

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director
(Children's Services) to Cabinet
on 2 June 2021

RESPONSE TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH GROUP'S REPORT ON CHILD POVERTY

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the co-ordinated response of the Executive Director (Children's Services) to the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Child Poverty Task and Finish Group (TFG). This report follows on from the previous investigation into poverty which focused on adults; however, this investigation looks specifically at the challenges and support for children and young people living in poverty. This included considering what the key challenges are for children and young people living in poverty; what support services are available from the Council and other local agencies; and what are the future plans in terms of this agenda. The TFG met with a number of representatives from local agencies, spoke with children and young people directly and highlight a number of recommendations in support of further improvement.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet considers and endorses the conclusions and recommendations set out below as a result of the TFG's review of Child Poverty.**

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 As part of its work programme the OSC agreed to undertake a further TFG investigation into Child Poverty in Barnsley following on from previous work. The TFG acknowledge that support needs to be provided to parents and carers in order to lift children out of poverty; however, they are cognisant of there being specific impacts and implications on C&YP living in poverty and were keen to further investigate these and consider the provision of relevant support mechanisms.
- 3.2 There were already heightened concerns regarding poverty both locally and nationally prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it is evident that this position has been exacerbated as a result of national lockdowns and additional pressures on household finances, job losses and reduced access to healthcare and education provision. It is also likely that this position may worsen as national government support schemes such as furlough are removed. The TFG have sought to better understand the specific challenges in terms of poverty in Barnsley on children, young people and families; to hear the views from a number of different key agencies and local residents; and consider what recommendations could be made for improvements.
- 3.3 The members of the TFG who undertook this investigation included the following:

Councillors Jo Newing (TFG Lead Member), John Clarke, Jeff Ennis, Steve Hunt, Wayne Johnson, Phil Lofts, Pauline McCarthy, May Noble, Pauline Phillips and Kevin Williams. The response to each of the TFG's recommendations concerning child poverty is outlined below

4. TFG Recommendations and Responses

4.1 Recommendation 1: All Family Centre Managers to hold engagement sessions with local Ward Members and ensure this is a mandatory part of the induction process for new managers as well as ensuring the intelligence is shared with other Family Centre staff

As highlighted above, this is to ensure that intelligence is shared regarding the work of and available facilities in family centres so Elected Members can promote these services amongst their communities. This will also provide opportunity for Family Centre managers and their staff to understand specific projects and services which have been commissioned on a local Ward or area basis which they may be able to refer children, young people and families to; thereby maximising available support opportunities.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

All Family Centre managers were directed to contact and engage with local Ward members following attendance by the Service's senior management team at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Work has been undertaken to ensure that new Family Centre managers who have joined the Service recently have been enabled to introduce themselves to local Ward Members and to begin to develop their relationship and develop strong links. This will continue to be incorporated into future staff inductions.

Community Early Help Delivery Groups for each Family Centre Reach area are being launched this Quarter, replacing the old advisory board format which some Elected Members may be familiar with. Local Ward Members are seen as key members of these delivery groups and it is hoped that they will feel enabled to engage in these forums which facilitate the sharing of information and intelligence and development of multi-agency working to ensure that the needs of families are met in the best possible ways in their local communities. This will further support local Ward Member engagement. Any Members who have not yet received an invitation should expect to do so shortly.

Additionally, team meetings take place regularly within the Family Centres' structure to ensure that information and intelligence can be shared across staff members and we are committed to continuing to do so.

4.2 Recommendation 2: Priority needs to be given to addressing digital poverty for children, young people and families. This not only includes access to devices but also to Wi-Fi and adequate data

The TFG recognise that there have been a number of schemes to address digital poverty amongst young people both locally and nationally, including provision via local schools and colleges. However, the group are cognisant of the challenges which children, young people and families living in poverty face, without being further impeded with access to education. The TFG would welcome an update on the work done on this agenda and an indication of the extent to which there are still gaps. The TFG also recommend the Council engages with its suppliers regarding what they could offer local children, young people and families and the extent to which educational activity online could be exempt from data allowances.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

The service recommendation is that the Barnsley Schools Alliance, the Council and its strategic partners continue to work collaboratively to address the digital divide that exists in Barnsley. There needs to be a continuous focus on the following:

- Securing sufficient digital devices across the borough for children, young people and families to be able to access the Internet.
- Secure adequate levels of Internet access for children, young people and families
- To continue to provide community spaces for children, young people and families to safely access the Internet.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The recommendations have been fully implemented and all the Department for Education (DfE) procured devices and the additional 'Laptops for Kids' devices have now been delivered. The recycling of devices is ongoing and the community spaces are now available and in use. The work around developing connectivity continues across a number of groups both inside and outside of the Council.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

Barnsley Schools Alliance has recognised the need to address digital poverty amongst children and young people and continue to work with partners to mitigate the impact wherever possible. Through the work of the Alliance, colleagues have supported the DfE programme of providing laptops and tablets to Barnsley maintained schools, multi academy trusts, the College and other educational institutions to help pupils, students and families access remote education during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Through the co-ordination of the Barnsley Alliance's management team, we are now confident all institutions have now received their full allocation of DfE devices.

Through the 'Laptops for Kids' Scheme, the Council has procured an additional 1400 devices <https://www.ltfk.co.uk/>. This will further add capacity for improving online and remote access to learning.

The Council has also invested in measures aimed at strengthening support to groups of young people who were, at that time, scheduled to take GCSE and A' Level examinations during the Summer of 2021. A crucial element of this was to enhance the Borough's remote and online learning offer through identifying assets in local communities where students could access education remotely and by distributing devices to vulnerable or excluded families so that their children could continue learning online. Improved access to facilitated study space through a combination of opening dedicated spaces within libraries, family centres, community resource centres and IKIC centres was planned.

In addition, the Council's Digital Exclusion Poverty Working Group, strategic partners and schools across Barnsley continue to work tirelessly to ensure access to the Internet for all children and young people. There are a number of initiatives available that give free or discounted Internet access to schools, children, young people and families and these opportunities are continually shared across the partnership.

4.3 **Recommendation 3: The Council makes provision for a generic youth service offer across the borough**

The TFG acknowledge the challenges the Council has faced in recent years and the changes made to youth service provision; however, they feel this is a critical service for local young people to access. A generic offer provides opportunity for young people to seek advice and support on a variety of issues in an environment which is not stigmatised. It is also acknowledged that young people are unlikely to proactively seek support for issues they may be experiencing but by being amongst professionals in an informal environment are more likely to disclose challenges they and their family may be facing and their support needs. This may be something that is commissioned either centrally or by individual Area Councils.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

The Targeted Youth Support Service mirrors aspects of a traditional youth service delivery model. Any young person can access early intervention and prevention services and opportunities offered either by self-referral or through consent to an agency referral.

The service has six 'I Know I Can' or IKIC centres across Barnsley that provide evening provision along with area based detached work where there is an identified need. The current model is based on the principle of fair and equitable access regardless of location or community.

Additional bespoke programmes are offered, often in partnership with other agencies to meet a particular need or issue such as, for example, anti-social behaviour within a community or emotional health and wellbeing support. This is designed to be delivered in a group setting.

The service works closely with Family Centres and Family Support Workers to provide a co-ordinated approach to targeted early help services where a one to one worker may act as lead professional as part of an early help assessment and plan.

The Targeted Youth Support Service also delivers several statutory functions, for example, the Return Home Interview / Missing from Home Service and Independent Visitors Service for Looked After Children. These are targeted services which sit alongside the wider communities element of the Service offer.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

Area Councils and Ward Alliances have invested in specific services aimed at supporting young people in their communities as issues have arisen locally often in partnership or alongside the Targeted Youth Support Service.

Consideration may be given to the Barnsley Youth Zone proposal. If the proposal proceeds, then this would provide a central venue for borough wide access to sports, arts and leisure led positive activities and opportunities for young people on a large scale.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

Despite a significant reduction in budget over many years, Barnsley has managed to retain an infrastructure with the capacity to build on should the investment and funding become available. The Targeted Youth Support Service has historically worked in partnership with

individual Area Councils on specific projects and in an advisory capacity to support with commissioning arrangements for third party / external providers to ensure quality and coordination.

4.4 Recommendation 4: Work around poverty-proofing Children’s Social Care assessments’ is presented at each Area Council, so they can engage with this agenda and exchange knowledge of local resources and services to aid this work

The TFG welcomed knowledge of this work and were keen to ensure that Area Councils are engaged with poverty champions so that the Council can make best use of its resources as well as those in local communities including Third Sector organisations.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

The Children’s Social Care Poverty Proofing Task and Finish Group has been in place since June 2020 following on from completing research with the Universities of Sheffield and Huddersfield on the impact of poverty specifically in relation to child protection. Poverty Champions have been identified and the links with Area Councils will be made by the end of April 2021.

How and when the recommendation will be implemented?

The Children’s Social Care Poverty Proofing Task and Finish Group will ensure that links with the poverty champions are made, this is currently on the agenda for 21st April 2021 and shortly after that contact will be made and co-ordinated with the Area Councils to share information, knowledge and to ensure the poverty champions are fully aware of local community resources

4.5 Recommendation 5: Additional investment is made available to provide externally procured outreach advice services to ensure basic local provision in every area

Given the importance of maximising family income and the impact the Pandemic has had on households who have not previously struggled financially, TFG Members requested to reiterate the recommendation from the previous investigation into poverty, regarding the need for advice services to be available in all Wards. Given the economic impact of the Pandemic on employment, the TFG anticipate an increasing demand on households accessing benefits for the first time and the need for sound financial advice and support for them.

Service Response: This recommendation is provisionally supported.

It is important that an understanding of the level of existing investment / spend across the Council is obtained in this matter. We need to baseline all existing resources aligned to this area across the Area Councils and the Third Sector / partners and use that as an evidence base to identify any potential gaps and additional investment requirement.

The Head of Stronger Communities is currently conducting a review of all welfare advice services that are offered through the Council. The scope of the review will be to look at the current provision of welfare advice services across the Borough and provide recommendations for service delivery moving forward. This review is expected to conclude in May/June this year.

In addition, our network of Family Centres is well placed within local communities across Barnsley, particularly those with the highest levels of deprivation. We would strongly

advocate that our Family Centre venues are utilised from which to deliver advice services or to help to provide a base for any such externally procured services wherever possible. This has already proved a successful approach in the partnership working between Family Centres and the Citizens Advice Bureau for example. We would welcome being included in any commissioning process to support the development of such provision.

4.6 Recommendation 6: The TFG welcome Barnsley Alliance discussing welfare support in schools as a regular agenda item to ensure consistency across the Borough

The TFG welcome this action which came up during the discussion with local school representatives and are keen to support the work of the Barnsley Alliance, in particular for schools to provide ongoing peer challenge regarding their welfare support provision. The TFG are cognisant of the key role schools play in local communities, which has been, and will continue to be important, as children and young people deal with the impacts of the Pandemic both now and in the future.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

The Service recommendation is that Barnsley Schools Alliance works with schools and the Council to explore the two principle statements within recommendation 6. The Alliance and schools must agree on what effective welfare provision should look like in schools and how this is to be both measured and monitored. The partnership should then be able to clearly articulate what ongoing peer challenge would look like and how this would be implemented effectively across the ninety-one schools in Barnsley.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The Barnsley Schools Alliance is currently going through a process of consultation with all schools around the key priorities moving forward into the next academic year and welfare support in schools can be a part of the consultation process. From the 13th of April a number of meetings with school leaders have been arranged to further shape the Barnsley School Alliance school improvement strategy. Moving forward, the plan is to develop a number of working groups around key themes and from these groups will hopefully come a number of recommendations. Given the socio-economic factors impacting on Barnsley schools and the impact of the Pandemic, it is anticipated that a working group around wellbeing, welfare and non-academic support will be one of the working groups to emerge from these meetings. From these meetings implementation plans will be developed over the Summer term and the delivery phase of implementation is planned for September 2021.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

As outlined above, implementation planning begins on the 13th of April with the consultation meetings that are planned to take place with schools. The initial process is where the Alliance and the Council will explore priorities amenable to change and will agree a number of key priorities. Once the exploration stage has been completed and objectives identified, the working groups will move into the preparation stage of implementation. This is where a clear implementation plan will be created and where training and capacity issues are addressed. Once the implementation plan is complete, the groups will move into the delivery phase of implementation. This is hopefully around September 2021. This is where the evidence-based strategies agreed upon are put into practice. The final stage of our implementation will be the sustainability phase, where partners will plan to sustain and possibly scale up the work across the borough. This is the implementation process we hope

to follow with all our initiatives moving forward. Each stage of the process is pivotal to securing sustained change and improvement across the system.

4.7 Recommendation 7: The OSC undertakes a future TFG investigation into gambling

Given the impact of the Pandemic, a number of agencies mentioned concerns regarding gambling in communities and the harm this causes to children, young people and families. There has been national recognition of the increase in online gambling during the pandemic and concerns regarding the impact of this on poverty.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

There would be merit in such an investigation. We commend the Task and Finish Group's recommendation as it would be important to increase our knowledge of the issue and to help raise awareness of gambling-related harm at a local level

When the recommendation will be implemented?

Please see below.

How and when the recommendation will be implemented?

The Service Director (Public Health) will formulate a position statement on problem gambling and its links to both child poverty together with other risks to health. The position statement is likely to be published later this year.

4.8 Recommendation 8: Enforcement Officers working in private sector housing to be provided with/directed to information on specific support services available for children, young people and families living in poverty in local areas

The TFG recognise the challenges in officers being able to have a plethora of knowledge on support services for both adults and children in different areas. Therefore, they recommend that officers are able to access a list of services they could direct young people to in local communities, whether this be at local schools, youth services or Third Sector organisations' for them to seek respite and support regarding challenging circumstances they may be living in.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

Moving forward, the Housing Team will utilise any information or guidance they are provided with to make sure that timely referrals are made for families to access appropriate support.

4.9 Recommendation 9: Work is undertaken to co-ordinate the support for children, young people and families undertaken by different agencies such as Council Services, the Good Food Barnsley Community Interest Company (CIC) support in schools, projects commissioned by Area Councils and Ward Alliances as well as initiatives by Third Sector organisations and local volunteers

The TFG praised the work of different agencies in supporting children, young people and families living in poverty. However, they are keen to make sure that this is co-ordinated in order to maximise the available resources and referrals to commissioned services, avoid duplication and learn from good practice across partners. Similarly, it is important that the voice of children, young people and families as well as youth services are heard within this

work to ensure that provision is effective and accessed by those in most need who may not necessarily be visible to statutory services.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

Children's Services are engaged in a number of partnerships including the Good Food Steering Group, Healthy Holidays & Food Programme Steering Group and the Financial Resilience Sub-Group. The Youth Voice and Participation Team within the Targeted Youth Support Service encourages young people to participate in the Youth Council and their work is driven through the annual consultation event led by the British Youth Council called 'Make Your Mark', through which each young person aged 11-18 years has the opportunity to participate in a ballot to decide their local priorities from a choice of local topics, involving schools, educational establishments and other community settings. The priorities of the Youth Council are shared on an annual basis through the Council's governance arrangements and with individual school establishments. These will be further cascaded through Area Council arrangements to influence their own children and young people's priority setting. There are other local youth voice networks and providers that have been commissioned to undertake specific tasks and functions by the Area Councils and through agencies such as the Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Community Early Help Delivery Groups for each Family Centre reach area are being launched this Quarter, replacing the Advisory Board format. The purpose of the delivery groups is to ensure services meet local needs and contribute to improving children and young people's outcomes. They will facilitate integrated working with relevant agencies/organisations, promote understanding and ownership of a common vision, including services required by the local community beyond the Family Centre offer using current data and community knowledge. They will provide support and challenge to the Family Centres and make sure that development plans enable all children and young people to make the best possible progress and meet local needs as well as borough wide and national targets through effective joint working and delivery of services across communities. Membership is extended to providers across the children and young people's workforce, relevant partner agencies including Adult Services, Elected Members and service users. Parents and carers and children and young people will be supported to ensure they have a voice within the delivery groups.

When will the recommendations be implemented?

An overarching Youth Voice and Participation Strategy developed and informed by a consortium of identified key stakeholders could enhance co-ordination and act as a commissioning framework to measure against. It could also provide an opportunity for larger consultation exercises to ensure that services are reaching out to all young people and encompass a broad representation of the youth population. This would also provide a conduit to identify early, those young people previously not known to services who may be in need of additional support.

The Community Early Help Delivery Groups could provide a channel through which to co-ordinate this work at a local level and both Youth Service representatives and young people could be co-opted onto this group to ensure sufficient representation of agencies representing young people and the young people themselves. The afore mentioned Youth Voice and Participation Strategy would drive the ambition behind these delivery groups for involving young people.

4.10 Recommendation 10: 0-19 Years Public Health Nursing Service staff be provided with training on the Area Council model and commissioning of localised services, as well as basic training on the benefits system to help with assisting families in navigating services

The TFG are mindful of the array of local support services available for families; however, they are aware of the challenges which families face in navigating them, particularly as the Pandemic has meant a new cohort of families need access to such services. It would also be helpful for staff to understand the service commissioning by Area Councils and what specific service provision may be available on local area footprints to both maximise referrals as well as prevent inappropriate ones.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

The Area Teams will establish training sessions on the Area Council model and commissioning of local services with the 0-19 Years Public Health Nursing Service. The Area Teams will work with the Public Health Nursing Service to determine the dates and times of the training. Discussions will commence with the Council's Benefits, Taxation and Income Service with a view to enabling staff in the Public Health Nursing Service to acquire a basic understanding of the benefits system as part of sign posting and enabling contact to be made between families who are impacted by determinants of deprivation and the Benefits, Income and Taxation Service

4.11 Recommendation 11: Provision is made by Family Centres for the loan of basic safety equipment to families most in need

The TFG acknowledge the challenging circumstances in which a number of children, young people and families live in and the need for them to be able to access equipment such as stair gates. The group were concerned regarding the reliance on local charitable organisations including faith groups for such items and recommend there is at least some provision via Council services.

Service Response: This recommendation is provisionally supported

The need to ensure that basic safety equipment is accessible is acknowledged. However It is felt that the operation of such a scheme could have the potential for increased liability risk for the Council. It would be challenging to fully ensure that any returned equipment was safe for redistribution in the case of some safety items, for example car seats as we would be reliant on service user self-disclosure as to whether the seat had been involved in any accidents during its use. Additionally, Family Centres do not have the funds available within its service budget to procure the required equipment or pay for any associated costs required to facilitate such a scheme at this time.

Our alternative recommendation is for the Early Start and Families Strategy and Service Manager to work with colleagues through the Financial Resilience Group to look to develop access to funding for basic safety equipment through the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme. This could operate in the same way that families are directed to this scheme for items such as white goods and food parcels. This would ensure that families have access to the equipment they need with no increased liability risk to the Council.

4.12 **Recommendation 12: Forward planning to be undertaken regarding making opportunities available and recruiting young people as volunteers due to limited paid work experience opportunities**

As noted by another Member TFG undertaken on the Council's Covid Response, Recovery & Renewal work, the lack of employment and skill development opportunities for young people is of concern to Members. It is also thought that a number of Year 13 students plan to delay going to University for a year in the hope by which time the impacts of the Pandemic will have reduced. It was recommended at a recent OSC meeting that children and young people are specifically involved in the development of Culture & Visitor Economy Services; therefore, this may be a particular opportunity which could be utilised.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported

Nationally and locally young people have been disproportionately impacted by the lockdowns in response to the COVID pandemic. Evidence from the last recession suggests that a significant period of unemployment has a scarring effect on young people's long-term employment and earning prospects.

The activity outlined below sits within and enhances a wider package of measures that Barnsley Council and its partners are taking to help reduce the impact on 16-24-year olds.

- [Advance Barnsley](#) - launched January 2021, this website, developed with partners (JobCentre Plus, Colleges, the Chamber and service providers) brings together helpful information, advice, guidance and access to support into one place to help young people find, get, stay-in and progress in work. A supporting campaign is launching at the moment to raise awareness of the opportunities and support available.
- **Employment Support Helpdesk** - established in May 2020, as a single point of contact for all ages to speak to someone and help them get the support they need to find work, stay in work or progress.
- **Careers Advice** - we are working with the schools and colleges to look at how young people can still access meaningful work experience and interactions with the world of work. Our Business Education Alliance programme launched over the last year to help small businesses to engage and support our schools and colleges raising awareness of the kind of jobs available in Barnsley and wider areas and the skills needed to access and progress in those roles.
- **Inclusive Offer** - Commenced in January 2021 to increase the number and enhance the quality of a range of work experience related opportunities, both paid and unpaid, across the Council and Borough.
- **Employer Promise** – Partners are looking to bring forward a Youth Friendly Employer scheme as part of our existing Employer Promise to highlight opportunities for young people and recognise good practice in the borough.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The Inclusive Economy Board has identified Youth Employment as a priority within its recovery response to reduce the impact of the shock on Barnsley businesses and residents due to the Pandemic and successive lockdowns. As part of this recovery plan in addition to the activity outlined above, options to utilise existing resources differently and bring forward new activities to address identified gaps are being considered.

In addition, the Area Teams will work with other directorates of the Council (Culture and Museums and the Employment and Skills Team) and Barnsley Community and Voluntary Service to provide opportunities for young people to volunteer in the Borough to build their skills and to get some valuable work experience.

5. Implications for local people / service users

5.1 The investigation undertaken by the TFG as well as the recommendations made are in support of improving outcomes for people in Barnsley, with a specific focus and concern for children, young people and families experiencing poverty. The TFG acknowledge that support needs to be provided to parents and carers in order to lift children out of poverty; however, they are cognisant of there being specific impacts and implications on children and young people living in poverty. The TFG recognise the daily challenges being faced by children young people and families especially given the impacts of the Pandemic, and acknowledge the good work already being undertaken by services to provide support.

6. Financial implications

6.1 The S151 officer or representative has been consulted as part of drafting this report.

6.2 At this stage, there are no direct specific financial implications arising from the recommendations outlined in the report. However, it is recognised that in responding to or implementing individual recommendations in the report, the financial implications would need to be fully assessed and where appropriately considered as part of the Council's service / financial planning process.

7. Employee implications

7.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the individual recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

8. Communications implications

8.1 The TFG members are keen to ensure awareness of the variety of available services amongst communities as well as amongst staff delivering front-line support, so they can make referrals for children, young people and families as appropriate, as well as avoid duplication. The TFG feel it is imperative that all communities have access to local welfare support services, particularly given the impacts of the Pandemic, and that the availability of these is communicated.

9. Consultations

9.1 Consultations have taken place with: the Child Poverty TFG Members; other Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet Spokespeople, Council Officers from the Children's Services, Adults & Communities, and Public Health Directorates; the Professor of Social Work from the University of Sheffield and the Professor of Social Work from the University of Huddersfield; the Head Teacher and Deputy Safeguarding Lead of Horizon Community College Trust and Executive Head of Meadstead Primary School; the Community Paediatrician and Barnsley Hospital Paediatrician; the Policy and Partnerships Officer-Social Security from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Council's Senior Management Team.

10. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

10.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, citizens achieving their potential and strong & resilient communities. Work to tackle poverty is central to achieving all of these priorities, in particular, in ensuring the support needs of children, young people and families are met; therefore, it is essential the Council and its partner organisations work together to support these aims.

11. Promoting equality & diversity and social inclusion

11.1 The TFG is keen to ensure that all Council services and activities are accessible to all its communities. Throughout the TFG's involvement in this work they have specifically referred to making sure that services are accessible to all, particularly children, young people and families with specific needs, including a protected characteristic and those in our most deprived communities. As part of the investigations, specific enquires were also made regarding support and access to services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as well as for children, young people and families where English is an additional language. The TFG also ensured they heard directly from children, young people and families on the Youth Council and members of the SEND Youth Forum and Care4Us Council.

12. Tackling Health Inequalities

12.1 There are large health inequalities between Barnsley and England, and within Barnsley itself. Poverty and associated factors are recognised as wider determinants of health inequality; therefore, working to tackle poverty contributes to tackling health inequalities. The investigation undertaken by the TFG and recommendations made are in support of improving services across the borough, with a particular focus on those for children, young people and families with recognition that additional work may be required in specific communities to help address health inequalities.

13. Risk management issues

13.1 It is likely the recommended activities detailed in this report will contribute further to the effective mitigation of risks associated with poverty, specifically with regards to challenges for children, young people and families in Barnsley, and it would be appropriate for any follow-up report to be cognisant of these risks.

14. Glossary

14.1 Not applicable.

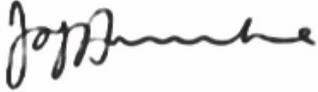
15. Background papers and useful links

- OSC TFG Report on Poverty (Cab.18.3.2020/8): <https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s64022/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20-%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20-%20Poverty.pdf>
- Response to the OSC TFG Report on Poverty (Cab.19.8.2020/8): <https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s69025/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20Work%20Programme%20for%20202021.pdf>
- JRF Annual report 20/21 re. UK Poverty: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2020-21>
- Poverty in the UK Statistics House of Commons Briefing Paper June 2020:

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Financial Implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (07/05/2021)

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(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer)