

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Council Meeting:
11th January 2016**

Agenda Item: 4

Report of Central Area Council Manager

Central Area Council-Boroughwide Services delivered locally Check and Challenge Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report outlines the actions that have been undertaken to progress the Check and Challenge exercise for Neighbourhoods Services. It also provides an update about Central Council's approach to the Check and Challenge of local schools.
- 1.2 The report also provides a synopsis and recommendations from the Check and Challenge exercise carried out on the Targeted Youth Support Service.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 **Members note the actions that have been undertaken to progress the Check and Challenge exercise for Neighbourhoods Services and the update about Central Council's approach to the Check and Challenge of local schools.**
- 2.2 **Members note the process outcomes of the Targeted Youth Service Check & Challenge exercise and associated recommendations noted in the report attached at Appendix 1.**

3. Background and context

- 3.1 At the Central Area Council meeting on 16th March 2015, a report outlining the "Check and Challenge" exercises to be carried out as part of Central Area Council's programme for 2015/2016 was agreed as follows:
- Targeted Youth Support Service
 - Neighbourhood Services
 - Local schools
- 3.2 A scope for the Targeted Youth Support and Neighbourhood Services was agreed at a subsequent meeting and it was agreed that the following steps

would be undertaken once the Cabinet Spokesperson for each service had been notified:

- Scope to be shared with Targeted Youth Support colleagues and Neighbourhood Services colleagues as the basis for the Check and Challenge exercises.
- Information relating to each of the services to be considered, including relevant data, will be requested from each Service.
- A Central Council member from each ward will be invited to participate in each of the Local Service Delivery Check and Challenge Panels. These Service Delivery Panels will also include the Central Council Manager.
- To ensure all members of the Local Service Delivery Check and Challenge Panel have all the necessary information required to participate effectively in the Local Service Delivery Workshop with the Service, a detailed briefing meeting will be held.

3.3 In order to progress the Check and Challenge exercise on local school performance, the Cabinet Spokesperson for People attended the Central Area Council meeting in November 2015. At this meeting it was agreed that the approach should be supported and further developed by the Chair and Central Council Manager, in consultation with Councillor Cheetham.

4.0 Update on progress –Neighbourhood Services

- 4.1 The scope for the Check and Challenge of Neighbourhood Services was shared with the Head of Service as part of an initial meeting at the beginning of October 2015 to explain the Check and Challenge process being adopted by Central Area Council.
- 4.2 At this meeting the challenge relating to the lack of performance data collected by the service was highlighted. In the absence of this data being available it was agreed that a “running commentary” about the actual service delivered over the past six months against the service standards, would be provided.
- 4.3 The lack of performance/service delivery information was again raised as an issue at a meeting in early November 2015 with the officer responsible for working with Central Area Council on providing the service information for the Check and Challenge exercise.
- 4.3 Information about Neighbourhood Services, maps of the primary gateways, and a list of Neighbourhood Services functions/service standards were provided by the end of November 2015. No performance data or running commentary about service delivery was however provided.
- 4.4 Follow up conversations about the lack of any service delivery or performance information have taken place, however as yet no further

information has been provided.

4.5 Due to the lack of this information no workshop session has been held.

5.0 Update on progress: Local Schools

5.1 A meeting to progress Central Area Council's approach to the Check and Challenge of local school performance was held on Monday 21st December 2015 with Councillor Green, Councillor Cheetham, Margaret Libreri (Service Director for Education, Early Support and Prevention), Will Boyes (Performance Improvement Officer), Joe Micheli and Carol Brady in attendance.

5.2 It was agreed that Horizon College would be a good school on which to test Central Council's Check and Challenge of local schools approach, as it was felt that Nick Bowen, Horizon College Principal, would welcome the opportunity to be involved. Also, Nick's wider remit as Chair of the Barnsley Schools Alliance (a school's led partnership for delivering school improvement/performance), would provide a very useful added dimension.

5.3 In order to progress the Check and Challenge exercise with Horizon College the following steps were agreed with very provisional timescales indicated:

- Early Jan 16-Councillor Cheetham and Margaret Libreri to have an initial meeting with Nick Bowen, Horizon College Principal, to outline the process.
- Mid-Jan 16-Margaret, Will Boyes and Central Area Manager to discuss data collection/reporting framework and request the information required from the school.
- Mid-late Feb 16-Briefing session to be held with Central Area Council's School Check and Challenge group in order to effectively consider the report/data from the school.
- Late Feb 16-Request any additional information from the school
- Mid-March 16-Check and Challenge workshop with Central Council members and school staff
- Horizon College Check and Challenge outcome, recommendations and lessons learned to be reported back to Central Area Council at its meeting on 9th May 2016.

5.4 In order to progress the steps outlined above and establish the Central Area Council's School Check and Challenge group, one member from each Ward is invited to participate. A letter will be sent out shortly, outlining the time commitment required, and inviting participation.

6.0 Targeted Youth Support

6.1 In relation to the Targeted Youth Support Check and Challenge exercise all steps outlined in 3.2 above have now been carried out and the Check and Challenge of this service has been satisfactorily completed.

- 6.2 A report providing a synopsis of the targeted Youth Support Check and Challenge process, together with the findings and recommendations can be found at Appendix 1.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Targeted Youth Support Check and Challenge Report

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Date:

21st December 2015.