Children, Young People and Families, a brighter future
365 For Every Child... Make Every Day Count



Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan **2019** to **2022** 





## **Foreword**

Barnsley Council's vision is to work together for a brighter future, a better Barnsley. We want a thriving and vibrant economy, people to achieve their full potential and strong, resilient communities.







Barnsley Youth Council has been the driving force behind the writing and development of this plan. They have shown real commitment to this work helping to facilitate discussions at our Annual Joint Meeting of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group and the Barnsley Children Safeguarding Board. This has provided great insight into how we should deliver our services. They have expressed an ongoing commitment to supporting the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust and the development of key priority areas through their ongoing campaigns and work as Youth Councillors. The key issues they have raised and their ideas to develop services are included throughout the plan.

66

# Professionals know the paper stuff; we know what young people think. 99 —

As an introduction to this plan they wanted to say:



Young people in Barnsley want to be heard, valued and appreciated.

We want to feel safe and better supported to fulfil our career aims and life ambitions, being prepared for what life will throw at us.

We need to tackle the inequalities that exist between young people who live in Barnsley and young people who live elsewhere in the country. 99 ~

66

Reflected in this Children and Young People's Plan is a desire for change with a clear vision, priorities and outcomes. Reflecting on how we can move forward is important to allow services to adapt to the needs and priorities of young people.

In the actions and support provided by all those working with children and young people, what stands out the most is the dedication to the best interests of young people across this fantastic borough.

With your commitment, hard work and support for this plan, we can go some way to building for our young people a brighter future, a better Barnsley, making every day count for children, young people and our families.

Dominic Jones, Member of Youth Parliament for Barnsley and Barnsley Youth Councillor.



The ongoing transformation of Barnsley provides strong foundations for the Children and Young People's Plan 2019 to 2022. There is real momentum to drive and grow Barnsley's economy, develop more and better jobs for our residents, and create a thriving town centre which will attract wider investment and provide new opportunities for our children, young people and families. The town centre will be a great, safe space for young people to meet friends and enjoy family time. The Library @ the Lightbox forms part of The Glass Works, the retail and leisure development transforming the heart of the town. It will be a welcoming hub for young people, offering state-of-the-art technology with a sophisticated library and dynamic social and creative space to meet and learn.

This plan outlines how we will build on progress that the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust and its Partners have made since the launch of our last plan in 2016. It focuses on securing better outcomes for Barnsley families at each stage of their life journey, and what we can do to support our town's ongoing transformation.

In October 2018 Barnsley children's services were judged to be 'Good' across all areas by Ofsted which endorsed the continuous improvement journey undertaken since the last full inspection in 2014. The report tells us that; Barnsley has effective and principled leadership, strong partnerships, a skilled and motivated workforce who deliver good quality services to children and families across the borough and that children are at the heart of strategic thinking, decision-making and operational practice.

Safeguarding children, young people and families will always remain at the centre of our work. It is our collective ambition to go beyond good and deliver outstanding services.

To achieve our ambition we will need to continue to sustain and further develop our excellent multiagency partnership arrangements. Equally, we need to be outward looking and able to consider new ways of providing services. We will continue to develop and maintain a high performing, motivated, flexible and diverse workforce which is tenacious in its approach. We will ensure we are a customer focussed children and young people's partnership, and continue to evidence improved, even better outcomes, for children, young people and families.

Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director People BMBC, Director of Children's Services and Chair of Barnsley Trust Executive Group





# Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust (BCYPT)

The Children and Young People's Trust is a partnership that demonstrates strong commitment from a range of agencies. These agencies work together to focus their efforts and resources on key areas of work that will make a difference to the lives of Barnsley children, young people and families under the governance of Barnsley's Trust Executive Group (TEG). Partners include the NHS, Schools, Police, Healthwatch Barnsley and Barnsley Council. The work of the Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, The Stronger Communities Partnership and The Community Safety Partnership is linked to the work of the Children and Young People's Trust. This ensures a collective effort around safeguarding, the development of resilient and healthy communities, and community safety including working with young people to improve their perceptions of safety and developing a 'One Team' approach to safety in our town.

Barnsley's Children and Young People's Trust strives to make every day count for every child, 365 days of the year. This is the guiding principle of the Trust which is delivered by working towards three (3) key vision statements, six (6) key priorities and five (5) outcomes making up Barnsley's 365 Offer.



#### The Vision of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust:

- · For all Barnsley's children to attend a school that has been graded as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted
- Success in learning and work
- Strong resilient families



#### The six strategic priorities for achieving this are:

- Keeping children and young people safe
- · Improving education, achievement and employability
- · Tackling child poverty and improving family life
- Supporting all children, young people and families to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Encouraging positive relationships and strengthening emotional health
- Improving staff skills to deliver quality services



#### And as this vision is achieved we will see:

- Staying Safe: Children and young people living in a secure environment, where they feel safe, listened to, supported and respected.
- Being Healthy: Children, young people and families will make healthy lifestyle choices reducing health inequalities that exist nationally and within the borough. They will be emotionally well and resilient.
- Enjoying & Achieving: Children and young people will enjoy life, its opportunities and achieve their full potential. There will be many and varied opportunities within communities for children and families from infancy to adulthood.
- Prepared to earn a good living: Young people will demonstrate enterprising behaviours, have access
  to and secure good jobs so that they are able to contribute to the economy and achieve aspirations
  for a thriving Barnsley.
- Being an Active Citizen: Children and young people will be and become active citizens who contribute to creating a better Barnsley, achieving Town Spirit.



This vision embraces Town Spirit, which sees the whole of Barnsley working together in a number of different ways to build a brighter future for everyone. There are 8 key themes:



Building a better Barnsley

#### Loveit

Having pride in where you live

## **Achieveit**

Helping you realise your potential

## Changeit

Having your say on things that matter

## **Developit**

Helping businesses to thrive

### **Protect**it

Protecting our wonderful borough

#### Liveit

Looking after yourself and others

## **Imagineit**

Creating a brighter future

## Top Priorities for Barnsley Children and Young People



At the heart of this plan is a commitment to deliver on the results of the 2018 UK Youth Parliament 'Make your Mark' campaign, where we are very proud to announce that here in Barnsley we recorded our highest ever turnout, with 11,011 votes cast. This coincided with the highest ever national turnout, of over 1million; meaning young people could truly have their say on what issues matter most to them.

Dominic Jones, Member of Youth Parliament for Barnsley and Barnsley Youth Councillor.

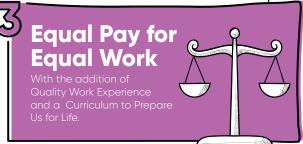
The 10 issues chosen at the UK Youth Parliament Annual Conference to appear on the Make Your Mark ballot were:

- Mental Health
- End Period Poverty
- Votes at 16
- · Put an End to knife crime
- A Curriculum to prepare us for life
- · Support our youth services
- Equal Pay For Equal Work
- · Let's Tackle Homelessness
- Transport
- · Welcome Refugees

The overall top three priorities agreed in the survey for Barnsley and articulated in this plan are:

Put an end to knife crime and improve young people's perceptions of safety







# Progress made over the lifespan of the 2016 to 2019 Children and Young People's Plan

Progress since the last Children and Young People's Plan can be demonstrated in a number of key areas which includes:

# Improved education outcomes from early years to key stage 4

- Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) continuing to make good progress.
- The percentage of children at the end of primary school achieving expected levels in reading, writing and maths has increased from 59% to 64%. This rate of improvement locally was double that seen nationally, and Barnsley now equals national performance.
- The progress rates for pupils between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 remain above national averages in writing and maths, and have improved in reading, narrowing the gap with national performance.
- Outcomes for pupils with special educational needs, including disabilities (SEND) have improved at all key stages.
- A significant rise in GCSE examination results across the borough.



In recent years, Barnsley schools, with strong leadership and supported and challenged by the Barnsley Alliance, have significantly raised aspirations for young people across the borough. This has led to a significant rise in GCSE examination results moving Barnsley up the national league tables. Student behaviour, attitudes to learning and engagement with families have also improved significantly.

Chair of Barnsley Schools Alliance

An established Early Help offer providing families with access to the right services, at the right time, within their own communities



Children and families benefit from a good early help offer, which has been redesigned to be delivered through a family centre 0-19 model. This is ensuring a more equitable distribution of targeted support at the heart of communities where it is most needed.

Ofsted Report 2018

An early intervention offer to support the development of children and young people's positive mental health and wellbeing



Funding provided in support of the Future in Mind recommendations has enabled significant transformation to services in Barnsley that support the emotional health and wellbeing of our children and young people. This transformation is ongoing and enabling significant, positive changes to the lives of the children and young people and their families who access these services.

Barnsley NHS Clinical Commissioning Group



## **About Barnsley**

Life for children, young people and families in Barnsley is an improving picture and Barnsley residents have a lot to celebrate and enjoy. Barnsley is proud of its industrial heritage but this legacy has brought with it many challenges that local services have to work to overcome. These challenges range from; high levels of deprivation in relation to health, employment, low paid work, education, skills and training. This means, although there is good progress being made, there is still more to do to ensure we narrow the deprivation gap for Barnsley children, young people and families and achieve good outcomes. Raising aspirations by providing good quality education, life opportunities and developing enterprising behaviours is essential.

There are...

Children between 0 and 18 in Barnsley this is 21.7% of our town's total population. **Barnsley** is the...

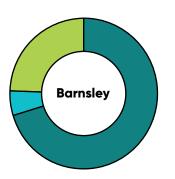
most deprived Local Authority in England; there are 326 Local Authorities in total.

This ranking is calculated based on seven areas of deprivation, these include:

- **Income Deprivation**
- **Employment Deprivation**
- Education
- **Skills & Training**
- **Health Deprivation & Disability**
- Crime
- **Barriers to Housing & Services and Living Environment Deprivation**



Life expectancy for females in Barnsley is 81.9 years but healthy life expectancy is 59.8 years. This means that 22.1 years are not spent in good health. Life expectancy for men is 78.2 years and healthy life expectancy 58.6 years so this means that 19.6 years are not spent in good health. The healthy life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived areas in the UK is 18 years.





**Employed** 70.7%

Economically active and unemployed 5.4%

24.5%

**Employed** 78.7%

21.3%

of pupils in Barnsley LA are attending a good or outstanding school

70.1% 78.9%

of schools in Barnsley LA are good or outstanding

Barnsley's Public Health Strategy 2018 to 2021 and Barnsley's Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2016 to 2019 outline how our populations' health and wellbeing outcomes will be improved. This includes priority areas of action for children, young people and families





# Support for Young People to Fulfil Career Aims and Life Ambitions

Barnsley's Employment and Skills Strategy: More and Better Jobs aims to raise the ambition of Barnsley businesses, education institutions, people and communities, through three priorities:

- Getting Ready For Work Education and Employability
- Getting Into Work Routes into Work
- Getting On (and staying in) Work –
   Businesses and Progression

It outlines the need to strengthen collaborative work with schools and colleges, businesses and communities to 'create a shared belief in a brighter future, a better Barnsley, with buoyant business growth, rising productivity, and a more skilled workforce'. It also tells us good jobs are a vital first step to progress and improved life outcomes, including for peoples' health and wellbeing. This agenda is very important to children and young people and we will continue to work together with Barnsley Youth Council to deliver against this strategy.

The new Ofsted framework for schools places a much greater focus on personal development, including careers and enterprise and preparing young people for life beyond school in relation to further education, training and work.



Barnsley schools are focussing sharply on this area in order to further raise aspirations through better personal guidance and the development of appropriate skills and competencies. Barnsley has responded to the national career and enterprise strategy by ensuring an Enterprise Advisor is assigned to and a Careers Leader appointed in every school, so that all students have an entitlement to meaningful encounters with the world of work, FE and Universities, as part of a stable and strategic Careers Programme.

#### Chair of the Barnsley Schools Alliance

Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust is therefore committed to supporting work towards:

- Continuing to improve the attainment of children and young people in school and further education.
- Increasing participation of 16–18 year-olds in education, training and employment.
- Increasing apprenticeships and the uptake of higher education.
- Continued support to schools to develop employability of their students.
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$  Enhance engagement between the education

and business sectors to increase young people's understanding of the work place and improve work readiness.

- Enhancement of post 16 education, employment and training provision across the borough.
- Clear pathways to enable young people with special educational needs and disabilities prepare for adulthood and successfully for employment.
- A clearly structured pathway to enable care experienced young people to gain and sustain employment.
- Continue to promote the 'Employer Promise' which encourages all types and sizes of organisation to offer what they can to actively help young people and adults prepare for work, find the right job and make good progress when they are in work.
- Work with Barnsley Youth Council to achieve their campaign priorities; Equal Pay for Equal Work, Quality Work Experience, and a Curriculum to prepare us for life.



Young People have aspirations and we want better employment and work experience opportunities to help achieve them.

A young member of the CYP Plan working group



# **Priority Areas for Action 2019 to 2022**

To ensure the Partnerships' efforts are targeted appropriately to achieve key areas for development the CYPT have chosen five key priority areas to progress during 2019–2022:

- Inclusion and Engagement
- Continued development of Early Help
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing including access to Therapeutic Support
- Improved life outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Transitions at all key life stages
- To work with the Youth Council to deliver on key youth issues and local campaign priorities.

#### **Inclusion and Engagement**

We want children and young people to feel a sense of belonging in their local community and their school. We know that rates of exclusion are too high in Barnsley and schools and services need to continue to work together to ensure that pupils can be supported to remain in school. It is particularly important that we reduce rates of exclusion for children and young people in mainstream school who have additional needs by improving our response to meeting need at the earliest opportunity.

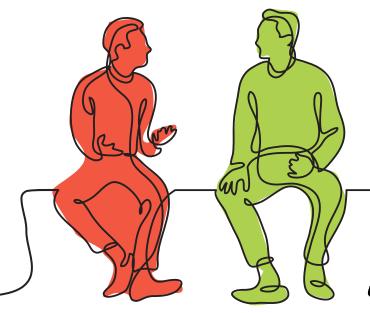
Barnsley Council and the Barnsley Schools Alliance consider that improving school attendance is an integral part of our raising achievement agenda. It is committed to an ongoing programme of support aimed at working in partnership with schools, children, young people, parents and carers, and a wide range of partner agencies to achieve improved attendance levels across the borough, therefore enabling children and young people to have the best chance to fulfil their potential.

#### **Actions to progress**

- Continue to work with all relevant services to improve attendance and reduce persistent absence.
- Reduce exclusions from school, particularly for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of children and young people.
- Support the continued engagement of vulnerable adolescents in education, services and positive activities.
- Enable a strengths based approach when working with vulnerable adolescents.
- Improve arrangements for Alternative Provision to improve match of provision to needs; support better reintegration into mainstream education.
- Support schools as key partners in the delivery of effective Early Help.

#### **Early Help**

As a borough we want to move away from dealing with difficulties in children, young people and families lives to providing support at the earliest opportunity. It is important that as a Children and Young People's Trust we pool our resources to ensure people in our communities get the right support, at the right time, in the right place to tackle problems early. Early Help minimises the risk of problems or levels of need escalating and specialist services being required. Providing a robust Early Help Offer will ensure our children and young people achieve their full potential and build strong, resilient communities.





#### **Next Steps**

- Maintain effective step up and step down from Children's Social Care, ensuring that families sustain the gains they have achieved following support.
- Work with families by engaging them in Early Help to support their children and young adults with special educational needs, complex health issues or disabilities.
- Embed and continue to develop the range of interventions and services available to support families with children and young people pre-birth to 19 years old (25 years old if the young person has a disability). This includes a strong focus on vulnerable adolescents.
- Increase the range of partners identifying, assessing and implementing high quality Early Help Assessments to ensure the right support is provided at the right time.
- Continue to develop and implement health and resilience plans to reduce inequalities.

 Focus on improving speech, language and communication skills from an early age.

#### **SEND** and Transitions

Barnsley, like many other local authorities, faces a significant challenge in fully meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Educational outcomes for children in Barnsley with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are better than their peers nationally. However, too many children with EHCPs have their education needs met by attending school out of the borough and this is something we are working hard to address. At the same time too few children are identified at the SEN Support stage in mainstream schools and attainment outcomes are not yet where we would like them to be. This tells us that we must work to meet needs at an earlier stage.

#### Key areas for focus:

- Improve the quality of provision for young people with SEND and supporting them to access education locally, building their connection with local communities.
- Improve young people's experience of transition and pathways to adulthood age 14-25, maximising opportunities for improved integration across services, and supporting young people towards increasing independence in adulthood.
- Increase opportunities for co-production and the involvement of children, young people, parents and carers in shaping local area arrangements and planning at a strategic and individual level.
- Focus on what is needed at every transition stage from birth to early years, early years to primary school - ensuring school readiness, primary to secondary school and then into further learning, training or work. At each age and phase we must take into account the needs and feelings of our







# When asked about periods of transition young people said:

30

There are so many children when moving from small primary schools where we may know everyone to very large secondary schools where we can be overwhelmed by the numbers.

G(

We lose old friends, and there is an added pressure of making new friends, which can cause lots of anxiety. BC

Children with ASD find it difficult to adjust to new routines and new people, this does not always feel like it is very well understood (young person with lived experience).

31

There are increased expectations, rules rather than relationships and conversations.

B

Everyone is trying to find their place and find where they fit.

Children and young people with a special educational need or disability highlighted the following issues:

- They struggle to make friends in mainstream school and access recreation in school.
- They feel that some teachers and other students don't understand them or know how to help them and that more general training and awareness would be good for both staff and pupils.
- They would like to be able to socialise more with school friends outside of school
- Older young people would like more information and preparation for what is available in relation to clubs and services after they are 25.
- Volunteering and work experience placements organised through colleges lead to possible/actual employment for young people, who have told us they gain both experience and increased confidence.





# Emotional Health and Wellbeing including Access to Therapeutic Support

Many mental health conditions in adulthood show their first signs in childhood, and, if left untreated, can develop into conditions which need regular care. In previous years, all too often children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health have not been given the attention it needs. The 'Future in Mind' report produced by the Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Force in 2015, highlighted the significant changes needed to improve our children's emotional health and wellbeing and focused our attention on adopting a whole child, whole family approach, promoting good mental health from the earliest ages.

The focus of Barnsley's Transformation Plan, driven by our Local Future in Mind Stakeholder Group, will continue to work towards supporting children and young people at the earliest possible time to prevent escalation of their needs, and to support their emotional health and wellbeing throughout their childhood and adolescence.

In the coming year we will focus attention on how we can enhance the support to young people in Post 16 education, and in our primary schools, particularly in their transition year from Year 6 to Year 7. We will also consider how we can improve the emotional health and wellbeing support to children who are educated at home and those

more vulnerable children residing in Barnsley, such as Children in Care. The support provided by MindSpace (a schools-led emotional health and wellbeing support service for secondary school pupils) and the Public Health led THRIVE programme delivered within 50 percent of Barnsley's primary schools, are excellent foundations on which we will continue to build.

66

Barnsley schools are also focussing on developing resilience in our young people. The pressures associated with social media and the stress of the drive for examination success has meant an increased investment in supporting students' mental health. 99

The Chair of the Barnsley School Alliance.

#### **Future Actions:**

- Reduce the waiting times between initial assessment and treatment for children's mental health.
- Expand access to community-based mental health services to meet the needs of more children and young people at an earlier stage.
- Acknowledge the pressures young people have said they face, and work with them on the solutions to improve mental health and wellbeing.
- Provide mental health training to the wider children's workforce across universal services (e.g. Health Visitors, Public Health Nurses) to enable more appropriate and timely interventions to occur.
- Focus on how we can improve the experience for all children who transition from children's services to adult services.
- Work to provide open access activities for all young people to encourage positive social interactions including progressing plans to build an 'Onside Youth Zone'.
- Develop a greater understanding around the impact of social media on children, young people and families.

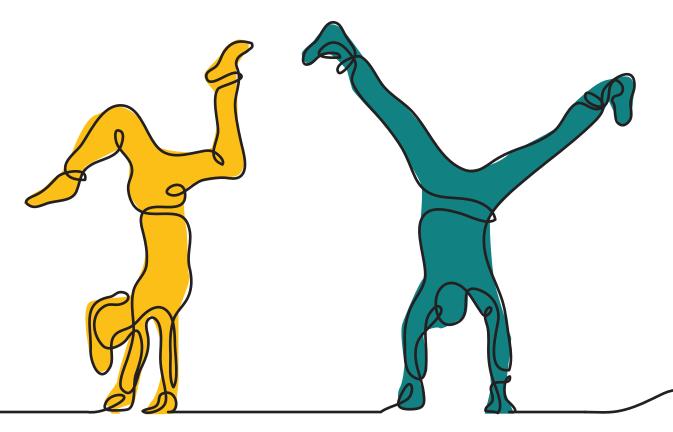


# **Moving Forward**

Although we have much to do, we are confident that, the drive and ambition of the Barnsley Children and Young People's workforce, parents and carers across the borough, and the commitment of Barnsley Youth Council, will again enable good progress to be made on achieving the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust 365 offer — creating a brighter future, a better Barnsley and making every day count for our children, young people and families. We intend to keep this Plan live by hosting regular campaigns around key themes and issues, demonstrating the good work happening around the borough, and monitor our progress via the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group.

# **Acknowledgements**

Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust would like to thank all partners for engaging in the development and the writing of the plan, including the following Youth Council Members: Tyler Littlewood, Morgan Stear, Alyssa Butler, Dominic Jones, Cai Clapham. Parish Trevy, Daniel James and Abigail Finnigan.





## More about Children and Young People's Priority Areas

Below are the key issues and solutions against the 3 Youth Council campaign priorities identified for action by Barnsley children and young people. This work has influenced the plan and will drive areas for continued development.



- Popularity, friendship groups and peer pressure
- Bullying including online bullying
- Exam stress and academic expectations, pressure to achieve GCSEs – a competitive job market and lack of jobs - uncertainty
- Young people want to feel valued not invisible
- People should ask young people more than once if they are ok
- Individuality is important respect is important to young people

#### Social Media

- Body image
- Inappropriate use of social media i.e. online bullying, focus on material things in life, exposure to explicit and distressing content
- Too much screen time-lack of social interaction off line, more opportunities outside of school to socialise
- Not able to take a break from peers and the impact this can have
- Social media can make you doubt yourself and take away your self-esteem
- · Not all young people want everything online

#### **Home life**

- Home circumstances and experiences can include substance misuse, domestic violence and poverty
- Parental expectations can be high
- Lack of family interaction and changing relationships which can be upsetting

#### Solutions

- Non-targeted support groups and wellbeing clubs
- To have a range of services where young people feel comfortable – one consistent worker, a

- place to feel welcome, not just formal services
- Focus on male mental health help for dads and boys
- Professionals to ask, small changes and small amounts of support "tweaks" can make a big difference
- Online bullying needs to be understood and dealt with quickly
- Increased promotion of mental health services and other resources
- Having trained mental health professionals and other support staff in school that maintain confidentiality unless any safeguarding issues arise
- Young peer mentors in secondary schools trained to support young people
- An understanding of the issues that affect children and young people and consideration of these when delivering services
- To fully understand the impact of social media
- "The anti-bullying charter is important. How to deal with bullying on paper works, practice is different, every case is different. Professionals need to see the individual: one approach may work for one person but can make it worse for another. Bullying should be a customer case. Cases should be handled with time and care and they should not get lost in the system"



# Equal Pay for Equal Work/ Work Ready Agenda

- "We have aspirations. We want better employment opportunities and experiences".
- Not enough opportunities for YP for apprenticeships and work experience
- A curriculum that prepares young people for life "too focussed on GCSEs – instead of wider opportunities, broader route – many routes to success - Expand opportunities outside of schools to build transferable skills"
- Changing the stereotype of work experience and what it looks like i.e. having more days split throughout year, more opportunities to get involved with various career options and agencies
- For agencies to carry out their pledges about developing career and work experience opportunities from the joint TEG/BSCB working day

#### **Solutions**

 Easier access to and promotion of work experience, allowing young people to shape what quality work experience should look like

- Establishing good routes to success through other forms of educational pathway
- Ongoing work with employers invest in Barnsley young people – Support for the Employers Charter
- Build on good work in schools around enterprise and careers



Young people want their work experience to be meaningful: whether broadening their understanding of jobs available, gaining transferrable skills, or allowing them to demonstrate "real work" skills to prospective employers. The quality of individual placements and encounters matters.

British Youth Council Youth Select Committee 2018 – Realising the potential of work experience.

Put an End to Knife Crime/ Perceptions of Safety



 Not specifically knife crime it involves other types of crime like drug use; violence etc

- Groups of people in the town centre can be intimidating and don't make young people feel safe
- Judgements made based on individual perception; exposure to social media and media articles. Young people see these images on social media and it does not always matter if it isn't Barnsley it can still have an impact
- The fear of crime rather than the actual crime itself (low statistics)
- Lack of police presence and a general misunderstanding of the police and their role/ their relationship with young people
- Easy access to weapons and lack of parental control

#### **Solutions**

- Set a trend on social media to counteract the act of YP carrying Knives to "protect themselves".
   Reduce national impact and increase feelings of safety locally. Promote an awareness of #CarryingKnivesMeansLosingLives
- Removing the 'grassing' culture to encourage openness about talking to someone i.e. teacher about YP carrying knives- early intervention
- Crime intervention and prevention awareness/ talks/workshops in schools
- Work with the CYPT to look at how perceptions of safety can be challenged and how existing strategies can include work with young people to make them feel safe