

DRAFT SEND Strategy 2020 to 2022

Foreword & Introduction by Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director of the People Directorate BMBC and Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group Chair.

There has been marked improvement in education outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) since the publication of the previous SEND Strategy in 2016, the introduction of the SEND reforms and the Children and Families Act in 2014. The Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust is particularly pleased to note improvements in all key stages for pupils identified as having SEND Support needs. These achievements sit alongside the hard work and commitment of children, young people and families and professionals from health, education and care. There has also been a programme of substantial financial investment from Children and Young People's Trust partners to improve services based on feedback from children, young people and families, performance data, and our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan 2019-22 published by the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust in June 2019 outlines how our Children's Partnership will work together to provide a '**Brighter Future and a Better Barnsley**' for all our Children and Young People. Services for children and young people with SEND were outlined as a strategic priority within the plan. The Children and Young Peoples Trust's commitment to this priority is further articulated throughout this strategy and improvement is being driven at pace and scale through a robust SEND Improvement Plan.

To continue our journey to co-produce well-planned, integrated, quality provision for children and young people with SEND from birth to age 25, key agencies and services will take shared responsibility for development and outcomes. We will work proactively to meet the resourcing and financial challenges faced. We will ensure commissioning arrangements provide for multiple and complex need and are personalised to the individual needs of children and young people. We will ensure sufficient, good quality services within the borough in line with our local needs assessment/profile to ensure children and young people can access provision locally. We will intervene early to provide the right support maximising opportunities for independence as we prepare our children and young people with SEND for adulthood. Barnsley will deliver services in a way that ensures the voice of children and young people is at the centre of all our practice.

The Barnsley SEND Youth Forum told the Children and Young People's Trust that the key values they feel should be promoted across the partnership and underpin this strategy are:

- Consideration
- Acceptance
- Consistency
- Fairness in all things
- Kindness
- Quality

These values provide a strong foundation for change and in the development and delivery of positive outcomes underpinned by high quality services. We encourage everyone who reads this strategy to consider how they adopt these values to support positive interactions with children, young people and families within their everyday practice.

The Trust's ambition for all children and young people in Barnsley is that they:

- Can attend a school or other education setting that is good or outstanding
- Achieve success in learning and work
- Live in a strong and resilient family

We want Barnsley to be a place where:

- All children and young people live in a safe environment, where they feel listened to, supported and respected.
- Children, young people and families make healthy lifestyle choices, and are emotionally well and resilient.
- Children and young people enjoy life and its opportunities, achieve their potential and benefit from a good education.
- Young people have access to and secure good jobs.
- Children and young people become active citizens who contribute to creating a 'Better Barnsley'.

The SEND Children and Young People's Plan 2020 to 2022 which has been co-produced with the SEND Youth Forum brings to life the voice of children and young people with SEND in Barnsley and should be read in conjunction with this strategy. In addition, the Barnsley SEND Sufficiency Strategy and the Barnsley Accessibility Strategy have been developed to outline our statutory functions and set out how we will meet need locally. Schools will develop and implement their own Accessibility Strategy in line with the Trusts' approach to ensure specific but consistent policy and activity.

I thank everyone who has contributed to this document and ask for your continued support in our journey to develop outstanding services for all children and young people and support better experiences and outcomes for children and young people aged 0-25 and beyond with SEND.

The Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust and the development of this Strategy

Trust partners include; Barnsley MBC, the NHS, Barnsley Schools Alliance, Governors Association, Police, voluntary organisations, Healthwatch Barnsley, and the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership. Members of the Trust meet via the Barnsley Trust Executive Group (TEG) to provide oversight and senior leadership to key areas of operational practice and strategy across Children's Services. They monitor the implementation and associated outcomes of the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Trust will drive systems change in relation to SEND by:

- Enabling partnership opportunities with children, young people and parents/carers to develop services at an individual and strategic level.
- Developing and delivering a well-planned continuum of provision and integrated services which work closely with children, young people and their families to meet their needs at the right time and reduce reliance on specialist services.
- Supporting children and young people to live as ordinary a life as possible in their local community.
- Creating services, schools and settings which have the capacity and confidence to deliver high quality provision, which improves children and young people's education, social and health outcomes.

This development relates to the five key areas of improvement within the SEND Improvement Plan:

- Early Identification and Support
- Quality and Efficiency of EHC processes
- Participation and Co-production
- Access to Specialist Provision, including Specialist School Places
- Planning for Pathways to Adulthood

Knowing that we are providing the right services and support for families has huge importance for the Trust. We recognise that it is from the feedback we receive from children, young people, parents and carers and what we know about their levels of satisfaction, that we gain a better understanding of how we should improve our services and practice. It is from parental knowledge and the lived experience of our children and young people that we can provide what is needed.

We will continue to deliver and develop a broad range of engagement opportunities to reach the widest number of parents, carers, children and young people to ensure a representative voice to evaluate service delivery. We will also continue working in partnership with all key stakeholders to develop processes for coproduction and engagement by developing positive mechanisms for shared strategic activity. This will include an annual refresh of this strategy to evaluate and demonstrate progress, align new and emerging areas of development, and move further towards the coproduction of this key document.

Children, young people, parents and carers expressed that they valued services across the partnership, but they also highlighted key areas for development.

Young people with SEND told us the issues which are important to them are:

- Addressing Bullying
- Improving the school environment for children and young people with SEND
- Better understanding about SEND by all
- Improved access to community spaces and activities
- Greater Independence

The SEND Youth Forum presented these key themes for development to senior leaders from across the Children and Young People's Trust and Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership at the Joint Partnership Board in November 2019 and a commitment was made to work proactively together to focus improvement activity within these areas.

Key areas for improvement highlighted by parents in relation to SEND include:

- Clear coproduction and engagement processes to support the delivery and development of Barnsley services at a strategic and operational level.
- Consistency of approach relating to contact with service professionals and in relation to service delivery.
- Services to be better connected to ensure education, care and health needs are met and services are delivered via a partnership approach throughout assessment, planning and delivery phases.

- Better information about what services exist and how they can access them to gain support.
- Improved and consistent communication in relation to the sharing and distribution of information.
- Access to services in a more timely and efficient way.
- A clear and effective pathway to adulthood.
- More involvement from key services and professionals in statutory review processes.
- Wider access to short breaks.

All areas for improvement have been linked to actions and activity which are outlined within our SEND Improvement Plan which is our enabler for change and action.

About Barnsley

There are 52,858 children aged between 0 and 18 years in Barnsley this is 21.7% of our town's total population. Life for children, young people and families in Barnsley is an improving picture and Barnsley residents have a lot to celebrate and enjoy. Our education outcomes are improving year on year and in some areas are above the national average with the potential to do better.

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. As a town, it is important that we improve access to community spaces to enable greater independence and accessibility for Barnsley children, young people and adults capitalising on new infrastructure developments.

We will work collectively to achieve this ambition across all service areas within Barnsley Council, and alongside local businesses, and community and voluntary sector organisations. This will include a key focus on improving access to leisure, recreation and positive activities for children and young people with SEND and their families. This will enable great community cohesion and ensure Barnsley is not only a great place to live and grow but a place where inclusion and accessibility is able to be demonstrated consistently, providing increased opportunities for children and young people to thrive, and improved daily life experiences of all Barnsley residents.

Barnsley is proud of its industrial heritage, but this legacy has brought with it many challenges that local people and services must work to overcome. Barnsley is the 39th most deprived Local Authority in England and this presents challenges ranging

from; high levels of deprivation in relation to health, employment, low paid work, education, skills and training.

Good progress is being made but there is still more to do to ensure we narrow the deprivation gap for Barnsley children, young people and families and achieve good and better outcomes for all. Raising aspirations by providing good quality education for children, life opportunities and developing enterprising behaviours is essential.

The SEND Youth Forum has told us that children and young people with SEND worry about not having enough qualifications to get a job. They want more opportunities for work experience as they see this as an opportunity to demonstrate what they can do. They also want to see more awareness and support in the workplace for young people with SEND.

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'. 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. This is key to supporting the Trusts' aspiration for improved independence.

The SEND Youth Forum and parents and carers have told us that children and young people want more support in their preparation for adulthood confirming what we know about this key area for development. Preparation for adulthood is a key focus for the Children and Young People's Trust and plans for cross service/directorate developments are being driven via the SEND Improvement Plan and related subgroups.

Barnsley's SEND Population

The school population in Barnsley has been increasing year on year since 2011. In January 2019, there were 34,451 pupils on roll in Barnsley schools compared to 33,980 in January 2018 (this includes State-funded Primary, Secondary and Special schools, (including academies, Independent Schools and Pupil Referral Units). Of these, 14.9% had a special educational need or disability compared with 14.9% nationally. 4.0% of pupils had a statement or Education Health Care Plan in comparison to 3.1% nationally, whilst 10.9% required SEN Support in comparison to 11.9% nationally.

Primary need within mainstream schools varies but Social Emotional and Mental Health, Moderate Learning Difficulty and Speech Language and Communication Needs, are the most prominent needs across the Borough. The percentage of SEND pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder as their primary need is increasing year on year.

Challenges and Solutions

The numbers of children with SEND in Barnsley are similar to other areas but more children have an Education, Health and Care Plan and fewer children are accessing SEN Support. It is important that we identify additional needs at the earliest opportunity so we can meet these in partnership with parents and prevent them from escalating.

Plans are in place to expand specialist school places within the borough and this is outlined within the SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2023. Significant investment has been put in place to address provision levels for; early intervention, specialist services and assessment pathways. This is now starting to demonstrate reductions in waits for key services and has improved the graduated support for children, young people and families. We know that many health services receive high satisfaction ratings from parents and young people, and we know we can extend the reach of these services by implementing effective key strategies/advice into daily support programmes at a universal level.

Inclusion and engagement are a key priority within our Children and Young People's Plan and in our sector led, Barnsley Alliance Education Improvement Strategy 2019.

The Barnsley Alliance has established a number of priorities through the SEND Improvement Plan and supporting programme, including:

1. Developing practice to identify SEND at the earliest stage and promote effective early intervention and support.
2. Developing and implementing specific risk assessment criteria around SEND practice and outcomes to identify schools and academies in need of targeted support.
3. Supporting the deployment of skilled Barnsley SENDCOs to challenge and develop practice in schools across the borough through secondment to the council's SEND Service.
4. Working pro-actively with the council to support placement sufficiency needs and ensuring wherever possible that children and young people can be placed in schools and academies within Barnsley.
5. Developing sector-led challenge through peer reviews and implementation of London Leadership reviews.
6. Working together to understand, challenge and reduce the high level of fixed-term and permanent exclusions experienced by children and young people with SEND.
7. Supporting the development of a revised borough-wide SEND Strategy.

The Barnsley Education Inclusion Service provides specialist and targeted support for educational settings and services. The team consists of professionally trained psychologists, specialist inclusion teachers, and support workers with experience of working with children, young people and families in a wide range of contexts.

Significant investment into early intervention in relation to supporting the Early Years' Sector to support children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) has been made and is being taken forward by Barnsley services as part of a sub-regional partnership, funded by the DfE.

Barnsley recognises there is a continued need to improve the consistent quality of Education Health and Care Plans and has undertaken a service restructure and programme of recruitment that has resulted in the development of a well-resourced, experienced and motivated Education, Health and Care Team which is being positively received by parents and schools.

Barnsley has experienced delays in some aspects of the annual review process for children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan and the Council has prioritised investment to address this. This is a key priority for the Trust as we know this process enables appropriate provision of service and is an essential part of reviewing and securing good outcomes for our children and young people.

The annual review process is also important to parents and young people and they have told us that they would like this to be a key focus moving forward. We will therefore work with all key stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and development within this area. Annual reviews should also be developed further to ensure that they are a tool for developing maximum independence and improved transition planning.

Barnsley MBC has a statutory duty under section 508A and 508D of the Education Act 1996 (amended by Education and Inspections Act 2006) to ensure that travel assistance is provided to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children or students. Barnsley's Home to School Travel Assistance Policy 2018 – 2020 sets out BMBC's arrangements for meeting this duty.

For children and students with special educational needs and disabilities the following menu of travel options is included in the policy; Independent travel training, personal travel budgets, school minibus, taxis or zero fare pass.

The inclusion of independent travel training and personal budgets into the menu of travel options is proving to be popular with families. The one to one individual daily coaching by travel trainers experienced in working with SEND pupils has helped to broaden life skills beyond travelling to school.

The service has invested in developing its passenger assistants (PAs) to be able to better support multiple and complex needs by providing a range of training and development opportunities which includes health-based training.

Specific challenges that the service face are the increasing numbers of pupils requiring transport, increasing distances students are travelling, together with an increasing range of complex individual needs. These issues are being addressed via the Barnsley SEND Sufficiency Strategy and through partnership working with colleagues in children's services, schools, and parent/carers.

Short breaks are a vital part of Barnsley's Local Offer to support families and the Trust commission short break providers to deliver community-based group activities alongside the provision of a residential short break setting for children and young people with complex needs. Short breaks are brokered with early years providers and individual personal budgets/direct payments are available based on assessed need. The short breaks offer will be kept under review and developed accordingly to meet presenting needs and respond to the feedback received from all key stakeholders.

The use of direct payments and personal budgets are increasing. We will continue to expand and develop our personal budgets offer considering how personal budgets can be used across services to increase levels of choice and control. Personalisation also requires strong peer support networks facilitated by parent groups in order to

utilise and develop Barnsley's social capital, so we are considering how we together support this function moving forward.

The SEND Improvement Processes and Priority Actions

Parents, children and young people's feedback, performance data, and the Local Authority's SEND Self-Evaluation Framework have been used to develop a detailed SEND Improvement Plan focusing on core/customer-facing priorities. The plan brings together the Local Area Partnership to engage in key areas of improvement activity which impact on the quality of experience of children and young people with SEND, and their families.

The five priority areas for improvement identified are broken down further into a detailed action plan which is tracked and monitored via the SEND Improvement Programme.

Priority 1: Early Identification and Support

Aim:

- We will work with early years settings, schools, post 16 providers and universal health providers to get better at identifying and meeting children and young people's additional needs as early as possible
- Develop a strong borough wide inclusion agenda focusing on quality first teaching to meet the needs of all learners.

Key Objectives:

- Review and develop effectiveness of mandated universal checks/screening in identifying needs.
- Develop the capacity of early years, childcare and health providers to identify and meet special educational needs in children under 5 years old.
- Develop the capacity of primary and secondary mainstream schools in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs.
- Develop confidence and capacity of inclusive practice for all pupils within Barnsley settings.
- Develop inclusion support planning tools and processes in partnership with schools.
- Improve reporting to examine and reduce exclusions for children with SEND.
- Champion and support SENCO reviews of SEN provision and practice in mainstream schools to develop confidence and capacity in early identification.
- Use the OFSTED framework to identify key standards within inclusive teaching
- To support families via targeted and specialist Early Help support.

Priority 2: Quality and Efficiency of EHC processes

Aim:

Where an Education Health and Care Plan is needed, we will improve the planning process so that children, young people, their parents/carers have a better experience and are confident the plan meets their needs.

Key Objectives:

- To meet all statutory duties for the annual review process: All annual review processes will be managed accurately and in a timely manner resulting in EHC plans which are purposeful and relevant to the child or young person.
- To embed and strengthen a relevant and timely EHC service which is transparent, equitable and robust in its delivery: All statutory assessment processes will be managed in a timely and effective manner resulting in a high quality relevant EHC plan.
- To safeguard and plan for the most vulnerable children in the borough with SEND: The most vulnerable children with SEND will be identified and planned for in advance of transitions in a process where their needs will be met through a cross team approach.
- Ensure joint planning and delivery mechanisms are being fully utilised to meet the needs of individual children including through team around the family approaches.
- Improved integration working and processes across social care and education to create 0 - 25 service with better measurable outcomes and future pre-emptive planning for key transitions.

Priority 3: Participation and Co-production

Aim:

We will create more opportunities for children, young people, parents and carers to contribute to, influence, and co-produce strategies and planning for SEND Local Area arrangements alongside daily opportunities to participate in service planning at an individual level.

Key Objectives:

- Further develop local Children and Young People's Trust arrangements to enable greater and wider participation and co-production with parents and carers.
- Continue to deliver and develop opportunities for and with SEND children and young people to enable them to participate, influence service policy, and drive improvements highlighted within the SEND CYP Plan via established youth participation processes.
- Develop a broad range of engagement opportunities to reach the widest number of parents and carers to ensure a representative parental voice to evaluate service delivery and activity across the Trust and provide opportunities for key issues to be raised outside of daily contact with services.
- Develop and publish a calendar of key consultations across the CYP Trust to support areas for development highlighted within the SEND Strategies, SEND Improvement Plan, Key organisational change, or as a result of parental/CYP feedback.

Priority 4: Access to Specialist Provision, including Specialist School Places

Aim: We will develop special education provision locally so more children can be educated within Barnsley. We will improve access to specialist health and therapy services.

Key Objectives:

- Develop options to create additional school places in accordance with SEND sufficiency planning.
- To increase SEND commissioning capacity to implement the sufficiency strategy and focus on the quality assurance of commissioned placements.
- To improve access to specialist health services
- Review and improve pathways for children's therapy services; ASC paediatric services, and CAMHS.
- Ensure resource allocation panels are connected and provide a timely response to meeting needs.

Priority 5: Planning for Pathways to Adulthood

Aim:

We will develop better pathways to adulthood so that children and young people's voice, needs and ambitions are our primary focus.

Children and young people will have access to timely and co-ordinated advice, support and service to enable them to plan for the future.

Key Objectives:

- Work with young people, parents and carers to identify priorities and plan for improvement across all related services.
- Raise aspiration, increase opportunities for young people to articulate their ambitions, and to develop skills that will support progress into employment
- Develop cross age phase arrangements, services, and workforce development opportunities across four key areas: Health, Communities, Employment and Training, and Preparing for Independence.

Strategic enablers to support this work are:

Priority: The Local Offer

- Ensure the Local Offer meets all requirements and provides relevant information which supports young people, parents/carers and professionals independently accessing support, services and provision
- Update the Local Offer to address identified gaps and establish processes for regular quality assurance.

Priority: Performance Management

- Implement robust performance management processes and data/intelligence collection.
- Review and evaluate data collated to ensure that children and young people with SEND (0-25) are receiving the support needed, are making the progress required and ensure the most vulnerable children are being identified.

Priority: Records and Case Management

- Review current records management systems; identify and implement actions to improve efficiency and quality of record keeping and case management.

Priority: Workforce Development

- Ensure professionals across all relevant services have access to and engage in continuous professional development which supports them in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND (0-25), in line with the SEND Code of Practice.

What will success look like:

Children and young people with SEND will achieve improved outcomes:

- Improved progress and attainment data for children and young people with SEND.
- Young people are supported to achieve maximum independence through to adulthood – progression planning demonstrated via the annual review process.
- Increased attendance rates and a reduction in persistent absence.
- Reduced exclusions in primary and secondary schools.

- NEET* figures for young people with SEND will be reduced on leaving school.
- Increased and successful employment opportunities

** Not in Education, Employment or Training*

Children and young people will have timely access to good-quality schools, colleges and services.

- Increased percentage of children having their needs met in mainstream provisions.
- Trends in demand for independent non maintained special school placements will slow.
- Reduction in the average distance travelled to access appropriate provision.

The SEND reforms will continue to be embedded across the borough.

- All children identified at the earliest opportunity, appropriate support offered and plans in place
- Compliance rates relating to EHCP completion to outperform the national average.
- Professional input is specific and purposeful to meet identified need
- Integrated early help and SEND systems ensure that each child has detailed, and pre-emptive planning and progress mapped by multiagency teams around them when required

Children, young people and families will tell us that they feel more supported by education, health and social care services.

- The EHCP process will deliver person centred planning and children, young people and their parents/carers will feel they are actively engaged in decision making and their planning arrangements
- Children, young people and families tell us they feel as if they have influenced and shaped service delivery.

The SEND Oversight Board was established in February 2019 to secure a partnership approach to delivering system-wide improvements in order to achieve better outcomes. The Board is chaired by the Executive Director for Children's Services and its members include key service representatives, including schools, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) and Public Health.

The SEND Oversight Board delivers an improved partnership grip and discipline in the management of SEND related pressures. It also ensures that a reporting and escalation process is in place to drive progress at pace and scale, generating tangible outcomes which can be demonstrated to parents, carers, children and young people. All progress is reported to the Children and Young Peoples Trust Executive Group.

The Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust will continue to work together with the SEND Youth Forum and Barnsley Youth Council to implement solutions to the issues raised in the Children and Young People's SEND Plan. The SEND Youth Forum will work in partnership with the Trust to develop an action plan which will sit alongside the SEND Improvement Plan. They will report all progress to the Trust Executive Group.

Closing Summary

We hope that this strategy has been clear about the Partnerships commitment to SEND and the journey we can make together to improve the everyday lived experience and outcomes of Barnsley children and young people with SEND and their families.

Our continuous improvement journey is underpinned by listening to the voice of children, young people and families, targeted investment, a robust self-evaluation framework, continuous improvement plan, and a strong governance and accountability structure. We are confident that by adopting this structured approach to improvement we will drive positive service and system transformation across the Children's Partnership in relation to SEND.

Many positive actions and improvements have been made but we acknowledge there is more still more to do. This means high levels of service integration across all age groups. We will ensure that developmental, safety, well-being and health outcomes are considered and well supported alongside educational progress and achievement.

As a borough we want to move away from dealing with difficulties once they have escalated, providing support at the earliest opportunity. It is important that as a Children and Young People's Trust we pool our resources to ensure that children, young people and families get the right support, at the right time to tackle problems early. We want to build our practice further to ensure a consistent focus on strength-based approaches to meeting need. This will reduce the dependency for diagnosis to enable allocation of resource and promote maximum independence throughout a child with SEND's life journey.

Over the lifetime of this strategy we will continue to work together with children and young people, placing them at the heart of what we do to achieve improved, even better outcomes, and achieve our ambition to develop outstanding services which make a difference to all children, young people and families in Barnsley. This will move us further to fulfilling the Trust's vision to provide a brighter future and a better

Barnsley and support ambitions to enable a thriving and vibrant economy, enabling people to achieve their full potential and that they live, work and learn in strong, resilient communities.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this strategy and ask for your continued commitment to ensuring effective implementation and ongoing review.