



**Melanie John-Ross, Executive Director
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

My Ref: MJR/ZP/EMSO Correspondence
Your Ref:
Date: 25 November 2020
Direct Dial: 01226 773602
E-Mail: MelanieJohn-Ross@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Director of Children's Services

RE: SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACED IN BARNLSLEY

I am writing to draw your attention to the current situation with regard to services available for looked after children placed in Barnsley. At the end of Quarter 2 2020/21 Barnsley had 245 looked after children placed in the borough by other local authorities. We are a comparatively small borough with a population of approximately 245,000 and have a disproportionately large number of privately registered children's homes in the borough, in addition to the numerous independent fostering agency placements. The number of children placed in Barnsley by other local authorities, together with the complexity of their needs, is increasing over time. This in turn is putting significant pressure on local services, i.e. the Police, local schools and CAMHS.

The Police continue to raise concerns about the significant number of children placed by other local authorities who are reported missing. Both our special schools continue to be oversubscribed and are unable to offer places. Our pupil referral units are also oversubscribed and for safety reasons are not taking new referrals. Additionally, whilst CAMHS waiting time is linked to acuity of need, all children and young people whilst receiving a prompt assessment, are experiencing some delay for treatment.

Partners report that they regularly they find themselves in the position of deploying resources to children in care from other authorities, often in crisis situations and without adequate background information.

I am therefore writing to request that you consult with us prior to placing any child from your authority in Barnsley. I also ask that no child is placed in Barnsley, until it is clear that the services and interventions that are required are available to meet the child's needs.

In meeting our responsibilities to help safeguard children who are placed in Barnsley, we will be proactive in challenging authorities when standards of pre-placement practice are not met. Where we do not receive a satisfactory response, we will maintain a robust dialogue to secure the right response for the children and young people placed.

I enclose a separate letter advising you of the services available to looked after children in Barnsley and look forward to your cooperation and assistance to ensure that the children you place in Barnsley have their needs appropriately met.

Yours sincerely

Mel John-Ross
Executive Director – Children's Services

Sarah Poolman
Chief Superintendent Barnsley District Commander
South Yorkshire Police



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Dear Director of Children's Services

RE: SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACED IN BARNLSLEY

I am writing to notify you of the services and facilities that are available for looked after children and young people who are placed in Barnsley by other local authorities. This letter sets out:

- The process for consulting with us prior to making a placement in Barnsley.
- The process for notifying us of the placement starting and ending for a child in Barnsley.
- Information about the resources and facilities available for looked after children and young people who may be accommodated in our area by your local authority.

Consultation

Prior to placing a child in Barnsley, we actively encourage you to consult with the following colleagues, who will assist by providing information, advice and guidance in respect of placement planning to ensure that children's needs can be met:

- Virtual School Headteacher - Elizabeth Gibson, Tel 01226 774644 or email elizabethgibson@barnsley.gov.uk
- The Designated Doctor for Looked after Children is Dr Andrea Nussbaumer, Tel 01226 433120 or email andrea.nussbaumer@nhs.net
- The Named LAC nurse is Andrea Scholey, Tel 01226 645053 / 07500066531 or email andreascholey@barnsley.gov.uk
- The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children is Angela Fawcett Tel: 01226 433708 Extension: 3708 E-mail: angela.fawcett@nhs.net
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) CAMHS can be contacted on Tel 01226 644829.
- The Youth Offending Team - Duty Manager Tel 01226 774986 or email via barnsley.yot@barnsley.cjsm.net
- The LADO is Ruth Holmes Direct line: 01226 772341 or 01226 772400 or email RuthHolmes@barnsley.gov.uk
- South Yorkshire Police - Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Tel 01226 736480/01226 736203 or email Barnsley_PVPreferrals@southyorks.pnn.police.uk
- Barnsley Independent Review and Safeguarding Service Tel 01226 772317 (2317) or 07834 117393 email philholmes@barnsley.gov.uk

Notifications and required documentation.

In accordance with the Arrangements for Placement of Children (General) Regulations 1991, please notify us of any children or young people you have placed in Barnsley, excluding any short term or respite care unless it is longer term recurring short break care.

We require a copy of the following documentation with your notification:

A copy of the assessment of the child's needs, which include any particular risks or vulnerabilities; the family background, race, culture, language, gender; the child's legal status and care history; the child's wishes and feelings; any disability and/or special needs.

Copies of the Placement and Care Plans which include:

- Names and contact details of all professionals including out of hours
- Type and duration of placement
- Arrangements for contact with details of family members
- Details of who will be responsible for implementing the placement plan for the child's day to day care, including arrangements for delegating responsibilities
- Contingency arrangements if the placement does not succeed.
- Details of plans to meet the child's educational needs including the school that the child is expected to attend
- Details of plans to meet the child's health needs, including any secondary health care with details of provision.
- Details of any youth justice supervision order

All documents with notifications of looked after children placed in Barnsley should be sent to: barnsleylachealth@barnsley.gov.uk

Notifications will be forwarded by the Safeguarding Unit to the relevant professional where appropriate:

- Health - Looked After Children Named Nurse
- Virtual School for Looked After Children Head Teacher
- Social Work – Children in Care Service Manager
- Early Years – Service Manager
- Police - Public Protection Investigation Unit
- YOT - Service Manager
- Early Intervention and Prevention - Missing from Home Coordinator

Changes of address and notifications of looked after children leaving Barnsley should also be sent to this address so we can update our records.

If you need to contact Barnsley Children's Social Care, please call us at the Safeguarding Unit on 01226 772400 or e-mail safeguarding@barnsley.gov.uk (this is not a secure email address) and we will direct you to the correct team.

Information about the resources and facilities available for looked after children

Education

Barnsley MBC is responsible for schools and early years education although many of the schools are now run by independent Education Trusts. Details about Barnsley's primary, secondary and special schools including terms dates, admissions and the core offer for special educational needs are available on the Barnsley Council Website <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk> .

School Admissions

If you wish to contact us please email admissions@barnsley.gov.uk this is not a secure address so please do not send children's details via email, or contact us on 01226 773689.

We are unable to supply the number of places available in different schools across the borough but generally there are very few spare places in primary schools in some areas of the borough.

Both special schools remain oversubscribed and unable to offer any places currently. Barnsley pupil referral units are also oversubscribed and for safety reasons are not taking new referrals in the immediate future.

Virtual School Headteacher - Elizabeth Gibson; 01226 774644 elizabethgibson@barnsley.gov.uk

Special Education Needs

Barnsley Council is committed to inclusion and in ensuring all children and young people across the borough have the opportunity to fulfil their potential and play a full part in the life of their school and community.

In Barnsley we have a range of educational opportunities for young people to be educated alongside their peers in their local community. For most children with special educational needs, this provision will be made in their local neighbourhood school. Some mainstream schools do have additional resources for children with for example, hearing impairments, visual difficulties or speech and language difficulties.

Barnsley also has two special schools, one providing high quality support for children and young people with a range of learning and complex needs and the other providing high quality support for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Both special schools remain oversubscribed and unable to offer any places currently. Barnsley pupil referral units are also oversubscribed and for safety reasons are not taking new referrals in the immediate future.

Barnsley's Families Information Service

The Families Information Service provides free, impartial and confidential information and advice for the whole family including children aged up to 19 years (25 years if the young person has a disability). The service provides information on early years and childcare provision, parenting support and family activities within the area and advice on financial assistance, benefits, training and work. The service can be accessed by:

Telephone: 0800 0345 340
Email: infoFIS@barnsley.gov.uk
Online: <http://fsd.barnsley.gov.uk>

Early Years, Childcare and Nursery Provision

There is a wide range of early years and childcare provision throughout Barnsley offering high quality education and care. This includes access to the two year old education entitlement across a range of providers including day nurseries, Children's Centres, childminders and schools. The high quality, early year's provision available in Barnsley supports children to grow, develop and achieve. Information on the provision available and support in choosing early years and childcare can be found at Barnsley's Families Information Service.

The Targeted Youth Support Service

The service works specifically with the most vulnerable groups of young people who are at risk of offending or poor outcomes. The service offers targeted interventions and support through group's and one to one work and focuses support on those young people who are causing concern. Please contact the Early Intervention and Prevention Service on 01226 753406.

Family Centres

Family Centres provide early help to families to support them in providing the best start in life for their children pre-birth to 19 years (25 with a disability). Family Centres work in partnership with health, education and social care to provide integrated services tailored to the needs of families. There are currently 18 Family Centre sites delivering early help services in Barnsley offering:

- Access to early years and childcare in partnership with the private and voluntary sector.
- Family and parenting support both on a one to one basis and in groups.
- Access to family and child health services.
- Access to information and advice regarding financial assistance and benefits.
- Access to adult learning, skills, training and employment support.

All Centres have highly qualified and experienced staff who provide a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment for children and their families. Information relating to Centres and groups and activities in Barnsley can be found at the Families Information Service or by accessing www.barnsley.gov.uk and searching for Family Centres.

Young People missing from home or care

The Targeted Youth Support Service currently provides an independent return home interview for young people who are reported missing from home or care whilst missing in Barnsley. Please contact the Missing Persons Coordinator on 01226 753406.

Health Services

All children and young people living in the Barnsley borough have access to universal health services such as a GP, Dentist, Health Visitor or School Nurse.

Additionally, Barnsley ensures that all children and young people placed in the Barnsley borough have a named Health Visitor/School Nurse who liaises with Paediatric colleagues following initial health assessments. They will then meet with the child / young person to complete their statutory review health assessment and oversee their health care plans. It is the responsibility of the placing authority to arrange health assessments by contacting the service on the secure e-mail address barnsleyhealth@barnsley.gov.uk

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

The needs of all looked after children referred to CAMHS are considered through a weekly consultation clinic. Professionals and carers working with the child come together to explore difficulties, share and support good practice and coordinate a way forward. Local demand for CAMHS means that typically there is a significant wait between referral and the commencement of non-urgent treatment. However, the looked after children pathway within CAMHS includes dedicated Clinical Psychologist and Nurse Specialist therapeutic support and the ability to arrange priority access to other specialist CAMHS interventions as required. CAMHS can be contacted on 01226 644829.

Youth Offending Team (YOT) - Barnsley's YOT works with young people across the borough. Referrals should be made by the home Youth Offending Team for any person for whom there is an open statutory disposal. To make a referral please contact the Duty Manager on 01226 774986 or email via barnsley.yot@barnsley.cjsm.net

Referrals should also be made for any young person subject to bail or criminal court proceedings. The Youth Offending Team in Barnsley is keen to work with all young people in the area who are subject to court or police sanctions.

Emergency Duty Team - the out of hours services for social care emergencies, which do not require medical assistance. Contact out of hours on 0844 9841800.

Children's Integrated Assessment Service (incorporating the MASH) - Barnsley's contact with regards to Child Exploitation is Tel: 438831 or 772423.

South Yorkshire Police - Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, Tel 01226 736480/01226 736203 or email Barnsley_PVPreferrals@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

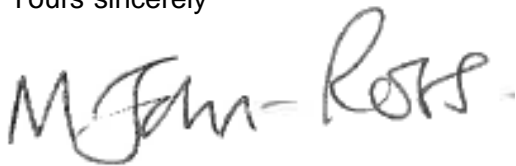
Adoption Support Services - Tel (01226) 775875

Children in Care Council - is a body of young people who are in care or who are care leavers who endeavour to represent their peers in talks with the people who make decisions about their lives. The Children in Care Council meets quarterly and the co-ordinator is Emma Baines - Youth Voice & Participation Operational Manager Tel: 01226 753406 or email emmabaines@barnsley.gov.uk

Finally, the websites for both Barnsley Council and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board provide further relevant information, policies and procedures.

<https://www.safeguardingchildrenbarnsley.com/>
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/socialcare>

Yours sincerely



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Executive Director – Children's Services



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Chief Superintendent Barnsley District Commander
South Yorkshire Police