

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Report of the Executive Director  
(People)  
to Cabinet

(25<sup>th</sup> July 2018)

### **NOTIFICATION TO BARNSELY MBC OF SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN TAKEOVER CHALLENGE 2017**

#### **1.0. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of Barnsley's successful participation in the Children's Commissioners Takeover Challenge for a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year.
- 1.2 The Takeover Challenge took place w/c 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 with a number of focused activities/events on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- 1.3 The Takeover Challenge gives Children and Young People across the country the chance to experience the world of work and get involved in organisational decision making.
- 1.4 Barnsley's participation in the Takeover Challenge in recent years has resulted in a Silver and Gold Commendation from the Children's Commissioner. Commendations from the Children's Commissioner ceased in 2017.
- 1.5 Barnsley has continued to demonstrate a high level of participation and utilises Takeover Challenge as an opportunity to raise young people's aspirations and ambitions for their future.
- 1.6 Planning this year was young people led. We asked young people what career opportunity they were interested in and wanted to experience. Based on their preferences, we sought role and career matching. This is a major development and change of emphasis to how we are approaching Takeover Challenge.
- 1.7 This report highlights how young people took on a number of different roles across Barnsley Council, South Yorkshire Police and other external organisations, building on the success of the previous two years.

#### **2.0. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That Cabinet acknowledges this achievement across all service areas and continues to highlight future opportunities to build on this success**

#### **3.0. Introduction to the Report**

- 3.1 The event is organised under the Office of the Children's Commissioner which champions, promotes, protects, raises awareness of and prompts others to respond to the rights, views and interests of all of England's children.  
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/takeover-challenge/>

- 3.2 The Takeover Challenge gives children and young people across the country the chance to work with adults and get involved in organisational decision-making. Children benefit from having their views heard, having fun and being inspired and the adult world gets a fresh, unique and creative perspective on important issues.
- 3.3 The Takeover Challenge promotes participation, is in line with Barnsley's Pledge to Children in Care and our Local Offer to Care Leavers and ensures that children have a right to have their views heard on the decisions that affect their lives and for these views to be taken seriously.
- 3.4 Takeover Day, and the aspect of the challenge this brings, forms part of 'Pathways to Success' - the Council's programme to support young people's work readiness and employability as part of the Borough's Employment and Skills Strategy
- 3.5 The aim of Barnsley's involvement in Takeover Challenge was to:
- Involve at least 40 young people aged 14 to 24yrs taking on some of the biggest jobs in the borough.
  - Integrate children in care and care leavers with their peers participating in the Takeover Challenge
  - Put all our young people, including children in care and care leavers into decision-making positions
  - Provide young people with a chance to have a say in the decisions that are made and included a number of young people attending and contributing the joint Barnsley Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust annual event.
  - Provide opportunities for our organisations and businesses to hear their views
  - Allow young people to gain an insight into our working world
  - Inspire our young people by their experiences
- 3.6 Barnsley Council's Takeover Challenge 2017 included activities within the following areas of work:
- Primary School.
  - Animal care.
  - Engineering(NPS).
  - Elected Members.
  - Director of Services.
  - Assistant Director of Service.
  - Events management.
  - Shadowing the Mayor.
  - Retail/museums admin.
  - Public Health.
  - Legal services.
  - Sport (BFC).
  - IT.
  - Payroll/Finance.
  - Children's Centre.
  - Riding for the disabled.
  - Barnsley Music services.
  - Penistone FM.
  - South Yorkshire Police.
  - Digital Media Officer NHS.
  - Construction.

- Communications team.
- 3.7 In Barnsley this year 28 young people took part in Takeover Challenge on the 24th November 2017 with a further 12 young people throughout the week.
- 3.8 The 28 young people were as follows;
- 15 Youth Councillors.
  - 6 of these were Children in Care / Care leavers
  - 1 a previous care leaver who is now a corporate apprentice.
  - 6 Young People from other Targeted Youth Provisions.
- 3.9 The Targeted Youth Support Service also had 12 young people take part in other events that week. Members of the IKIC (I Know I Can) centres took over running the evening sessions that week.
- 3.10 The placement of young people in all the roles gave local leaders and decision makers a fresh perspective on the services Barnsley residents rely on. It was a great opportunity for young people to find out first-hand what happens in roles such as Public Health, communications and marketing, the law service, events management, IT and ward councillors. The Targeted Youth Support IKIC centres being taken over in the evening provided valuable insight in planning preparation, dealing with problems and paperwork.

#### **4.0 Consideration of Alternative Approaches**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

#### **5.0 Proposal and Justification**

- 5.1 Participation in Takeover Challenge is increasing year after year and it is imperative to continue to develop and maintain this opportunity and build upon this event, throughout the Council.

#### **6.0 Implications for Local People and Service Users**

- 6.1 Participation in Takeover Challenge work shadowing will ensure that more children in care and care leavers across all communities in the Borough are able to have the opportunity to participate in this event. Takeover Challenge will enable service users to have their voices heard.
- 6.2 Some of the Comments collected from young people who attended the work shadowing included:
- *"I really enjoyed it and I learnt things that I never knew before."* - Public health Placement
  - *"Barnsley Council do a great job" "I learned all about Barnsley financial services, deferred payments, payroll-internal and trader and customer services."* - Finances and payroll placement:
  - *"Great TEG/CSB joint meeting: There was real involvement with and by young people throughout the meeting."*
  - *I saw the councillor's ward, learned how cabinet works, more information on safeguarding and learnt how a ward councillor does their job.*
  - *"I enjoyed it and it gave me clear look into teaching. It made me continue wanting to do it."* - Primary teaching placement.
  - *"I really enjoyed the experience, it has made me more confident in what career path I*

- might want to take in the future.*”- Arts Events management placement.
- *“I enjoyed seeing what the role of the mayor involves. I really enjoyed travelling in the mayoral car and learning about the history of the Town Hall and previous mayors. Thank you!”*- Shadowing the mayor for a day.
  - *“I learned how the museum runs, I got to help to re-stock and learned how to use the till. It has been so much fun.”*- Barnsley Town Hall gift shop placement.
  - *“It’s hard to be a police man/woman. Loved driving around in the police car”* - Police placement.
  - *“Good practical hands on filming experience.”*– took over Barnsley Councils Facebook and Instagram pages.
  - *“I found it really interesting learning the ins and outs of the media service for the NHS”*- Digital Media Officer NHS

These comments show how young people value the experience, fully participate and take something positive from the day

6.3 Comments collected from the providers of the work shadowing opportunities included:

- *X has expressed a desire to work in media when he leaves school, with a particular interest in Sports Radio... X got to produce and present his own Sports Programme. This was a valuable learning experience for X, one which he thoroughly enjoyed. On the back of this he has expressed his interest in studying one of the radio and media skills courses that are ran from Penistone FM. A great day all round!*
- *“Well organised process...great opportunity for young people.” (\*\*\*\* four star rating) “Y made a good impression from first introducing himself. He was extremely enthusiastic and happy to be involved in all aspects of legal services. We have thoroughly enjoyed hosting him and may see him again for further work experience. A very confident and ambitious young man.”*
- *“Z was very enthusiastic throughout the whole day, he was happy to be involved in all tasks and discussions. He has been on site visits across the borough, which involved a variety of our new build and refurbishment projects. In the office, we introduced Z to the business structure, allowing him to gain a greater understanding of a working environment. Z sat with our designers to learn how they do a design from initial concept to final construction drawings. Z has been heavily involved in marketing for the day and even looked at our corporate entertainment facilities.”*
- *A accompanied me to the Crisis Care Concordat and Suicide Prevention Meeting which is attended by Police, Public Health, Local Authority and Mental Health Services from across the Barnsley Borough. Myself and A had had a conversation prior to the meeting about what the meeting was about etc and A raised an issue that she saw from young person’s perspective. As a result of this, she was able to introduce this as a talking point at the meeting which encouraged quite a lot of debate and direct questions to A from other meeting attendees to try and find out the best way to engage with young person’s within the Borough, and the feedback from attendees is that to be able to tap into A’s perspective was “invaluable”.*

6.4 These comments show the real value from a work perspective of being involved in the Takeover Challenge. The feedback needs to be used in order to develop our services to include and value the young person’s perspective.

## **7.0 Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from participation in Takeover Challenge.

## **8.0 Employee Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct employee implications arising from on-going involvement in Takeover Challenge. The Council will be expected to be aware of the Takeover Challenge and its significance in improving outcomes for children in care and care leavers.

## **9.0 Communications Implications**

- 9.1 The success of involvement has been communicated via Barnsley's Facebook website.

## **10.0 Consultations**

- 10.1 The involvement of all areas of young people's services is commended.

## **11.0 Key Policy Considerations**

- 11.1 Involvement in Takeover Challenge contributes to the Council's corporate priority of People Achieving their Potential and a Thriving and Vibrant Economy. The Takeover Day component forms part of Pathways to Success, and as such contributes to the delivery of the borough's Employment and Skills Strategy.

## **12.0 Tackling Health Inequalities**

- 12.1 There are no implications for tackling health inequalities through this report.

## **13.0 Consideration of Risks**

- 13.1 The report relates to the Council's obligation in providing opportunities to ensure full participation in Takeover Challenge in the future. This would entail no identifiable risk(s) for the Council.

## **14.0 Health and Safety Implications**

- 14.1 There are no implications for the health and safety of the public or employees arising through the report.

## **15.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights**

- 15.1 All of the commissioner's work is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and in particular, Article 12 which states that children have a right to have their views heard on the decisions that affect their lives and for these views to be taken seriously.

## **16.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

- 16.1 Participation in Takeover Challenge includes a commitment to ensuring the Council, understands and meets the specific needs of children in care or care leavers that relate to disability, culture, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

## **17.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder**

- 17.1 The commitment towards keeping children in care and care leavers involved in Takeover Challenge, fosters their aspirations and aims to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing. This can make a crucial contribution towards diverting them from

risky and harmful behaviour that can not only impact upon them but also upon their communities.

**18.0 Conservation of Biodiversity**

18.1 There are no implications for the conservation of biodiversity emerging through the report.

**19.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations**

19.1 Not applicable

**20.0 List of Appendices**

20.1 None

**21.0 Details of Background Papers**

21.1 Background papers used in the production of this report are available to view by contacting [councilgovernance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:councilgovernance@barnsley.gov.uk)

Officer Contact: Jon Banwell Head of Service: Children in Care Services)

Financial Implications/ Consultation ..... <i>(to be signed by senior Financial Services officer where no financial implications)</i>
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