

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORE SERVICES

TITLE: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (OSC) TASK AND FINISH GROUP (TFG) REPORTS FOR THE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	14 May 2025
Cabinet Member Portfolio	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of the work of the three Overview & Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) for the 2024/25 municipal year on Autism, Barnsley Carers and the Council's Great Childhoods Ambition.

Council Plan Priority

- Healthy Barnsley
- Growing Barnsley
- Learning Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1. Notes the findings and recommendations in the reports in Appendices 1-3.**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As part of their work programme, the OSC conduct three separate TFGs during the autumn/winter to allow for a more in-depth investigation into topics that have been identified by elected members as facing particular challenges or warranting more robust scrutiny.

1.2 For 2024/25 the three TFGs established by the committee were:-

- Autism (All Age) - Lead Member Cllr Will Fielding
- Barnsley Carers (All Age) - Lead Member Cllr Robert Barnard
- Barnsley Council's Great Childhoods Ambition - Cllr Paul Murray

1.3 Over the course of the investigations, the groups met with key officers (witnesses), went on site visits and engaged with stakeholders, including service users.

- 1.4 It is worth acknowledging that there is significant correlation between the three task and finish groups this year, as effective pathways and support for those with Autism and for Young Carers enable those cohorts of children and young people to thrive.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The attached reports (Appendices 1-3) outline the key findings and conclusions from the investigations and resulting recommendations, which can be found in section 5 of the reports.
- 2.2 The reports were presented to the OSC on 29 April 2025 for discussion and have now been shared with relevant services for a response to the recommendations.
- 2.3 Executive Directors, Cabinet Members, and key officers will be invited to attend the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 15 July 2025 to present their response to the recommendations, in line with the terms of reference for the committee.
- 2.4 As part of the ongoing process of continuous improvement, officers had already identified that there is a need to increase pre-decision scrutiny. This was further validated by the findings of the recent LGA Peer Review report. Therefore, steps will be taken to investigate the possibility of incorporating pre-decision scrutiny into the work of the task and finish groups for the 2025/26 municipal year. This will potentially have an impact on how the task and finish groups work in the future, meaning that they will be more flexible in their approach so that they can respond in a timely and effective way to issues that have been identified.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial Risk

- 3.1.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

3.2 Legal

- 3.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

3.3 Governance

- 3.3.1 Cabinet Terms of Reference contains the following - 1.1 (h) 'To receive petitions and references from Scrutiny Committees and Area Councils, and approve any action required in response to these.'

3.4 Equality

- 3.4.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report, although the OSC is keen to ensure that all Council operations and activities are considerate of the needs of all its communities, as reflected in the attached reports.

3.5 Sustainability

- 3.5.1 As this report does not require a decision, the sustainability decision-making wheel has not been included. .

3.6 Employee

3.6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

3.7 Communications

3.7.1 The OSC and its TFGs are keen to highlight the work they have undertaken. Recommendations within the attached reports make reference to communication activity which will be considered as services respond.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultations have taken place with OSC members, all participants involved in the TFG meetings, Cabinet Members and the Council's Senior Management Team.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECCOMENDATIONS

6.1 In line with the Council's constitution, the TFG reports have been presented to the OSC, and response reports to the recommendations have been requested from relevant services. The reports are being presented to the Council's Cabinet for information, so they are sighted on the OSC's work.

7.0 GLOSSARY

OSC Overview & Scrutiny Committee
LGA Local Government Association
TFG(s) Task and Finish Group(s)

8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Report of the Autism Task and Finish Group
Appendix 2 - Report of the Carers Task and Finish Group
Appendix 3 - Report of the Great Childhoods Ambition Task and Finish Group

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable.

10.0 REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial Consultation & Sign Off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date. Colette Tyrell Strategic Finance Business Partner 1 May 2025
Legal Consultation & Sign Off	Legal Services officer consultation and date. Andrew Perriman Monitoring Officer 28 April 2025

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Post: Scrutiny Officers
Date: 23 April 2025