

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

OUTCOMES FROM THE NATIONAL TAKEOVER CHALLENGE (2019)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of an evaluation of the outcomes emerging from the Barnsley Takeover Day event which took place on 23rd November 2018. The project was a joint collaboration between Children's Social Care, the Targeted Youth Support Service from the People Directorate and the Employment and Skills team from the Place Directorate.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet notes the continued success of this annual event as an example of good working across partnerships which can continue to be built upon in future Takeover events and activities aimed at improving the range of outcomes for children and young people, including those in care and care leavers.**

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The national Takeover Day event gives children and young people across the country the opportunity to work with adults and get involved in organisational decision making, providing them with a work experience taster in a work place of their choice and is orchestrated by the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England. Takeover Day 2018 was another great success in Barnsley with over 23 young people taking part, taking on some of the most responsible adult roles within the Borough.

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 Colleagues from the Employment and Skills service worked with business providers to identify placements that were personalised to young people and their interests and suitable adult mentors to support the young people. The day began and culminated at the Care Leavers Hub where a range of work place providers took part in the event including schools, childcare settings, Barnsley Hospital, South Yorkshire Police, Barnsley Football Club and Barnsley College. The Council itself hosted Takeover Day opportunities from across their Legal Services, the Mayors / Elected Members offices, Public Health, IT and Planning and Development. The Chief Executive supported a care leaver volunteer as part of Takeover Day activities.
- 4.2 The Takeover Challenge provided young people with a chance to have a say in decisions that are made and included a number of young people attending the joint Barnsley Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust event. In preparation for Takeover Day events, a smaller group of young people, including youth councillors and children in care had formed a working group with commissioning officers to give their perspective and feedback on the forthcoming Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (2019-21) and how this could work alongside the priorities young people had identified as part of the regional 'Make Your Mark' Campaign, organised by the United Kingdom Youth Parliament and those aligned with the Children in Care Council.

- 4.3 The Executive Director (People) as the Local Authority's statutory Director of Children's Services, made a pledge as part of Takeover Day 2017, that the voice of young people should be represented at the annual Safeguarding Board / Children's Trust event. This pledge has paved the way for young people to work more closely with Commissioners to ensure that service users are more actively involved in the decision making cycle and that opportunities for their participation continue to grow and be nurtured at every level.
- 4.4 The matching of young people and providers gave local leaders and businesses a young and fresh perspective on some of the Borough's core functions such as the Police, Hospital and Council. Simultaneously, it presented young people with a taster of what a day in the life would look like in their chosen placement and helped them to challenge their understanding and perception of particular roles.
- 4.5 Altogether, 23 young people took part in a Takeover Placement opportunity on the day or subsequent days around Takeover week. Of those young people:-
- 7 were Children in Care
 - 3 were Care Experienced Young People
 - 5 were Youth Councillors
 - 1 was a Care Experienced Young Person/Volunteer
- 4.6 Additionally, 1 young person from the Youth Council took part in the Barnsley Safeguarding Board / Children's Trust event, alongside 3 other Youth Councillors who were participating in placements for Take Over Day and will continue to be part of a working group to develop the Children and Young People's Plan and commissioning priorities.
- 4.7 These individual placements were also supplemented by activities across each of the Borough's six 'I Know I Can' (IKIC) Centres that took place in the week of the Takeover event that were organised by the Targeted Youth Support Service and their locality based teams.
- 4.8 The feedback and evaluation from young people was extremely positive.
- **Young Person 1 – Childcare Services**
"10 out of 10"
 - **Young Person 2 – Day as a Surveyor**
"I spent the day with Berneslai Homes where I went into unoccupied houses and completed surveys. I learnt how to fill in an ECD and how to complete a survey. It also showed me how things work in a house. I enjoyed spending time with other people it just didn't last long enough."
 - **Young Person 3 – Shadowing – Chief Executive**
What a thought provoking, insightful, educational experience it has been shadowing Diana for Take Over Day. I've had an extraordinary experience. It was a very inspiring day.
- 4.9 Similarly, work placement providers were extremely supportive of the event and the young people that they mentored on the day.

- **Linda Mathison- Childcare Services Manager**

“ Had a fantastic day with (N). He was so polite and enthusiastic about everything. We got such a lot from him being here as he gave us a young person’s perspective and was very open about his situation and needs. “

- **Diana Terris – Chief Executive**

“Participating in Take Over Challenge day is a delight, and this year was no exception. I felt pride sharing the work of the Council, whilst getting to know a thoughtful, articulate and intelligent young woman who both supported and challenged me throughout the day. I can only hope her experience was as good as mine. Let’s do even more of it next year! “

- **Lindsey Robinson - Wigfield Farm – Activity Worker**

“(K) was pretty shy initially but got more and more confident and chatty as the day went on. He helped us with a school group touring the farm handing out animal feed and chatting to the children. After they had gone, we also gave him the opportunity to handle some reptiles which he seemed to really enjoy. When he was collected, we did chat about the fact he might consider doing animal care when older and I did tell him about the Teenage Animal Club that I run every 3rd Saturday morning. He seemed very interested. It was a nice opportunity for us to spend time with a young person and get their perspective on the farm.”

4.10 Each young person who successfully participated in Takeover Day was presented with a certificate to acknowledge their participation in the event at the Care Leavers Hub at the end of the day, supported by their workplace mentors. This brought the Takeover event to a positive closure before some of the young people went on further to celebrate other achievements later that evening as part of the Children in Care celebration event and awards.

4.11 Planning is to take place during the Summer in preparation for the next Takeover Challenge event, in November 2019.

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

5.1 In this instance, a consideration of alternatives has not been necessary since the purpose of the report has been to inform Cabinet of the evaluation of the 2018 National Takeover Challenge event and the value added through the opportunities which were offered to young people.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

6.1 There are no implications relating to the provision of high quality, local public services emerging through this report.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the Council’s participation in the National Takeover event. Any associated costs (e.g. staff time) were contained within the existing budget for the Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding Service.

8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct employee implications arising through the Council’s ongoing involvement in the annual National Takeover Challenge.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Equally, there are no legal implications arising through the Council's involvement in the annual National Takeover Challenge other than to ensure the necessary steps are taken to ensure young people who are engaged in the event are safeguarded from any potential harm.

10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no implications for the current range of service access channels or for enabling digital transactions, emerging through the report.

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Council's successful involvement in National Takeover Challenge Day (2018) was the subject of widespread interest, particularly within social media and led to positive coverage within the Region's press.

12.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 As indicated earlier in this report, a number of the Council's services and partner organisations, notably Barnsley College, Barnsley Hospital, Barnsley Football Club and South Yorkshire Police were consulted on arrangements for National Takeover Day (2018) and took part as workplace providers.

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

- 13.1 The Takeover Challenge links to the Barnsley Pledge to our Children and Young People in Care, particularly as follows:

- **We'll promote and support and respect your identity,**
All young people are able to be nominated and have their achievement recognised alongside their peers. Work placements are tailored to their individual needs and interest.
- **We'll ensure you receive a good outcome,**
The Takeover event celebrates positive outcomes and achievements for all our young people who participate. Parents, carers and workplace providers are encouraged to be involved in recognising their success.
- **We'll prepare you for the future,**
The Takeover event provides a 'taster' for the world of work as part of their preparation for adulthood and longer term independence.
- **We'll involve you in making it happen.**
Participation workers ensure the involvement of other groups in the event, such as the Care for Us Council, Youth Councils supplements the experience of children in care and care experienced young people.

13.2 Our 'Pledge' to children and young people in care helps raise their confidence and aspirations as part of supporting them achieve their potential and to build a better Barnsley.

14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

14.1 A prevailing principle in the Council's approach to the National Takeover Challenge has been a commitment to ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion in the range of participants benefiting from such engagement.

15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

15.1 There are no implications for tackling child and family poverty, including the impact of child neglect upon life chances, emerging through consideration of this report.

16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 There are no implications for tackling health inequality and the promotion of public health, through considering this report.

17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 Engaging young people within the National Takeover Challenge, through fostering their aspirations and helping them achieve their true potential, can make a crucial contribution towards diverting them from risky and harmful behavior that can not only impact upon their wellbeing but upon the sustainability of their communities.

18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 No unanticipated risks emerged through the Council's involvement in Takeover Day (2018). In accordance with its statutory obligations, the Service ensured that steps were taken to safeguard participants from any potential harm.

19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

19.1 There are no concerns for the safety of the public and workforce or for the resilience of the Borough arising through this report.

20.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 The work of the Office of the Children's Commissioner 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 decisions which affect their lives and for these views to be taken seriously.

21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

21.1 There are no implications for the local environment or for the conservation of biodiversity emerging through this report.

22.0 GLOSSARY

22.1 None, applicable.

23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

23.1 There are no appendices to this report..

24.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Report author: Jon Banwell (Head of Services For Children In Care)