



**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Children's Services Directorate**

**A**

# BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY  
17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**PRESENT**

**Headteacher and Board Representatives**

Victoria Harrison, Helena Lockwood, Jonny Mitchell, Anna Rooney, Simon Tabbner,  
Joe Woffinden

**Governor Representative(s)**

Margaret Gostelow and Michael Sanderson

**Barnsley MBC Elected Member Representative**

Councillor Janine Moyes

**Nursery Provision Representative**

Simon Sykes

**Early Years Representative**

Melanie Szoke

**Further Education and 14 – 19 Years Provision Representative**

Neil Wilkinson

**Special and Alternative Provision Representatives**

Molly Beever and Josh Greaves

## **Officers**

Nina Sleight	Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention) Barnsley MBC
Josh Amahwe	Strategic Finance Manager (Core Services Directorate) Barnsley MBC
Angela Lomax	Group Leader (Raising Education Participation) (Growth and Sustainability Directorate) Barnsley MBC
Anna Turner	Head of Education and Partnerships, Barnsley MBC
Shafeek Khan	Secretary to the Barnsley Schools Forum

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Formal apologies were submitted by Mr Crook, Mr England, Mrs Gorton, Mrs James and Mr Morgan.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Representatives from the Forum declared their interest in relation to matters being considered particularly as part of agenda item 4 of today's meeting.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM**

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved as a correct record.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

No matters arose during consideration of these minutes.

### **5. REPORTS**

#### **Schools Budget: Latest Forecast Position (Quarter 2: 2023/2024)**

Mr Amahwe presented his report on the latest out-turn data and commented on the following:

- Overall DSG Budget – including the carry forward of school balances and mitigating action being taken or considered by schools with a budget deficit.
- Other grants and resources available to schools during this period.
- Centrally retained DSG budgets, together with variations.
- Management and mitigation of financial risks, including via the DSG (High Needs Block) Management Plan.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- **The Forum notes the latest projected outturn position for both the Schools Delegated Budget and Centrally Retained DSG Budgets.**

## Schools Funding Settlement and Arrangements for 2024/2025

Mr Amahwe presented a report on the funding settlement for schools in the Borough, including the key changes to funding arrangements which would form the basis of the Local Authority's consultation with schools on proposed changes to the local funding formula, notably funding for pupils with additional needs and the scope for closer alignment with the National Funding Formula on this factor.

### **RESOLVED:**

- **The Forum notes the published funding settlement for schools in the Borough during 2024/25, recently revised following discovery of a technical error by the Department for Education.**
- **The Forum also notes the key changes to the funding settlement which would form the basis of the forthcoming consultation with schools.**

## Special Education Needs (SEND) Performance and Finance Report: Quarter 1 (2022/2023)

Ms Sleight and Ms Day presented the latest, published quarterly SEND performance and finance report and highlighted the following:

- The level of demand for Education and Health Care Plans and SEN Support.
- Compliance with statutory timescales for the assessment and review of pupil needs.
- The progress made against the priorities and enablers of the Barnsley SEND Improvement Plan, together with the priority areas of the Post Inspection Written Statement of Action, including the effective engagement of parents and carers in decision-making
- Budgets and expenditure variations.
- Progress against the conditions contained in the Local Authority's Safety Valve Participation Agreement.

Brief discussion arose, firstly, over the importance of ensuring that any SEND school places commissioned within local mainstream provision are appropriately funded and fully meet the needs of such children. Secondly, assurance was provided to members of the Forum that the Local Authority was compliant with the majority of conditions within the DfE's Safety Valve Intervention Agreement, including the development of an improved 'offer' concerning alternative provision.

### **RESOLVED:**

- **That the Schools Forum notes the latest SEND Performance and Finance Quarterly Report.**

## Review Of Education Outcomes and Destinations of Children Who Are Not Entered for Examinations In The Borough

Mrs Turner and Mrs Lomax presented a joint report on the education outcomes of vulnerable groups of children and young people, including entrance for examinations and continued engagement with learning after the age of 16.

Mrs Turner focused upon the experience of children and young people whose parents or carers had elected to educate them at home, together with the support which the Local Authority's Education Welfare Service provided to ensure such

young people received a quality education and, at the same time, were safeguarded from potential harm. Mrs Turner indicated the reasons why parents and carers elected to educate their children at home, together with the characteristics of these children and the number of electively home educated children who had been successfully re-integrated into school.

Mrs Lomax outlined the statutory and non-statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority in ensuring vulnerable groups of young people aged 16 and over, including those with an education, health and care plan, together with young people leaving care continued to engage in education, apprenticeships and employment via targeted information, advice and guidance as well as the annual September 'Guarantee'. Here, Barnsley's performance against the Guarantee was in the top quartile of best performing local authorities.

**RESOLVED:**

- **That the Forum notes the report on education outcomes and destinations of young people not entered for examinations.**

Impact of the Culmination of the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokering Grant Upon the Performance of Schools and Education Outcomes in Barnsley

Mrs Turner presented a report which outlined the implications for risk evaluation and improvements in teaching and learning standards of the tapering and eventual ending of the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokering Grant upon maintained schools in the Borough from 2023/24.

The Schools Forum would be consulted on the proposals for funding school improvement activity as part of its consideration of the Schools Block Budget (2024/2025) at the January meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- **That the Forum notes the report on the impact of the ending of the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokering Grant together with the next steps.**

Barnsley Schools Forum Forward Programme (2023/2024)

Mr Khan presented the Forum's proposed forward programme for 2023/2024 and the invitation to individual members of the Forum to suggest any issue for consideration at a future meeting.

- **That the Forum notes the Forward Plan.**

---

.....  
(Signed by the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum)