

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDRENS SERVICES)

TITLE: TAKEOVER CHALLENGE 2021

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| REPORT TO:               | CABINET                    |
| Date of Meeting          | 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Children's Services        |
| Key Decision             | No                         |
| Public or Private        | Public                     |

### Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of Barnsley's successful organisation and participation in the annual Takeover Day Challenge 2021 for children and young people.

### Council Plan priority

The National Takeover Challenge 2021 forms one of a range of initiatives delivered through the Council's 'Inclusive Offer' with the objective of support and equipping young people (including disadvantaged young people) with the skills and insight to access the employment market in line with the strategic priorities of our Jobs and Business Plan and More and Better Jobs Plan.

The outcomes yielded through the Takeover Challenge also accord with our aim of developing a 'Thriving and Vibrant Economy' through Increasing skills to get more people working. Moreover, 'Improving Education, Achievement and Employability' is one of the six strategic priorities of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (2019-22)

Involvement in Takeover Day contributes to the following objective in the Council Plan Corporate Priorities:

Learning Barnsley - Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment. People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships.

## Recommendations

### That Cabinet:-

- 1. Acknowledges the achievements of young people in the most recent Takeover Challenge across all service areas and celebrates the number of participants involved from various service areas**
- 2. Continues to highlight and identify future opportunities to build on the successes of the 2021 event**
- 3. Recognises and endorses that young people's participation in the opportunities available to them provides local leaders and decision makers with a fresh perspective of young people's view and aspirations**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Takeover Challenge gives young people across the country the chance to work with adults and get involved in organisational decision-making. Young people benefit from having their views heard, having fun and being inspired whilst employers and services are able to get a fresh, unique and creative perspective on important issues. Takeover Challenge is a national event originally created in 2006 by the Office of the Children's Commissioner which champions, promotes, protects, raises awareness of and prompts others to respond to the rights, views, and interests of all of England's children. Since 2018 the children's newspaper 'First News' have hosted this event.
- 1.2 Takeover Challenge promotes youth voice and participation of young people. This is in line with the Council's commitment to all children and young people, particularly the Council's Pledge to children in care and the Local 'Offer' for care experienced young people, all ensuring that young people have a right to have their views heard on the decisions that affect their lives and for these views to be taken seriously.
- 1.3 Barnsley's participation in Takeover Challenge in recent years resulted in Barnsley receiving Silver (2015) and Gold (2016) Commendations from the Children's Commissioner. Commendations from the Children's Commissioner ceased in 2017 however Barnsley has continued to demonstrate a high level of participation utilising all opportunities that Takeover Challenge offers young people. It is an event that has grown significantly since Barnsley's first contribution alongside Elected Members and schools in the first year (2006) with increased interest, participation and partnership working across the Children's Services and Place Directorates providing a wider variety of matches and increased participation of young people. The planning and organisation of Barnsley's contribution to Takeover Challenge is undertaken jointly by The Targeted Youth Support Services Youth Voice and Participation Team, Young

People's Skills and Enterprise Team and Children's Social Care.

- 1.4 The challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic have evolved the delivery of Takeover Challenge in Barnsley. What was previously a physical event was moved to an online and virtual catalogue of opportunities for young people to participate in for the 2020 and 2021 events. As restrictions eased during 2021, a hybrid of physical and online/virtual opportunities were created to maximise the number of opportunities available showcasing to young people a representation of the different ways of working currently (i.e. working from home/working on site). Services involved worked hard to ensure that young people had a range of available opportunities open to them and that they could take part in their chosen sessions either physically, or virtually at school or in their own homes.
- 1.5 Takeover Challenge took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This report highlights how young people took part in a range of opportunities offered to them by Barnsley Council, the NHS, Designers Republic, a former journalist of the Times and many other external organisations, building on the successes of previous years.
- 1.6 All stakeholders worked hard to improve the planning for this event by working across the Council and its external partners and sought opportunities based on the types of jobs and interests that young people told us they wanted to learn more about in previous years. This year due to the hybrid physical and virtual offer we had a significant increase in providers offering something for young people to take part in which resulted in a huge choice available to them. The interest and willingness in providers coming forward to take part in Takeover Challenge continues to develop and evidences their commitment to the event for future years. The physical offer allowed some young people to immerse themselves in a different environment and will help form future career choices and raise aspirations. The virtual format allowed young people to take up more than one opportunity in the day and in essence they were able to create a menu of taster sessions to suit their interests and needs which in turn allowed providers to see more young people in their sessions, adding value to what they offered.
- 1.7 Takeover Challenge also forms part of the 'Inclusive Offer' which is the Council's programme to support young people's work readiness and employability as part of the Borough's Employment and Skills Strategy. It also takes into account the aspirations of young people and the Aspirations Audit which was previously undertaken.
- 1.8 The aims and outcomes of Barnsley's involvement in Takeover Challenge 2021 were;
  - To involve as many young people aged 14 to 24yrs. This year saw a record number of 600 young people accessing virtual opportunities.
  - To integrate children in care and care experienced young people with their peers by enabling them to participate together in the Takeover Challenge.

- Provide young people with a chance to have a say in the decisions that are made about them. A number of members of the Barnsley Youth Council and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Forum were involved in this year's Takeover Challenge and have since given feedback on their experience. This feedback will be used as part of the evaluation to develop future planning.
- Enable young people to attend and contribute to the annual joint Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group (TEG) and Children's Safeguarding Partnership event. The report notes that an historic outcome of Takeover Challenge was a pledge from Barnsley's previous Executive Director (People) that the date for the joint TEG/ BSCB event should coincide with Takeover Challenge in order to include the contribution that young people make in this event and the outcomes it generates. This pledge is something that continues to be supported by the Children's Services Leadership Team and therefore continued this year. Young people from the Youth Council and SEND Forum attended the event and presented their experiences of Transitions to Adulthood. Young people in attendance further contributed to the wider agenda giving feedback from their perspective and on behalf of their peers.
- All of the organisations who participated in Takeover Challenge were encouraged to listen to the views of young people, seeking their feedback about how to improve services and how they involve children and young people in service delivery.
- Allow young people to gain an insight into our working world. Many of the young people who took part in Takeover Challenge have fed back that they enjoyed the experience and that it has given them a chance to think about their future education and employment choices, inspiring or challenging young people by their experience on the day.

1.9 Barnsley's 2021 Takeover Challenge virtual catalogue of shadowing activities/sessions included;

- Attendance and contributions at the annual Joint Trust Executive (TEG) and Safeguarding Event
- Former journalist of The Times newspaper
- Designers Republic
- South Yorkshire Police
- Childcare – Family Centres
- Public Health
- Communications, Marketing and Social Media
- Recruitment and HR
- Compass – mental health and wellbeing
- Children's and Adults Social Care
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Barnsley NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- Project Management

- Chillypep – working with the voice of young people
- Economic Development
- The Young Apprentice
- Employability
- Life as an Elected Member
- Barnsley Independent Domestic Abuse Service
- Adults and Communities Directorate
- Smart Working / Digital workplace

1.10 In Barnsley this year over 600 young people participated in Takeover Challenge with representatives from, Barnsley's Youth Council, The SEND Youth Forum, The Really NEET (*Not in employment, education and training*) Project Ltd, Astrea Dearne, Darton Academy, Outwood Academy Shafton, Horizon Community College and Barnsley College. Participation in the 2021 event was the best yet and we hope to build on this in subsequent years, involving more schools and a wider range of our most vulnerable young people.

1.11 Young People's participation in the opportunities available to them gave local leaders and decision makers a fresh perspective on their services and it was a great opportunity for young people to find out first-hand what happens in services and roles such as Public Health, Social Care, and the Police etc.

## **2.0 PROPOSAL**

2.1 The scale of participation in Takeover Challenge is increasing year on year and it is imperative to continue to develop and maintain this opportunity as a significant Council event for children and young people. To continue its success, it is crucial that the event is a joint initiative with involvement across other directorates and business units.

2.2 Moving forward, this report proposes that all areas of the Council identify how they can use the feedback from Takeover Challenge in 2021 to inform future opportunities for young people's participation in organisational decision making.

## **3.0 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

3.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from participation in the annual Takeover Challenge.

3.3 The report relates to the Council's obligation in providing opportunities to ensure full participation in Takeover Challenge in the future. This would entail no identifiable financial risk(s) for the Council.

### **3.4 Legal**

3.5 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **3.6 Equality**

3.7 Participation in Takeover Day Challenge includes a commitment to ensuring the Council understands and meet the specific needs of young people that relate to for example disability, culture, religion, gender or sexual orientation. Takeover Day Challenge is an inclusive opportunity available to any young person to participate in as part of the wider youth voice and participation infrastructure.

### **3.8 Sustainability**

3.9 There are no implications for the local environment, sustainability and tackling climate change emerging through consideration of this report. .

### **3.10 Employee**

3.11 There are no direct employee implications arising from on-going involvement in Takeover Challenge. The Council will be expected to be aware of the Takeover Challenge and its significance in improving outcomes for Children and Young People particularly those in care and who are care experienced.

### **3.12 Communications**

3.13 The level of involvement among young people during the Takeover Challenge was the subject of extensive media interest and also featured on the Council's official Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

## **4.0 CONSULTATION**

4.1 The Takeover Challenge is organised and delivered through a multi-agency arrangement involving the Council's public and private sector partners as well as secondary schools and further educational establishments from across the Borough. Young people have been instrumental in the consultation process in order to inform the options available at last year's Takeover Day Challenge and equally, the evaluation and feedback from last year's event will be used towards the design and delivery of the Takeover Challenge 2022.

## **5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 The Takeover Challenge is not a compulsory or statutory duty. The only available alternative option would be for Barnsley to not host an annual Takeover Day Challenge however, this would be detrimental to young people's participation opportunities within the Borough.

## **6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Takeover Challenge is an integral event within the Children's Service's and our partners calendar. The event helps to demonstrate the importance of raising aspirations amongst young people which in turn, leads to increased ambition and creates a culture of lifelong learning and personal development. Takeover

Day is one of many strands of work across the Children's and Place directorates which promotes young people enjoying and achieving; enjoying life, its opportunities and achieving their full potential all of which help to reduce the impact of poverty and negative experiences in their lives

**7.0 GLOSSARY**

7.1 Not applicable

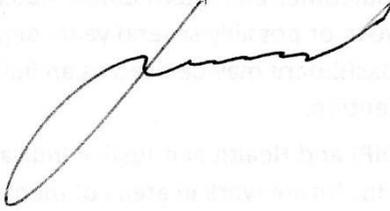
**8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES**

8.1 None

**9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made

**10. REPORT SIGN OFF**

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| <b>Financial consultation &amp; sign off</b> | <br>(03/03/2022)  |
| <b>Legal consultation &amp; sign off</b>     | Legal Services officer consulted and date<br><br><b>3/3/22</b> |

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