

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

TITLE: BARNSELY DRAFT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (2023-2026)

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	28 JUNE 2023
Cabinet Member Portfolio	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet's endorsement for the publication of the new Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan as the basis for complying with our ongoing statutory duty for promoting the overall wellbeing of children and young people in the Borough

Council Plan priority

By enabling Barnsley to become a more children-centric Borough, the Children and Young People's Plan (2023-2026) will support all the priorities of the Council Plan, particularly through the following:

- **Healthy Barnsley** – Children and young people are safeguarded from all forms of harm and are enabled to live healthy, happy and independent lives.
- **Learning Barnsley** – Firstly, that children and young people obtain a good start in their early lives, together with a quality education and achieve their potential. Secondly, that young people are equipped with the skills and attributes that will enable them to participate in the employment market and progress in their chosen vocations
- **Growing Barnsley**. Firstly, that all providers of services for children, young people and families, including local small and medium enterprises, are enabled to flourish as part of making our communities more inclusive, cohesive and sustainable. Secondly, that the Local Plan enables Barnsley to develop as a friendly and supportive place where children, young people and families can live, work and visit.
- **Sustainable Barnsley** – Through enabling children and young people, together with providers of children's services to support the sustainability of the Borough for future generations and for them to be proud of and be active in the place where they live

Recommendations

- 1. That Cabinet endorses the new, draft Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (2023-2026)**
- 2. That the draft Children and Young People's Plan be submitted for approval and adoption at the meeting of Full Council on 27th July 2023.**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Role and Remit of a Children and Young People's Plan

1.2 In 2003, the Government published a Green Paper entitled "*Every Child Matters*" on proposed reforms to children's social care, following the tragic death of Victoria Climbié and the subsequent investigation led by Lord Laming. During the following year, the Children Act (2004) was passed conferring a statutory, lead responsibility upon local authorities to co-ordinate effective local partnership arrangements in safeguarding and promoting the overall wellbeing of children and young people within the context of the following 5 key outcomes, reinforced during Professor Eileen Munro's review of child protection arrangements which culminated in 2011:

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic wellbeing

1.3 By the time of the Health and Social Care Act (2012) which gave rise to the publication of statutory health and wellbeing strategies for local areas, underpinned by joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs) together with the Children and Families Act (2014) in which local authorities came under a statutory duty to publish a local 'offer' for children and young people aged 0 to 25 years with special educational needs (SEND) there was no longer a statutory duty to publish a children and young people's plan.

1.4 However, the statutory duty to promote the overall wellbeing of children and young people in a local area has remained and therefore, given the prescribed scope of responsibilities for bodies such as health and wellbeing boards and local statutory arrangements for safeguarding children, it is still permissible for local areas to maintain non-statutory partnerships and publish plans to promote this statutory duty among all children and young people irrespective of their characteristics.

1.5 As a result, a significant majority of areas in England continue to produce medium-term strategic plans which give pre-eminence to this prevailing statutory duty and for improving the 5 seminal outcomes indicated in Paragraph 1.2 of this report.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (2023-2026)

2.2 Our new and refreshed Children and Young People's Plan, is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The Plan sets out the proposed 'Vision' for improving the range of outcomes for all children and young people in Barnsley and to promote their overall wellbeing, based upon evidence such as the Barnsley Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The Plan is currently depicted as a series of slides but, upon publication, on the Council's Web site, it will be developed as an interactive document.

2.3 The new Plan has been co-produced with our local statutory partners and is significantly informed by the insight of children, young people and families in the Borough, either directly or through bodies, including the Barnsley Youth Council and Care4Us Council into the challenges they face; on the issues which matter most in their lives and what local multi-agency partners can do to help them become more resilient to these challenges and achieve their hopes and aspirations.

2.4 The Plan has been developed in the aftermath of the greatest challenge to public health in living memory and in the current context of widespread, deepening disparities in health, attainment and income which have been further impacted by global events and the rising costs of living

2.5 Our Eight 'Ambitions' for Children and Young People in Barnsley

2.6 The strategic objective of the new Plan is to help enable Barnsley in being a children-focused community as part of our overall vision for shaping the Borough as a *Place of Possibilities*. Notwithstanding the financial uncertainty which the country faces it is right that we aim high and want the very best for all children and young people in the Borough in ways which provide value for money and the effective use of resources.

2.7 In a further demonstration of its commitment to the lives, particularly of vulnerable groups of children, Cabinet has recently agreed to a series of significant one-off and recurring investments to strengthen children's services notably, in enhancing our early help offer; the commissioning of places for looked after children; improving the capacity and resilience of the children's services workforce, together with other improvements in the quality of practice and provision.

2.8 Therefore, taking into consideration our recent plans and strategies, including the Education Improvement Strategy, SEND Strategy and Early Help Strategy for children, young people and families, together with the Barnsley 'Supporting Families' Programme, Family 'Hubs' and 'Start for Life' initiative, the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan serves as the over- arching 'vision' for improving the range of outcomes for all young people in the Borough as well as the narrative "*bridge*" between this vision and our ambitions for shaping the Borough

- 2.9 As part of this, we have identified 9 ambitions within the Plan which closely align with the priorities of our Council Plan. These, together with the underlying priorities for each ambition are to be detailed in the Plan itself (*Please see Appendix 1*) and are summarised as follows:

Healthy Barnsley

- Ambition 1: Children, young people and their families lead healthy and happy lives
- Ambition 2: Children and young people are safe and protected from all forms of harm

Learning Barnsley

- Ambition 3: Children and young people get a good education, are ambitious and able to reach their potential
- Ambition 4: Children and young people are ready for work and are enabled to make progress in their employment

Growing Barnsley

- Ambition 5: All providers of children and family services are valued and supported to thrive
- Ambition 6: Barnsley is a child, young people and family friendly place in which to live, work and visit

Sustainable Barnsley

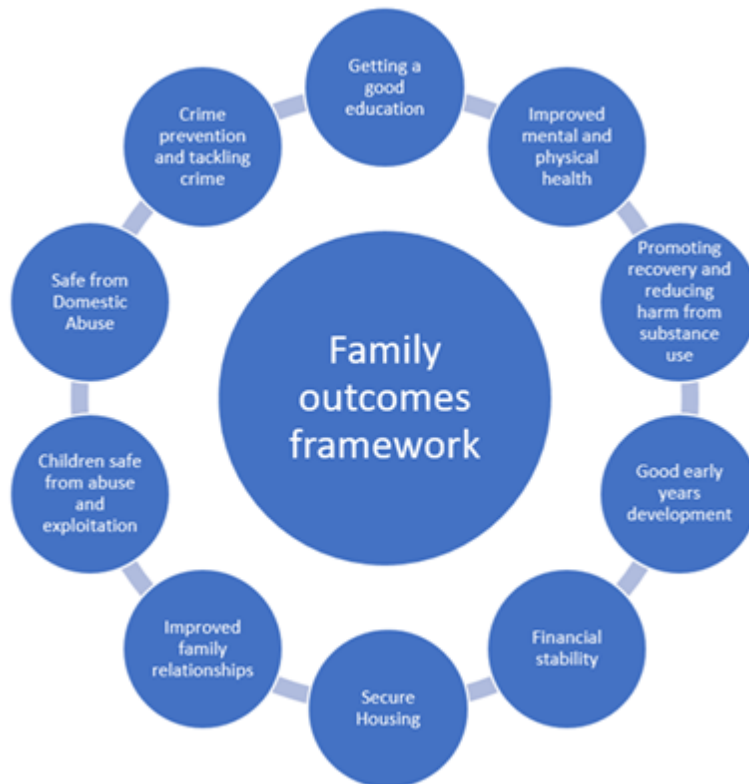
- Ambition 7: To help protect our place and planet for future generations
- Ambition 8: For children, young people and families to be proud of and active where they live

Enabling Barnsley

- Ambition 9: That the Council and its partners on the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust will work strategically and seamlessly to achieve more and better outcomes for children, young people and families in the Borough.

- 2.10 Our progress against these ambitions will be overseen by the multi-agency partners which form the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group, together with the newly formed Children's Services Development Board. The Board's responsibility will be to ensure that progress is achieved against the priorities for investment highlighted in the recent 'Strengthening Children' Plan of immediate actions.

- 2.11 Moreover, our statutory responsibilities concerning the protection of children and promoting their health and overall wellbeing will form an important element within the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System and the Barnsley Place-Based Plan.
- 2.12 Subject to Cabinet’s endorsement and Full Council approval for the new Plan, work will begin to develop a Borough Children, Young People and Families Outcomes Framework, based upon the ten outcomes linked to Barnsley’s Supporting Families Programme. These outcomes are noted below:



3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

3.2 There are no direct financial implications emerging through consideration of this report. However, it should be noted that the new CYP Plan has been developed within the context of significant demand pressures (for example, rising demand for support and staff caseloads) and financial challenges (for example, rising LAC placement costs) facing Children Social Care in Barnsley.

3.3 The demand and financial pressures are being addressed by the Council through significant one-off and recurring investments in enhancing our early help offer; the commissioning of places for looked after children; improving the capacity and resilience of the children’s services workforce.

3.3 Legal

3.4 There are no legal implications emerging through consideration of this report.

3.5 Equality

- 3.6 An equality impact assessment has been completed in support of the new Children and Young People's Plan and is appended to this report.

3.7 Sustainability

- 3.8 As part of the co-production of our new Children and Young People's Plan, young people in Barnsley either directly or via channels such as the British Youth Council's annual *Make Your Mark* Survey stated the importance of the Environment and tackling climate change not only geopolitically but also locally. Young people are determined to play their part in helping promote sustainability in the Borough and this is reflected as one of the ambitions in the new Plan.

3.9 Employee

- 3.10 Cabinet's recent approval of significant investment for strengthening children's services will support enhanced capacity and resilience, particularly in many parts of the children's social care workforce and develop relationship-based practice that will help vulnerable families with children for the better. This will also include the continuation of the *Supporting Families* Programme, Family 'Hubs' and the *Start for Life* initiative. This investment builds upon the outcomes and recommendations concerning the workforce, emerging from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care as well as improving the quality of early years' practice and teaching standards, outlined in the recent Barnsley Education Improvement Strategy

3.11 Communications

- 3.12 Subject to approval by Full Council, the new Children and Young People's Plan will be published on the Council's Web site and widely promoted via a range of channels and among partners in the Borough.
- 3.13 In promoting the new Plan, partners in the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust will use our engagement principles to ensure children, young people and families are fully aware of what we are doing to improve outcomes and life chances in language which is meaningful to them.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Plan has been developed in consultation with children, young people and families in the Borough, together with partner organisations on the Barnsley Children and Young People's Executive Group and other stakeholders including the Barnsley Youth Council. The Draft Plan has also been endorsed by the Council's Senior Management Team

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 As indicated earlier in the report, whilst it is no longer statutory to publish a

children and young people’s plan it is still permissible to do so and these plans provide the best basis upon which the prevailing statutory duty to promote the overall wellbeing of all children and young people, irrespective of their characteristics, can be achieved in a significant majority of areas in the country, via a strategic partnership approach.

- 5.2 The Plan will act as the nucleus for all other local strategies and plans for children and young people in the Borough and as a ‘bridge’ between our ambitions for young people and our overall ambitions for Barnsley as a *Place of Possibilities*.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Please see Paragraphs 2.6 – 2.11 of this report. The Barnsley Children and Young People’s Plan and its underlying programme of activity will perform an integral role in ensuring children and young people benefit through our ambitions for “*levelling up*” Barnsley and enable them to contribute to the social and economic prosperity of the Borough, including culture, heritage and the arts.

7. GLOSSARY

- 7.1 None, applicable.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix 1: ‘Barnsley 2030: A Place of Possibilities for Children, Young People and Families’ (Children and Young People’s Plan 2022-2025)

Appendix 2: Barnsley Children and Young People’s Plan (2022-2025): Equality Impact Assessment

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 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 <i>Joshua Amahwe 08/06/2023</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Anthony Harold 09/06/2023</i>

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