



My Ref: FOI 6421
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 completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

In 2025, how many adult safeguarding concerns did you receive where the subject was considered to be experiencing or at risk of experiencing sexual exploitation?

221

Of those referrals, how many resulted in (1) a Section 42 enquiry, and (2) other safeguarding enquiries?

Section 42 enquiry – 64
Other safeguarding enquiry – 5

Is there a multi-agency forum in this local authority area which discusses individual cases of children who have been subject to sexual exploitation (e.g. Slavery Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference)?

Yes, there is a multi-agency forum in Barnsley which discusses individual cases of children who have been subject to sexual exploitation.

If yes: Please provide the name(s) of the group(s) Does it focus specifically on sexual exploitation or on exploitation or other forms of harm more broadly?

The multi-agency forum is known as MACE, which stands for Multi-Agency Child Exploitation. It meets weekly and considers all forms of child exploitation, as well as children who are identified as being at risk of exploitation.

MACE is overseen by Barnsley's specialist multi-agency contextual safeguarding team, known as BSAFE.

What happens when a child subject to multi-agency case management in relation to sexual exploitation turns 18?

The support provided when a child turns 18 will depend on their individual circumstances, ongoing needs, and whether they are a child in care. Where a young person is looked after, this will be managed through Barnsley Council's Leaving Care Team. Where a young person has continuing support needs after the age of 18,

appropriate transition planning will take place through the Preparing for Adulthood pathway, with referrals made to Adult Social Care where ongoing support is required.

Barnsley also has an all-age exploitation plan that provides a coordinated framework for preventing, identifying and responding to exploitation across the life course, with a clear focus on ensuring that people experiencing, or at risk of, criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, modern slavery or wider contextual harm are supported through effective multi-agency arrangements. The objectives of the plan are to strengthen governance, improve awareness and identification, embed clear referral and escalation pathways, enhance the intelligence picture and develop a consistent partnership response across children's and adults' services.

Community Safety has strengthened interfaces with key safeguarding arrangements, including MACE, contextual safeguarding structures, the Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer Barnsley Partnership, ensuring that risks relating to people are understood within a wider all-age exploitation context and that transition points into adulthood are not missed.

Through attendance at MACE and wider strategic governance forums, Community Safety supports information sharing, disruption activity, enforcement options, victim and witness support and links to wider community intelligence. This ensures a coordinated response to exploitation under the 4Ps approach:

- Preventing exploitation through awareness, training and early identification;
- Protecting children and young people through safeguarding pathways and wraparound support;
- Pursuing perpetrators through intelligence-led disruption and enforcement; and
- Preparing the partnership by strengthening governance, data, pathways and resilience across the system.

2 Is there a multi-agency forum in this local authority area which discusses individual cases of adults who have been subject to sexual exploitation (e.g. Slavery Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference)?

If yes: Please provide the name(s) of the group(s) Does it focus specifically on sexual exploitation or on exploitation or other forms of harm more broadly? Which agencies are involved?

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re-using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

We do not have a specific panel/forum that discusses individual cases of adults who have been subject to sexual exploitation. We do have the Vulnerable Adult Panel, but there is no specific focus on the type of abuse, it is more about supporting the adult and the agencies working with them.

BMBC are also actively working with partners to improve our response to individuals involved in sex work in Barnsley. Including joint support visits with South Yorkshire Police and Community Safety and sexual health services to provide access to free contraception and signposting to appropriate support services.

What housing pathways are available for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to fleeing sexual exploitation?

Barnsley does not currently have a dedicated housing pathway specifically for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to sexual exploitation. Where an individual is homeless or at risk of homelessness, they would be supported through the Council's existing Housing and Homelessness pathways, including homelessness prevention, housing advice, temporary accommodation, and rehousing support, as appropriate to their circumstances. Housing support would be delivered alongside safeguarding processes and referrals to relevant specialist services, ensuring a coordinated multi-agency response based on the individual's needs and level of risk.

3 Do you commission a service to support women who have experienced sexual exploitation and/or who are involved in the sex industry?

Barnsley Council commission specialist therapy and support for victims of sexual harm through BSARCS which is a subcontract of the community based domestic abuse support service (IDAS). There are no specific services commissioned to support women who are involved in the sex industry although they would be able to access the above.

If yes: How much funding is provided?

In 2026/27, BSARCS subcontract value is £92,455.

Is this funded via a particular funding stream?

This is funding through Barnsley Council.

Is the funding specifically for support for those who have experienced sexual exploitation and/or who are involved in the sex industry, or is this part of a wider service (e.g. a sexual assault service that also supports those who have experienced sexual exploitation)?

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

BSARCS delivers specialist therapy and support to any individual who has experienced, or is affected by, sexual harm. This work is not limited to victims of sexual exploitation or those involved in the sex industry.

Explanatory note 1: Multi-agency forum could refer to a panel, hub, co-located teams etc. that brings together partner agencies to share information and coordinate responses to children or adults at risk. The equivalent in domestic abuse would be MARAC. We are interested in panels, hubs etc. that discuss a wider range of cases than just sexual exploitation, provided it would be a suitable forum for sexual exploitation to be discussed.

Explanatory note 2: Examples of measures might include, but are not limited to, keeping young adults on the caseload up to a certain age; referring cases to an adult panel; referring to specialist adult services.

Explanatory note 3: This could be a formalised housing pathway, similar to what is often used in domestic abuse cases, or commissioning of specialist services for people experiencing homelessness as a result of sexual exploitation. Alternatively, people may only be able to access the mainstream housing pathway.

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.

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: -

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

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

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

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG