

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TITLE: Children and Young People's Early Help Strategy (2022-2027)

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	19 October 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Children's Services
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To gain approval to launch the newly developed Early Help Strategy in relation to Children, Young People and Families. This strategy replaces the children's element of the expired All Age Early Help Strategy. A separate Early Help Strategy for Adults has been developed in relation to adult early help services

Council Plan priority

Healthy Barnsley & Learning Barnsley priorities are supported by this strategy, and this is outlined within the body of the strategy document

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1. Note the contents of the Children & Young People's Early Help Strategy**
- 2. Endorse the strategy and its publication via the Council Website**
- 3. Support governance arrangements for the delivery of the strategy through community based Early Help Delivery groups within localities.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Early Help Strategy 2022–2027 for Barnsley sets out the long-term vision and priorities where we, our partners and communities will continue to work together to deliver the best outcomes for all children and young people within the borough.
- 1.2 This strategy provides the foundations for Barnsley's future, supporting our recovery from COVID-19 and building our borough back better, fairer and more inclusive. Working towards Barnsley being the place of possibilities.
- 1.3 Our early help offer for Children, Young People and Families is critical in identifying emerging needs and bringing together multi-agency support to respond effectively and creatively during times of need, as was seen during the Covid19 pandemic and associated lockdown.
- 1.4 The learning from these experiences will help us to shape and influence our ongoing practice across the Children and Young People's Trust alongside key developments such as the implementation of Family Hubs, Best Start for Life, Reducing Parental Conflict, our Hidden Harm Strategy, the Healthy Child Programme, expansion of the Supporting Families programme and the independent review of Children's Social Care (undertaken by Josh MacAlister).
- 1.5 The strategy identifies three broad strategic priorities which are:
 - The right help, in the right place at the right time
 - A whole system approach to early help with strong partnership working and system leadership
 - Empowering local people and communities to build capacity and resilience, helping people and communities to do more for themselves
- 1.6 This strategy and approach will underpin Barnsley's commitment to making the town the 'Place of Possibilities' and its success is reliant on the effort and commitment of all partners, including our children and families.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 That cabinet accept and endorse the Early Help Strategy: Children & Young People

4. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- 3.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from consideration and endorsement of the attached Early Help Strategy for Children and Young People. The Strategy provides the overarching commitment to work across the children's system to support families at the earliest opportunity.

3.1.2 In terms of scope, it covers the range of activities / functions delivered through the Early Start & Family Centres (including Early Help Assessments) and Targeted Youth Support services in Children Services. The strategy is set against the backdrop of significant national policy drivers and proposed investments in relation to Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programme, expansion of the Supported Families programme and recommendations detailed in the Josh MacAlister's Independent Review of Children Social Care report.

3.2 Legal

There are no legal implications

3.3 Equality

Full Equality Impact Assessment completed

3.4 Sustainability

There are no implications for sustainability in the Borough emerging through consideration of the draft Strategy

3.5 Employee

No Implications for employees

3.6 Communications

Communication team has been consulted and is supporting promotion through existing campaigns

4. CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place as follows:

- multi agency partners identified their key priorities and challenges within a joint TEG/Barnsley Safeguarding partnership workshop in Autumn 2021
- Consultation with members of the Barnsley Youth Forum, Care4Us Council and SEND Youth Forum which is detailed within the body of the strategy
- Consultation was also undertaken with parents/carers through Family centre groups
- The draft strategy was then circulated and opportunities extended to partner agencies across the children and adults early help system to provide feedback and comments

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not applicable

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Strategy has been developed to replace the Borough's previous All Age Early Help Strategy. It is important that there is a strategy in place which pulls together key work priorities and provides a common understanding of the collective response to early identification and intervention across the early help system to drive developments forward positively. This will then support the development of a multi-agency delivery plan which will allow oversight of progress against implementation of the strategic priorities across the children's partnership.

7. GLOSSARY

TEG: Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group (TEG)

SEND: Children and young people with special educational needs including a disability or SEND

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Early Help Strategy: Children & Young People

Appendix 2: Equality impact assessment

Appendix 3: Terms of Reference of the Borough Community Early Help Delivery Group

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date Joshua Amahwe (07/09/22)
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date Jason Field 02/09/22

Report Author: Claire Gilmore

Post: Head of Early Start Prevention and Sufficiency