

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 ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2019

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BARNSELY CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL (2018/19)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present for Cabinet's consideration the latest Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the progress and achievements made by the Panel in supporting children and young people in care, together with care leavers, during this period.**

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Both the Children Act (2004) and the Children (Leaving Care) Act (2000) continue to place a statutory duty upon the Council to protect children from suffering significant harm and to provide continued financial and transitional support for care leavers aged up to 25.
- 3.2 More recently, Part 1 of the Children and Social Work Act (2017) and the publication of subsequent statutory guidance, requires the Council to give due regard to act in the best interests of and to secure the best outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. As part of this, the publication of a 'Local Offer' to young people leaving care, including provision of a personal advisor, was considered and approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 18th April last year.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- 4.1 Please see Paragraph 5.1 of this report.

5.1 PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 5.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel's latest annual report, attached as Appendix 1, demonstrates its continuing compliance with the responsibilities indicated in Paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 above and the added value which it brings to the experience of children and young people both in and leaving care, particularly in helping them stay safe and healthy; improve their aspirations and prospects as well as enjoy enriching lives in accordance with the Council's 'Pledge' to children in care and care leavers in the Borough.

5.2 In particular, Section 8.0 of the annual report (*Please see Appendix 1*) details the progress and achievements made by the Corporate Parenting Panel towards improving the range of outcomes for children in care and care leavers, including the following:

- Safeguarding and protection.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Achieving their potential through education.
- Permanence, quality of placements and placement stability.
- Promoting engagement, participation and inclusion.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AND SERVICE USERS

6.1 The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel includes ensuring that all children in need of care in any part of the Borough, together with those from other areas who are placed in the Borough, receive the help and support which they require in order to stay safe and healthy, gain a good education and to lead rewarding lives.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this annual report. Financial performance, namely resources, budget and spend in relation to discharging the Panel's responsibilities is regularly reported through the Council's budgetary procedures.

8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct employee implications emerging through consideration of the Panel's Annual Report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct legal implications arising through consideration of the Annual Report.

10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Similarly, the Annual Report has no adverse implications for young people or their carers in being able to access relevant services through various channels.

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Annual Report will be published and promoted via the Council's Web Site in order to make stakeholders aware of the importance of the Panel's work and the value it adds to supporting vulnerable children and young people in the Borough.

11.2 The latest annual report has been published following Ofsted's standard inspection of Local Authority Children's Services in the Borough (2018) which awarded 'Good' judgements in every key area of the inspection, including services for children in care and care leavers. Moreover, in a follow-up visit to the local Test of Assurance undertaken by the Government's National Implementation Advisor for Care Leavers,

last year, Barnsley has been cited as an exemplar for good corporate parenting in his first annual report.

- 11.3 These outcomes provide assurance, to our communities, of the Council's continuing commitment towards fulfilling our 'Pledge' for children in care and in delivering our 'local offer' to care leavers.

12.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The Annual Report has been drafted with the valuable help and input of children in care and care leavers, including representatives from the Barnsley Care4Us Council.

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

- 13.1 The role and responsibilities discharged by the Corporate Parenting Panel support a number of the Strategic Priorities of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (2019-22) relating to children in care and care leavers. These strategic priorities are as follows:

- Keeping Children and Young People Safe.
- Improving Education, Achievement and Employability.
- Tackling Child Poverty and Developing Stronger, Resilient Families.
- Supporting All Children, Young People and Families To Make Healthy Lifestyle Choices.
- Encouraging Positive Relationships and Strengthening Emotional Health.

- 13.2 In addition, the Panel's work supports one of the Council's Corporate Priorities, notably by ensuring children and young people in care are kept safe from harm and are enabled to have their say in overseeing the quality and effectiveness of local services, as part of improving their potential and life chances.

- 13.3 Performance relating to the data set of relevant, local indicators, including the outturn data for Quarter 4 (2018/19) and direction of travel from 2016/17, is noted in Pages 9-11 of the Annual Report (Appendix 1). This shows that in comparison with the corresponding quarter over the last 3 years, performance continues to be stable on many of the local indicators.

14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 14.1 A crucial element of the Council's 'Pledge' to children in our care, together with care leavers, is to promote, support and respect their identity. Therefore, it will be an ongoing responsibility for the Panel to ensure the specific needs of any children in care and care leavers belonging to groups with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act (2010) are met in a way which respects their identity.

15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

- 15.1 Please see Paragraphs 13.1 and 13.2 of this report.

16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 A key responsibility of the Panel is helping ensure improvements take place in the health of children and young people in care. According to the latest published data on the timeliness of both health and dental assessments, performance remains relatively stable. A priority during 2019/20 will be to ensure access to timely treatment for children and young people experiencing mental ill health.

17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 The Panel's role in supporting the Council's 'Pledge' includes overseeing and challenging the effectiveness of local services which are responsible for keeping them safe from harm (including abuse, exploitation and neglect) as well as preventing them from adopting risky behaviour which can harm their wellbeing as well as the safety of local communities.

17.2 Through listening to children and young people's experiences of being in care and ensuring this perspective informs improvement, the approach of the Panel has nurtured esteem among young people and minimised the risk of alienation which can contribute to them going missing from care and the risks this exposes them to.

18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 There are no direct risks emerging through consideration of the Annual Report.

19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

19.1 There are no direct health and safety implications for the public and the Council's workforce or for the resilience of the Borough to a major or serious incident, emerging through the report.

20.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 The Panel's Annual Report is compatible with the Articles and Protocols of the EU Convention, particularly in supporting the rights of all children to be safeguarded from serious harm.

21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

21.1 There are no implications for the local environment or the conservation of biodiversity arising from the report.

22.0 GLOSSARY

22.1 None, applicable.

23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

23.1 Appendix 1: Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report (2018-19).

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

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Financial Implications/Consultation



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(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where there are no financial implications)