

The Barnsley Children and Young People's SEND Plan 2020 to 2022



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council



A message from Mel John-Ross the Chair of Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust

The Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan 2019-22 published by the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust in June 2019 outlines how we will work together to provide a 'Brighter Future and a Better Barnsley' for all our Children and Young People.

Children and young people both inspired and helped to create the plan articulating our ambition to achieve outstanding services and opportunities for all Barnsley children and young people across each stage of their life journey. The Barnsley Youth Council continue to work alongside Children and Young People's Trust Partners; Barnsley MBC, the NHS, Schools, Governors Association, Police, voluntary organisations, Healthwatch Barnsley, and the Barnsley Safeguarding Partnership, to deliver its key priorities and monitor its progress.

Special educational needs and disability (SEND) is a key priority within the Children and Young People's Plan as we know it is an area which requires a strong focus if we are to support better experiences and outcomes for children and young people aged 0-25 and beyond with SEND. To demonstrate our commitment to this priority and to listening to the voice of children and young people we have co-produced this plan to sit alongside the Children and Young People's Plan, the SEND Strategy 2020 to 2022 and the Barnsley Accessibility Strategy 2020.

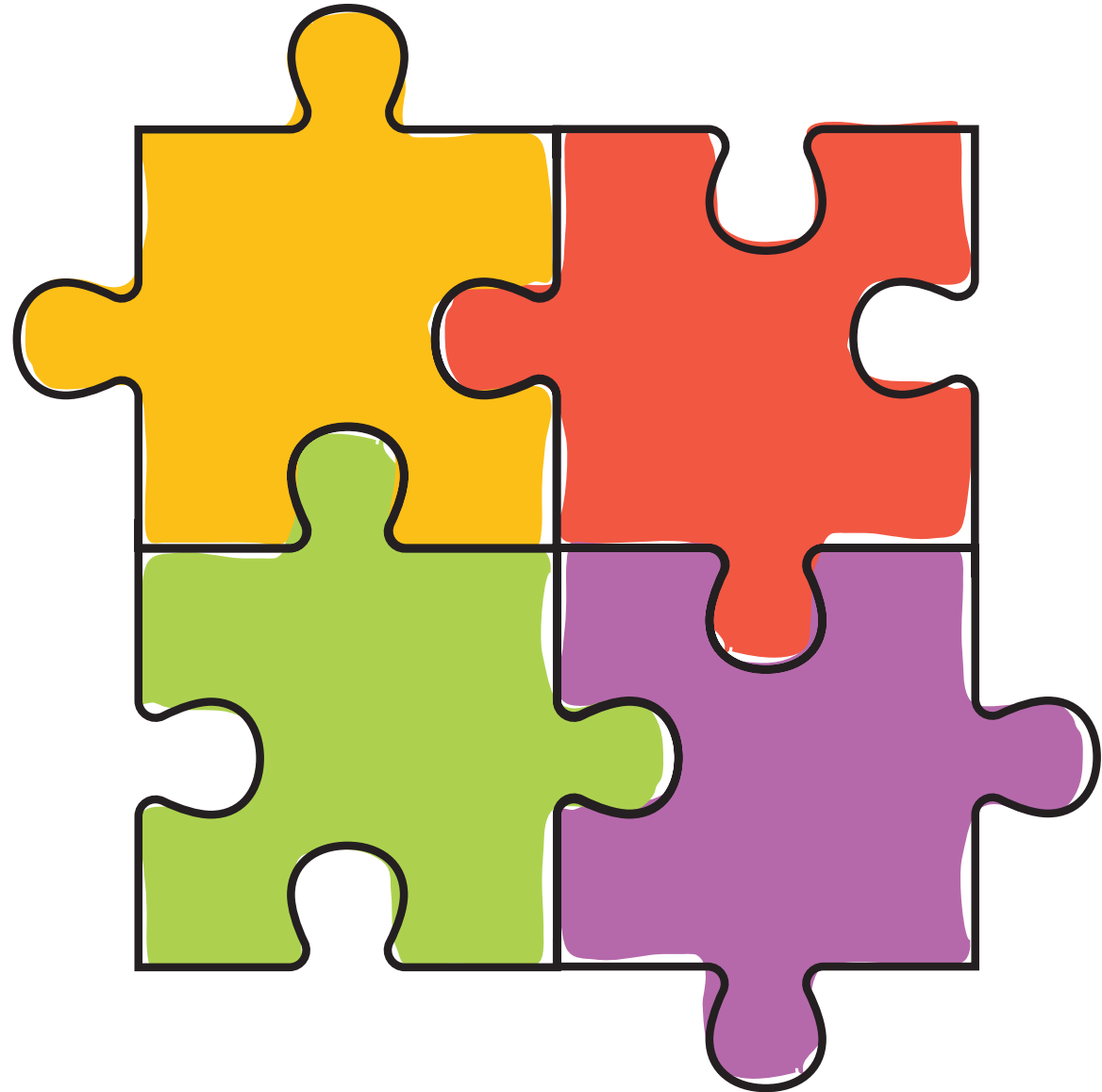




This plan's specific focus is to improve understanding across the Trust about what it is like to be a child, young person, or young adult with SEND, and how this should shape practice and the way we develop and commission our services in Barnsley.

This plan has been developed in partnership with an exceptional group of young people with SEND who have come together to form the SEND Youth Forum. I would like to take this opportunity to thank this group for their hard work and commitment and also thank all the other children and young people who have come forward to share their experiences to help us create this plan.

It is very important to the Trust that all Barnsley children and young people feel valued, listened to and are supported in the very best way possible throughout their childhood and into adulthood. Together we can use this plan and the solutions put forward by the SEND Youth Forum to drive improvement and achieve success in delivering high quality provision, outcomes and opportunities for Barnsley children and young people with SEND.





A Message from the SEND Youth Forum

We hope that this plan will be a guide to professionals and help them to think about; who children and young people with SEND are, what we need, and what is the best way to support us. We want to be consulted, listened to and respected. Being self-confident is very important.

The term SEND, Special Educational Needs and Disability, is used to describe us. It is not a term we have decided so we have worked with other 'SEND' children and young people to create our own meaning. Here are some of our ideas which we feel reflect our strengths:

S	Super, spectacular, supportive
E	Extraordinary, enthusiastic, empathetic, energetic, enabled
N	Natural, nurturing, normal
D	Determined, dynamic, different, deserving, decisive



We are extraordinary

We are normal but different

We do deserve good service

We should be enabled to achieve our potential, make choices and be as independent as possible

We are determined to do our best and make a difference

We are empathetic and nurturing, we care about others, we would like others to show empathy

We are spectacular!





To explain what it is like to be a young person with a disability and the type of challenges faced one young person wanted to share their personal experience of life in a mainstream secondary school:

“

My autism is part of my story as a British citizen and a person living in Barnsley. My autism is part of my personality as I try hard to get along with my own year group. I try very hard to follow school policy!!! I try to cope with the changes!!! I try to make a difference! But I don't get acknowledged by much of my own year group, I do get called names. I'm the one that's being "reyt" because I'm being a respectful person. I am what people should be!

”

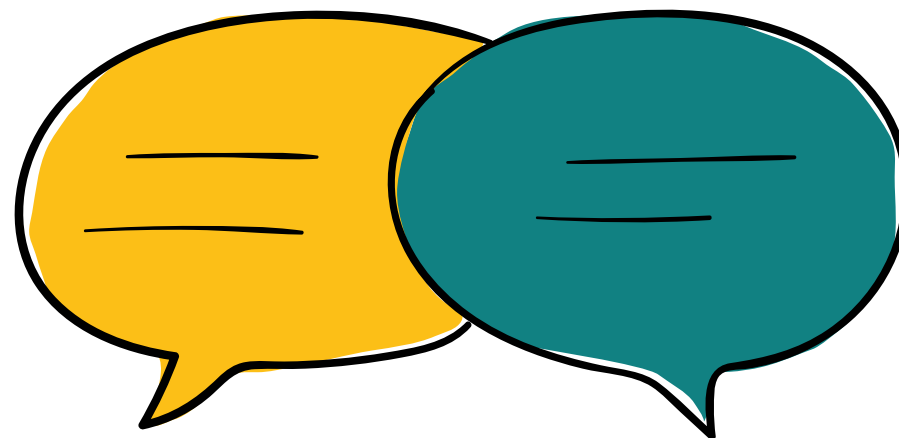
These are the issues that are important to SEND children and young people and we would like professionals to think about them, and how things can be improved:

- **Bullying**
- **Improving the school environment**
- **Better understanding about SEND**
- **Improved access to community spaces and activities**
- **Greater Independence**

These are the values we think should be used by professionals to develop Barnsley services and practice:

- **Consideration**
- **Acceptance**
- **Consistency**
- **Fairness in all things**
- **Kindness**
- **Quality**

We hope that young people with SEND will read our plan and recognise what they have told us. We hope it will make a difference. We hope that children and young people will be asked what they think because of this plan and be listened to.





Make everyday count, for every child, 365 days of the year

This plan is underpinned by the Trust's vision, which is to:

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The Vision of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust:

- For all Barnsley's children to attend a school that has been graded as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted
- Success in learning and work
- Strong resilient families

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The six strategic priorities for achieving this are:

- Keeping children and young people safe
- Improving education, achievement and employability
- Tackling child poverty and improving family life
- Supporting all children, young people and families to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Encouraging positive relationships and strengthening emotional health
- Improving staff skills to deliver quality services



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And as this vision is achieved we will see:

- **Staying Safe:** Children and young people living in a secure environment, where they feel safe, listened to, supported and respected.
- **Being Healthy:** Children, young people and families will make healthy lifestyle choices reducing health inequalities that exist nationally and within the borough. They will be emotionally well and resilient.
- **Enjoying & Achieving:** Children and young people will enjoy life, its opportunities and achieve their full potential. There will be many and varied opportunities within communities for children and families from infancy to adulthood.
- **Prepared to earn a good living:** Young people will demonstrate enterprising behaviours, have access to and secure good jobs so that they are able to contribute to the economy and achieve aspirations for a thriving Barnsley.
- **Being an Active Citizen:** Children and young people will be and become active citizens who contribute to creating a better Barnsley, achieving Town Spirit.



Facts and Figures

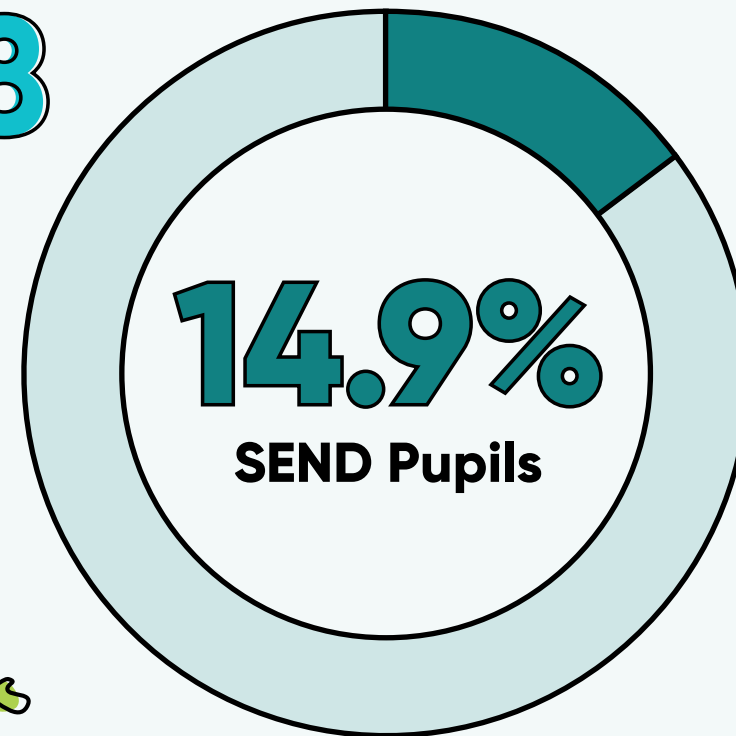
There are 52,858 children aged between 0 and 18 years in Barnsley, this is 21.7% of our town's total population. The school population in Barnsley has been increasing year on year since 2011. In January 2019, there were 34,451 pupils on roll in Barnsley schools compared to 33,980 in January 2018. In January 2019 14.9% of pupils in Barnsley schools had an identified special education need or disability. There has been good improvement in outcomes for pupils with SEND over recent years.

The Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust is particularly pleased about improvements in all key stages for pupils who have SEND Support needs and is looking forward to improving educational outcomes further for all children and young people in Barnsley.

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Developing the Plan

Knowing that we are providing the right services and support for children, young people and families has huge importance for us. We recognise that it is from the feedback we receive from children, young people, parents and carers, and what we know about their levels of satisfaction, that we gain a better understanding of how we should improve our services and practice. It is from understanding the lived experience of our children and young people that we can provide what is needed and ensure that their voice is at the centre of our work.

Following the publication of the Children and Young People's Plan 2020–2022 and in readiness for preparing this plan we invited young people with SEND to tell us about what it is like to be a child or young person in Barnsley. Young people from across the borough were asked to think about what was good, what needs to get better and, what they think could be done to make improvements. This work was delivered via the Barnsley's Targeted Youth Support Service.

From this information four key themes were identified:

- **Friendship, Bullying, Social Activities, and Community Spaces**
- **Education**
- **Health, Wellbeing and Diagnosis**
- **Moving into Adulthood**



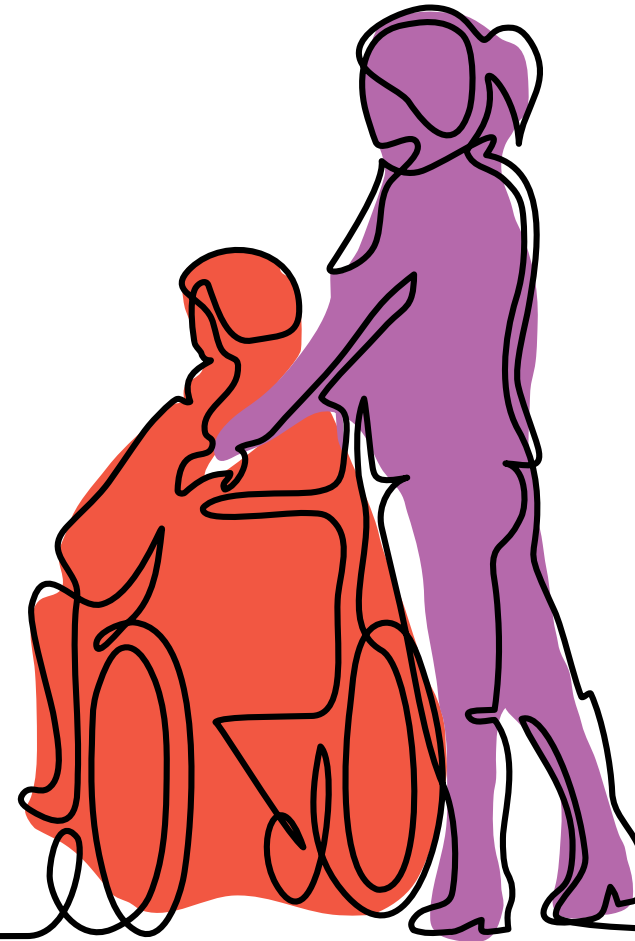


Work was then done to understand more about these themes.

The key areas identified for improvement are:

- **Bullying**
- **Improving the school environment**
- **Better understanding about SEND**
- **Improved access to community spaces and activities**
- **Greater Independence**

The SEND Youth Forum members attended a task and finish group to complete this work and develop and write the plan over several weeks. They also presented their findings to senior leaders from across the Children and Young People's Trust and Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership at the Joint Partnership Board in November 2019 on 'Takeover Day'.





Those who had access to short breaks activities or targeted group activities enjoyed them. They felt understood and supported by staff. Some young people felt residential provision needed to offer different activities for different groups of young people who attend. Some of our young people need specialist activities but some young people said they wanted to mix up SEND and mainstream groups, especially those young people who do not feel like they have a disability or have friends that don't have disabilities. Young people want to access social activities with their friends.

**“
SEND Youth Clubs are really
good because it is where I
meet my friends. ”**

**“
Keep it mainstream, don't separate when
people are separated it doesn't help to
develop social skills and friendships. ”**





Pupils at Greenacre School have been working with Sheffield Hallam University and have been talking to us about loneliness and what it feels like to be lonely. They have told us that they can feel lonely even when other people are around. They don't always live near their friends and it is difficult to see them after school as they can live a long way from where they live. They can spend a lot of time in their bedroom or at home because it is difficult for them to play out or meet up with friends if organised groups are not taking place. Some young people told us that having a Personal Assistant (PA) helped them to access community activities which they really enjoyed.

Some young people with SEND want to become independent in travelling to places to meet up with friends. They want more to do as young adults. They enjoy using community spaces and want to make more and better use of them.

“

Lots of my friends who are older than me are scared about being 25 because they can't go to youth clubs anymore and see their friends. ”

“

We want to be taught the skills and for our parents to trust us to go to places with just with our friends. It is different going to somewhere like town with your parents or a carer. ”

“

Lots of my friends that I go to school with can't go to lots of places because they don't have changing facilities so they cannot go there for very long. This means we can't do much together without them having to go back home or back to school. ”

“

Have clubs for 18 to 25 - year olds. Other adults don't socialise with children and teenagers, we want to be able to socialise with our peers like other adults but sometimes we need support to enable us to do this. ”



Some young people felt it was easier to make friends in college or in clubs rather than school. They felt strongly that more needs to be done to stop bullying at school. Sometimes the response to bullying is to remove them from the situation, rather than tackling the bullying. This can lead to them feeling more isolated than their peers and missing out on going outside at breaktimes. Other young people felt safer having targeted activities at breaktimes. They wanted more to be done to help other students understand disabilities, and to develop empathy and understanding, which they think might help to reduce bullying.

“

Other students should be taught about SEND so they know more about what and why we do things and how they can help us or what to do if something happens. ”

“

Students need to be taught about disabilities in PSHE or Science. We learn about dementia but not conditions that people in our own school have. ”

“

There is not a consistent approach across Barnsley to tackle bullying. ”

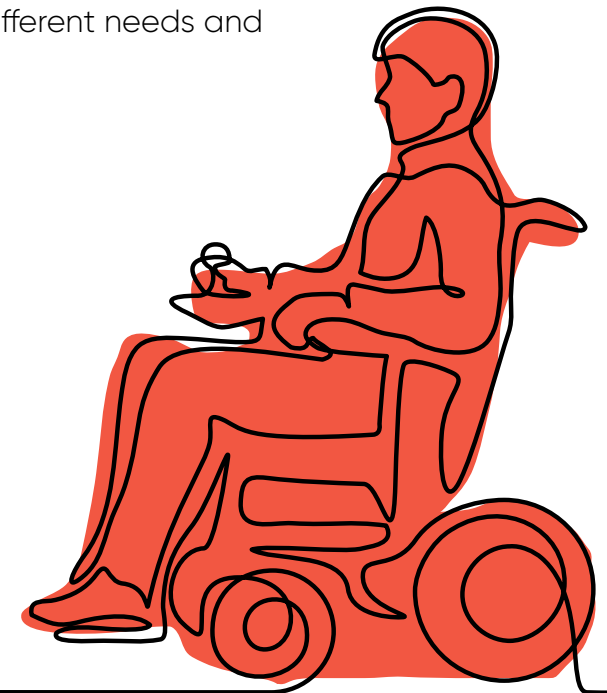
“

The definition of bullying is a problem because many young people can do individual things. This isn't classed as bullying because it is not frequent by one person but when you have lots of people doing individual things to you, it still makes you feel like you are being bullied. ”



What young people would like to happen to address these issues:

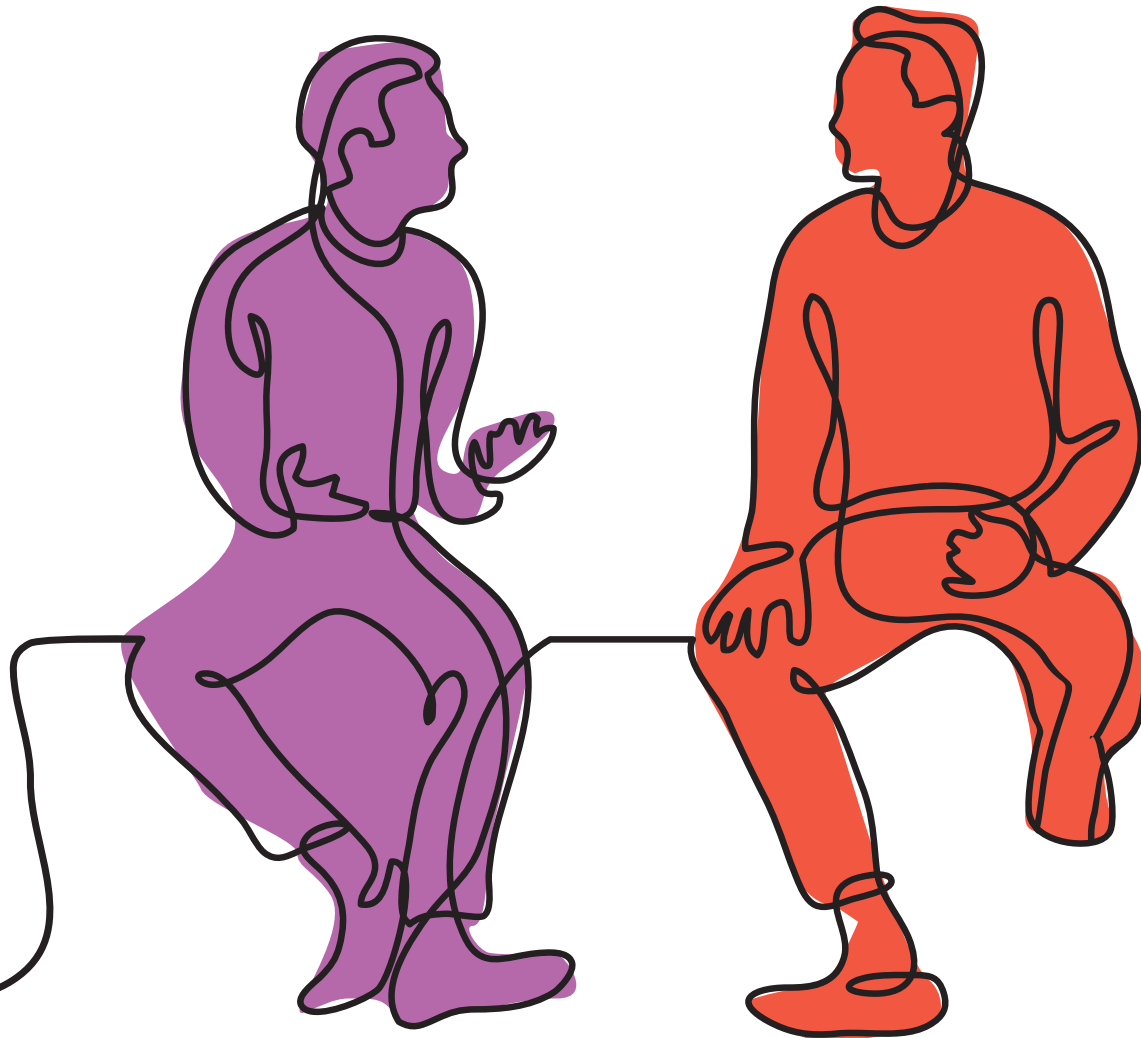
- More social activity options and to be able to go out more days a week
- Specific provision for young adults aged 18 to 25
- To have activities that cater for young people with SEND and friends who don't.
- Help to build our independence skills in mainstream and specialist provisions to be able to access places with our friends and give our parents confidence that we can go places and do things on our own.
- Have more preparation and information about what we can do when we are 25 so that it is not so scary for us.
- Better accessibility in community places, not just disabled toilets but changing facilities and ramps.
- Have different provision/different activity offers in respite provision for young people with different needs and abilities.
- More funding for transport included with activities
- Supported transport options e.g. meet at the bus station, walking bus
- More accessible transport and taxis that can accommodate wheelchairs
- A town-wide approach to stopping bullying
- More support for victims of bullying including more consideration for the feelings of people who are the target of multiple one-off incidents and more action to stop it.
- Teachers to have more training to help them to stop bullying.





**What the SEND Youth Forum
and Youth Council will do next:**

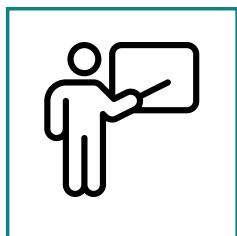
- Campaign on transport issues.
- Work with our schools and the Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership to do more work around bullying to develop a consistent approach.
- Work with Barnsley MBC to look at how we can make activities more accessible and make sure that children and young people have a range of social activities and opportunities that meet their needs and stop them feeling isolated or separated from their friends.





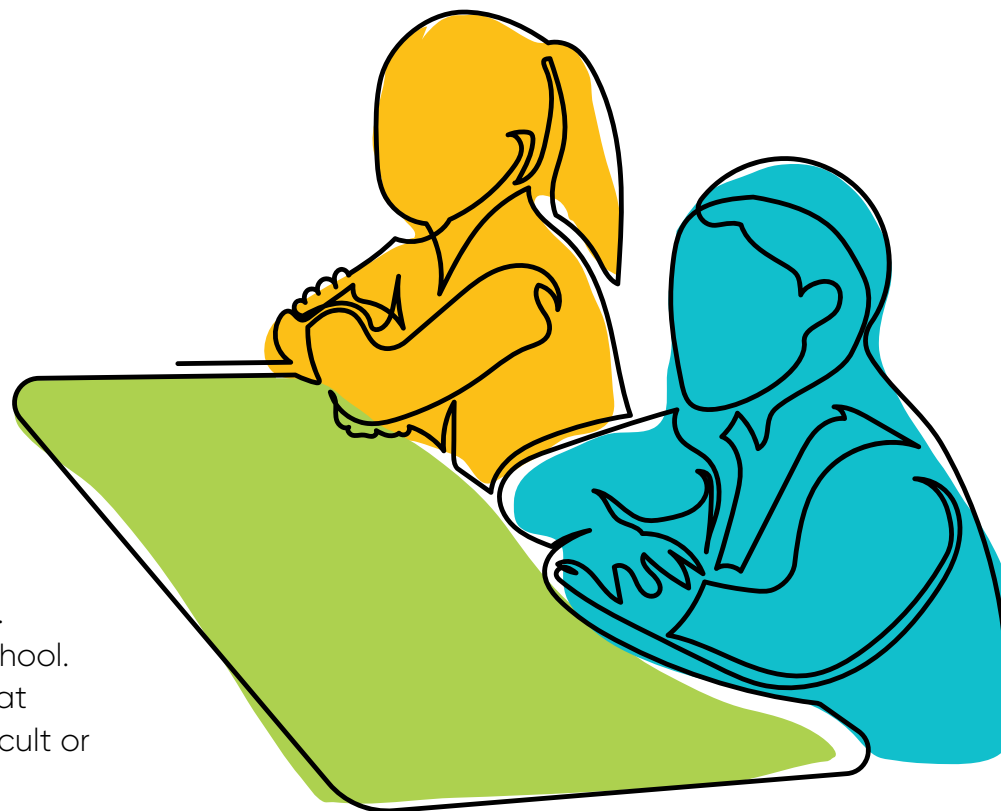
Key Themes, Areas for Development and Solutions

Education



Young people attending specialist provision were very positive about their experience of school. Other young people found college better than school, because they had more choice of subjects, and felt more accepted. Children with SEND in mainstream school felt that more understanding and better support was sometimes needed from staff and other pupils. In many cases primary age children have better experiences at school. Early diagnosis was important, with some young people feeling that delays in identifying their needs led to them being labelled as difficult or their actions being misinterpreted.

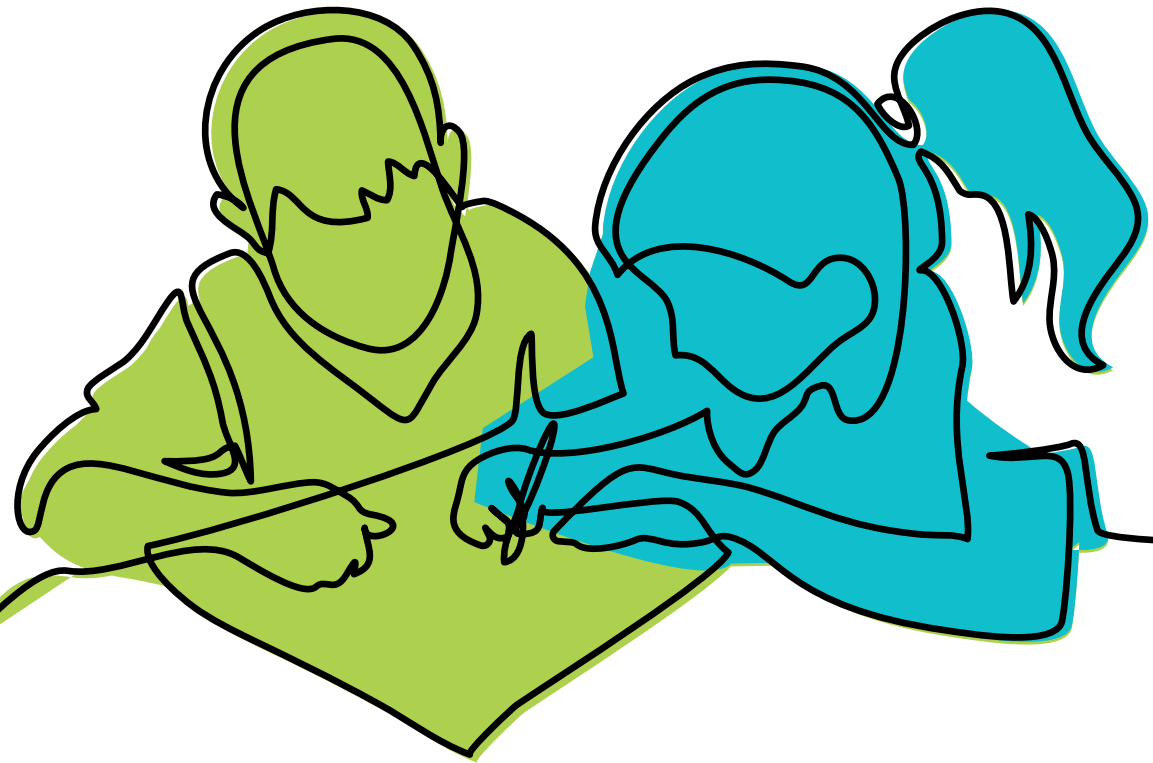
For students at school, support from teaching assistants was really valued, as was support from key members of staff who they felt recognised and understood their additional needs. Many expressed the view that school staff needed more training in understanding special needs; how these needs can affect a young person's behaviour; and how to respond when a young person is struggling.





Young people expressed frustration about information about their conditions or how to meet their needs was not being shared with all their teachers, so support was inconsistent. Students who had good experiences and support were positive about what they had achieved, educationally and socially.

Many young people were very positive about informal education which they access via their youth group. One young adult told us that she has attended positive activities clubs since she was at school and they have help her to go on achieve her life goals. Many young people said that they enjoyed socialising with their friends at school and taking part in out of school activities. This reflects how important it is for our children and young people to have opportunities to socialise with their peers to prevent them feeling isolated or lonely.





“
Teachers should be told about our needs before they teach us, we shouldn't have to tell them. ”

“
A couple of teachers were well trained and spotted my condition early even though I had no diagnosis. In later years they helped me become more independent. ”

“
School medical staff should have more training so they don't panic and should refer to care plans more. ”

“
School is often the place where young people with SEND can feel the unhappiest. ”

“
School is very often not a pleasant experience, especially for those in mainstream settings like me. ”

“
Some teachers do not understand disability or how to help us; in fact, they can often make things worse. ”

“
I can feel embarrassed in lessons and this makes me do things that I don't want to do. ”

“
At Greenacre we go out in the community. ”

“
I got level 4 in SATs and I got on the student council in primary. ”

“
It can sometimes feel like people work with you for a bit and if you don't make progress give up. ”



Things young people like about school:

- Sports
- Being with friends, being able to talk to friends
- Options- picking our own subjects
- Catering and Computers
- Having someone to talk to
- Staff - helpful and supportive
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Community Work (Greenacre)
- Residential and trips
- Lessons are fun
- School transport
- Dinners (sometimes)
- People having a joke with you
- Extra curriculum activities like after school clubs/enrichment

At school young people want to feel:





What makes young people feel sad or anxious at school:

- Changing routine and environment without any warning
- "When my favourite staff are not there or leave"
- Bullying and friendship issues
- "People seeing your disability rather than you as a person"
- "When it's too crowded and people are shouting"
- "When you see someone else in crisis"
- "When I can't do something, it gives me low self-esteem"
- "When I have an appointment but don't know about it" (with a specialist service)
- "When we do group work"
- "I don't always know who to trust, I don't know who they will tell"
- "Support systems making you look different"
- "Not everyone seems to understand about invisible disabilities"
- "I sometimes feel like an outsider"





The things young people thought would or do make school feel better:

- More practical lessons
- "People work with me on my self-esteem and mental health"
- "Listen to my opinions and give me a voice"
- Have nurture provision in mainstream school
- Teachers need better information to prepare for SEND young people in their class before they teach them
- More range of uniforms - materials can be irritating
- Less crowded dinner lines and spaces
- More time to make good choices when calming down from a difficult situation (meltdown), a calming room
- "If people were more understanding of my needs"
- How to help in crisis
- If all staff carried communication cards
- Young people should be helped more to participation in annual reviews. Tools should be developed and used.
- More training for school medical staff to help with more complex needs





Young People thought training should be given in the following areas:

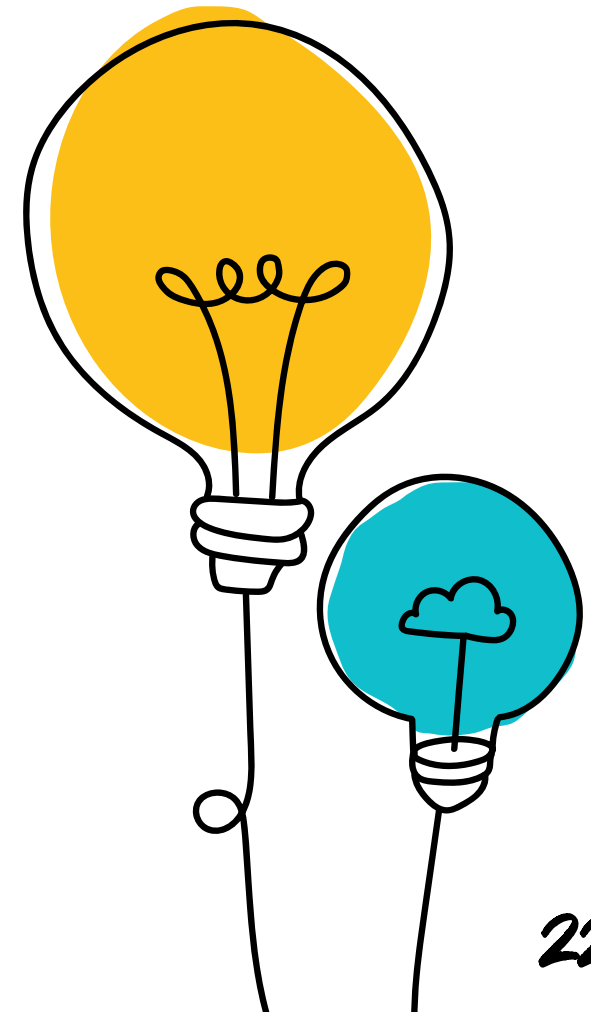
- How to de-escalate
- Communication training
- Identifying and responding to needs including sensory needs
- LGBTQ+
- Mental Health
- Training for school medical staff

What young people would like to see happen to help with these issues:

- More support for SEND in schools
- Better training for all school staff on disabilities and what they can do to help.
- More consistency in implementing strategies and support.
- Better communication between staff (including supply teachers) about what things have been put in place to help us.
- To be asked and listened to.

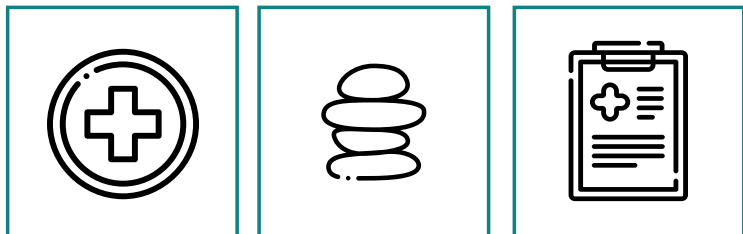
What the SEND Youth Form and Youth Council will do:

- Develop and deliver training with education leaders to promote better understanding about SEND.
- Produce a video that raises awareness about disability that can be shown to professionals and young people.





Health, Wellbeing and Diagnosis



Some young people described positive experiences of mental health services but also expressed the view that more support for mental health is needed.

Those who accessed sexual health services thought they were good, but some young people want more specialist sexual health services equipped to advise on their particular needs. They would like the health and wellbeing offer that is provided in mainstream settings or clubs to be put in place in SEND settings.

For some young people environment was seen as a barrier to accessing services, for example waiting rooms and spaces that are not autism friendly.

A frustration for some young people was having to tell their story repeatedly as they moved between services, and also when staff changed within services. They feel this makes it difficult to build/maintain trusting relationships. The scheduling of services or activities sometimes limited young people's opportunities to access what they wanted or needed.

Generally young people value the services and groups on offer but feel that there needs to be more. Young people feel that they wait too long for services and have to have a diagnosis before they can get support.

“
Sexual Health Services are good. I access them through my doctors/spectrum.”

“
The service I went to knew about depression and anxiety but always said it was just because of my autism. I still need help with it regardless of the cause.”

“
There are lots of long forms to fill in and send off.”



What young people would like to happen to address these issues:

- Better mental health support for young people with SEND
- Clear pathways and information about diagnosis and support, and where to go for help.
- More training on disabilities for mental health and medical professionals
- Faster access to support for children and young people.

What the SEND Youth Form and Youth Council will do:

- The SEND Youth Forum and Youth Council will campaign on mental health and wellbeing including what this means for children and young people with SEND and will work with Services to help make improvements. Please ask us.

“
I feel like I am being passed around from service to service, one service does one bit, then another service does another bit.”

“
Have you tried going through puberty with an autistic brain? It's a nightmare!”

“
You are often passed between services as you don't meet the correct criteria”

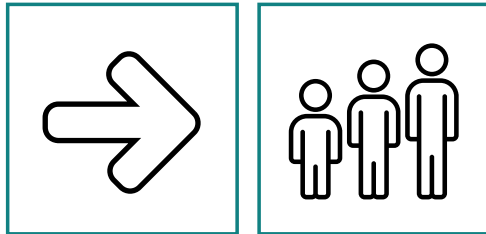
“
It often takes a very long time to receive a correct diagnosis and then takes even longer to get support.”

“
You often cannot access support until you have a full diagnosis and sometimes even an EHCP which takes a long time.”

“
Can we have sexual health services in our SEN clubs?”



Moving into Adulthood



Children and young people told us they want more support in preparation for adulthood. They worry about what they will be able to do when they cannot access youth provision anymore, as many of them plan their week around those activities. They also worry about when they will need to live independently, without their parents and want more and earlier support to prepare them for living alone, before that circumstance arises.

Young people worry about not having enough qualifications to get a job. They want more opportunities for work experience, seeing it as an opportunity to demonstrate what they can do. Not all young people are aware about how to get a job and want more support with this. They also want to see more awareness and support in the workplace for people with SEND needs.

When young people are getting support, they are positive about the difference it makes to their lives.

“
Lots of young people worry about what will happen when they have to live independently.”

“
When you do get a job, employers often don't understand or provide support that you might need to be able to keep the job and manage your SEND.”

“
It is really hard to get a job that isn't a voluntary placement.”

“
Now the people I live with will be able to help me learn to look after myself.”
Young person recently moved into supported living



What young people would like to happen to address these issues?

- Better education for all young people throughout their lives to make them more prepared to be independent (skills to prepare you for life).
- More information about what to do if someone needs help when they are living independently.
- Better training for leaders in the workplace (especially on understanding disability and how to support their workforce)
- For services to work with us so our parents do not worry and feel confident about us doing things on our own.

What the SEND Youth Form and Youth Council will do:

- The SEND Youth Forum and Youth Council have started work with Barnsley MBC and NHS Barnsley to develop work experience, employment opportunities and employer knowledge.

“
If I have to live on my own it would be scary because I don't know anything about bills or taxes. ”

“
I try not to think about what will happen when I am too old to go to things anymore. ”

“
I have been coming to the youth club since I was 14, I know I can't come when I am 25 but I don't know what I will be able to do after that. ”

“
It would be good for someone to help me with what to do after college; I'm worried about my next step. ”

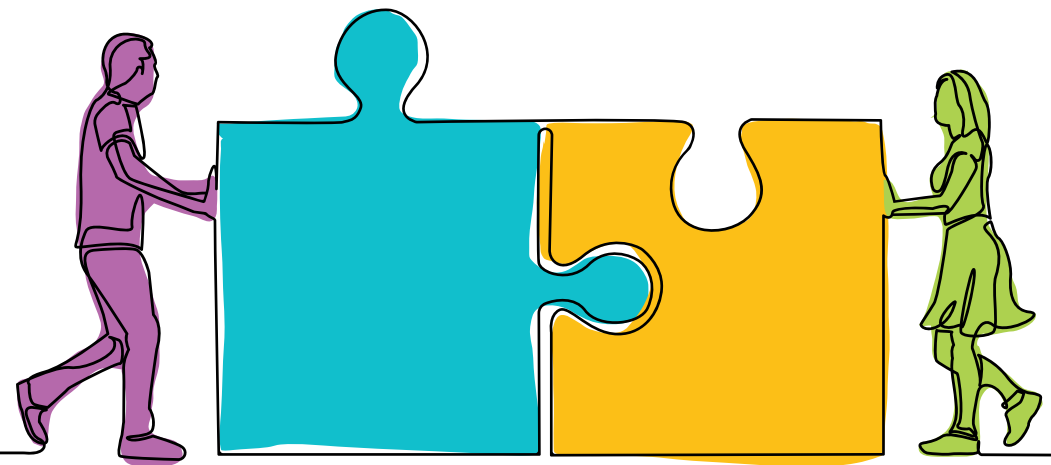
“
Got work experience through Greenacre College and was hired by Barnsley Norse after my placement. It was good because it let me try the job and prove I could do it. ”

“
Adult services help me when I need it. ”



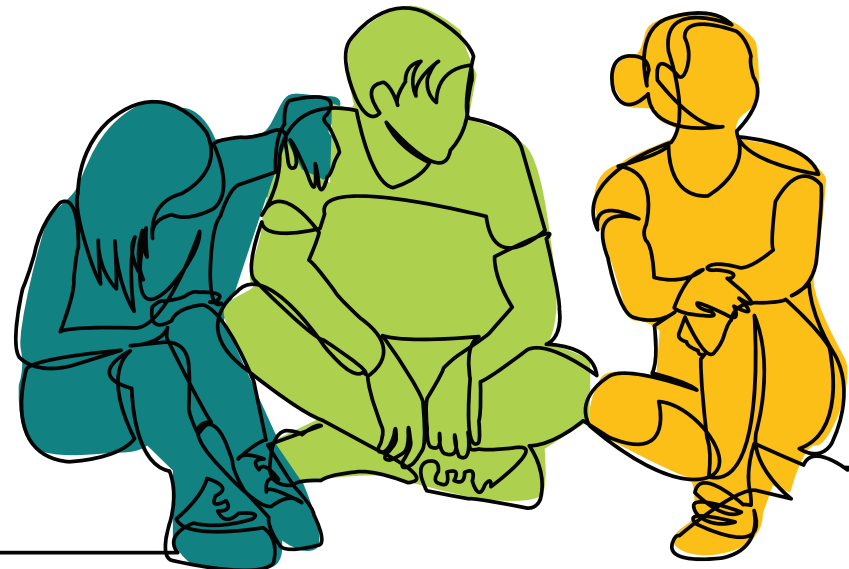
What the Children and Young People's Trust will do about the key issues children and young people have raised

- Continue to work with an unrelenting focus towards our vision which is to ensure all children and young people; attend a school or other education setting that is good or outstanding, achieve success in learning and work, live in a strong and resilient family.
- Work hard to ensure all our services make children, young people and families feel included, supported and understood.
- Use the information provided within this document to shape and commission services and policy.
- Schools will develop strong Accessibility and Inclusion Strategies in line with the Borough Accessibility Strategy 2020 and the feedback provided by young people within this plan.
- Create a more inclusive Barnsley and support independence.
- Work with children and young people to develop our short break activities including residential services.
- Provide access to Early Help support as and when it is needed to stop needs from escalating by offering support to families.
- Improve the quality of provision for young people with SEND supporting them to access education locally and not have to travel long distances to school or college.





- Improve the Education, Health and Care Plan process.
- Consistently implement high quality tailored plans and support, improving the daily experience and outcomes of children and young people.
- Increase opportunities for working with children, young people and parents to make sure we get things right, together.
- Enable and encourage all professionals to work well together to support education, health and care needs at the same time.
- That specialist services can be assessed without waiting a long time.
- Ensure there is a strong emotional health and wellbeing pathway to support young people with SEND.
- To ensure all services help children, young people and families prepare for adulthood from birth onwards.
- To increase training and employment opportunities for young people with SEND and support employers to better support their SEND workforce.
- For the Children and Young People's Trust and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership to work together with young people to address bullying and make children and young people feel safe and included.
- Continue to develop our approach to 'tell us once' to minimise young people having to continue to tell their story many times.





Next Steps

The key areas for development highlighted within this plan will be included in Barnsley's SEND Strategy and Barnsley's SEND Improvement Plan alongside all the other actions which we know we need to take to improve the daily experiences of children, young people and families with SEND. Our SEND Improvement Plan has been developed to make sure we improve services, and everyone makes the changes that are needed. The SEND Oversight Board and Children and Young Peoples Trust Executive Group (TEG) will monitor progress and make sure all agencies and services work in partnership to achieve better outcomes for all our children and young people. The SEND Oversight Board is chaired by the Executive Director for Children's Services, and its members include schools, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health.

The Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust will continue to work together with the SEND Youth Forum and Barnsley Youth Council to implement their solutions to the issues raised. This will ensure young people are able to continue to talk about their experiences of SEND as part of a formal structure to make positive changes as well as providing a forum between service users, senior leaders, and service providers, to implement check and challenge activity and meaningful joint working practices.





The SEND Youth Forum will work in partnership with the Trust to develop an action plan to support development activity. They will report all key progress to TEG acting as a partner within the SEND Improvement Programme.

The SEND Youth Participation Lead will continue to work with children and young people from across the borough by delivering focused work and participation opportunities in schools (special and mainstream) and targeted/specialist services and groups. This will enable our children and young people to continue to shape the future for Barnsley children and young people with SEND by influence the ongoing design and delivery of service provision and future commissioning activity. It will also increase confidence amongst parents and carers that their child's voice is being listened to and that they are being supported to participate.

It is important that professionals use the information within this plan to develop their services and practice. We also ask that schools and services speak to children and young people with SEND who they are in contact with about this plan and the issues raised. Any feedback provided or good development practice highlighted within individual services and schools can be used in further editions of the plan. The Youth Council and SEND Youth Forum are keen to work with all partners across the Trust.





Acknowledgements

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This plan is currently being developed in an easy to read version by the SEND Youth Forum and will be made available on completion.

