BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: FOI/ 4921
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has now completed its search for the information which you requested.

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

1. Partnership Working & Parental Engagement
• Copies of any policies or frameworks relating to parental engagement and partnership working in education/SEND.

Information about our current approach to participation and it's development can be found here on the Local Offer
https://barnsley.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Local_Offer/BarnsleyApproachtoPCPLanding.aspx
Our previous 2020-2022 strategy can also be found on the local offer or using this link https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/21581/engagement-and-participation-strategy-final2020-2022.pdf

• Details of any monitoring or performance measures used to assess parental engagement (e.g. surveys, KPIs, internal reviews).

The Council does not hold the information requested.

• Records of any complaints or feedback received regarding poor parental engagement in SEND/education services.

We do not record complaints or feedback as requested, as such the information is not held.

2. Attendance
• Attendance and persistent absence figures for Barnsley pupils broken down by:
• Primary vs. Secondary
• SEND vs. Non-SEND

The above is published by DfE and can be located via the following link:
https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/pupil-attendance-in-schools/

• Any internal reports on school attendance performance, including reference to the "Every Child in School Every Day" plan.

Performance relating to the Every Child in School Every Day Plan is measured against the DfE data provided in the link above.

3. Tribunals

• Number of education/SEND tribunals lodged against Barnsley MBC.

Data is published as part of the SEN2 data and can be accessed via the following link: https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans/2025

• Outcomes: how many were found in favour of the parent/guardian vs. the Council.

For the period August 2024 to August 2025, 21 outcomes are recorded. 3 were in favour of parent, 2 were conceded, 13 were agreed via consent order, and 3 were vacated.

The council did not collate statistics prior to 2024 so it would require a manual search through all final order documents to determine and record the outcome. It is envisaged that to do this would exceed the cost limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time and as such Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is applied.

To provide the outcomes in a statistical format it would require each pupil file to be looked into, identify relevant final orders and then read through this order to determine the outcome and record this. For each file this may take 15-20 minutes. As the request covers multiple years this would add up to exceed 18 hours of staff time. If you were to reduce the scope of your request, selecting a smaller time period, then this may make the request manageable within the cost limit.

• Total legal costs incurred by Barnsley MBC in defending these tribunals (annual breakdown).

No legal costs are incurred as tribunals are managed by the EHC Team staff.

4. School Placement

• Number of children in Barnsley awaiting a suitable school placement (mainstream and special schools), broken down by year.

For pupils with an EHCP
As at the end of August 2025, 101 children and young people were awaiting a specialist placement. All either remained on the roll of a mainstream setting or had alternative

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provision arrangements in place. In August 2024 this figure was 55. Data is not available prior to August 2024 and our case management system is unable to extract data in retrospect.

At the end of August 2025, 39 children and young people were awaiting provision in comparison to 18 in August 2024,14 in August 2023 and 9 in August 2022. The majority of these cases are recent transfers into the area. Where a specialist place is required, these cases are also included in the number provided above. Data is not available prior to August 2022.

• Average waiting time from referral to confirmed placement.

This data is not recorded.

• Any use of "out-of-borough" school placements, and the total cost of these (annual breakdown). We do not record costs by location.

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Non-maintained special schools and Independent Placement costs (INMSS & Other LA's) *	**20.184M**	**19.220M**	**17.729M**	**15.197M**	**12.529M**

** S251 Return Line 1.2.3*

5. SEND Support

• Total number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued annually, and the average time taken from application to finalised plan.

Data on number of plans issued is published as part of the SEN2 data and can be accessed via the following link**:** https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans/2025

Average time is not calculated and recorded. The published data will provide the percentage issued within the 20 week timeframe.

• Percentage of EHCP applications refused. Please see link to SEN2 data above**.**

• Staffing levels (full-time equivalent posts) dedicated to SEND assessment and support. The current structure (as of 23rd September 2025) of the EHCP Team contains 35 posts. 31 of these are full time posts and 4 are part time, ranging from 2.5 – 4 days.

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6. Family Hubs

• Total annual cost of running family hubs (staffing, premises, programmes, etc.).

20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
4,355,341	4,489,055	5,087,499	6,276,490	4,561,953

• Annual footfall figures or usage statistics (by hub).

Family Hub footfall figures (relating to designated site access) have only been collated and validated since Q1 (April-June) of 2025/2026 and this is reported as an average daily footfall figure as shown in the table below:

Family Hub Site	***Average Daily Footfall Q1 2025/26***
Central Family Hub	28.63
Dearne Family Hub	8.93
North East Family Hub	31.37
North Family Hub	30.11
Penistone Family Hub	6.40
South Family Hub	20.77

The following data is available in relation to the number of family hubs members and number of family hub activity sessions recorded by hub reach area:

Financial Year	***Total Number of Individual Family Hub Members***
Pre 2022/23	901
2022/23	6625 (5724 increase)
2023/24	12216 (5591 increase)
2024/25	19232 (7016 increase)
2025/26 (Year to Date)	20365 (1133 increase)

	Financial Year				
Family Hub Reach Area	***2022/23***	***2023/24***	***2024/25***	***2025/26 (Year to Date)***	***TOTAL***
Central Family Hub	1900	1552	1780	1057	6289
South Family Hub	997	1114	2807	1210	6128
North East Family Hub	2572	2934	2301	1041	6276

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North Family Hub	1660	1029	1308	669	4666
Dearne Family Hub	1179	2212	2338	1371	7100
Penistone Family Hub	158	219	1189	592	2158
Not Recorded	182	244	511	215	1152
TOTAL	8648	9304	12234	6155	36341

Please note that these figures do not include all activity delivered by partner organisations delivered through family hubs or family hub nursery attendances.

• Any internal performance reviews or evaluations of family hubs since launch.

We do not hold this information.

7. Key Stage 4 Attainment

• Key Stage 4 attainment results for Barnsley schools, compared with national averages.

This data is published by DfE and can be accessed via the link below. Results for 2025 have not yet been published.

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/key-stage-4-performance-2024

• Internal analysis or reports explaining underperformance at KS4 (if available).

See the link above. We do not hold this information.

8. Accountability

• Any internal reviews, audits, or external inspections highlighting failings in SEND, school placements, attendance, or attainment.
• Copies of any action plans produced in response to such reviews.

Ofsted inspection reports and written statement of action is publicly available.
Corporate performance reports are publicly available.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email:informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:-

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Yours sincerely

Information Requests Team
Barnsley MBC

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