



Annual Report of the Barnsley Schools Forum (2022/2023)

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Introduction

Welcome to the second annual report of the Barnsley Schools Forum. Here, you will learn more about the work which the Forum undertook during 2022/2023 to ensure all our schools and settings in the Borough were equipped with the funding to improve teaching and learning standards and provide a supportive environment for all children and young people at every stage of the National Curriculum.

I pay tribute to everyone in each school and setting in Barnsley for their part in helping their organisation to recover and renew from the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, together with maintaining their resilience against the impact of global events and inflationary pressures. Through your commitment and passion, our schools and settings have continued to promote the wellbeing of pupils as well as restore and maintain the progress of pupils in the most challenging circumstances.

One of the responsibilities of the Forum is to help oversee that the funding provided to schools and settings is sufficient, effectively utilised and provides value for money. In this sense, the Forum is part of a broader landscape whose shared vision is to help develop a local, inclusive system which enables all children and young people in the Borough to achieve their potential, irrespective of their circumstances and characteristics. This is a role which the Forum will continue to perform during 2023/2024.

Whether you are a parent, school leader, teacher, governor or someone with an interest in how schools are funded, I hope you find this annual report interesting and informative.

Michael Sanderson

(Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum)

Local Guide to the Barnsley Schools Forum

In Barnsley, we have produced a *Local Guide* for members of the Forum, together with anyone who may be interested in learning more about its work. A copy of the Local Guide may be viewed via the Barnsley Schools Forum Web Page at:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/schools-forum/schools-forum-members-protocol/>

The Local Guide outlines the following information:

- The role and responsibilities of the Forum as set out in the Schools Forum (England) Regulations (2012)
- Representation and membership of the Forum
- The Forum's Constitution and Terms of Reference
- Nominations and appointments to the Forum
- Arrangements for meetings of the Forum and how the public can get involved.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Barnsley Schools Forum please e-mail:

Admin-GovernorsServices@barnsley.gov.uk

Issues Considered by the Barnsley Schools Forum During 2022/2023

As part of its role both as a consultee and decision-taker in matters concerning education and school funding, the Forum considered the following:

- Regular monitoring of Schools and Early Years Education Budgets (2023/2023) including variations in expenditure; school balances and reserves.
- High Needs Block funding, including Barnsley Council's management plan for tackling the deficit and bringing expenditure to within the agreed resource envelope by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. This included consideration of the Council's involvement in the Department for Education's '*Safety Valve*' intervention programme, aimed at closing the current deficit in the High Needs Block budget and to help develop a more sustainable system for meeting the education needs of vulnerable young people in accordance with the Government's national Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan and *Road Map*, published earlier this year.
- As part of this, quarterly reports continued to be considered on the sufficiency of education provision for children and young people with special educational needs, together with the measures taken to ensure more school places are created within local mainstream and special settings as well as to support their wellbeing whilst at school and improve attainment.
- The outcome of Barnsley Council's consultation with schools on proposed changes to the local schools funding formula, including the criteria for awarding funding to schools and settings which operated from multiple or split sites.
- The Borough's funding settlement for schools during the period 2023/2024, including allocations to the Schools Block; Early Years Block and High Needs Block, together with arrangements for the continued funding of school improvement activity and both statutory and historic commitments including school admissions, education welfare, eligibility for free school meals, pension costs and teaching staff cover.

Membership of the Schools Forum

This work could not have been completed without the dedication and commitment of the Forum's membership. Since the Forum's previous meeting in March 2023, we have recruited additional representatives who will add considerable added value to the Forum's work, during 2023/24. Therefore, I would like to welcome the following new members:

- Helena Lockwood (Head of School, Meadstead Primary Academy)
- Jonathan Mitchell (Principal, Netherwood Secondary Academy)
- Councillor Ashley Peace (Cabinet Support Member for Children's Services, Barnsley MBC)
- Anna Rooney (Executive Principal, Darton Secondary Academy)
- Simon Sykes (St. Martin's Day Nursery)
- Simon Tabbner (Head Teacher, Silkstone Common Junior and Infant School)
- Joe Woffinden, Head Teacher, Barugh Green Primary School)

Details concerning the current membership of the Forum can be found in the Local Guide or on the Schools Forum's Web page at:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/schools-forum/>

Performance and Critical Success Factors

Whilst the Barnsley School Forum does not have a specific set of its own critical success factors or indicators of its own performance, the Forum does perform a valuable role in supporting the following outcomes within the Council Plan:

Council Plan Priority and Outcome	Year End RAG Rating (2022/2023)
Learning Barnsley (LB09): Percentage of early years and child-care settings judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding'	Green (at 98% and in the top quartile of best performing areas)
Learning Barnsley (HB05): Percentage Take-up of the Child Care Offer for Children aged 2	Green (at 76.5% we remain better than the local target and both the National and Regional Average)

Council Plan Priority and Outcome	Year End RAG Rating (2022/2023)
Learning Barnsley (LB10): Percentage of children on SEN support in schools	Green (at 11.7% we are in step with our local target of 11.0%)
Learning Barnsley (LB06): Primary School Attendance.	Amber (at 93.5% we remain on a par with the National and Regional Average, but just below our local target)
Learning Barnsley (LB07): Secondary School Attendance.	Amber (at 90.0% we remain in step with the National and Regional Average, but just below our local target)
Learning Barnsley (LB07): The percentage of primary, secondary and special schools/settings within Barnsley that are judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted	Green ((81.1% of our schools are judged to be either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. This equates to 81.1% of primary schools and 70% of our secondary schools. Our special provision is judged to be 'Outstanding')
Learning Barnsley (LB12): Percentage of Young People Aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training	Green (at 4.1% this is better than the local target and both the National and Regional Average)
Learning Barnsley (LB11): Number of fixed-term exclusions or suspensions in all schools	Red (a total of 1,941 suspensions were recorded during this period)
Healthy Barnsley (HB12): Free School Meals	Amber (take-up during this period equated to 75%)

Looking Forward: The Barnsley Schools Forum's Work Programme for 2023/2024

In compliance with its statutory role, the Forum will continue to act both as a consultee and decision-taker on matters relating to schools funding in the Borough. This will be combined with its role as a key constituent within the local schools' sector as part of developing a schools' system which meets the needs and helps fulfil the aspirations of all children and young people in Barnsley. A copy of the Forum's proposed forward plan for 2023/2024 is outlined in the Appendix to the annual report.

Feedback

If you have any comments on the annual report, please let us know by e-mailing Admin-GovernorsServices@barnsley.gov.uk

Barnsley Schools Forum Forward Plan 2023/2024

Date of the meeting	Issues to be considered
Tuesday, 11 th July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Schools Budget Year-end Outturn (b) Schools Budget (2023/24) Latest Position and Evaluation of Risks (c) Special Educational Needs Performance and Finance Report (Quarter 4: 2022/23) (d) Annual report of the Barnsley Schools Forum (2022/23) (e) Scheme for Financing Schools (2023/24): Summary of DfE changes
Tuesday, 17 th October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Schools Budget: Latest Forecast Position (Quarter 2: 2023/24) (b) Schools Funding Settlement and Arrangements for 2024/2025 (c) Special Educational Needs Performance and Finance Report (Quarter 1: 2023/24) (d) Review of education outcomes and destinations of children who are not entered for examinations, including those electively elected at home. (e) Impact of the ending of the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokering Grant upon the performance of schools and education outcomes
Tuesday, 12 th December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Outcome of the Local Authority's consultation with schools on proposed changes to the Local Schools Funding Formula (<i>this matter will require a vote and the meeting must be quorate</i>) (b) Scheme for the admission of pupils to the Borough's primary and secondary schools: Service level agreement for appeals against an offer of a school place.
Tuesday, 16 th January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Schools Budget Out turn Report (Quarter 3: 2023/24) (b) Schools Funding: Budget Allocations (2024/25) (c) Schools Block Dedicated Budget (2024/25) (d) Early Years Block Dedicated Budget (2024/25) (e) Central School Services Budget Block (2024/25) (f) Provisional Education Outcomes in the Borough (2023) (g) Special Educational Needs Performance and Finance Report (Quarter 2: 2023/24) <p><i>(items' c, d and e may require a vote and the meeting must be quorate)</i></p>
Tuesday, 19 th March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Special Educational Needs Performance and Finance Report (Quarter 3: 2023/24) (b) High Needs Budget Block (2024/25)

