-term options for residents of Lang Avenue. Members were also pleased to hear that after the 2019 floods, all affected properties were visited and properties in Wombwell have been provided with front and rear guards and waste pipe blocks. For winter 2021/22 all properties have flood defences and residents know how to use them. Thanks were given to the volunteers who provided valuable support and filled sandbags in Lundwood which helped to narrowly avoid a flooding event in January 2020.



**Violent Crime in Barnsley:** At the final meeting of the workstream, members were provided 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 in Barnsley. Members heard about the work done to disrupt activity, to educate and stop knife crime. Trends and patterns are monitored closely and although knife crime is on the rise in South Yorkshire, this is not being experienced in Barnsley. Members raised concerns about serious anti-social behaviour incidents in their wards which seemingly have not been responded to, leading to frustration and lack of public confidence in the reporting system which needs to improve. They heard that improvements are in hand, but they take time to bear fruit. Members were pleased to hear that operations are not just confined to the town centre and heard of the initiatives introduced, supported by grant funding, to look at combatting



violence against women and girls. Further detailed questioning took place around drug production, increased drug use and drug related violence; positive disruption of organised crime groups; partnership working between Berneslai Homes and the Police; and the work being done to support the night-time economy as it recovers from the Covid pandemic.

### **Overview & Scrutiny Sustainable Barnsley Workstream Added Value:**

Members were able to challenge, debate and make suggestions regarding different solutions to keeping people safe, protecting the environment and ensuring that transport is effective in supporting the needs of the borough.

As a result of scrutiny by the committee, young people are to be consulted on their needs for public transport; partnerships arrangements will be strengthened to ensure a comprehensive and effective multi-agency response to flooding; the maintenance programme for gully cleaning will be interrogated to ensure that it is effective; local intelligence provided by members will feed into the flood response programme, including investigation work; and officers will ensure that the online flood reporting system will always be available and in working order.

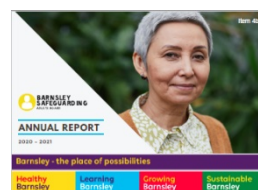
Members will encourage residents to be vigilant and report suspicions to the police to help combat crime across the borough, helping to make residents feel safe.

By scrutinising these topics, the committee has contributed to the following outcomes:-

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- Reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough
- People are supported to have safe, warm, sustainable homes
- Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking
- People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture
- We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council

### **Full Committee**

**Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2020/21:** In September 2021 the BSAB Chair alongside representatives from local partnership agencies met with the committee and answered questions regarding work undertaken to safeguard adults across the borough. This included Members challenging the panel on issues such as self-neglect; hoarding; the quality of care in care homes; learning from reviews; and how they engage with individuals that refuse support. Members discovered that communication is one of the biggest challenges facing the BSAB and that a new Communication Plan will help the wider population understand what safeguarding is about. The Board told the committee that work was being done as a result of the sad deaths of four young homeless individuals and this will be followed up by the Committee in the next municipal year. Members were keen to support the agencies in the ongoing need to raise the profile of unseen abuse and encouraging residents to report issues and were reassured by the strong commitment to safeguarding from all the agencies present. To support this, the Board were to share contact details for the safeguarding referrals 'front door' where concerns are triaged and the most appropriate response given, and members will scrutinise the work of the Board again in the next municipal year.





## Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report 2020/21:

Following consideration of the work to safeguard adults, the committee were joined by additional representatives specifically involved in the safeguarding of children. Members expressed concerns about bullying and heard that it is a constant theme within safeguarding, has far reaching impacts on children, and needs to be tackled using a multi-agency approach. They challenged the Partnership on topics including sexting; neglect; the availability of mental health services; sexual abuse and harassment amongst children and young people; and expressed serious concerns about the rise of Elective Home Education. They were pleased to hear that links with the Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Service (BSARCS) had been strengthened, to ensure that it was being used to its full potential to provide the most appropriate support for children needing wraparound care. Despite challenges faced during the pandemic, members were satisfied that the Early Help Service was deemed to be stable, and they were also reassured to hear that learning had been taken from the investigations into deaths that had occurred over the last 5 years. Members will scrutinise the impact of this work in the next municipal year.



**Provisional Education Outcomes across the Borough 2021 including Vulnerable Groups:** At the meeting in January 2022, the committee considered provisional education outcomes for 2021, with the knowledge that due to the impact of Covid, all GCSE and A level examinations were cancelled and outcomes for all students nationally were based on teacher assessed grades, taking into consideration a range of evidence including practice exams and coursework. Members heard that Barnsley was taking part in a pilot scheme to offer 'T levels' as an alternative to A levels, and although challenging, this can be overcome by working creatively and collaboratively with partners. Members were reassured to hear that the percentage of young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) compares favourably to regional figures; that targeted interventions are provided for those who are NEET; and a Post 16 Education Advocate works closely with the Targeted Intervention & Guidance (TIAG) Team to ensure that looked after children are supported, giving them a broader focus than just education. Further challenge was given relating to the support provided for those educated at home; how disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils were tracked and supported during the lockdowns; provision to support mental health and wellbeing of both pupils and staff; provision to close attainment gaps; and the quality of remote learning provision during the pandemic. Members were keen for schools to promote the Pupil Premium funding to support disadvantaged pupils so that they are able to access free school lunches and other benefits of the funding.

**One Adoption South Yorkshire (OASY):** In April 2022 the Committee were presented with a report on the recently formed regional adoption agency One Adoption South Yorkshire (OASY). Members asked specific questions about the work being done to attract a diverse range of adopters; the benefits of Special Guardianship Orders; support offered to adopters; the policy on adopting siblings; placement disruptions; and fostering services. They were pleased to hear that the number of disruptions is very small across the footprint of the agency and there haven't been any since the agency's 'go-live' date (January 2021). In response to questioning by members, it was acknowledged by officers that whilst the agency is performing well, it is still in its infancy and more needs to be done to bring together the four areas across South Yorkshire and that processes need to be standardised across the footprint of the agency to deliver the most effective service to adopters and adoptees across South Yorkshire.



**Progress on the Development of Integrated Care in Barnsley:** At the same meeting, members were invited to consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Integrated Care Partnership in respect of the development of Integrated Care in Barnsley. The report provided an overview and update in relation to the development of Integrated Care in Barnsley and included the impact of Covid on partnership arrangements, and the response to the introduction of recent Government White Papers and the Health & Care Bill which was in the final stages of its journey through Parliament.



Members offered strong challenge around access to GP appointments and were told that an increasing demand, a falling number of GPs and stringent infection control measures have all impacted upon access to

GPs, however, changes to infection control should now allow for more face-to-face appointments going forward. Specific questions were also raised in relation to the possibility of 24-hour appointments; the benefits of social prescribing; and attracting employees to the care market. Following questioning, it was acknowledged that there needs to be a clear distinction between conditions that would be classed as requiring urgent care and those that are more routine in nature and therefore do not require 24/7 access. Members were pleased to hear that the breast screening service was nearly back on track, particularly given that the committee had previously looked at Improving Early Cancer Diagnosis, and were reassured that there would be bigger changes in the coming year in the development of the shared care record, with an effective system in place by April 2023.

**Children’s Social Care Performance Private Member Briefings:** Throughout the Municipal Year, private member briefings are held for committee members to provide overview and scrutiny of performance in relation to children’s social care services. The reports include a summary section with an overview of performance, using RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings and a direction of travel for most indicators. Areas of performance considered good and areas where improvement is required are highlighted.

Throughout the year, it has been noted that good performance has been maintained in the majority of areas throughout the report due to the support available for social workers, the operating environment, and the culture of the organisation. Members considered trends evident in the data presented and provided specific challenge on the number of caseloads assigned to each social worker. They heard that work has been done to improve the situation, including recruiting additional social workers; managing demand; supporting partner agencies; and a tighter application of thresholds; which is now resulting in positive outcomes. They were also reassured that a large number of caseloads does not necessarily mean a high workload as this depends upon the complexities of each case. Specific questions were posed relating to support for newly qualified social workers; plans to increase the percentage of completed Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires to understand the challenges faced by children and young people; employee wellbeing; support for care leavers in unsuitable accommodation; school attendance (including persistent absence and exclusions); and sector led improvement. After an in-depth discussion about the recent ‘inadequate’ judgement of a Council run children’s home, Members were keen for officers to ensure that the issues identified were not also being experienced in any of the other Care Homes within their portfolio.

The committee also considered the letter from Ofsted in response to an annual meeting and the self-evaluation. The Executive Director of Children’s Services outlined the content of the letter from Ofsted including strengths and areas for development as identified by the service, and what the next round of inspection activity may look like.

**Overview & Scrutiny Full Committee Added Value:**

As a result of the topics considered, Members have had opportunity to meet with, question, and challenge a variety of senior leaders from both the Council and partner agencies, which provides evidence and assurance of agencies working together locally to demonstrate that safeguarding is everybody’s business.

Members will be scrutinising safeguarding topics again in the new municipal year and will be able to use these sessions to ensure that learning has been put into practice from audits and reviews from previous years. In addition, members are now more aware of how to report safeguarding concerns ensuring that the most vulnerable in their communities are protected and supported.

By scrutinising these topics, the committee has contributed to the following outcomes:-

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- Reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough
- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment
- People have access to early support

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships
- We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing council

### **Task & Finish Groups (TFGs)**

In addition to meetings undertaken throughout the year, Committee Members can opt to participate in TFGs which undertake detailed investigations into particular topics. These provide Members with opportunities to work in small groups and visit services both within and outside the borough to learn from good practice, meet with a variety of service-users and officers as well as gain a better understanding of the complexities involved in the issues concerned.

At the conclusion of each investigation a report is compiled and presented to the Council’s Cabinet with a number of recommendations, to which a formal response is provided from relevant services outlining whether they accept the recommendation and if so, how they propose to implement it. During 2021/22, committee members undertook the following detailed TFG investigations:

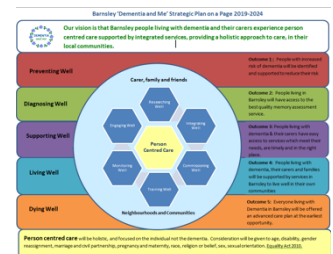
**Gambling & Gambling Related Harm:** Following on from the previous year’s Child Poverty Task & Finish Group, this year a group of Elected Members met to look at the impact of gambling, particularly given the pandemic, the impact it has on young people, and what support services are available in the borough and beyond. Members of the group met with a number of representatives from BMBC’s Public Health and Licencing teams; the NHS Northern Gambling Service; YGAM & Gamcare charities; officers from Leeds City Council; and the Managing Director of Krysallis, a local counselling service commissioned by GamCare to provide treatment services and support for people in Barnsley.



The TFG highlighted a number of recommendations in support of raising awareness, reducing the harms caused by gambling, and developing a better understanding of the local landscape. This includes working with wider partners to create resources and training on gambling related harm and young people; evaluating how the council can better capture local data on gambling in Barnsley; and reviewing the Statement of Gambling Policy so that Public Health is consulted when new gambling premises submit licencing applications. The TFG also welcomed the offer from Public Health to deliver an All-Member Information Briefing on Gambling and Gambling Related Harms to raise awareness across all Elected Members so that they can effectively support their communities who may be experiencing gambling related issues. The TFG’s full report is available on the following link (Cab 6.4.22/6):

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s94549/Report.pdf>

**Dementia:** The work of this TFG looked at the journey taken by someone living with dementia, including early identification, diagnosis, and the support available to live well. They also wanted to understand whether Dementia is preventable and what could be done to reduce the risk. Specific sessions were held with representatives from BMBC’s Public Health and Adults & Communities Directorates; Barnsley Dementia Alliance (Age UK Barnsley; Alzheimer’s Society Barnsley; BIADS; Butterflies; Crossroads; Making Space), and nurses from South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust’s (SWYPFT) Memory Assessment & Support Service. Members also had the privilege of attending a drop-in session at BIADS to talk to carers and those living with dementia about their experiences and what improvements they think could be made.



As a result of the TFG’s investigation the group highlighted a number of recommendations in support of further improvement to service delivery. These included developing a plan to raise awareness through different groups to help support people who may be living alone with dementia; revisiting criteria for assessing carers of people living with dementia to ensure that those who require support receive it; consider



developing a rapid response team for those who are experiencing a crisis; and ensuring that all individuals using the Memory Assessment Team have access to a named nurse to ensure continuity of care and reduce anxiety. The TFG's full report is available on the following link (Cab.6.4.22/7):

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s94550/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20-%20Report%20on%20Dementia.pdf>

**Air Quality & Carbon Reduction:** This TFG maintained a focus on providing overview and scrutiny of the work done to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality across the borough. Specific sessions were held with officers from BMBC's Regulatory Services; Planning, Policy & Control; Strategic Housing, Sustainability and Climate Change; and Transport. The group also met with a Sustainability Project Officer from Sheffield University to hear about the research carried out to identify and support opportunities for carbon reduction across the region and with representatives from Barnsley Youth Council to ask them what they think the council should do to tackle carbon reduction and air quality.



Having concluded their investigations, members of the group made a substantial number of recommendations including promoting more schemes to reduce air pollution around schools and facilities frequented by children and young people; adopting the electrification of fleets for vehicles within the organisation's control and work towards providing on-street electric vehicle charging points for those without private driveways; increasing the scrutiny and monitoring of sustainable travel plans and consider introducing penalties for non-compliance; introduce a higher carbon reduction requirement in all new properties before the Future Homes Standard is introduced; and provide segregated litter bins to allow the recycling of litter in the town centre and surrounding areas. The TFG's full report is available on the following link (Cab.18.3.2020/8): <https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s94551/Report.pdf>

By scrutinising these topics, and taking subsequent action, the committee has contributed to the following outcomes:-

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- Reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough
- People have access to early help and support
- People are supported to have safe, warm, sustainable homes
- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community
- Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking
- We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council

### **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (JHOSCs)**

Within legislation, there is provision for Local Authorities to form Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees with other councils to respond to substantial reconfiguration proposals covering more than one council area. These can be convened over varying geographical areas as well as over varying timescales as is deemed appropriate for the matters being considered. During 2020-21, the Chair of Barnsley's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has contributed positively in the region through our joint arrangements with the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This committee considers NHS services over the stated geographical footprint and although there have been no official meetings during 2021-22, the group has remained in contact to consider any developments of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System (ICS) and in particular the impact that recruitment issues have had on some oncology services at Barnsley Hospital.

## **Partnership Working**

In addition to the formal meetings undertaken by committee members, work is undertaken to ensure constant liaison with partner agencies to share learning and good practice as well as avoid duplication. Regular contact is maintained with those involved with the Council's governance arrangements including Area Council Chairs, the Audit Committee, partnership boards including BSAB, BSCP, and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The committee also maintains links with other scrutiny committees in the region, including the Sheffield City Region Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SCROSC). Liaison is undertaken with NHS colleagues at Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT), and South-West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) and the committee works closely with Healthwatch Barnsley on matters of mutual concern.

At the end of each financial year, the committee also provides a comprehensive written response to be incorporated into the Quality Accounts for South-West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT); Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT); and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS).

During the last year, committee members have also engaged with local young people on the Barnsley Youth Council, Care4Us Council and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Forum. This has included seeking their feedback on the committee's work programme for the year as well as getting their input on the topics being considered by the Task and Finish Groups. The Elected Members were really impressed by all the young people taking part and plan to engage with them again during the coming municipal year.

## **Referrals Received**

### **Adult Mental Health Crisis Care**

Following on from the Adult Mental Health Task & Finish Group in 2019, the Committee received a referral from Healthwatch Barnsley in June 2021 expressing their concerns relating to adult mental health crisis care. They were particularly concerned that recommendations raised within the TFG report had still not been addressed, relating to conveyancing; access to 24/7 crisis care; and governance and accountability. Following investigations into the concerns raised, a series of recommendations were made including adopting alternative ways of transporting individuals experiencing a mental health crisis; rigorous promotion of the new telephone number for crisis care; increasing take-up of the newly introduced app to clearly identify staff on duty regardless of the time of day; better data sharing to allow robust and timely decisions to be made relating to conveyancing, delays for assessments and other appropriate information; and to commit to fully engaging in a system-wide approach, including participation on boards. A response was received from the Mental Health Partnership outlining the progress made against each of the recommendations and the All-Age Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be added to the work programme for 2022-23 to allow for further scrutiny.

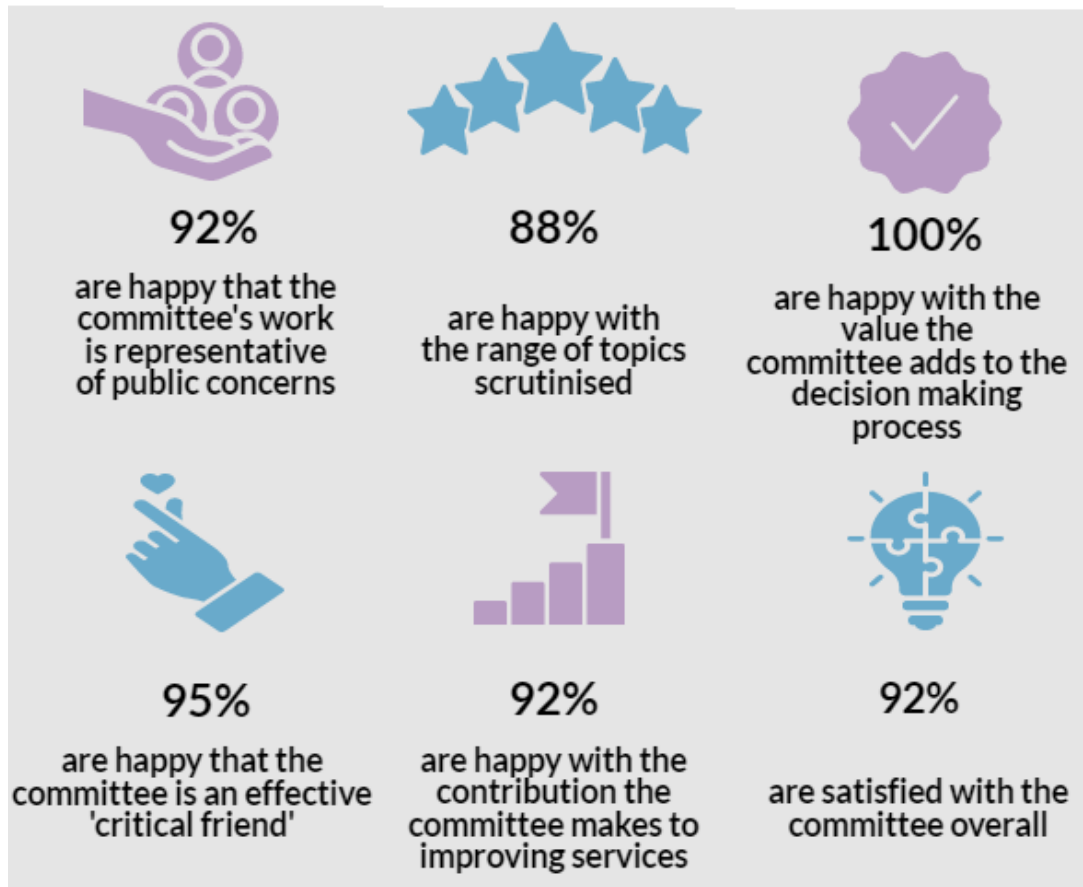
### **Long-Acting Reversible Contraception**

In April 2022, the committee received a referral from Barnsley Local Medical Committee (BLMC) expressing concerns about contraceptive services for women, in particular the Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) offer across the borough. Following investigations into the concerns raised, the Committee responded to BLMC, and plans are in place for LARC to form part of the work of a task and finish group in 2022-23 looking at the wider issues of contraception and teenage conception rates.

# Feedback

At the end of the municipal year, committee members are surveyed regarding their satisfaction with the operation of the Overview and Scrutiny function. The questionnaire provides opportunity for committee members to comment on the relative strengths and weaknesses of the arrangements and make suggestions about improvements. Highlights of the Committee Member Survey 2021-22 are shown below:

## What's Working Well



*Information based on a total of 13 respondents out of a possible total of 34*

## Areas for Improvement

- member commitment and engagement - attendance at pre-meetings and TFGs could be better
- better preparation by senior officers and less reluctance to share information because the meeting is held in public
- less focus on the vision with a need for a stronger focus on how it impacts on residents
- to involve the public more

Throughout the year, surveys are also undertaken of expert witnesses who attend the meetings to answer questions from committee members. This enables us to ensure attendees feel appropriately prepared for meetings and so that we can respond to any recommendations for improvement they may make. Highlights from the Expert Witness Surveys 2021-22 are:

Overview & Scrutiny Expert Participants' Survey Results 2021-22			
92%	92%	96%	88%
Communication and information received prior to the committee was timely and helpful	Felt welcome at the committee meeting	Understand the scrutiny process and the role of committee members	The committee were effective in acting as a critical friend and providing appropriate challenge
92%	29%	88%	71%
Able to be honest with the responses given	Had to be cautious with the responses given	Were treated with respect and allowed time to represent their service/organisation to the best of their ability	The committee were effective in holding decision makers to account
67%	67%	88%	25%
The committee helps to build relationships amongst partners and stakeholders	Attending the committee helped them to think differently and consider different approaches to areas of work	Attending the committee was a positive experience	Changes have been made to service delivery as a direct result of attending the committee meeting

*Information based on a total of 24 respondents (1 respondent equating to 4.17%) either agreeing or strongly agreeing to questions asked*

#### Comments from Expert Witnesses 2021-22 include:

As witnesses, we were made welcome, were able to have good debate, check and challenge and collectively came away with some positive actions which will hopefully improve the health and wellbeing of local people.

Limited discussion on the "so what" and its impact. Would have been helpful to include this rather than repeat information in the report.

Whilst we have not been able to make changes yet, we are pursuing options, something which was not considered prior to feedback from members.

Always great to have the opportunity to explore service issues and gain insights from scrutiny to improve things.

I felt the questioning was appropriate and it was clear that members were well prepared for the meeting and had an understanding of service delivery that equipped them with further questioning on responses.

From my experience some of the committee questions were not relevant to the agenda. I felt we ended up speaking about other issues and lost some of the focus of the meeting.

I think the challenge and lines of questioning were healthy and fair. It didn't feel as scripted as previous sessions I have attended, and the committee were passionate about the subject which is great to see.

The OSC process in Barnsley is, by far, the best experience in relation to similar processes in other LAs. The information before, during and after is efficient and helpful.

# The Year Ahead

As we enter the 2022-23 municipal year, the world continues to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic which has placed increased demands and pressures on services. This is likely to continue for several years, and the full extent of the increased demands is still not yet known, such as the need for mental health support services for both children and adults. The committee is also mindful of the impact the cost of living crisis will have on Barnsley communities and will consider its work programme accordingly.

As the last 12 months have shown, Barnsley's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has adapted to the new ways of working by undertaking virtual meetings and hopes to continue to utilise such technologies in the years ahead. Despite restrictions in terms of being able to visit services, new technologies have enabled Elected Members to engage with a broader range of stakeholders and enabled efficiencies in terms of virtual meetings avoiding unnecessary travel for participants.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair, alongside other Members continued to be involved in the local Outbreak Control Advisory Group. This group worked to advise the local Outbreak Control Board who were responsible for overseeing the prevention of Coronavirus transmission within the borough and ensuring that outbreaks were managed effectively if and when they occurred. The Board undertook the following, with the support of the Advisory Group:

- Provided oversight, assurance and scrutiny of plans to prevent and manage outbreaks of Covid in Barnsley and actions taken to prevent and manage outbreaks and their outcomes
- Lead communication with residents, businesses and stakeholders in the borough generally in relation to outbreak prevention and management
- Engaged with communities and groups where outbreaks may be more likely or where they have occurred
- Ensured implementation of the Barnsley Outbreak Control Plan

The Chair will continue to be involved in this type of work should the need arise.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to work together to provide critical friend challenge to all services, including those of partners. This includes making a positive contribution to plans for the future, ensuring the voice of the public is heard. Work will also be undertaken to utilise the feedback from our recent surveys regarding the ongoing improvement of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

## How to find out more

Agendas, reports and minutes for all of our Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings are available here: <https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteId=224>

Alternatively, you can contact us at: [Scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk)

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<b>MEETING:</b>	Planning Regulatory Board
<b>DATE:</b>	Tuesday 26 July 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Town Hall, Barnsley

## MINUTES

### Present

Councillors Richardson (Chair), Bellamy, Bowler, Cain, Coates, Danforth, Eastwood, Gillis, Greenhough, Hayward, Leech, Lofts, McCarthy, Mitchell, Moyes, Peace, Smith, Tattersall, Webster, White and Wray

### In attendance

#### 20. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Leech declared a Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interest in **Planning Application No 2022/0364** – Formation of 3m wide combined cycle and footpath active travel route and associated works including provision of adjacent soft verges, earthworks and drainage installations, the route of the disused railway line located between Wakefield Road/Bar Lane at Staincross/Athersley and Lee Lane, Royston in view of him being a Member of the Active Travel Group.

#### 21. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### 22. Former Goldthorpe Primary School Site, High Street, Goldthorpe - 2022/0056 - For Approval

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted a report on **Planning Application 2022/0056** Erection of 1,979 sq. m (gross) retail unit (Use Class E) with vehicular and pedestrian accesses; parking; hard and soft landscaping; boundary treatments; trolley bay; electricity substation and associated works, Former Goldthorpe Primary School Site, High Street, Goldthorpe, Rotherham

**RESOLVED** that the application be granted in accordance with the Officer recommendation subject to conditions and a S106 Agreement (to secure 2-hour parking limit for the car park and £6,250 to offset biodiversity).

#### 23. The Route of the Disused Railway Line Located Between Wakefield Road/Bar Lane Staincross/Athersley and Lee Lane, Royston - 2022/0364 - For Approval

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted a report on **Planning Application 2022/0364** Formation of 3m wide combined cycle and footpath active travel route and associated works including provision of adjacent soft verges, earthworks and drainage installations, the route of the disused railway line located between Wakefield Road/Bar lane at Staincross/Athersley and Lee Lane, Royston.

**RESOLVED** that the application be granted in accordance with the Officer recommendation subject to conditions and an additional condition in relation to Biodiversity in relation to the planting of new woodland.

#### **24. Planning Appeals - June 2022**

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted an update regarding cumulative appeal totals for 2022/23.

The report indicated that 3 appeals had been received in June 2022. No appeals had been withdrawn and 2 appeal had been determined one of which had been allowed and one dismissed.

The report also gave the details of cumulative appeals totals for the whole of 2022/23 which indicated that 6 appeals had been determined since 1st April, 2022. Of those, 4 appeals had been dismissed (67%) and 21 appeal (33%) had been allowed.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

#### **25. Enforcement Update (Q1 2022/23)**

The Head of Planning and Building Control provided a report to update the Board in Planning Enforcement Service activity covering Quarter 1 of 2022/23. The report included a breakdown of the requests for service received and induced details of key actions and enforcement case outcomes during the quarter.

Quarter 1 had continued to see an consistent high demand for investigations and enforcement and this was reflected in the high level of development taking place throughout the borough. It was pleasing to note that the service was now the 7<sup>th</sup> highest nationally in terms of formal actions take to ensure effective enforcement.

The Service had issued 63 enforcement notices in the last financial year and would seek to continue to work with Elected Members and local communities to achieve the desired outcomes. The number of formal actions undertaken by the Service had significantly increased prior to additional resources being devoted to planning enforcement and this was filtering through to an increase in appeal work and the number of appeal decision being received.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### **26. Member Consultation Report - Early July 2022**

The Head of Planning and Building Control presented a report summarising the outcomes of the planning applications agenda pack issues as a Board Member Consultation in lieu of the Planning Regulatory Board meeting scheduled for early July, 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.



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Chair

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<b>MEETING:</b>	Audit and Governance Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday 27 July 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Lofts (Chair), Barnard, Hunt and Richardson together with Independent Members - Ms K Armitage, Mr S Gill and Mr P Johnson

### 19. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

### 20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the deletion of the word 'Chair' from Minute 4 'Appointment of Vice Chair' and the substitution of the words 'Vice Chair'.

### 21. DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22

The Service Director Finance submitted the draft 2021/22 Statement of Accounts which had also been the subject of a presentation at the training/awareness session immediately prior to the meeting.

It was noted that following this meeting the accounts would be made available for public inspection from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. They would also be subject to audit by the External Auditors between July and mid-October following which their ISA 260 report on the Audit findings would be presented to Committee in November and then to Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 for approval.

In response to specific questioning, Gareth Mills, representing the External Auditor commented on the ongoing challenges in recruiting suitably qualified staff, to work on public sector audits. He reported, however, that subject to no unforeseen circumstances occurring, the External Auditors were well placed to deliver the external audit in accordance with the statutory deadline of 30 November 2022.

## RESOLVED

- (i) that the Service Director Finance and his Team be thanked for their hard work and dedication in producing the accounts;
- (ii) that the work that has taken place to prepare the Authority's Draft 2021/22 Statement of Accounts on an International Financial Reporting Standards basis be noted.

## **22. MR S GHUMAN - SERVICE DIRECTOR LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

Mr S Ghuman, the recently appointed Service Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer for the Council, was welcomed to this his first meeting of the Committee.

## **23. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021-22**

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report presenting the Authority's draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2021/22. A copy of the draft Statement was appended to the report.

The Committee noted that the AGS was a statutory requirement as defined in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and had been prepared following an Annual Governance Review process as previously reported.

An Action Plan had been prepared to capture issues raised through the review process and this document would form the basis for the Committee monitoring throughout the year. The Action Plan was appended as Appendix 1 to the Draft Annual Governance Statement and outlined the items upon which further action was required. An update of the Action Plan would be submitted to the Committee throughout the year.

In the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the following:

- It was noted that the draft AGS was to be subject to independent audit which it was felt would give reassurance about the robustness of the process
- The format of the AGS was welcomed being easy to read and understand
- There was a discussion as to whether or not a commentary on the outcome of Ofsted Inspections should be specifically included within the AGS. It was noted that information relating to the inspections had been included as it provided a further source of information and assurance about the broader governance arrangements in place. It was also noted that details of the inspections undertaken were available from the Ofsted website
- It was noted that there was no reference to the error made at the count for the municipal elections held in May 2022. A full independent investigation had been undertaken and whilst no systemic failings had been found, as the failings had simply been human error, a number of recommendations had been made for improvements going forward. A report was to be submitted to Cabinet shortly recommending the adoption of the revised arrangements. A discussion then ensued as to whether or not reference should be made to the issue within the AGS. On balance, and on the advice of the Monitoring Officer, it was suggested that inclusion was warranted and was good practice on the basis that it demonstrated that the issue had been investigated and matters arising from it had been addressed
- Reference was made to the action recommended in relation to procurement and Contract Management, the timescale for which was April, 2024. The Service Director Finance stated that there were no particular concerns, but any suggestions as to improvements/efficiencies was welcomed

## **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the draft AGS, which reflects the governance arrangements in place and the actions arising from the annual governance review process, be noted;
- (ii) That the final AGS be presented to the Committee at its meeting to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 where the Final Accounts will be presented alongside the External Auditor's ISA 260 report and thereafter to the Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 for approval; and
- (iii) That the Committee receive updates on the progress of the actions identified in the AGS Action Plan at future meetings.

## **24. INTERNAL AUDIT INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted his interim annual report on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's Internal Control Arrangements based on the work of Internal Audit for 2021/22 which had been prepared in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

In order to comply with these Standards, the report provided:

- An opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's framework of governance, risk management and control
- A summary of the audit work undertaken to formulate the opinion
- Details of key control issues identified which could be used to inform the Annual Governance Statement
- The extent to which the work of other review or audit bodies had been relied upon.

Appendices to the report provided a summary of Internal Audit reports for the year, details and outcome of other audit activities, projects and work currently in progress, agreed management actions and the Financial Year End Performance Indicators 2021/22.

The report indicated that based on the overall results of Internal Audit work undertaken to date, together with the management's implementation of agreed management actions, the interim opinion given was a reasonable (positive) assurance. This was based on an agreed programme of risk-based audit coverage that had enabled a valid indicative assurance opinion to be provided.

There was clearly a positive culture in the Council to explore where control and governance improvements could be made, and it was important that this culture remained and focused on maintaining an appropriate risk-based and effective framework of governance as the authority faced significant financial and operational challenges whilst continuing to work towards the Barnsley 2030 vision.

The key results from all completed audits had been reported previously within the Internal Audit progress reports and these were summarised in this report. Throughout the year the Committee had also been made aware of progress in the

implementation of agreed management actions to address findings and implications arising from audit work.

The current Audit Plan for 2022/23 focussed on supporting management to consider the approach to controls in the context of the achievement of the strategic objectives and priorities and the major change/transformation programme ahead, for example, the Adults Social Care Funding Reform.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the interim assurance opinion provided by the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's framework of governance, risk management and control be noted; and
- (ii) that the key issues arising from the work of Internal Audit in the context of the Annual Governance Statement be noted.

**25. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23**

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report which was presented by Sharon Bradley, Internal Audit Manager, which provided a summary of the Internal Audit activity completed, and the key issues arising from it, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

Members were informed of the progress of the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan analysed by the number of plan assignments producing a report and audit days delivered by Directorate/Service and in relation to external clients. It was pleasing to note that there were no concerns raised in relation to the delivery of days. In addition, recent appointments had been made and, once all personnel were in post, the section would be fully resourced.

Members noted the audit reports issued within the period, the other internal audit activity together with details of other work undertaken in an advisory or consultancy basis, contributed to the assurance opinions given, as appropriate.

Sharon Bradley commented on the current position with regard to the follow up of agreed management actions with management. She particularly highlighted one report within the Children's Services Directorate which had not yet been completed and was awaiting a management update at the time of drafting the Audit and Governance report. She stated that work was ongoing, and a revised implementation date was to be agreed with management, but this was reliant on resources within Information Services and the Communications Service to support Children's Services to develop their intranet/extranet.

Information was also provided on the reasons for the number of actual days delivered in relation to Children's Services compared to the number of planned days. It was noted that this was largely in line with the planned schedule.

## **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) The issues arising from completed Internal Audit work in the period along with the responses received from management be noted;
- (ii) That the assurance opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's internal control framework based on the work of Internal Audit in the period be noted;
- (iii) That the progress against the Internal Audit plan for 2022/23 for the period be noted.

## **26. STRATEGIC CONCERNS/RISK REGISTER**

Carly Speechley, the newly appointed Executive Director Children's Services was introduced to Members and welcomed to this, her first meeting of the Committee.

She was attending to discuss the strategic risk associated with Children's Services and specifically the following risks:

- Potential death of a child/Safeguarding failure in Children's Services; and
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

With regard to the first risk, there was a need to continually appraise the controls to minimise the potential for death of a child or safeguarding failure in Children's Services and a need to be able to identify any changes which may weaken current levels of assurance. It was noted that factors impacting on this, and which should be assessed, included the impact of Covid 19 upon both families and workforce capability, increasing poverty which had increased need and demands for services and increasing caseloads which presented a risk. Future financial settlements could impact on service provision as well as an awareness of system pressures including workload. It was noted that if systems broke down there was a potential for huge reputational damage (as seen in a number of UK authorities) which included the removal of the Director of Children's Services and government imposition of Commissioners to run services until improvements were made. Information was provided about the status of this risk and the response rating in relation to the 6 Actions associated with the risks. Details were also provided about the work that was currently being undertaken to address these actions as well as the progress being made in this respect.

With regard to the second risk, the Joint Area SEND Inspection in 2021 had set out progress made and areas for improvement. The SEND Improvement Programme was addressing the Written Statement of Action which had been submitted to Ofsted by the deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 and approved. The strategic, multi-agency SEND Oversight Board provided governance, oversight and improved capacity to ensure all actions were completed in a timely way. Quarterly performance and finance reports were provided to the Council's Senior Management Team and to Cabinet. The Statement of Action would ensure a clear focus on the two areas of weakness identified during the inspection namely, improving parent engagement and influence on strategic decision making and the early identification, support and improved outcomes of children receiving SEN support in local provision, avoiding

escalation of need and out of borough placements. Key issues were, therefore to ensure accelerated progress against the Statement of Action and the implementation of the Improvement Programme to address the areas for improvement. Information was also then provided about the status of this risk and the response rating in relation to the 5 Actions associated with the risks. Details were also provided about the work that was currently being undertaken to address these actions as well as the progress being made in this respect.

In the ensuing discussion, particular reference was made to the following:

- The Executive Director commented on the monitoring of staff workloads that was taking place particularly in relation to Action 3 of the first risk and to the difficulties that had exacerbated issues due to staff vacancies. She particularly commented on the specific challenges associated with the staffing vacancies and of the importance of having staff who were correctly trained and of the calibre required.
- Arising out of this discussion, reference was also made to the arrangements in place to ensure that no issues arose when cases were 'closed'. An assurance was given that all the necessary checks were made to ensure that children were not left in a vulnerable position
- In response to specific questioning an update was provided of the work of the Practitioner Sub Group

**RESOLVED** that thanks be given for the updates and the updates be noted.

## **27. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report confirming the Council's compliance with the requirements for Councillors to submit annual declarations of interest.

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were raised:

- Whilst there were no specific verification arrangements in place to ensure that Councillors declared the matters they should, some basic checks were made to ensure that various sections were completed. A process was, nevertheless in place, organised by staff of the Council Governance Unit, to ensure that declarations were submitted and appropriately processed. There was also a specific requirement within the Members Code of Conduct to require declarations to be appropriately made. If anything untoward was found appropriate sanctions could and would be taken. From a governance point of view, all the necessary systems were in place to ensure that existing Members were reminded to submit their annual review of their declarations and for new Members to submit their declaration within 28 days of them being elected
- Arising out of the above, Gareth Mills, representing the External Auditor commented that as part of their role they examined both Member and Officer declarations of interest. He made particular reference to sampling checks made including with Companies House to investigate where or not appropriate declarations about transactions with other organisation were made. No particular issues had been found previously although recommendations for improvements had been made within the Value for Money report in March.



Both he and Thilina de Zoyza would be looking at developments and actions arising, and reference would be included within the report later in the year

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and the assurance regarding the Council's compliance with this important element of public accountability be noted.

## **28. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021-22**

The Committee received a report from the External Auditor providing an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of the Council.

The report outlined factors impacting the Audit and the Audit Plan and particularly reference was made to financial developments, the significant impact on the Council of the Covid 19 pandemic, the overall economic environment as well as the projects in place to tackle climate change.

It was noted that the Council was required to prepare group financial statements that consolidated the financial information for both the Council, Bernesali Homes and Penistone Grammar School Trust

In relation to significant risks, the External Auditor would communicate any significant findings in relation to Management override of controls, Valuation of Land and Buildings and Valuation of the net Pension Fund Liability (as well as other significant matters arising from the audit) in their Audit Findings Report.

The planning materiality had been determined to be £8.805m for the Group and £8.721m for the Council which equated to 1.5% of the gross expenditure on the cost of services in the previous year. The External Auditor would also continue to report uncorrected omissions and misstatements other than those that were 'clearly trivial' – the 'clearly trivial' threshold had been set at £430,000. Following the publication of the 2021/22 draft accounts, and prior to starting the detailed audit work, the auditors would revisit the materiality calculation and update as necessary. Any changes to the materiality levels would be detailed within the ISA 260 report submitted later in the year.

The risk assessments regarding the arrangements to secure Value for Money had identified one possible significant weakness in the council's arrangements relating to the Ofsted Inspection of November 2021 on implementing Special Educational Needs and Disabilities reforms. The External Auditors had also identified this as a key recommendation issue in their 2020/21 Value for Money work and this was included within their Annual Report. As this inspection was carried out and reported in 2021/22 they considered this a continuing issue in the Value for Money arrangements for 2021/22 and as part of the review for 2021/22, they would follow up the Council's actions in relation to the Ofsted findings. In relation to the arrangements to secure Value for Money, no other risks of significant weakness had been identified at this stage, but this would be kept under review as the audit progressed.

Interim visits had taken place in March and April and the bulk of the final visit would take place from late July to September. The finalisation and completion work was targeted to take place in accordance with the national deadline for audited accounts

of 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The key deliverables were outlined in the Audit Plan and the Audit Findings report was due to be presented to this Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 and the Annual Report on the VFM work would be presented in January 2023.

The audit fee had been set at £180,468 (an increase from £180,218 in the previous year) but was subject to the Council meeting their requirements.

Reference was also made to the requirement for the External Auditor to obtain an understanding of the Information Systems relevant to financial reporting in order to identify and assess any risks of material misstatement. The report then outlined the areas currently identified to be within the scope of the audit.

The report also detailed other matters within the External Auditor's responsibilities together with the progress made against prior year audit recommendations and the risk assessment against each item.

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were highlighted:

- It was anticipated that from 2023 the previous timetable for the External Audit work would be reintroduced
- The tender process for External Audit Work for the next five-year period had now commenced
- Reference was made to the valuation of land and buildings, to the way in which such valuations were made and to the impact this could have on the accounts, the likelihood of a material financial statement error and why the valuation of land and buildings this was considered to be a significant risk. It was noted that reference to this had also been made within the training/awareness session held prior to this meeting
- In response to specific questioning, the External Auditor gave a brief outline of the progress being made with regard to the Financial Reporting Council inspection of the audit work and Value for Money Work for Barnsley Council. He was hopeful, based on other similar inspections/audits in which he was involved, that the inspection findings would be positive and a report on should hopefully be available by September

**RESOLVED** that the External Audit Plan 2021/22 be noted and, insofar as this Committee is concerned, the action to be taken be supported.

## **29. WORK PLAN 2022-23**

The Committee received a report, presented by Alison Salt, Corporate Governance Assurance Manager, providing the indicative Work Plan for the Committee for its proposed scheduled meetings to 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

It was noted that the Work Plan for this meeting had had the following items removed from the agenda:

- Financial Regulations – these were undergoing a final round of consultation with subject matter experts and would be re-scheduled for presentation to the September meeting

- Covid updates – this item had been removed from the work plan as a regular update as there were other Committees that had oversight of this issue. Information on Covid would be provided on the extranet site for Members of the Committee

**RESOLVED** that the Work Plan be noted.

### **30. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** that the public and press be excluded from this meeting during the consideration of the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### **31. GLASSWORKS UPDATE**

Kathy McArdle, Service Director Regeneration and Culture, provided an update during which Members were informed of progress made in relation to lettings, to potential opening dates for other secured tenants together with details of a number of interested operators for available units.

It was noted that progress was being made with regard to the mix of retail, leisure and social use and reference was also made to the use of various units by the NHS.

Information was also provided in relation to the planning for the opening of the Cinema complex and about the success of recent activities within the Glassworks 'square'.

In the ensuing discussion, particular reference was made to the following:

- The current position with regard to the future development proposals for the wider Town Centre and the consideration of the development of a town centre strategy particularly within the context of a national change in the retail landscape
- The proposals to undertake a post investment appraisal and to develop a strategy/proposal to ensure that the Glassworks and town centre remained fit for the future and meet long term and developing needs and aspirations
- The work of the Events Team was noted and their hard work was welcomed. Kathy McArdle commented that there was an ongoing marketing and communications plan, but it was noted that proposals were in hand to improve the communications strategy further for such events. Details of the marketing strategy could be shared with Members
- Work was ongoing to try to ensure that any empty stalls within the market were occupied or repurposed
- Reference was made to the footfall within the town centre and Kathy McArdle stated that performance data on this could be provided

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

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Chair

# Item 11

## APPEALS, AWARDS AND STANDARDS REGULATORY BOARD

### (a) School Admission Appeals Panel – 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022

Lacewood Primary 1 Refused

Wombwell Park Street 1 Refused

### (b) School Admission Appeals Panel – 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Kirk Balk  
5 Allowed  
2 Refused  
1 Withdrawn

### Appeals withdrawn prior to the allocation of a date

Athersley South Primary 1 Withdrawn

Barnsley Academy 1 Withdrawn

Outwood Academy Carlton 1 Withdrawn

Outwood Academy Shafton 1 Withdrawn

Penistone St Johns 3 Withdrawn

Summer Lane Primary 1 Withdrawn

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<b>MEETING:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Healthy Barnsley Workstream
<b>DATE:</b>	Tuesday 19 July 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bellamy, Cain, Clarke, Eastwood, Lodge, Lowe-Flello, McCarthy, Osborne, Peace, Smith, Wilson and Wray.

### 9 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.

### 10 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Eastwood declared a non-pecuniary interest in minutes number 4 & 6 as she is Cabinet Support for Place Health and Adult Social Care.

### 11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the following meetings were received by Members for information only: -

Sustainable Barnsley Workstream, 28th June 2022.

### 12 Better Lives Programme

The Following Witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Linda Middlewood, Head of Service Adult Social Care, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Julie Chapman, Service Director Adult Social Care & Health, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Kwai Mo, Head of Service Mental Health & Disability, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Jacqui Atkinson, Service Manager Improvement, Programmes & Assurance, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Dominic Armstrong, Service Manager, Improvement & Quality Assurance, Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Cllr Jenny Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson Place Health & Adult Social Care, BMBC

Cllr Platts introduced an update on the Better Lives Programme which started in 2021 with the aim of supporting people to stay in their homes for longer. Prevention

and early detection are key priorities in supporting residents to retain their independence.

Initially social workers triage enquiries with signposting, early help and assessment to reduce demand on services. Conversations are focused on residents so that they can make choices on the help they need. The plan is to further develop the 'front door' by exploring locations in which to offer face to face support. Future developments include working with partners including housing and the police. The work which has been carried out has made the enabling service more focused and stronger.

In September 2021 the government announced the funding reform which caps the contribution to care at £86,000 however, this does not come into effect until October 2023 so any contributions to care made prior to this are not covered by the cap. There are changes being made to computer systems to help to identify and monitor financial changes and a report will be produced to keep people updated on this.

The ensuing discussions included: -

It was clarified that a lot of success had been seen in terms of early prevention with signposting to early help or social prescribing. The focus on a network of community support has seen a reduction in requests for long term intervention and a reablement pathway has been put in place to connect people back into their communities.

In regard to involving families in decision making it was stated that it is important to be aware that if a person has the mental capacity, decision making must sit with them, however, it is encouraged to bring their family into discussions. Furthermore, if family members are caring for a person, they have a right to a Carer's Assessment.

The team are exploring community hubs so that people can drop in for early help and support to reduce the number of individuals having to make contact when they reach crisis point. They plan to reach not just elderly people but young people as well and they hope to establish themselves in communities using Age UK and colleges. They are also working hard to co-produce more closely with individuals and communities and are hoping to develop this further through a 'voice and participation' group in the near future.

Members questioned the definition of 'fair' in recent reports (Market Sustainability & Fair Cost of Care) and wanted clarification on this. It was noted there are efforts to adopt consistency across all local authorities in Yorkshire & the Humber and they will work together as a community to develop cost models. Part of this work includes engaging with the care market and, so far, the response rate from providers on what a fair cost of care looks like have been good. Previous decisions taken by the local authority around paying a fair hourly rate for important work have also been taken into account. Care providers are impacted by the 'cost of living' crisis in the same way that residents have – experiencing increases including utilities, fuel and food. A formal submission on the 'fair cost of care' will be prepared and submitted to government in the autumn. In addition, Cllr Platts shared with Members that the annual cost of living uplift papers will be going through cabinet next week.



It was noted that the early intervention model is very successful and this improves lives and reduces cost in the long term. To continue to improve, work is to be done with integrated care partners to look at how the extended primary care role can be utilised to prevent the need for acute care. Additionally, the 'front door' needs to be developed and work needs to be done to get simple pieces of equipment out to residents in a smarter and faster way so that people are not going into crisis.

The 'front door' is seeing quite a lot of young people who have lived complex lives and until this is attended to with trauma work, there is going to be an over-reliance on social care in the future. Due to this, the team will work closely with carers and young people.

There is a transition protocol covering young people with disabilities and autism but a wider offer for people with a range of needs is being explored. This will include people who do not necessarily have a diagnosis but who have an unidentified need. Work is underway with education providers, Children's Social Care and the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service to scope the offer for young people. This is where co-production is very important because quite often, the young person's voice is not heard. At 16+ they have a choice, and the service uses a strengths-based model to work with the young person before they reach 18 when some come into service where others may just need to be signposted. They look at giving the young person confidence and independence in areas such as travel, and the team will look at statutory and non-statutory services to give the widest combination of offer.

The team are working with community pharmacists who are already delivering a valuable offer; however this requires strengthening and there is more to understand regarding their capacity.

Members offered support to the team and were advised that they can be the eyes and ears in communities. A session will be arranged to train Members on navigating social care so they can then provide this advice to residents. They can look at spotting the signs of when support is needed and work alongside officers and wardens in the community. Additionally, Members were reminded of their duty to safeguard vulnerable people and were advised to take up any online training, such as the Mental Capacity Act, to help them to raise their own knowledge and enable them to discharge good advice. The team is available for information sharing and relationship building as this is not only good for everyone, but also the public purse. If Members are approached by residents they can come to the team for advice and this can be passed to the most appropriate service.

When questioned about the unusually high temperatures being experienced at present, the team stated that every organisation had put heatwave plans in place and they are meeting up regularly to ensure that things are working well. Members requested that any issues from the heat today should be reported back to the committee.

It was raised by a member of the committee that traces of Polio had been discovered in London recently and queried the vaccination rates in Barnsley. As the witnesses in attendance do not deal with vaccinations, the information will be shared with the committee after the session by an officer in Public Health/ NHS England.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution; and
- (ii) Members note the report
- (iii) Witnesses to provide an information session for Members to provide advice to residents in regard to support
- (iv) Witnesses to provide information on any adverse statistics from this week heatwave
- (v) Scrutiny Officer to consult with Public Health colleagues and share data with committee relating to Pollio vaccinations uptake

### **13 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.

### **14 Adult Social Care Performance Report March 2022 (Year-End) (Part-Exempt)**

Members were invited to consider a report relating to:-

- 6a Adult Social Care Performance Cover Report March 2022 (Year-End)
- 6b Adult Social Care Performance Data Report March 2022 (Year-End) (Exempt)

Cllr Platts introduced the report which provided Members with the annual review of performance, including a mixture of local and national measures. The majority of indicators have been rated green and amber however, this year the service has been impacted by staffing issues and the cost-of-living crisis. For now, Barnsley has solid staff who will continue to meet needs for 2022/23.

The ensuing discussions included:-

When caring for a family member, the person being cared for must always be allowed to make their own decisions if they have the mental capacity. However, they would be asked for consent to speak to their carer as they often have crucial information to share that can improve outcomes for the individual.

With regard to the very high performance for the percentage of S42 Decisions made within 72 hours – the team informed members that they would like to improve this further and they are now working with partners, including the police, who have joined the ‘front door’ team and this multi-disciplinary approach is resulting in effective and timely decisions being made, ensuring that safeguarding opportunities are not missed. Data for other local authorities will be shared with Members to allow them to draw comparisons.

The team confirmed they research, identify and use areas of good practice from a variety of sources for projects in adult social care and use benchmarking to determine how they compare to other authorities. Similarly, the team have been approached by other authorities as an originator of good practice.

The recent adult social care reform announcements will signal a new approach from April 2023 and in preparation for this, a sector led improvement board has been established for Yorkshire & the Humber. The new CQC framework means that the approach to performance will be revised to align with the framework and the CQC are introducing relationship managers aligned to Integrated Care Systems.

The key to successful social care is effective patient flow through the health and social care system, and the social work team have been doing an excellent job of getting people home and helping people to stay at home, as this is where people want to be.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution; and
- (ii) Members note the report
- (iii) Witnesses to provide comparator data for other local authorities for the percentage of S42 decisions made within 72 hours

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Chair

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<b>MEETING:</b>	North East Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday 14 July 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Meeting Room 11, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

### Present

Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cherryholme, Ennis OBE, Green, Houghton CBE, Makinson, McCarthy, Peace, Richardson and Webster

### 8 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

### 9 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 26.05.22

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 26 May 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 26 May 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 10 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout June and July. The following updates were noted: -

In Cudworth it has been busy, the Ward Alliance have purchased a school shed so that second-hand uniform can be stored and passed to pupils joining new year groups.

The Queen Jubilee was a great success with 16 parties in the area, two of these did not take the councils financial contribution as they were happy to self-finance as a street get together.

A plaque has been placed at St John's church with an inscription to Father David as the Queen's Champion.

In Monk Bretton it has been relatively quiet however, they have had a new member join the Ward Alliance with the possibility of a further 2 or 3.

The hanging baskets have been placed in Lundwood and Monk Bretton.

The Dementia Club in Silverdale is going from strength to strength.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, Yorkshire in Bloom will be visiting to judge the memorial gardens which have been planted with bee friendly red, white and blue flowers.

In the North East they had 14 Jubilee parties and have recently appointed 2 new Ward Alliance members but they are still 1 or 2 short.

There has been trouble with access to the Dell.

Priority areas for funding have been agreed.

There was no provision for benefit support and it every week for 3 hours at a cost of £150 per week was offered. However, there is going to be a bid put in for the Better Barnsley Fund so that CAB can be in each village once a week.

Cllr Hayward noted that DIAL and CAB are the go-to providers for benefit and financial support in the area. It was suggested that funding could be explored with the view that it could come from the Area Council rather than the Ward Alliance. Face to face support is preferred and if the model is discussed this may be more cost effective.

Cllr Cherryholme acknowledged that the North Area council are doing it this way but Members acknowledged that not one size fits all and that negotiations need to take place with all parties to bring information together and move forward.

Rachel carried out a piece of work recently and have requested that area mangers explore this again as an options paper. It was clarified that Dial predominantly deal with disability and CAB a lot of the legal work.

In Royston it has been a busy few weeks with the Royston Gala where the scouts raised £1000 and the Ward Alliance offering free swimming sessions.

The hanging baskets are out and placing names on them has been successful.

There were 11 jubilee parties and they have entered Royston in bloom again and are hoping to do well.

Cllr Hayward attended the Gala on Saturday and said it was a good day. Cllr Makinson stated that Christie and the volunteers had made it a success and the money that it pumped into it brings positive outcomes for the community.

**RESOLVED** that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

#### **11 Michelle Cooper Ad Astra - Listening Support Service in Carlton & Shafton Outwood Academy Project Update**

Members welcomed Michelle Cooper and Mark Smales to the meeting to give an update on the work they are doing in Outwood Carlton and Shafton academies. They are carrying out group work in both academies which concentrates on active listening which promotes mindful thinking and reduces anxiety and depression. Active Listening creates a positive environment so that barriers can be broken and young

people can trust the workers. It aids in building resilience to help manage future situations.

Practitioners have the skills to understand a young person's body language and promotes an active awareness of what the young person is going through. They take in, digest, withhold judgement and reflect back to the young person, so they understand that what they are sharing is being acknowledged. This additionally helps them to know that other young people are experiencing similar struggles.

Young people have the support for 6/7 weeks and 126 of them gave mainly positive feedback. They enjoyed the sessions and trusted the practitioners which makes them feel better about school and home.

Three sessions are run each week with people who are waiting for other services such as CAHMS. A large proportion of these young people cry themselves to sleep and self-harm. Furthermore, since the pandemic the increase in eating disorders has been significant. There are groups of boys who are self-harming who have suicidal thoughts and many are acting on this.

The young people they work with are fantastic but they are falling behind due to things outside of their control including substance misuse, domestic violence and unofficial care situations.

In Outwood Carlton the service has been delivering 1 to 1 work and this has been successful in supporting the young people who do not feel able to share in a group setting. Additionally, the service regularly offer telephone support to young people reaching out for help.

The service has compiled a number of case studies which include a young person who was struggling with guilt due to their parents' breakdown, being fat shamed, struggling with their emotions, sexual accusations and sibling and social care relationship breakdown. They initially went into a group setting but changed to the 1 to 1 work. The service supported them with positive affirmations, relaxation and anger management techniques and confidence building. They are now attending the New Lodge Youth Club which has helped them to socialise with other young people. Furthermore, the service assisted with building a positive relationship with mum who provided feedback on how proud she was of her daughter and thanked the service.

Additional concerns from the service were raised with Members including young people not eating in school due to lunch money debt, these are families on low incomes not entitled to free school meals. The service take snacks into the schools for young people to get them through the day. They cannot always get a drink due to dirty water bottles. The young people don't complain, this information comes up in conversation.

Cllr Makinson gave thanks to the service for the work they do but acknowledged that the case studies do not come as a surprise. The statistics indicate that it is not always a positive outcome once people reach adulthood. The early work is needed to prevent further harm down the line. Furthermore, Barnsley do sometimes come out as the worst area and this is something that requires consideration.

Michelle Cooper highlighted that work was carried out earlier this year to clarify how many young people are in statutory services, the figure was £41,000 which does not include the young people receiving support from VCSE services.

Cllr Webster requested information on the involvement of parents due to the issue being one close to him and Michelle Cooper acknowledged that there is not a lot of support for parents. A young person who took their life last year has a parent who has started her own group. However, a lot of the time young people do not want their parents to know about what is going on.

Schools and services do have safeguarding protocols to follow and Members raised concerns that they would want to know what was happening if it was their child and that when these services are commissioned, we need to ensure they are following these rules and regulations.

Cllr Lamb requested that when commissioning services Members need to go to the schools for information as there is a concern that safeguarding issues are not being passed on. There is not a choice available in these circumstances and parents have a right to know. There needs to be a due process and the legal position requires adhering to. Additionally, sweeping judgements cannot be formed from small sample surveys.

Christie clarified the services safeguarding protocols but confirmed that she would seek further clarification with the service.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

The fact that there is still work to be done and the issues raised do fit in with the bigger picture in Barnsley. However, it is important to not make sweeping generalisations about the young people in Barnsley.

Many parents are not supported and do not have the correct guidance when seeking to protect their children from self-harm such as looking for sharp objects and medication. It was stated that the statistics available provide a worrying picture.

**RESOLVED** that Michelle Cooper will forward specific data to share with Members and that Michelle and Mark be thanked for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering Members questions.

## **12 Jubilee Project Update - Lawrence Dodd, the Community Development Officer**

Lawrence Dodd gave an update on the Jubilee Celebrations across the 4 wards.

The Jubilee fund supported groups, organisations and individuals to organise celebrations. The funds of £150-£200 were available to streets, schools, care homes and nurseries etc. The rationale behind the funding was to reduce the barriers and give people responsibility and ownership through enabling rather than doing for. Supporting with the practical and logistical issues and being the link between people and the council.



The celebrations produced £7,000 in financial support, with 270 volunteers, £26363 in volunteer match funding and 48 local events supported.

As a team learning from the experience enables us to recognise the skills and capacity which are in the community. Our role is to support this and the Jubilee was a great example of this. People came forward and wanted to be involved, this wasn't forced on them. Support was given to overcome barriers and people took responsibility. The feedback was positive and it was the good relationships which made this happen. L Dodd was proud to see the community activity especially after covid, meeting neighbours, witnessing the gratitude and community spirit.

### **13 Healthy Hearts Defibrillator Project Update**

C. McFarlane acknowledged that the Healthy Hearts partnered with the ward alliance to install the final defibrillator in Cudworth with maps going up on community notice board to show where the defibrillators are located. The plan is to now move forward with community first aid courses so that people are trained how to use them.

Cllr Makinson noted that she has been in contact with Steve Plunkett as there is the opportunity for more defibrillators so they are working on finding gaps.

Cllr Hayward stated that in Cudworth the problem with having more defibrillators is finding somewhere to put them as it can be problematic due to them being 24-hour access and requiring connecting to electricity, the ward alliance have offered to pay for this.

Cllr Ennis questioned why there wasn't any movement on the Mill of the Black Monks having a defibrillator installed but it was reported that there were practicality issues and a guardian is required to perform regular checks and upload this information to YAS.

It was requested that this information is put on the council website and C McFarlane informed Members that there is matched funding available for additional defibrillators. She will ask YAS for a collective report to explore this further.

**RESOLVED** that C McFarlane will request a collective report from YAS to share with Members.

### **14 North East Area Council Project Performance Report - update on the delivery of commissioned projects**

C McFarlane presented the performance report which detailed that a commission was put out for a social isolation project with Age UK being successful and taking the project live on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The project worker will come to the next meeting to provide an update on the work carried out.

It was stated that there is a GAZ case study attached and Members were requested to look at this. GAZ have also been involved in supporting the PROM project.

In regard to the Youth Development Fund, there will be a meeting with the Exodus project to raise points and clarify provision for young people across the North East area. Members are invited to visit Jenny's Fields and C McFarlane has dates for these. Cllr Hayward acknowledged that the area is huge and the provision is amazing. Some young people do not get a holiday but Jenny's field provides this outside out their youth club provision. C McFarlane will be looking at the provision as a whole as the service is due for a review.

**15 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update**

No update was provided.

**16 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds**

No update was provided.

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Chair

<b>MEETING:</b>	North Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday 18 July 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors T. Cave, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Lofts and Platts (Chair)

### 1 Appointment of Chair

Cllr Platts was appointed to chair in Cllr Leech's absence.

### 2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

### 3 Notes of a Meeting of North Area Councillors held on Monday 16th May 2022

The Area Council received the notes of the meeting held on 16th May 2022.

#### RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the notes of the North Area Council held on 16th May 2022 be approved as a true and correct record;
- (ii) that Andrea Batty, Michelle Cooper and Rachel Sharp be thanked for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering Members questions in relation to the Youth Resilience Fund Project Delivery Update;
- (iii) that a Community safety update will be requested from Cath Fairweather;
- (iv) that Councillor Leech has a memorial bench to install and people from the regiment are coming along to help;
- (v) Cllr Leech has a memorial bench to install and people from the regiment are coming along to help.

### 4 Community Safety Update - Cath Fairweather and Carolyn Nichols

Members welcomed C Fairweather the Community Safety Coordinator who gave an update on Community Safety.

C Fairweather gave an update on the work being carried out, and it was explained that how they are operating has not changed. Wardens are still dealing with issues such as fly tipping, with dog waste problems going to enforcement. There has been a report on joining forces with the Warden's which should have been sent out. However, if this has not been received C Fairweather will forward it to Members.

Last week a Warden issued an almost instant £400 fixed penalty fine in New Lodge following a fly tipping report. The offender was also issued with a Duty of Care Notice. As part of Operation Duxford, the whole team spent time in New Lodge and Athersley North being visible, visiting addresses and dealing with non-complying tenants. Furthermore, several community protection warnings and final notices were issued.

The police team is still active in all areas and some key operations are being carried out dealing with drugs and stolen goods. There has been a property in Old Town identified as causing many issues. PAC meetings have started up again at the Roundhouse Library in Athersley North and other venues are being explored to host these meetings.

Bradley (Housing and Cohesion Officer) is currently covering some cases for a colleague and has a few cases ongoing. More officers are becoming centralised for ease of management but are still based in their areas. There used to be 2 managers working on dedicated cases but there are now 4 to 5 managers for escalated cases. Heather is also in place to provide support to vulnerable victims and witnesses. If anyone would like to know more about the work the team is carrying out under the new arrangements, this can be organised.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

How the perpetrator of the fly tipping incident was identified and if it was the wardens who issues the fixed penalty notice. It was confirmed that a member of the public provided a statement. The warden visited the complainant and the perpetrator, who was issued with the penalty as a first offence. The wardens always go through the fly tipping to see if there is any identifying information, and the message will be put out that someone has been caught and fined. This will be on posters and will give out the message that people are being actively watched.

At present the team is very interested in waste carriers as quite often they are unlicensed, and this can lead to vehicles being crushed. When reports of these are enforced it is put out on social media for the public to see that the team is being proactive.

Members were provided with information on how the wardens work is prioritised and despite being centrally managed they are deployed to where the need is greatest. Although they focus on their allocated areas, they do cover other areas when team members are on leave. At present there is a priority case in Barugh Green, the Environmental Agency are involved, as it is having a significant impact on the community.

In regard to anonymous reports such as a fly tipped mattress which will most likely not have any identifying information, this will go to neighbourhood services for clearance and disposal. Additionally, if not on council land the team will liaise with the landowner to dispose of it.

The wardens for the area are:

- Tom Kitching
- Martin Lowe

- Liam Clarke

When the wardens are on a late shift, they cover the whole area and priorities at present include parks and open spaces.

Cllr Lofts stated that on the West Road mini orchard all 6 cherry trees had been stolen. Furthermore, the trees in the quarry off Wakefield Road which were planted by YMCA have also been stolen.

C Fairweather shared with Members that she is trying to organise a McMillan coffee morning in every area, and she is looking for sponsors and raffle prizes for this.

**RESOLVED** – that C Fairweather will send out the Joining Forces Report.

## **5 Heart Health Plan and Campaign - Kay Mann**

Members welcomed Kay Mann from Public Health to the meeting to give an update on the Heart Health Plan and campaign.

K Mann leads on cancer prevention and heart health. There is a high-level strategy in place for heart health across the borough and an alliance has been set up with partners to prevent heart attacks, strokes, angina, and high blood pressure.

Primary care and pharmacies will be managing these after an initial referral from the team, but the vision is to prevent and improve heart health through early detection. 80% of heart attacks and strokes are avoidable through health improvement changes such as smoking, healthy diet, moving more and drinking less alcohol.

In Barnsley there are 36,000 people with heart issues and 55 of these result in death in each month. 44 of these could be avoided and St Helen is the worst ward for emergency admissions for heart attacks and deaths from heart disease. More needs to be done with a targeted approach to reduce health inequalities as many people are leaving it too late before getting help. This often leads to long term disabilities and death.

The time between the initial symptom of a stroke and presenting at hospital is 15 hours in the Barnsley area, in other areas it is 2 hours. The specific drug which can help with a stroke needs to be administered within 4.5 hours, so many are leaving it too long for intervention. People who are experiencing a stroke do not want to attend A&E or call an ambulance but, in these instances, calling an ambulance is the best option as this can determine the treatment and where it is administered.

The biggest risk factor is blood pressure, and the team are working with GPs to identify which patients have their blood pressure information missing from their records. They are concentrating on men from the Dearne and North and are working with local pharmacies to refer on for support. So far from the 2 sessions carried out in the North, 20 people from the 56 who attended have been referred on for further investigation. There is a session coming up shortly in Athersley and the team are trying to set something up at Asda, Old Mill Lane. Anyone who is picked up as having an elevated blood pressure reading is referred onto a pharmacy and can be fitted with a monitor.

The health check service is re-starting, and this will help people who need the most support. This comes from the public health budget and provides support to those over 40 and checks a number of things including height, weight, blood pressure and cholesterol. They want to concentrate on quality over quantity and there is extra funding available to embed this in communities by training people who offer other one to one service, e.g., hairdressers. There are resources in place to target men in deprived areas such as beer mats for pubs and working men's clubs and additional resources in the form of posters and leaflets. Additionally, the team are available to pull people in and do on the spot checks, as they are aware how hard it is to get into a GP. It was clarified that the team will explore visiting community centres, coffee mornings and Dementia Café's and are leaving leaflets in shops.

Members discussed the Cancer Research bus in the town centre and stated that it found obesity to be a problem, but that people were waiting a long time to be referred by the GP to BPL, sometimes 2-3 months and were losing motivation by this time. K Mann clarified that BPL do have a waiting list, but it is not as long as 2-3 months. Additionally, in regard to the new health model there is a focus on keeping the momentum going by providing all support face to face with a prompt follow up. The new team within GP surgeries which includes care coordinators and health, and wellbeing coaches are part of this. Furthermore, resources are being taken out into the community for rapid results.

Members stated that they are worried about the lack of access to GP's and as time goes by it is getting worse. K Mann acknowledged that it is hard to get into a GP, but that people need to persevere and that the public need to be encouraged to do this. One Member stated that he had witnessed a person in incredible pain trying to access a GP appointment to be told one is not available, after some time an appointment was offered but with a healthcare practitioner and not a GP. They are worried that this is systematic and that surgeries are run by agencies where you see a nurse practitioner and not a GP.

K Mann acknowledged that a GP is not always best placed to deal with medical issues, for example it may be a diabetic nurse with specialist training who provides support to manage a condition. However, Members noted that there is a triage system in place but that receptionists are doing this with a queue of people in front of them instead of in private and this is problematic. It was clarified that not all people are experiencing these issues and are getting to see a GP. However, some people are turning up at A&E as they believe they cannot see a GP.

The idea is for the service to fill a gap and target a huge number of people, Public Health are well placed to do this. The aim is to reduce the pressure on the NHS and help people before they require an ambulance. Only using A&E provision as a last resort. It was clarified that if something is found by the team there are protocols which become active to support the person moving forward. However, it is important to note that this service is in addition to regular support and any other issues require exploring with the GP.

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July there is an event for blood pressure checks in Mapplewell and Cllr Hunt will try to attend to support and promote the service.

## **6 Future Commissioning Workshop**

R Adams gave an update on the workshop which focused on the cost of living. They had received a lot of information from Jill Bills from Business Intelligence regarding life expectancy and deprivation so they could share this in the workshop. 4 main points were covered in the workshop: -

- Support for fuel, food, and the cost-of-living crisis
- Anti-Social behaviour and the increase in nuisance caused
- Parking enforcement
- Careers advice / raising aspirations of 14- and 16-year-olds including information on a variety of jobs and opportunities that would not come out of regular careers advice in school

This led onto a further workshop with Emma Robinson from Business Intelligence. The headline information was: -

- Labour Market Profile
  - Cost of Living – The ‘squeezed middle’ and poverty
  - Impacts on wider determinants of health
  - Existing Support
- i. It explored fuel poverty including predictions and the number of households in fuel poverty as determined by the Fuel Poverty Coalition.
  - ii. The ‘squeezed middle’ were discussed, those who are likely to have high mortgage and childcare costs and who were not able to predict the rising costs of fuel, energy, and food.
  - iii. Leyla Nayeri Senior Health Improvement Officer explored excess winter deaths which indicated that even with taking care homes into account, the numbers for Darton East are far higher than elsewhere. Due to this, the team are now carrying out a piece of work with Healthwatch to explore this, along with industrial related illnesses.
  - iv. It was acknowledged that there is a two-way relationship between debt and health.

The main priorities were covered in point 5 of the report with high numbers of low income and life expectancy – especially in St Helens along with the percentage of households which are fuel poor.

Members discussed the sports van and questioned if it could move around areas during the summer. Food parcels again for this Christmas were noted, as it would help a lot of people in the run up to the Christmas holidays. R. Adams advised that she would take advice from the Good Food Barnsley network. From the funding that remains it would be possible to drill down into the cost of living to see what provision can be put in place.

Cllr Hunt acknowledged that the workshop was useful but questioned would be done around the cost-of-living crisis, particularly when looking at the data regarding St Helens, but did acknowledge this will impact all 4 areas. The summer holidays will be a pinch point and another workshop needs to be arranged to decide how the Area Council will utilise the current underspend of £70,000.

Members noted that this subject has repeatedly come up over the years and it is often the financially disadvantaged who get ill. However, it was stated that doing something is better than nothing and people need to be aware that they can get advice and support from DIAL and CAB.

It was clarified that another workshop needs to take place as it helps to focus discussions. The most needs to be done with what resources are available. Furthermore, the take up of school meals needs to be explored as it can be difficult for some families and support needs to be given to help people.

At Christmas there is a massive toy appeal in Barnsley, and this can be done alongside a temporary food bank. Last Christmas happiness hampers were put together and as an area council this can be done again. There are lots of things that can put in place and area teams were involved with the toy appeal last time. There is a lot of support in place; the new council website has lots of information and CAB are offering appointments for support. However, there does need to be improvement in communication.

It was shared with Members that York Council have a good model to deal with poverty emergency and this needs to be explored to see if the model can be adopted.

R Adams acknowledged that there is always a short-term plan in place, but the aim is to have longer term solutions. All funding cannot be spent on short term interventions without attending to longer term strategies. A workshop will be held to explore contractual commitments to see if redistribution can take place across priorities.

A directory of key information would be useful to share with people, but it has been difficult getting this all together. Although, there is a community shop in St Helens and residents from Old Town are welcome to use it. There are also distribution centres for food parcels around the town and there is the Community Pantry at Shafton Methodist Church where membership is £6 a week for around £25 worth of food. This is better for people as food parcels are only a short-term solution. The way forward is to have more community pantries, where the food comes from places similar to where Fareshare get their food from; Tesco and Marks and Spencer when they order too much produce.

R Adams noted that venues and volunteers are crucial to make the pantry models work and that it is best coming from the community as it is community run. Due to this, they would like to bring people back to discuss this in a workshop.

**RESOLVED** - That R Adams would explore the York Council poverty emergency model.

## **7 Priority Working Groups**

R Adams clarified that this information details who will represent each group for the year ahead, it has now all been agreed. The priority working groups align one councillor from each ward against a specific priority. This enables continuity of discussion for priority specific workshops; however, workshops are open to all members.



## 8 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

During the recent workshop a financial uplift for contracts was discussed. There is currently no official guidance on this. The cost-of-living crisis will be placing significant financial strain on providers to deliver services within the financial envelope of the contracts. Particularly where rent/room hire, utilities, vehicle fuel for a significant part of the running costs. Providers will also need to consider tax and national insurance contributions, which have all increased. The reality is that service delivery may need to be reduced following formal negotiation between contract managers.

There needs to be a formal negotiation but from a contract point of view the provider will be continuing to deliver, it was noted that this is sometimes being done at a deficit. Currently contract extensions will run based on existing terms but the Area Manager will consider what is reasonably practicable for service quality to be maintained and work with the Area Council, Procurement and Legal Colleagues to ensure that the Area Council is fair in its commissioning of services.

R Adams brought Members up to date with finance and funding, at the North Area Council Meeting in May. Members agreed a total of £95,000 for up to a 1-year extension of the CAB & DIAL contract.

In regard to CAB and the extension, it was recommended that a financial uplift of 3% should be considered for the short-term extension. The services provision is still part of the ongoing review. Advice will be sought from Procurement colleagues prior to any action being taken. The contract will be extended from 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The end of year report at finance noted the grant programme had a £2,000 underspend, so there is currently a £76,000 underspend taking the area right to the end of the year. The next round of workshops will explore where money is being spent and on what. All delivery will help to contribute to Barnsley 2030 Outcomes.

Members noted that the children's cycle track in Mapplewell is coming together and looking good. There will be a launch in September when the children are back at school, with the grants panel being invited along.

**RESOLVED** - that R Adams would speak to procurement and legal to determine uplift funding for CAB.

## 9 Summer Sports Van Funding

It was noted at the end of the workshop that a sports van would be going around each area for 5 weeks during the holidays. The sessions in the North will be for 1.5 hours on a Friday. It was discussed whether to provide lunch bags for young people from local providers.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made to: -

The publicising of the van and this being sent out to networks and put on social media, the North Area Page, leaflets, community notice boards and posters. It was

determined as Reds in the Community are the providers for the van, they would also publicise this via their networks.

Funding of lunch bags were discussed. With hardship being experienced lunch bags should not be wasted and Reds in the Community will be asked to manage the flow of these. However, after consideration of the session's times it was determined that refreshments should be given rather than a lunch bag. Work is going to be done on a drink, cereal bar and fruit for refreshments rather than a sandwich.

It was questioned if other areas were going to have the Sports Van visited but R Adams clarified that young people can be directed to the areas the van is visiting as not all areas can be accommodated.

## **10 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds**

All budgets went through the ward briefings to show what the spend looks like however, the report was put together two weeks ago and there may have been subsequent changes.

## **11 Notes from the following Ward Alliances**

Darton East – held on 12th April 2022, 10th May 2022

Darton West – held on 25th May 2022, 15th June 2022

Old Town – held on 10th May 2022

St Helen's – held on 7th April 2022, 19th May 2022

Minutes and notes were provided, and Members were invited to share an update on their wards.

### **Darton East**

- Applications for funding were received from North Gawber Football Club for first aid packs and footballs.
- Platinum Jubilee bunting was distributed to businesses in Mapplewell
- Hanging baskets are not up so an update has been requested from the provider

The hanging basket provider is a small business who are having difficulty managing the amount of work they have taken on. Due to the nature of the baskets being used to remember loved ones, it is a very emotive subject and Members are concerned the expectations of the sponsors are not being met. are being blamed for them being late. Reassurance has been received from the provider that any remaining North Area baskets will be up within the week.

R Adams advised that the tender process for the hanging baskets across the borough is being reviewed. There will be a very limited number of businesses that would be capable of undertaking the current volume of baskets across the breadth of the borough. However, change is needed, and this will also require individual wards to commit to the number of baskets they wish to fund much earlier due to the lead time required to prepare the baskets in the growing season. It was also advised that

the current provider has held their prices for many years and that they will also need to increase the unit cost to make the project financially viable.

### **Darton West**

- A lot of time has been spent on environmental projects with Darton Parks but there have been anti-social behaviours with trees vandalised.
- Age UK Barnsley have donated a park bench to the community project in Kexborough.
- The Memorial Gardens were judged by Barnsley in Bloom recently.
- There are ongoing issues and concerns regarding litter and dog waste sites and since bins went dual purpose people don't want to use the seating next to them.
- Looking to the future, it is an aim to encourage people to be more thoughtful and think about the environment in which they live.

### **Old Town**

- The area is not continuing with hanging baskets for Summer 2022.
- 2 defibrillators have been ordered but one has been delayed, there is one for the shop in Honeywell, but this is not up yet. R Adams will get an update on the other one.

### **St Helens**

- There has been a funding application from Neighbourhood Watch for security items and the PCSO has a stall giving item out and a future event.
- For the Jubilee, bunting was provided by volunteers in primary schools, they were let down by the ride provider but there was a singer, DJ, fancy dress, and there were grab bags for the children.
- The Summer Gala is coming up on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 with activities for young people.
- There is a defibrillator at Athersley South Primary School but once the gates have been locked there is no way to access it. Someone needs to be found to be responsible for the one at Athersley North.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) It was noted that there is a shortage of spare parts for defibrillators and Councillors stated that Ward Alliances would set up working budgets were necessary;

(ii) that the minutes of the Ward Alliances be received.

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Chair

<b>MEETING:</b>	Penistone Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday 21 July 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Barnard (Chair), Greenhough, Kitching, Lowe-Flello and Wilson

### 8 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

### 9 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 9th June, 2022 (Pac.21.7.22/2)

The Area Council received the minutes from the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

The Area Council Manager informed members that a workshop had been arranged to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> August to discuss a potential future Clean, Green and Tidy Contract.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 10 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 9th June, 2022 (Pac.21.7.22/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 be received.

### 11 Young Voices Project Outcomes Presentation

Members of the Angel Voices Academy provided the Area Council members with an insight of their community based singing workshops and events which was presented in the form of various live performances as a way of thanking members for the contribution of £10,000 from the Working Together Grant Fund – Supporting Young People Grant.

Members heard of the various benefits of singing and were presented with a number of case studies of how the workshops had impacted and improved the physical and mental health of young people in the community

**RESOLVED** that members of the Angel Voices Academy be thanked for their interactive presentation.

## **12 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.21.7.22/5)**

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, drawing attention to the £28,737.23 total available funding for 2022/23 with an update on spend so far and that a further application had been received for a Young People Activity Day resulting in current revised total of £18,869 remaining.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **13 Interim Performance Report (Pac.21.7.22/6)**

The Area Council Manager provided members with an overview of performance of all contracted services and made members aware that they were between quarters and expecting the Quarter 1 update in September.

Highlights were provided of each contract, with the mention that Twiggs continued to try and work with groups that had not yet been active following the pandemic, and that work was being undertaken to encourage new groups and volunteers following a fall in numbers. A number of initiatives had been undertaken with businesses and work was ongoing with various Parishes. The jubilee celebrations were supported with clean ups beforehand and afterwards.

Age UK were completing their last contract this quarter and reported to be back to face to face appointments following the pandemic, and a volunteer recruitment event was planned for September as part of the new contract in the hope to recruit people to be community car drivers for the car share scheme and also befrienders. The Barnsley Older People's Physical Activity initiative (BOPPA) was having a positive effect on both physical and mental health of the older people that participate. Penistone Men in Sheds remained popular with an increase from 13 to 21 members and continued to take part in community projects including aiding Penistone Theatre Group with props and a new project was due to commence in collaboration with Twiggs on the Penistone Youth Club Garden.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) had commenced its contract in April 22 for a 12 month period. The target of 25 enquiries had been largely exceeded with the service receiving a total of 58 so far this quarter. The service would be monitoring the impacts of the cost of living crisis and report back as necessary once further information was available.

DIAL appointments remained online and over the phone but health and safety assessments had taken place to commence face to face appointments in Penistone Town Hall on a Tuesday morning on an appointment basis.

The Supporting Young People Grant Fund had funded a number of successful projects including Adastra, Post 16 Mental Health Support in Penistone Grammar School, Girlguiding Barnsley West and Angel Voices. It was reported that the Penistone Leisure Centre had been unable to provide its full planned programme of activities due to a number of staffing difficulties but that the delivery of the Teen Box and Glow activities had taken place and were well attended.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 14 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.21.7.22/7)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item providing members with a highlight of each commissioned contract.

The new Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Service had been commissioned through Age UK at a cost of £70,000 per year for 2 years which started 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

The Penistone Area Council Working Together Fund had approved a grant of £8,191 to continue the debt advice service to March 2023 which was provided through Citizens Advice Bureau. Members were reminded of the full review of the welfare service which was unlikely to be in place when the contract ended. DIAL would be encouraged to submit a further application for funding in order for continuation of the service after December 2022. A total of £25,408 remained in the grant pot.

A breakdown of projects funded by the Supporting Young People Grant Fund was provided, all of which were praised as fantastic value for money from the outcomes that had been achieved from each project. The second grant fund which had been approved at the meeting held in April, 2022 had received 4 applications which would be assessed by a grant panel to be held in July, 2022.

The Clean, Green and Tidy contract was due to come to an end in April, 2023 and a workshop to review what the future contract would look like had been organised to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

A workshop to review the Area Council priorities had been organised to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

Members noted the opening budget allocation of £241,904, which included £13,845 from a ring fenced budget Self Isolation Funds and the spend to date of £140,000, leaving a total of £101,904, or £88,059 without the ringfenced monies, available for allocation.

### **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the updates of the contracts funded by the existing Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant Fund and new contract position be noted;
- (ii) that the current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be received and noted;
- (iii) that the updates on the Supporting Young People ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Grant Fund and the progress with round 2 of the funding be received;
- (iv) that the updates on the Clean Green and Tidy contract which commenced in April, 2020 be noted;
- (v) that the agreed process to review PAC priorities be noted;

(vi) that the update on the Ward Alliance Budget be noted; and

(vii) that the current financial budget position for 2022.23 and record of allocated spend be noted.

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Chair



<b>MEETING:</b>	South Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Friday 2 September 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Markham (Chair), Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Osborne, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe, Sumner and White

### 10 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Frost and Markham declared a non pecuniary interest in minute number 14 due to their positions as trustees of Age UK Barnsley. Councillor Eastwood declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 14 due to her involvement with the Age UK shop. Councillors Franklin, Lamb and Shepherd each declared non pecuniary interests in any item which may relate to their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

### 11 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 24 June 2022 (Sac.02.09.2022/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 24 June 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 24 June 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 12 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.02.09.2022/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 6 July; Wombwell held on 18 July; and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 14 July 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

### 13 Age UK Barnsley – ‘Better Together Service’ contract update – Debby Bunn (Sac.02.09.2022/4)

Natalie Stokes, Senior Social Inclusion Work was welcomed to the meeting, in place of Debby Bunn. Also in attendance was Lorraine Hunter, South Area Social Inclusion Officer.

Members were provided an overview of the Better Together Service, which had recently reached its 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. Those present were reminded that the service had launched as part of the Age Friendly Barnsley Festival, and a leaflet drop had taken place and with an associated communications campaign. Members noted the links made with organisations within the area, including community groups, schools, local businesses, and other commissioned services.

Within the year 132 one to ones had been held, against a target of 100. 158 services users had engaged in groups, and 9 new groups had been established. 17 groups had also received support.

The Information and Advice service provided by Age UK Barnsley had helped clients to gain an additional £41,292.20 in benefits through one day a week of advisor time.

Members heard of the variety of events and celebrations arranged, and taken part in, including winter wellbeing events and jubilee parties.

It was reported that four new volunteers had been recruited and that 19 volunteers could be working at any time. It was noted that the recruitment of volunteers could be difficult as many people were unaware that they could volunteer for just small amounts of time.

Members heard of the key challenges faced by the service, which included issues of access and with transport faced by many, and the reticence of some residents to engage due to the risk of Covid. Also challenging was identifying those most excluded who would benefit greatly from the service. Members heard of a leaflet drop in the area asking neighbours and friends to suggest who may require support, and these individuals could then be approached in the most appropriate way.

Members noted the next steps suggested by the service, which included further training and development for staff, supporting post-covid recovery, and supporting digital inclusion, as well as recruiting and supporting volunteers. It was acknowledged that promotion of Age Friendly Barnsley and Dementia Friendly groups also was planned.

Questions were asked around the age limit of residents to access the service, and it was noted that the service supported those over 50.

In relation to benefits advice, questions were asked whether there may be capacity to extend the Information and Advice service, as many residents were already concerned about increasing costs of living. It was noted that this service was funded separately to the Better Together service and only supported those over 65. Members acknowledged other support in the area from such as CAB and DIAL. Members were made aware that an informal group of information and advice providers was in the process of being established, which would consider any gaps in service and how these could be responded to.

Members noted the work done to map 'warm places' where residents could go to keep warm. This involved a wide range of partners, and it was suggested could help to identify potential beneficiaries of both the Better Together Service and of advice services. It was also noted that neighbours also needed to be encouraged to identify those struggling and many may also need support to attend these venues.

Members acknowledged that that some community venues may also require support in order to remain open in the face of increasing fuel prices.

It was noted that the Better Together service had been useful in providing intelligence about the needs in the area. It was noted that the service had also responded to

many of these, with examples such as the digital inclusion work or work to promote health and fitness being given.

Noted was the impact of early help on the wellbeing of people, and the corresponding positive impact on the demand placed on health care services. It was suggested that discussions could take place through the Executive Director Place Health and Adult Social Care and Executive Director Public Health and Communities to stress this and suggest more direct support from health care services.

It was also suggested that greater collaboration could be undertaken with Berneslai Homes in order to support tenants.

Praise was provided by a number of Members for the work of the service, following their attendance at events or groups in which the service had been involved.

**RESOLVED** that thanks were provided for the attendance at the meeting, and for the continued hard work of the service.

#### **14 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.02.09.2022/5)**

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item noting that Darfield Ward Alliance had just under £12,000 remaining, though lots of preparatory work had been undertaken and many more applications for funding were expected.

Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance had around £10,500 remaining and similarly had a number of applications expected, with some of these related to winter warmth projects.

Wombwell Ward Alliance also had around £10,000 remaining, with a number of winter focused projects expected to come forward for funding.

Attention was drawn to the match funding element of the Houghton Main Cricket Club award from Darfield Ward Alliance. It was suggested that this may be a typing error and would be corrected for future reports.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

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Chair

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# Item 17



<b>MEETING:</b>	Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday 27 July 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), T. Cave, Frost, Gardiner, Higginbottom, Howard, Lamb, Makinson and Platts

**Members in Attendance:** Councillors Cain, Eastwood, Franklin, Newing and Osborne

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

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

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

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 13 July 2022 had been called in.

### 50. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2022 (Cab.27.7.2022/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 51. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.27.7.2022/4)

There were no Records of Decisions by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers to report.

### 52. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.27.7.2022/5)

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

- (a) Containing the signatures of 1,104 signatories\* (comprising 883 within Borough and 221 outside), in respect of speeding Vehicles on A635 dual carriageway at Stairfoot and Ardsley, Barnsley:-

*The introduction of average speed cameras has not been supported as the current criteria set by the Department for Transport for Speed camera implementation has not been met. BMBC recently installed 20mph Speed Limit signs on Doncaster Road in the vicinity of Oakhill Primary School. BMBC are developing a new Active Travel route along the A635 and three pedestrian / cycle crossings will be provided as part of that scheme. It is recommended that the traffic team will also undertake an assessment before the end of July, to determine whether additional signs could be appropriate to manage the road. The Head of Highways, Engineering and Transportation write to the lead*

*petitioner to explain the situation and address the concerns of the petitioners.*

\*It was noted that an additional 355 signatures from the Stairfoot and Ardsley area had been obtained further to the petition being submitted, taking the total to 1,238.

**53. Adult Social Care Fee Uplift 2022/23 (Community-Based Support including Residential and Specialist Provision) (Cab.27.7.2022/6)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet notes the approach taken in respect of the various community support provision and approves the uplift in fees for 2022/23 as outlined in section 4 of the report.

**54. Safeguarding Adults Peer Review Findings (Cab.27.7.2022/7)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:-

1. Accepts the report, noting the areas of strength and recommendations; and
2. Notes that the recommendations will be monitored by the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB).

**55. Response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Report on Air Quality and Carbon Reduction (Cab.27.7.2022/8)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet endorses the conclusions and recommendations set out in the report as a result of the TFG's review of air quality and carbon reduction.

**56. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (Amendment) Regulations (Cab.27.7.2022/9)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet: -

1. Approves the installation of additional Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms (where required) through a planned programme of works to complete by 1 October 2022. The programme has an estimated cost of £2.83; and
2. Approves the reallocation of Berneslai Homes reserves, from Housing Growth Reserves, to fund the estimated increase in costs.

**57. Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** it was reported that the appendix to the report at item number 11 (Proposed new lease of the former Co-op Store, King Street, Hoyland) was not available to the public and press because it contained exempt information described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.

Accordingly, if the content of the appendix was to be discussed, the public and press would be excluded from the meeting.

**58. Proposed New Lease of the former Co-op Store, King Street, Hoyland  
(Cab.27.7.2022/11)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:-

1. Approves the terms reported in respect of the proposed new sub-lease of the former Co-op store, King Street, Hoyland; and
2. Grants a sub-lease for a term of 10 years at a peppercorn rent.

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Chair

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# Item 18



<b>MEETING:</b>	Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday 17 August 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors T. Cave, Frost, Gardiner, Higginbottom, Howard, Lamb (Chair), Makinson and Platts

**Members in Attendance:** Councillors Cain, Cherryholme, Franklin, Newing and Osborne

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

Councillor Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest as an NHS employee in respect of Minute Numbers 65, 66, 67 and 69.

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

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 27 July 2022 had been called in.

### 61. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 July 2022 (Cab.17.8.2022/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 62. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.17.8.2022/4)

There were no Records of Decisions by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers to report.

### 63. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.17.8.2022/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

### 64. Draft Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2022-23 Municipal Year (Cab.17.8.2022/6)

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet notes the proposed draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 as outlined in sections 2.3 and 2.4 of the report and acknowledges that this is subject to change should any urgent issues arise.

### 65. Annual Report of the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (2021/22) (Cab.17.8.2022/7)

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet receives the Annual Report of the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership and notes the progress made by the LSCP in relation to its statutory role and functions, as part of Cabinet's continued

consideration of the Borough's arrangements for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.

**66. Barnsley Draft Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy (2022-25)  
(Cab.17.8.2022/8)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet approves for adoption the Barnsley Children in Care and Care Leavers' Strategy as part of the continuing 'Pledge' to children in care together with the Local 'Offer' to young people leaving care.

**67. Barnsley Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2021-22 (Cab.17.8.2022/9)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the Annual Report, in conjunction with the progress of the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board in meeting its responsibilities to keep adults in Barnsley safe.

**68. Contract Award for the Management of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) (Cab.17.8.2022/10)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:-

1. Approves the option of undertaking a collaborative procurement jointly with both Doncaster Borough Council and Rotherham Borough Council leading to the award of a single joint contract between the councils and the successful service provider for the provision of the councils' HWRCs managed service including for the four (4) HWRCs in the borough. The council delegates to Doncaster Borough Council the lead role in procuring the single joint contract using the Contract Procedure Rules of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. Once the single joint contract is awarded (and during mobilisation and operation) the council will perform the lead operational contract management role under the single joint contract on behalf of itself and the other councils.
2. Approves the leasing of the four (4) HWRCs to the successful service provider.
3. Receives a further update on the responses to the procurement exercise and seek Cabinet approval before awarding the new single joint contract.
4. Approves the changes to the practices (including operational policies) at the HWRCs to align with Defra's final national proposals following its consultation on household DIY waste. The BDR councils have responded to this consultation and are awaiting the response from Government.
5. Authorises the Council's Head of Property to agree terms for the lease of each HWRC site in readiness for service commencement of the new single joint contract to commence in late October 2023 and to instruct the Council's Legal Services team to complete the lease documentation alongside the managed service contract.

**69. Recommissioning of Services for People with Multiple Needs (aged 16-24 years) (Cab.17.8.2022/11)**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet approves the re-commissioning of the Multiple Needs Service for 16–24- year-olds as detailed in the business case appended to the report, via a competitive procurement process.

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Chair

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# Item 19



<b>MEETING:</b>	Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday 7 September 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), T. Cave, Frost, Gardiner, Higginbottom, Lamb, Makinson and Platts

**Members in Attendance:** Councillors Cherryholme, Eastwood, Franklin, Newing and Osborne

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

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

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

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 17 August 2022 had been called in.

### 72. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 August 2022 (Cab.7.9.2022/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 73. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.7.9.2022/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the week ending 26 August 2022 were noted.

### 74. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.7.9.2022/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

### 75. Unpaid Carers Strategic Review - Barnsley Carers Strategy and Business Case for Commissioning of a new Carers Support Service (Cab.7.9.2022/6)

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:-

1. Approves the Final Draft of the Barnsley Carers Strategy 2022, the proposed priority outcomes, and the next steps to develop a multiagency action plan to achieve the strategy's key aims and priorities;
2. Approves the proposal to re-model the Barnsley Carers Support Service based upon the key priority outcomes of the Barnsley Carers Strategy and findings from the review of the current service, and authorise officers within Barnsley Council to approach the market to recommission a new carers support model;

3. Authorises the Executive Directors of Place Health and Adult Social Care and Public Health and Communities, to have delegated authority to award the contract for the Carer Support Service following a competitive procurement process; and
4. Notes the intention to review the carers one-off payment grant, commencing with public engagement in June 2022, and that a report highlighting findings and any proposed changes to the carers' payment criteria resulting from the consultation will be submitted later in the year.

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Chair

# Item 21

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

25 JULY 2022

PRESENT: Councillor T Damms (Chair)  
Councillor C Hogarth (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors: S Sansome, B Johnson, S Ball, D Hutchinson,  
S Ayris, A Khayum, P Turpin, S Alston and Dr A Billings

DCFO T Carlin, ACO A Strelczenie, S Slater, S Kelsey and  
C Toovey  
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

J Field, N Copley, M Bray, M Potter and D Nuttall  
(Barnsley MBC)

S Abbott (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime  
Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Smith,  
Councillor A Cherryholme, S Norman, CFO C Kirby and  
M Buttery

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That agenda item 14 entitled ‘Immediate Detriment Update’ be  
considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO  
ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

None.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY AGM MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority AGM held on 20 June 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 20 June 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT 2021/22

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive/Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented which set out the Authority's and Service's arrangements for managing risk during the financial year 2021/22. This was in accordance with the Authority's Corporate Risk Management Strategy. The report detailed the Governance arrangements around Corporate Risk Management and risk management developments during the year.

Members recalled that in January 2021 there had been a change to the capturing of risk into a new joint Authority and Service Corporate Risk Register. Reports to present the position of the joint Authority and Service corporate risks were regularly presented to the Audit and Governance Committee, which had delegated powers to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management which was embedded throughout the Service's programme and project processes. Councillor Sansome, Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, was the Lead Member for risk management.

Following a detailed gap analysis of the Orange Book in 2020/21, no new gaps had been identified above and beyond the actions accepted via the Internal Audit review of risk. The Service had adopted and cross referenced the five principles which were set out within the Orange Book.

The Risk Management and Effective Audit training session had last taken place in October 2021, and was provided to Members on an annual basis.



Councillor Sansome referred to the fantastic work undertaken by the Service and partners during the recent extreme weather conditions that had resulted in the extremely high proportion of fires that had occurred both nationally and within South Yorkshire on 19 July 2022. He queried whether the Service would review the work undertaken during this time and he hoped that the Risk Register would highlight the lessons learnt. In relation to the Service's communications equipment which was utilised through the Airwave system, Councillor Sansome requested the final costing against the timescale for the emergency services network upgrade that should have been implemented.

In response, DCFO Carlin commented that he would provide Members with the details of the final costings and timescale outside of the meeting. Within the Service's funds, the grant money had not been accessed for the emergency services network upgrade, as a move away from the Airwave system. The Airwave handsets were currently being refreshed in anticipation of continuing to utilise the system for a longer period. He reassured Members that the Airwave system was an extremely robust and reliable system with multi-agency channels that enabled information to be confidentially shared between the organisations. The Service functioned very well on the current Airwave system.

In relation to the high proportion of fires that had occurred on 19 July 2022, DCFO Carlin commented that this been a step change for the fire and rescue services nationally, which had prevented the usual level of support to be available from over the border and nationally. The Service required the necessary resources to deal with such events that may reoccur in the future. He had been liaising with the Fire Brigades Union and the representative bodies on the matter.

On 19 July 2022, the Service had attended a total 228 incidents, with 60 stacked calls at one point due to not having the resources available; such an instance had not been experienced before at a national level. DCFO Carlin commented that the work undertaken by the crews during this period had been phenomenal. CFO Kirby and Councillor Damms were in dialogue regarding how to take the learning forward. An holistic review would be undertaken and evaluated. The CRMP was reviewed on an annual basis, and the recent events would feature within the Service's next set of planning.

Councillor Ayris welcomed the report. He sought reassurance regarding the mechanisms for horizon scanning, to ensure that the Service had identified the potential risks going forwards.

The Service attended many of the National Fire Chiefs Council groups in relation to vehicles, operations and procurement etc. The Service's Resilience and Planning Team focused upon the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Risk Registers, South Yorkshire Risk Registers and the Service's Risk Registers. Managers within the Service focused upon risk and future risk which were planned on an annual cycle basis.

In response to a series of questions raised by Dr Billings regarding the high volume of fires that had occurred during the recent extreme weather conditions, DCFO Carlin referred to the hot debrief and the full debrief that had been undertaken by the LRF, who had declared a major incident on the evening of 19 July 2022. In terms of collaboration and best practice, many parts of the Service were involved in the planning sessions. He wished to reassure the public that the Service had risk assessed and risk managed all of the calls received on 19 July 2022, and that the Incident Commanders and crews had determined whether they could safely leave the field fires to relocate and commence dealing with property fires in different locations. The triage of calls that had been experienced on that day were dealt with by South Yorkshire Police and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service on a more regular basis, to which the Service would gain learning. Learning would also be gained through Operation Willowbeck, which was an arrangement between the control rooms regarding call handling support, which had been instigated several times on 19 July 2022. The priority incidents had been attended, although the Service's timeframe to attend them had been seriously affected. The Service's communications and media engagement had been exemplary, and the managers had attended the sites where people had lost their homes to engage with the public. Each individual incident was investigated. The communication between the organisations would be reviewed together with the internal communication within the Service arising from the debrief process.

Councillor Alston expressed her thanks to the emergency services for the work undertaken during the recent extreme weather conditions. She queried whether the Service's review would involve individuals at all levels to include the frontline firefighters, whether the experiences and learning could be shared with other fire and rescue services across the country, and how quickly the review could be completed.

Members noted that the Service's debrief process included those individuals on the frontline, who had already been engaged with by the Service. The FBU would also engage with those individuals. The Service would look to implement the lessons learnt as soon as possible. The Service would post its learning onto the national operational learning platform, where it would access the learning from other fire and rescue services. Through the Service Improvement Programme, the Service would report on the actions and developments to the Authority.

Councillor Khayum made a suggestion for a report to be presented to a future Authority meeting to outline the lessons learnt and the contingency plans to be put in place.

Councillor Damms commented that he would consult with Members and officers with a view to writing to the Fire Minister to highlight the resourcing issues within the Service.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the Risk Management Annual Report, and the assurance provided, as part of its overall consideration of the Fire and Rescue Authority's control framework.
- ii) Noted that Councillor Damms would consult with Members and officers with a view to writing to the Fire Minister to highlight the resourcing issues within the Service.

12 FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSE TO THE WHITE PAPER

ACO Strelczenie referred Members to the draft consultation response to the Fire Reform White Paper that had been prepared on behalf of the Service and the Authority. On 27 June 2022, a Corporate Advisory Group Workshop had been attended by Members, the Service's Senior Leadership Team and the representative bodies which had assisted in the formulation of the draft consultation response.

The submission of the final consultation response was required before 12 noon on 26 July 2022.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Ayris, ACO Strelczenie confirmed that the Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee would be provided with the draft consultation response today for their input.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

13 GRENFELL ACTIONS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - PRESENTATION

T/AM Toovey provided Members with an update on the Grenfell actions implementation, which provided information on the 46 recommendations for the Service. A total of 21 of the recommendations directly affected the Service and 7 recommendations indirectly affected the Service. The Service had addressed all 46 recommendations to ensure that it was compliant. Members were referred to the updated presentation slides, which would be circulated to Members via email.

At the Authority meeting held in January 2021, the Service had signed off 13 recommendations through the Service Improvement Board. Since that time, a total of 31 recommendations had been signed off through the Service Improvement Board.

The Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 had recently closed which had covered eight additional modules. The recommendations of which would be reviewed through the Service Improvement Board.

Members were referred to the BBC Podcasts on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry which were available online.

DCFO Carlin referred to the work undertaken by the Service in relation to sustainability which had enabled the Green Plan, the committee and the team to be in place. He wished to congratulate P Fieldhouse, Property Services Manager and K Rocket, Sustainability Officer who had applied for Salix funding on behalf of the Service, which was a series of funding schemes that were dedicated to enabling the public sector to reduce carbon emissions in line with the UK net zero by the 2050 target. The Service had been awarded a total of £547,686. The funding would be utilised as follows:- Phase 1 to produce detailed drawings of the buildings within the estate to include the thermal properties, layout plans and to identify how the buildings were currently heated. Phase 2 would enable building physics modelling to be undertaken where simulations would be produced to enable

consideration of the options for heating, lighting and water etc. to ensure that the buildings across estate were as compliant as possible. Phase 3 would focus upon the creation of options based upon cost, energy, carbon levels and the ease of implementation.

In response to a query received from Dr Billings regarding whether the Service had a mechanism in place to capture the issues that the crews may encounter as a result of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, T/AM Toovey referred to the Business Fire Safety Inspectors that carried out low to high risk audits and also dealt with the building plans that were received for approval. The crews would report any issues or concerns to the Business Fire Safety Team, which had an on call out of hours provision. The development of a new system was currently underway to replace the existing system.

ACO Strelczenie added that as a result of Grenfell Tower tragedy, there was a requirement for all of the fire and rescue services to inspect all of the high rise buildings. Over a 12 month period, the Service's Business Fire Safety Inspectors had inspected approximately 230 high rise buildings as part of the building risk review programme; all of which were inspected on a regular basis. He reassured Members that the Service had inspected all high rise buildings consisting of 6 floors and above within South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

#### 14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

15 IMMEDIATE DETRIMENT UPDATE

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented which provided Members with an update in relation to Immediate Detriment.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the recommendation as outlined within the report.

Actions Table

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Officer(s)</b>	<b>Status/Update</b>
1	In relation to the Service's communications equipment, to provide Members with the final costing against the timescale for the emergency services network upgrade to be implemented.	ASAP	DCFO Carlin	<b><u>Update 10.08.22</u></b>  Members were emailed the response provided by S Locking.  Please see further information appended to the minutes  <b>ACTION DISCHARGED</b>
2	A report to be presented to a future Authority meeting to outline the lessons learnt and the contingency plans to be put in place following the high volume of fires that had occurred during the extreme weather conditions on 19 July 2022.	To a future FRA meeting	DCFO Carlin	

CHAIR

**Update on Action 1 - In relation to the Service's communications equipment, to provide Members with the final costing against the timescale for the emergency services network upgrade to be implemented**

Please see below a response received from Steve Locking, ICT and Digital Services Manager at SYFR:-

The Emergency Service Mobile Communication Project (ESMCP) is a national programme to replace Airwave for all the 3 Emergency Services. The National programme whole life cost currently stands at £11.2 Billion. SYFR have received over £1 million since the start of the project. Systel have successfully implemented the new ESN ready control room upgrade and we currently have over half the funding still available to deliver the transition and implementation of devices throughout the county.

The project is continuing to have delays centrally which the Home Office is dealing with Motorola about and we are still hoping to be able to test by the end of 2022.

The link below provides further information from the Home Office, last updated at the end of July:-

[Accounting Officer memorandum: Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme \(ESMCP\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/memoranda-for-publication/2022/07/25/emergency-services-mobile-communications-programme-2022)

## MCA – MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

MONDAY, 25 JULY AT 10.00AM

SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY,  
11 BROAD STREET WEST,  
SHEFFIELD, S1 2BQ



### Present:

Mayor Oliver Coppard (Chair)

Councillor Terry Fox  
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE  
Councillor Glyn Jones (Substitute)  
Councillor Chris Read

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined  
Authority  
Sheffield City Council  
Barnsley MBC  
Doncaster MBC  
Rotherham MBC

### In Attendance:

Martin Swales	Chief Executive	SYMCA Executive Team
Steve Davenport	Chief Legal & Monitoring Officer	SYMCA Executive Team
Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer & S73 Officer	SYMCA Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	SYMCA Executive Team
Stephen Edwards	Corporate Director of Public Transport	SYMCA Executive Team
Sharon Kemp	Chief Executive	Rotherham MBC
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Director of Corporate Policy	SYMCA Executive Team
Kate Martin	Executive Director of City Futures	Sheffield City Council
Sarah Norman	Chief Executive	Barnsley MBC
Dan Swaine	Director of Economy and Environment	Doncaster MBC

### Apologies:

Councillor Alex Dale	NE Derbyshire DC
Councillor Steve Fritchley	Bolsover DC
Councillor Tricia Gilby	Chesterfield BC
Councillor Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw DC
Mayor Ros Jones	Doncaster MBC

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

### 2 Announcements

The Mayor made a statement on the news regarding the announcement by Peel that they were going to undertake a strategic review of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA). The Mayor stated that the region needed a thriving

commercial, private sector led airport and Partners together with national, regional, and local government would need to work together to secure the airports future. Members noted that a working group had been set up to examine the options to allow DSA to continue to operate as an airport with their first meeting being held that afternoon. The Mayor outlined ways in which the Mayoral Combined Authority had helped DSA since 2017 and added that he hoped the Government would engage fully.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Read and Rotherham MBC on their award as 'Most Improved' council at the Local Government Chronicle awards.

The Mayor gave his thanks to the emergency service workers who had been working under difficult circumstances across the region over the last few days due to the unprecedented heatwave.

**3 Urgent Items**

None.

**4 Items to be Considered in the Absence of Public and Press**

None.

**5 Voting Rights for Non-constituent Members**

None.

**6 Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda**

Cllr Fox declared an interest in project approvals relating to Sheffield under item 18.

Cllr Houghton declared an interest in project approvals relating to Barnsley under item 18.

Cllr Jones declared an interest in project approvals relating to Doncaster under item 18.

Cllr Read declared an interest in project approvals relating to Rotherham under item 18.

**7 Reports from and questions by members**

None.

**8 Receipt of Petitions**

None.



9 **Public Questions**

None.

10 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 June 2022**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 06 June 2022 be agreed to be a true and accurate record.

11 **Financial Outturn 2021/22**

The Chief Financial and S73 Officer introduced this item detailing the MCA's financial performance over financial year 2021/22. The report noted some of the significant achievements of the authority and its partners over the past year, as well as some of the financial implications that may affect the current year. The report sought approval for the carry-forward of resource into the new financial year to fund slipped activity and several adjustments to reserves.

**RESOLVED** that members:

1. Note the financial outturn position;
2. Note the treasury management outturn position noted in Appendix 2 of the report;
3. Approve the carry forward of resource noted in Appendix 1 of the report;
4. Approve the earmarking of reserves detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

12 **2022/23 Budget Revision 1**

The Chief Financial and S73 Officer introduced this item which provided revised Group budget forecasts to the end of the financial year 2022/23. The revision was noted as was mainly due to slippage from the previous financial year and pressures in the supply markets with increasing costs and issues with recruitment within the industry.

**RESOLVED** that the MCA Board:

1. Adopt the revised budget estimates;
2. Note the reduction in core income and the mitigations being considered.

13 **Budget and Business Plan Development 2023/24**

The Chief Financial and S73 Officer introduced this item that outlined the process for developing the budget and supporting business plan for the new financial year. The report noted the challenging environment in which this process was taking place, the policy decisions that would drive the financial strategy, and the need for engagement with partners.

Members noted the challenges that would be faced by the local transport authority. This would require work to adjust to a commercially viable network, delivering the bus franchising assessment and the winddown of the current reserve strategy. Conversations between the finance officers within the constituent local authorities and the MCA had already begun.

Cllr Houghton asked the Chief Financial and S73 Officer about the two-year

settlement payment given by DLUHC to local authorities and whether this would be available to the MCA. It was noted that the MCA did not receive this payment in the same way that Local Authorities did. It was agreed that the MCA would write to national Government about this issue.

**ACTION: A letter to be written from the MCA to national Government regarding 2 year settlements.**

**RESOLVED** that members note the:

1. Budget and business planning process being undertaken within the MCA;
2. Significant uncertainties shaping the process; and
3. Proposed approval timeline.

#### 14 **Brownfield Housing Fund**

The Procurement Contracts & Programme Controls Programme Manager presented this item. This paper set out the current position of the BHF programme and proposed further actions to seek to ensure delivery of programme outputs, including undertaking an Open Call for new brownfield housing schemes.

Members noted that to date the MCA had allocated a spend of £17.6 million against a profiled spend of £20 million for the first two years of the BHF, and that there was a remaining £35 million to spend by 2025. Members also noted the significant challenge in delivering to the BHF timeframe.

Cllr Fox welcomed the report but noted his concern at the capacity issues being faced and the difficulty in delivering targets.

**RESOLVED** that the board:

1. Note the current spend and delivery position of the Brownfield Housing Fund, and the revised spend profile.
2. Approve undertaking an Open Call to seek further eligible brownfield housing schemes for funding and investment.

#### 15 **Tram - Future Operating Model**

The Corporate Director of Public Transport introduced this report which sought to advise the MCA Board of the progress on the future Tram Operating model post March 2024.

Members noted that specialist procurement, legal and commercial advisors would be engaged from August 2022.

Cllr Fox requested that sufficient time be made to allow for a detailed and in-depth discussion on the issues.

**RESOLVED** that the Board note progress on the future Tram Operating Model and the requirement for associated specialist support, to be funded in line with the 2022-23 revised budget and within the Scheme of Delegation.

16

## **South Yorkshire Bus Network - Approval of Funding for SYMCA Tendered Services**

The Corporate Director of Public Transport introduced this report which sought approval to use the tendered services budget to mitigate against reductions in bus services as a result of commercial operator decisions.

The report further recommended that the MCA Board agreed the decision to allocate additional funding to support provision of non-statutory school transport to meet the needs of students and pupils for the academic year from September 2022 to July 2023.

Members noted that a consultation exercise was to start shortly in respect of the public's priorities for bus services within the available budgets.

Members agreed that it was vital that the MCA and Local Authorities continue to lobby the national Government to fund bus services. The Mayor noted that when he began his term there were 400 weeks before the target set by Government to achieve a London-style transport system outside of the capital. He felt that the Government was not a partner in achieving this as it had not engaged with the MCA.

**RESOLVED** that the Board:

1. Approve the use of the remaining tendered services revenue funding - further supported by the use of up to £5.1m from reserves - for the inclusion of non-statutory school services into the tendered service activity for two academic years to July 2024.
2. Note the risk that we may not receive any tender returns for some routes to be provided, and hence irrespective of budget allocation, these routes would be unserved from the start of October 2022 as SYMCA cannot compel bus operators to provide services in the current commercial market.

17

## **LEP Review**

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced this report which set out the proposed approach the MCA will take in the submission of an LEP / MCA Integration Plan as well as noting the intention to strengthen the way the MCA works with the private sector.

Members noted that that the submission of the integration plan to meet Government requirement does not limit the scope of the Mayor or MCA to look at improved working arrangements with the private sector in the future.

**ACTION: Draft Implementation Plan to be circulated on the 26<sup>th</sup> July to Leaders and Chief Executives for their comments.**

The Board discussed the role of the private sector on the issues surrounding DSA. The LEP Chair informed members that there was to be a discussion on this issue with private sector members that afternoon and that the sector was very supportive of the work being undertaken to support DSA to continue as an operational passenger and freight airport.

**RESOLVED** that the Board:

1. Note the intention to submit a completed LEP Integration Plan to the Government in line with early deadline of 29 July.
2. Approve the key themes of our Integration Plan as identified in section 2.1
3. Approve that the final draft submission proposal is circulated for comment to Leaders and final submission is delegated to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Statutory Officers and the Mayor.

## 18 Programme Approvals

The Chief Finance and S73 Officer introduced this item to the Board. The paper requested progression of three capital funded schemes subject to conditions to be set out in the Assurance Summaries and approval for the allocation for the Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the 2022/23 academic year.

**RESOLVED** that the Board approved:

1. Progression of 'Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA)' Full Business Case (FBC) to full approval and award of £2.68m grant to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) subject to conditions detailed in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix A1;
2. Progression of 'Tram Train Magna Stop including Park & Ride' FBC to full approval and award of £6.54m to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) subject to conditions detailed the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix A2;
3. Progression of 'South West Bus Corridors' Outline Business Case to FBC and release of development cost funding of £0.38m grant to Sheffield City Council (SCC) subject to conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix A3
4. Allocation of AEB detailed in section 1.5
5. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes covered above subject to funding being available.

## 19 Annual Governance Statement

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced this item that reported on the findings of the 2021/22 Annual Governance Review and presented the draft Annual Governance Statement which included the Governance Improvement Plan for the 2022/23 financial year.

Members noted that the Internal Audit Assessment was awarded as "significant assurance with some improvement required", and that all outstanding actions but one had been completed. The dissolution of SYPTE, had been delayed due to government timetables and would be completed this year.

The committee noted that the four key areas that the MCA would be working on would include:

1. Openness and Stakeholder Engagement
2. Outcomes and Benefits
3. Capacity development
4. Risk Management and Performance

**RESOLVED** that members approve the draft Annual Governance Statement and Governance Improvement Plan as recommended by the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee.

20 **Code of Corporate Governance**

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced this paper which presented a Code of Corporate Governance for the integrated organisation. Members noted that this was done on a yearly basis and the code was updated with any changes made.

**RESOLVED** that members approve the Code of Corporate Governance (appendix A) as recommended by the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee.

21 **Risk Management Framework**

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced this paper which presented a draft Risk Management Framework and summarised the activity undertaken to develop and implement the Framework as requested as part of the Governance Improvement Plan 21/22.

Members noted that the framework had been developed by an expert in line with ISO and Orange Book standards. The MCA's role in accountability for risk was made clearer and had the following proposals:

1. That the MCA receive an annual report on risk
2. That the MCA receive an annual report from the ASRC

**RESOLVED** that members approve the draft Risk Management Framework as recommended by the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee.

22 **Audit, Standards and Risk Committee Annual Report 2021/22**

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced this paper on behalf of the ASRC Chair. The ASRC Annual Report summarised the work of the Committee during 2021/22, demonstrating how it had fulfilled its terms of reference and provided assurance to the Authority on its governance arrangements, risk management arrangements and the internal control environment.

**RESOLVED** that members consider the Annual Report and the action plan to address the findings of the Committee Effectiveness Survey.

23 **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

The Director of Corporate Policy introduced this report and summarised the progress of submitting the MCA's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to Government in advance of the 1 August deadline.

**ACTION: Draft UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to be shared with Members.**

Members discussed the fact that South Yorkshire is receiving less than it would have otherwise expected and agreed that a letter would be written to

Government to highlight the disparity. The Mayor agreed.

**ACTION: A letter from SY Leaders and the Mayor to be sent to Government on the disappointing funding for SY from the UKPF.**

**RESOLVED** that members note the summary of progress made in developing the UKSPF Investment Plan and agreed to delegate approval for sign off and submission by the MCA statutory officers, subject to consultation with the Mayor, and Leaders of the Local Authorities.

24 **Delegated Authority Report**

The Chief Executive introduced this report which updated the MCA Board on decisions and delegations made by the MCA, Thematic Boards and by the Officer Scheme of Delegation.

**RESOLVED** that members note the decisions and delegations made.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

Name .....

Position .....

Date .....

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS** **Council Meeting – 29 September 2022**

**Question:** 1.  
**From:** Mr J R

**Response by:** Councillor Frost (Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture)

Question:

The onsite activities on a building site can become a danger to the public, and damage, or pollute the environment of all forms of life.

There are legal obligations placed on all parties involved in planning and agreeing for building work to go ahead and also on the developer.

When the Council are considering a planning application, what questions are asked, and what written information is required from the applicant on how the site will be managed, to prevent it being a danger to the public, or damage, or pollute the environment.

On protecting the public, which departments, would inspect building sites to enforce agreed conditions.

The Government expects planning authorities to only ask for the minimum amount of information when validating a planning application. As a general rule, authorities do not therefore insist on a construction management plan in order to determine a planning application. This avoids the need for the applicant to undertake potentially abortive work should the planning application be refused.

Instead, when we are minded to grant planning permission and where it is deemed necessary (for example, if the application is for a major development), we impose a planning condition that requires the developer to submit a construction method statement. This includes measures to control noise and dust during construction work as well as highway safety related matters such as access points and areas devoted to parking and manoeuvring of vehicles. The Planning Service then consults colleagues in Pollution Control and Highways to decide if the information is acceptable. The condition prevents work commencing on site until the construction method statement has been formally approved. Alongside this, for new dwellings or commercial developments, we also impose a planning condition limiting the hours that construction work can take place.

In respect of monitoring and enforcement, it will really depend what the issue is. From time to time, Pollution Control may need to get involved (e.g. contaminated

land concerns) as may highways if the developer in breaching the Highways Act (mud on the road, illegally working in the highway). From time to time, the Planning Service also issues temporary stop notices requiring all work to cease. Examples of these are included in our quarterly enforcement report to Planning and Regulatory Board, the most recent of which showed that Barnsley is ranked 7th out of over 330 authorities in respect of enforcement notices served.

Building Control also have powers to intervene if there is deemed to be a “dangerous structure” on site and the Health & Safety Executive also have their own role should any incidents occur or concerns be reported.



**PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**  
**Council Meeting – 29 September 2022**

**Question:** 2.  
**From:** Mr J R

**Response by:** Councillor Gardiner (Cabinet Spokesperson Core Services)

Question:

It is becoming reported more, of men to self identify as a woman, has the council a transgender policy?

Women do have rights in places under the Council's control, should there be a need for toilets and changing rooms, will there be separate facilities which provide safe places for women, and girls?

Information for response:

The Council has produced a 'Gender Identity Guidance' document which provides employees with a set of organisational principles to help manage and support workplace transitions.

The Council values diversity and is committed to creating a positive environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. This includes recognising and supporting all protected characteristics, including women and gender identity.

The availability of separate toilets and changing facilities is dependent upon the building. We are mindful of the recent government announcement (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-public-buildings-to-have-separate-male-and-female-toilets>) which we will comply with.

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