

The Local Youth Offer in Barnsley and the Development of the Targeted Youth Support Service

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the Local Authority's youth support services available to young people in Barnsley. This includes the Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS) and its individual functions including Youth Voice & Participation, as well as provision across Area Councils.
- 1.2 The report describes the context of the Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS), the services within this, and how these dovetail with other services and pathways to offer support to young people and families across the Council and its partners. This report focuses specifically on the work of the Early Intervention and Prevention Service and their responsibilities in providing a local youth offer, rather than the specialist support services in relation to youth offending and youth justice.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In April 2015, and as part of a Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) Future Council remodelling exercise, the Integrated Youth Support Service, that brought together: the Youth Service; Targeted Information Advice and Guidance (TIAG); and the Youth Offending Team (YOT), was restructured to create a Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS).
- 2.2 The YYS was a new service that would have two distinct functions: early intervention and prevention services; and a youth offending service, both of which would be situated in the People Directorate.
- 2.3 Although the TIAG service did not become part of the Targeted Youth Support Service, it continued to operate and was transferred into the Place Directorate under Economic Development Services. The TIAG Service provides independent and impartial careers advice to encourage and assist young people to progress in education, employment and training.
- 2.4 In subsequent years, youth service provision was subject to a number of budget reductions as part of austerity measures both locally and nationally. The local Youth Service has had budget reductions in the region of £400k. To compound this, the local Youth Justice Service received a reduction in partner agency contributions of approximately £200k.
- 2.5 The new Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS) was designed to work in partnership with other agencies to deliver integrated services to help put teenagers, who were taking risks or experiencing difficulties, on the right path. The service would provide effective support to children, young people and their families at the right time, recognising that support may be needed at any point in a person's life and families may need help in making positive changes.
- 2.6 Through early help or the early identification of an issue, the service offers a range of universal and targeted support to reduce or prevent problems from escalating. Where issues are more serious and complex, the service also provides a range of statutory and intensive interventions to help young people and their families.
- 2.7 The YYS delivers services for children and young people from 8-19 years (and up to 25 where there are additional needs) and is made up of staff from Barnsley Council, NHS, restorative justice provider Remedi, South Yorkshire Police and the Probation Service who work together to support young people to make a positive transition into adulthood.
- 2.8 The statutory framework against which service delivery is accountable is underpinned by the following duties and functions:

- The Education Act 1996, Section 507, duty to provide sufficient positive activities as part of a local youth offer
- The Children Act 1989, Section 23ZB stating that an Authority has to appoint an independent visitor for any looked after child, where this is within their best interest
- The Children Act 1989, Section 17, providing services to support families to care for their children
- Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, which requires local authorities in exercising their social services functions to act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State
- Short Breaks: Statutory Guidance on how to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children, April 2010
- Working Together to Safeguard Children: Children's Rights
- The Crime and Disorder Act (as amended) 1998 - Provision of Youth Justice Services, services to support victims of Youth Crime and support to parents of young people involved in the criminal justice system

2.9 TYS has a range of expertise depending on the issue and needs of a young person and their family / social factors and circumstances. Depending on the individual need, support can include:

- health and emotional support e.g.: confidence building, self-esteem and anger management; trauma treatment; talking therapies such as Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) interventions
- family therapy via Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- risk taking behaviour including sex drugs and alcohol
- sexual health advice, including contraception, and sexually transmitted infections (STI) screening
- promoting positive relationships
- diversion from crime and anti-social behaviour
- support and interventions to address substance misuse
- staying safe / including online and social media safety
- support to encourage volunteering and active citizenship
- signposting to find work education and training opportunities
- parenting and family support

2.10 TYS provides services to teenagers across a range of different types of need and at different levels of intensity and focus. Some of our early intervention and prevention provision will be led by young people choosing when and where to see their worker through voluntary engagement. By contrast some of our Youth Justice or MST provision will be as a direct alternative to care proceedings or to prison and is necessarily more intense and directive.

3.0 The Early Intervention and Prevention Service – The Local Youth Offer

3.1 The Early Intervention and Prevention Service works closely with other early help services in the borough, specifically, the Family Centre network. The Early Intervention and Prevention Team and their offer for young people is integral to the early help offer for families and the two services share a single referral pathway for more targeted support needs.

3.2 As highlighted previously, in recent years the youth service has historically been impacted by both local and national austerity measures with an estimated 40% reduction in services locally being realised since austerity began in 2010. However, Barnsley is in a much better place than other areas in relation to youth service activity and has managed to maintain an infrastructure across the borough to build and expand upon, which is evidenced through the increase in additional services commissioned to early intervention and prevention since 2015. Barnsley is one of the few areas to still deliver regular face-to-face evening sessions within communities and the current model is a combination of:

- traditional youth work practice, ethos and delivery models i.e. evening provision
- fulfilment of statutory duties for Return Home Interviews (RHIs), Independent Visitors, Children's Rights and Short Breaks
- responding to emerging themes, priorities and opportunities impacting on the youth sector

- 3.3 The service is also a partner within the Regional Youth Work Unit that brings together professionals with a youth work background to support collaboration across the sector on key policy areas and initiatives.
- 3.4 The early intervention and prevention offer within and across communities has continued to expand in recent years to meet not only identified local need but to also respond to emerging commercial opportunities within the youth sector.
- 3.5 Integral to the early help offer to families is the Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) Communities Team who work with young people from 11-19 years (and up to 25 with additional needs). Any young person can access EIP community-based services and opportunities. Families and young people can self-refer to the Early Help panel or they can be referred with their consent by other agencies. The service works with young people on identified issue, helping to build their resilience, self-esteem and confidence and equip them with the tools and strategies they need to prepare them for a successful transition to adulthood.
- 3.6 The EIP Communities team delivers targeted provision in the evenings through the borough's six 'I Know I Can' centres along with detached and outreach sessions where there is an identified issue or concern. Bespoke programmes are developed often in conjunction with partners to meet specific needs and are designed to be delivered in group settings to address specific issues e.g. anti-social behaviour within a particular area. These IKIC Young People's Centres are based in Cudworth, Town Centre, Penistone, Dearne and Wombwell communities with additional delivery points across the borough. The service's physical infrastructure is supported by a 'virtual' promotion and awareness through other communication channels, aligning with the Council's vision within the DigitalFirst agenda.
- 3.7 The service also provides dedicated support to young people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT). In addition, there is a specific programme of activity and support for children and young people with mild to moderate learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) through evening sessions and respite delivered as part of the wider Short Breaks programme. Through one-to-one support, services are available to young people who are most vulnerable and need additional support for themselves and their family. Young people are engaged voluntarily and are assessed using a strengths-based tool to demonstrate progress in making positive choices and behaviour change.
- 3.8 The service also works closely with the police and other agencies to support young people who are found safe and well after a missing episode as part of the council's statutory duty. The Return Home Interview Service (RHI) provides young people and their parents / carers the offer of a return home interview to identify any underlying causes of the missing episodes and to provide information, support and access to more specialist and targeted services where appropriate.

Engagement Programme – 'Excel'

- 3.9 As a result of identified need, a specific borough-wide programme has been developed to support young people to stay in school. An example of this is the 'Excel' Programme which has been developed for schools to purchase and is currently being piloted within two secondary schools in the borough. The programme is aimed at young people aged 14 years and over who are struggling at school and who are at risk of exclusion. The Early Intervention and Prevention Team works with schools to identify and support these young people, their schools and families through interventions focused around specific areas of social and emotional personal development. Young people accessing the programme remain on the school roll and close working with the school is a criteria of the programme and a key indicator of success. The Excel programme brings together a wide variety of interventions to address the complexity of issues that some young people face. The service provides pupils with a range of experiences and challenges to equip them for long-term personal, social and economic growth and independence through a structured programme of modules encompassing environmental awareness, sports leadership and life skills. Each module includes an accredited learning outcome that can be counted as part of a young person's national record of achievement.
- 3.10 This is a supplementary and externally funded offer that has been funded initially through the Think Family (the national Troubled Families) programme until March 2020 but will be embedded as a service available for schools to purchase afterwards. As the funding draws to a close, the service has commenced soft consultation with a number of additional secondary schools across the borough to gauge the demand for the programme longer term. A full evaluation of young people's outcomes will be

undertaken to identify the difference the programme has made to them securing better outcomes at school.

- 3.11 The initiative is being trialled at the present time in two secondary schools with a view to shaping the offer further before a full rollout can be offered to all schools and more formal consultation has taken place through the Schools Forum and Secondary Head networks. The feedback so far is positive from the schools that have taken up places and the programme ensures that young people gain accredited awards for the work they undertake whilst on the programme all of which can be added to their own school portfolios.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Contextual Safeguarding

- 3.12 Another area of the work the EIP Communities Team have led on as a result of need has been the sub-regional Child Criminal Exploitation project, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. This was a bid that was initially granted in 2018 for a period of two years to fund activity across the sub-region to tackle the issue of child criminal exploitation and to offer early intervention and support to young people who may be exposed to risk within their communities as a result of this.

- 3.13 The bid has been project managed by Doncaster Children's Trust with partners from Barnsley and Rotherham Councils and South Yorkshire Police also being joint bid recipients, adopting a tri-borough delivery framework. The bid has provided funding of £750k to develop the following areas of work across the three boroughs as part of a CCE strategy for South Yorkshire:-

- coordination of police led disruption activity and operations where intelligence identifies a local area need or concern around CCE
- deployment of local positive activities teams across the three areas to deliver positive interventions and build relationships with young people who are vulnerable to, or at risk of, becoming involved in CCE, working with existing locality youth teams
- delivery of additional targeted and one-to-one support for young people who need additional help or intervention
- development of a referral pathway into specialist therapeutic intervention and access to a psychologist for young people in need of further assessment and interventions
- implementation of a common tracking 'tool' across South Yorkshire led by the National Crime Agency to ensure that all areas are consistently identifying young people at risk of early involvement in CCE activity and to ensure that risk is being addressed appropriately and support is in place from the relevant agencies
- Rollout of educational packages to primary and secondary schools in areas where there is an identified intelligence led need or concern around exposure to CCE
- Follow on positive activities legacy work in identified communities until the funding ceases

- 3.14 The work undertaken as part of the CCE bid has been embedded within existing locality youth service arrangements and additionally, has helped to influence Barnsley's developments and practice around the theme of contextual safeguarding, which was an identified area for development within the last Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS).

- 3.15 Whilst the funding for this activity will cease in March 2020, the learning from this project has helped to shape practice developments in supporting young people who may be exposed to risks associated with child criminal exploitation and has helped to develop an effective multi agency pathway for the identification, tracking and support for those most vulnerable.

4.0 Young People's Provision Commissioned by Area Councils

- 4.1 The six Area Councils that operate across Barnsley (the Dearne, Penistone, the North, the North East, the South and Central) look at the data provided for their area and commission services based on the evidence of need. Each area is different and as a result they commission to meet different needs but there are some similarities in the services commissioned.

- 4.2 Area Councils use:
- local datasets, community consultation information & local intelligence to set their priorities
 - Discuss with a range of BMBC and partner 'experts' to design a project outline to tackle priorities
 - Develop a procurement process and design a specification which is approved by the Area Council
 - Social Value based commissioning & procurement – social value indicators, price/quality ratios, use of non-traditional providers, encourage local spend
 - Rigorous contract review & performance reporting back to the Area Council
- 4.3 Area Councils develop local and additional service provision which:
- Fills gaps/needs identified by very local data & community intelligence
 - Provides a safe space for innovation/pilot activity by a range of partners
 - Brings in the community/volunteers & Voluntary Community Services as partners to deliver a joint 'doing with' approach
 - Maximises levels of social value by taking an asset-based approach, keeping spend local & creating opportunities for non-traditional providers
- 4.4 In five out of the six areas youth provision is commissioned through the Area Councils (the North, the North East, the South, Central and Penistone) and young people's projects have been supported through the Development Fund in the Dearne.

Central Area Council

4.5 Within the Central Area:

- The YMCA in Barnsley currently deliver a service to build emotional resilience in children and young people in the Central Area. They provide services in the local communities which consist of peer mentoring and transition into adulthood support.
- The following organisations, the Exodus Project, TADS (Therapies for Anxiety, Depression & stress) and the Youth Association are currently receiving Central Well-being Funding to deliver services to children and young people between 1st June 2019 and 30th June 2020.
- From the 1st April 2020 to the 31st March 2023 a new three-year contract will deliver a service to build emotional resilience in children and young people aged 8 –13 years of age. This service will be delivered by YMCA Barnsley.
- There will be a new Youth Work Fund which will be launched in March this year, the grant will be allocated to organisations to deliver Community based and/or outreach/detached services for young people aged 13+ across the Central Area Council. These will be to develop their social and life skills and strengthen emotional resilience, in preparation for a happy, healthy and independent adulthood.

North Area Council

4.6 The North Area Council in 2019/2020 commissioned the following projects for young people in their area:

- YMCA Barnsley - provide opportunities for children and young people in the North Area to engage with and explore activities along with access to information and guidance that equips them to make better lifestyle choices This project targeted young people who are more likely to engage in behaviour detrimental to the health of themselves, their families and the wider community. The project was open access for all young people along with delivering detached youth work, targeted outreach, and specialist community engagement events and initiatives.
- Ad Astra: Stronger Women and Girls - Ad Astra ran two groups in two wards. Both groups' aim was to promote positive mental health and a sense of well-being for all participants.
 - One group was for young women
 - One group was for ladies of all ages
 MAD is a dance project to nurture and promote positive mental health for young women aged between 13 to 18 years of age. This group was to reduce stress, anxiety and depression and to encourage social bonds and friendships which are key factors in improving mood and mental health. The Well Women's Group was a discussion group for women to promote positive mental health. This group is to encourage positive role models and peer support for women to share information and skills.

- Emmanuel Methodist Church: Ignite Barnsley - Ignite works with children and young people to encourage them to discover their strengths, make positive choices and promote individuality through good mental health. The project worked with small groups of children and young people in both school and community group settings to help spark aspirations and enable them to reach their potential. Ignite's workshops offered a helping hand to children and young people as well as signposting them to other organisations that can offer more individual help.
- Reds in the Community: Healthy Lifestyle Programme - The programme worked to improve the health and wellbeing of both young people and adults in the area through the delivery of structured physical activity sessions coupled with lifestyle workshops.
- Future opportunities in the North area - From March 2020 to 2022 a service will be commissioned that provides children and young people aged 8 -14 years with the resources they need to support transition healthily and happily into adolescence. This should include increasing the confidence, self-esteem, attitudes and aspirations of the children/young people involved.

South Area Council

4.7 In the South Area of Barnsley through the Health and Wellbeing Fund there have been a few smaller projects granted funding to work with young people, these are:

- Targeted Youth Support, Young wellbeing ambassadors - this is funded up to June 2020 and is a peer mentor project in both Netherwood ALC and Kirk Balk Academy. The Targeted Youth Support worker supports young people to help deliver their wellbeing information and guidance sessions to peers across the schools along with delivering out of school sessions.
- TADs for wellbeing project which is funded up to June 2020. This is an early intervention model working in two primary schools to offer one to one health and wellbeing support for children referred by parents and teachers but who are not accessing other support such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). These two primary schools were chosen as they were showing an increasing demand for support but were not buying in the service themselves or any other mental health support.
- Healthy Holidays programme which is funded through the Area Council. It is being delivered through the Ward Alliances and aiming to tackle negative impact upon children in low income households during the school holidays.
- Reds in the community - this is delivering health and well-being activities in primary schools.

North East Area

4.8 The North East Area Council provides a Youth Development Fund that young people's services can apply for, this provides services to children and young people around their health and well-being:

- Adastra is one of the organisations who provide a service to young people in the area to support their health and well-being. The staff will be trained in supporting people to stop-smoking this year and will be able to deliver support to young people who have started smoking. The schools can refer in to Adastra if they highlight that young people in their school are experiencing things they need additional support with.
- There is a project working with the schools around positive sexual health and period poverty. Young women can be referred in or refer themselves for support around their periods along with broader issues that young person is experiencing.
- The Prom Project which is a project working with young people attending their proms but may be struggling to afford all the things that are expected from them was launched in the North East and is now working across other areas in the borough. The project supports young people to access either a prom dress or suit so they can feel confident attending the prom without experiencing the stigma of not being able to afford what they needed to attend.
- There are lots of smaller projects funded through the ward alliances for young people in the North East.

Dearne Area

4.9 Within the Dearne:

- There are grants that community organisations can access for funding to support young people's services through the Dearne Development Fund. Some of that provision went to TADS who support young people's mental health and outreach to families in the Dearne, some went to improving access to physical activity projects to improve the health and well-being of young people and some went to the Family Centres in the area for support to families and young people.
- Through the employment projects that are run young people were supported to access apprenticeships or employment and this proved really successful in breaking down some of the barriers to employment in the local area.

4.10 All six areas support beneficial projects for young people through their ward alliance funding, where there are a plethora of projects being funded through small grants in all areas across the borough.

5.0 Youth Voice and Participation

5.1 In order to offer a variety of universal opportunities for young people to get involved in their communities and have a greater influence over the types of services they receive, the Council has a Youth Voice and Participation Team within TYS. Paramount to this activity is the requirement to work within a youth work structure that is safe and supported by a workforce that is passionate about the voice of young people. The work undertaken by the team helps to develop young people into active citizens and promotes an involvement in community life amongst younger people, supporting the Council's town spirit campaign and ethos.

5.2 To support the statutory duty, Barnsley regularly undertakes a young person's audit to ascertain the views of young people to determine the sufficiency of the local offer and their views. This is a process undertaken in consultation with other agencies and the results are published and used as a basis to influence services shaped by the views of young people.

5.3 The service specifically supports Barnsley's Youth Council, who are a group of local young people who are elected by their peers to represent the views of other young people locally, regionally and nationally. The Youth Council are elected every two years, from across secondary schools; academies; colleges; and other educational establishments, to work closely with Barnsley Council and other service providers to ensure that young people's views are taken into account when considering changes or service developments, ensuring that young people's views are represented and expressed in service design and delivery.

5.4 The Youth Council is the borough's strategically recognised framework for formal consultation with young people. However, the model also supports other specific 'council' based groups that work collaboratively and alongside the Youth Council.

5.5 The service also supports specific participation and advocacy services and groups for children in care / care leavers (the Care4Us Council and Children's Rights Advocacy Service), and a more recently developed Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) forum for young people with additional needs. Collectively, these bodies ensure that the views of the most marginalised and vulnerable young people are supported to participate in decisions that concern them and to influence strategy and policy in their field.

5.6 Two members of Barnsley's Youth Council are elected bi-annually to become United Kingdom Youth Parliament members and represent the borough and their peers on a national platform by participating in debates within the House of Commons and attending regional and national conventions, conferences and events.

5.7 More recently young people from Barnsley's Youth Voice and Participation networks have become members of The Sheffield City Region Youth Combined Authority and have actively participated to ensure that Barnsley and its youth population are involved in shaping any local / devolved services.

- 5.8 Every year, the service supports the national Make Your Mark campaign administered by United Kingdom Youth Parliament and the British Youth Council. The campaign is the largest annual voting process by which the United Kingdom Youth Parliament members debate and decide on ten key topics for young people drawn from a national audience. These ten topics are voted on locally by young people aged 11 – 19yrs to determine each area’s prioritisation of the topics for them to take forward within their own participation agendas.
- 5.9 The top three local topics and top two national campaigns are then the focus on the Youth Council’s annual work plan for the forthcoming year. This work and the work of the Youth Council is supported structurally by a team of Youth Voice and Participation Workers who work closely with the council; schools and academies; service providers; and the voluntary and community sector to ensure these priorities are promoted and feature within Barnsley’s local youth offer.
- 5.10 The Youth Voice and Participation Team have recently taken on the delivery of the Independent Visitors service. The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure that any child or young person who is looked after and has little or no contact with their birth family or parents should be entitled to an adult independent visitor. To safeguard and promote the interests of these young people, the Children and Young Persons’ Act 2008 requires local authorities to appoint independent visitors to ‘befriend, assist and advise them’. The scheme is accessible to all young people who are looked after, regardless of their placement or care status and so the service has developed and designed a system for recruiting and training adult volunteers to become independent visitors, working closely with colleagues from Children’s Social Care.

Youth Voice and Participation - Current Activity

- 5.11 On the 8 November 2019 members of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) came together to debate and decide, at the UKYP House of Commons sitting, the most important issues to campaign on for the year ahead, marking the end of what was Parliament Week. The issues they debated were decided upon via the ‘Make Your Mark’ public vote for 11-18 year olds across the United Kingdom based on a shortlist of topics voted on by Members of the Youth Parliament from their manifesto.
- 5.12 The annual UKYP Make Your Mark (MYM) ballot is managed by the UKYP and the British Youth Council, a youth led charity which aims to empower young people across the UK to have a say and be heard. The Targeted Youth Support Service’s Youth Voice and Participation Team facilitated the campaign with over 18 different establishments taking part in the vote including secondary schools, academies, Barnsley College sites, Greenacre School, Springwell Academy and a variety of youth settings across the borough. In Barnsley alone, a total of 9,954 young people took part and voted in the current ballot.
- 5.13 Barnsley’s overall contribution to the national young people’s ballot helps to determine the priority campaigns for UK Youth Parliament Members and Youth Councils across the country for the year ahead. The top three issues for Barnsley young people combined from the UK and devolved ballot were:-
1. Protect the environment
 2. Put an end to knife crime
 3. Mental health
- 5.14 The Make Your Mark ballot orders the ten issues; those that go forward to be debated are the top two UK wide and the top three devolved issues. These five issues are then debated and voted upon again to decide the two national campaigns for the year ahead. This year’s winning campaigns were coincidentally in line with Barnsley young people’s views of (1) protect the environment and (2) put an end to knife crime.
- 5.15 The top three local issues for Barnsley young people were determined by free text on the national ballot paper and are:-
1. The effects of drug use in communities
 2. Young people’s access to transport (the offer)
 3. Community safety, including anti-social behaviour (ASB), crime, gangs and policing
- 5.16 Both the local and national priorities will form the basis of twelve months of campaign work involving Barnsley’s youth voice network representatives who will work with schools, youth settings and other user

forums and establishments to promote the work and involve key stakeholders in exploring some of the underpinning themes as part of a broader task group.

- 5.17 The themes from the MYM campaign are communicated to senior leaders and the views of young people are used to shape the Children and Young People's Plan and other key strategies and policies. An example of this was at the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) conference in July 2019, led by Barnsley's Executive Director for People Rachel Dickinson in her capacity of serving president for the ADCS. Young people representing our own youth voice networks were invited to the conference to share their experiences of the work they have co-produced with senior leaders from across the various strategic partnerships and how their views are being used to influence and shape the service offer for other young people, particularly around services for young people with additional needs (SEND users) and our children in care cohort.
- 5.18 Another recent youth voice development has been the inauguration of Barnsley's first Young Civic Mayor. In November 2019, and as part of Children's Takeover week, Barnsley swore in its first official Young Mayor, 17 year-old Alyssa Butler. Being the first of its kind in the borough, the incumbent young mayor will work alongside the adult mayor and staff and more importantly, Barnsley's Youth Council and youth voice networks, to act as a champion and actively advocate on behalf of young people across the borough, representing them at relevant events and civic occasions.
- 5.19 The role is still in the developmental stage but less than six months into her new role, our current Young Mayor has been nominated and awarded for her work as both a Youth Councillor in Barnsley and for work across the region at the Youth Voice 'Star Awards'. These awards recognise, celebrate and showcase the breadth and diversity of local work within the British Youth Councils Youth Voice programme. They recognise the workers who deliver work and the change makers that champion it; the local authorities/commissioned services that enable it; projects doing things differently to address local and national issues; and not forgetting the young people at the centre of it all.
- 5.20 There are a number of categories within the awards, but our Young Mayor has recently won 'Young Campaigner of the Year', for Yorkshire and Humber, whilst two young men were also nominated from Barnsley within the same category.
- 5.21 Barnsley's Youth Voice and Participation Team has more recently set up and supports a specific structure for involving young people who are subject to SEND care plans so that the voices of these service users are considered in the development of strategies and services to support their needs and also ensuring that they too are included in generic youth voice structures and networks. The SEND forum informs the design, delivery and commissioning of specialist services and feeds into the parent/carer network where appropriate ensuring that the needs and views of SEND young people are heard and acted upon.
- 5.22 The forum and its satellite focus/consultation groups encourage a positive interface with other young people; key decision makers; internal and external stakeholders; and partner organisations. The young people involved participate in local and regional structures in order to effect positive change through local, regional and national opportunities, events and exchanges. The young people are supported to be involved in the delivery of local, regional and national task groups, themes of work and campaigns where there is alignment to local youth voice agendas and priorities such as with the annual Make Your Mark Campaigns.
- 5.23 Consultation methods have been developed according to the needs of service users with SEND and to capitalise on larger scale opportunities and campaigns both locally and nationally members of the forum and its wider groups are also supported to access and feed into mainstream engagement opportunities through the existing Youth Council infrastructure of school drop ins and focus groups.

6.0 Future Plans & Challenges

Forthcoming Inspections

- 6.1 There are a number of inspections which our current youth offer will be measured upon as part of a wider context within children's services; this includes ILACS, SEND and Youth Justice. There is no longer a dedicated inspection framework for Youth Services.

Changes to Legislation / National Government Policy

- 6.2 The legislative requirement for Local Authorities (LAs) to provide youth services is defined in Section 507B of the Education Act 1996. This states that every local authority in England must, so far as reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area, access to sufficient educational and recreational activities (also referred to as positive leisure-time activities) which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.
- 6.3 This duty still stands and has only late last year (October 2019), been the subject of a formal government consultation under which local authorities were officially consulted and their views sought on how the duty is delivered across areas. This may be an indication of a seed change in terms of a revised policy document setting out the expectation for local authorities in delivering services for young people and to recognise developments and learning from contextual safeguarding developments.

7.0 Invited Witnesses

7.1 The following witnesses have been invited to attend to answer questions from the committee:-

- Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, People Directorate
- Claire Gilmore, Head of Early Start, Prevention & Sufficiency, People Directorate
- Julie Hammerton, Early Intervention & Prevention Service Manager, People Directorate
- Angela Kelly, Early Intervention & Prevention Service Operational Manager, People Directorate
- Emma Baines, Youth Voice & Participation Operations Manager, People Directorate
- Alyssa Butler, Young Mayor of Barnsley and Barnsley Youth Councillor
- Rachel Payling, Head of Service – Stronger Communities, Communities Directorate
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

8.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

8.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:-

- How would you describe the quality of the current youth service offer in Barnsley?
- What areas of activity are working well and having the greatest impact upon young people?
- Can you give a recent example of how the Youth Council or service users have influenced service design and delivery?
- Is the Youth Council diverse and representative of the service users and the wider community?
- How would young people and families that need help know that these services exist?
- How confident are you that the projects established through funding bids will continue when the income streams come to an end?
- Are there currently any aspects of the service that are under-used or may not be operating as effectively as they could?
- Are children generally responsive to Return Home Interviews; are they of sufficient quality and quantity to shape targeted interventions; and what tangible changes have been made as a result?
- How do you know whether the service is improving outcomes for young people and providing the support they need?
- How does the service link with community groups such as the scouts, sports clubs and community theatre groups?
- What further work is required to ensure that services and opportunities are truly inclusive for those with SEND?

- Can you give an example of how you have adapted the consultation process to capture the views of young people with SEND?
- What are the self-assessments and audits telling you about the service and, based on what you currently know, what do you think the potential inspection outcomes would be?
- When working in conjunction with other local authorities, what agreements are in place to ensure that you receive value for money and that information is shared effectively and safely?
- How can Elected Members support the Youth Council agenda and the work of the Targeted Youth Support service?

9.0 Background Papers and Useful Links:-

The Children Act 1989:-

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>

The Local Authority Social Services Act 1970:-

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1970/42>

Department for Education - Short Breaks for Disabled Children Statutory Guidance:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/short-breaks-for-disabled-children>

Department of Education - Working Together to Safeguarding Children:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Crime & Disorder Act 1998:-

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/contents>

BMBC Early Help & Targeted Support for Young People:-

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/young-people/early-help-and-targeted-support-for-young-people/>

BMBC Care4Us Council & Youth Council:-

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/children-in-care-and-care-leavers/children-in-care-information-just4u/care4us-council/>

Children & Young Person's Act 2008:-

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/23/contents>

Remedi:-

<http://www.remediuk.org/>

The Education Act 1996:-

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents>

10.0 Glossary

ADCS	Association of Directors of Children's Services
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
CBT	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
EIP	Early Intervention & Prevention
IAPT	Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies
ILACS	Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services

LA	Local Authority
LDD	Learning Difficulties & Disabilities
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender
MST	Multisystemic Therapy
MYM	Make Your Mark
OSC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
RHI	Return Home Interview
SEND	Special Education Needs & Disability
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TIAG	Targeted Information, Advice & Guidance
TUPE	Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)
TYS	Targeted Youth Support Service
UKYP	UK Youth Parliament
YOT	Youth Offending Team

11.0 Officer Contact

Anna Marshall, Overview & Scrutiny Team
02 March 2020