

2003-04 Implementation Plan

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Please enter your local authority name in the box below:

Barnsley

DfES Strategic Goal/Target 1: To put in place universal nursery education for 3 year olds by September 2004.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 goal/target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Tables 1a and 1b within the Excel Workbook

Box 2: Progress to date

N/A

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

To continue to monitor the take up of places on a termly basis to ensure sufficient funding.

To monitor provision on an area-by-area basis.

To remove surplus places from the maintained sector in areas with excess capacity.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic goal/target

N/A

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DfES Strategic Goal 2: To create new childcare places for 1.6m children by March 2004 which, taking account of turnover in existing places, should allow around 1m extra children to benefit from childcare in England alone.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 goal and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Tables 2a and 2b within the Excel workbook

Box 2: Progress to date

The target for Out of School Childcare will not be met 2002-3. The slippage will be met in 2003-4. See Target 2 and 6b.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Out of School sector development through New Opportunities Fund (NOF) Consortium applications – see Target 6b.

Childminding development work – see Target 6c.

Neighbourhood Nursery (NN) programme – see Target 6a.

Work in partnership with Ofsted to decrease the delays in registration.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic goal

N/A

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DfES Strategic Target 2: To have set up at least 360,000 new out-of-school childcare places for 720,000 children by 2003.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 2c within the Excel Workbook

Box 2: Progress to date

See Target 6b.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

580 places are to be created in 2003-4.

No providers will be in receipt of continuation funding as the Barnsley Choices Board agreed that sustainability would be developed through sound business planning and robust market research alleviating the need for continuation funding.

Only 1 of Barnsley's 22 electoral wards is classified as non disadvantaged. 1 ward has pockets of disadvantage and the remaining 20 wards are full areas of disadvantage. Therefore for planning purposes development work is planned for the whole borough as described in Target 6b.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

N/A

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DfES Strategic Target 4: To ensure that on average, new childcare places created between April 2001 and March 2004 add significantly to the local level of stock for the relevant category: for every 10 new out of school places that open, no more than 1 should close; and for every 10 new childcare places for pre-school age children created, no more than 3 than should close. On childminding, from the current position of an average of 10.5 places closing for 10 that open, Partnerships should ensure that there is an improvement to at least a 10% positive turnover, i.e. for every 10 new childminder places created, no more than 9 should close.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 4a within the Excel Workbook

Box 2: Progress to date

It is anticipated that targets will be met with the exception of turnover of places with childminders. This is due to Ofsted not including childminders own children in registration numbers. These had previously been included under the Registration and Inspection Unit in Barnsley. The number of childminders deregistering remains low, however, as transitional inspections take place most childminders are experiencing a decrease in the number of children they can be registered for. This is leading to an overall reduction in the number of childminding places.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Due to the effect of the change in enforcement of legislation (see Box 2) there will be a steady decrease in childminding places until all existing childminders have had their transitional inspection. Continued support to sustain the sector will include:

- Audit data and unmet demand statistics, including an indication of the level of developing provision, to be available for potential or expanding providers.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the Barnsley Choices Pathways to Registration framework to ensure ongoing and effective support throughout the registration process
- Continued development of Under One Roof resource centre enabling all providers to access good quality resources at minimal cost, assuming funding for the project is secured by March 2003.
- Targeted development work using audit feedback.
- Carousel staff pool to be developed to encourage sustainability amongst existing providers by offering additional employment opportunities for individuals, and short term recruitment solutions for providers.
- Further enhance support for cluster groups
- Quality Assurance – refer to Target 16
- Stimulating demand and raising awareness with parents of their choices in childcare
- Further programme of targeted proactive visits
- Childcare surgeries to be expanded to include quality assurance support
- Provider information evenings to be held termly
- Support offered through the Barnsley Choices website
- Telephone support and visits offered to providers as required.

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Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

The target for turnover rates with childminders will not be met. The revised strategic target is proposed as 180/180.

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DfES Strategic Target 5: To have set up, by 2004, a minimum of 120,000 new childcare places with childminders across England in addition to the 25,000 places in areas of disadvantage referred to in target 6.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 5 within the Excel workbook

Box 2: Progress to date

N/A

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

All targets for the creation of childminding places are contained within Target 6c.

Only 1 of Barnsley's 22 electoral wards is classified as non-disadvantaged. 1 ward has pockets of disadvantaged and the remaining 20 wards are full areas of disadvantage. Therefore for planning purposes development work is planned for the whole borough as described in Target 6c.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

N/A

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DfES Strategic Goal 3: By 2004, the Government's ambition is that there should be a childcare place in the most disadvantaged areas for every lone parent entering employment. The percentage of lone parents perceiving childcare as a barrier will be monitored nationally to help measure progress.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 goal and any intermediate milestone targets

The Barnsley Choices Board does not subscribe to the view that economic disadvantage can be addressed in isolation. Social, environmental and health related issues must also be considered in developing a sustainable, high impact and measurable strategy.

The Barnsley Choices Board recognises that in order to remove barriers for lone parents, strategic engagement with other agencies is essential and take up of childcare places is continually monitored to ensure a responsive approach to this target group.

Implementation Plan Target

The key areas of operation are:

- Strategic working with key agencies including Jobcentre Plus
- Promotion and take up of Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC)/Childcare Tax Credit (CCTC)
- Information to parents
- Improving accessibility to childcare

Box 2: Progress to date

Activity

See Target 6 for the growth of the childcare sector in disadvantaged areas.

Information sessions held with representatives from the following agencies to maximise coverage:

- Pre School Learning Alliance
- Healthy People Campaign
- Barnardos
- Home Start
- NSPCC
- NCH
- Barnsley Family Link
- Voluntary Action Barnsley
- MIND
- WEA
- Health Visitors

Worked in partnership with the South Yorkshire Lone Parent project. Active member of the steering group.

Targeted information sessions to parents.

Revisited Social Services teams, raising awareness of Childcare Information Service (CIS) / WFTC.

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Advertised CIS / WFTC / Recruitment Campaign in the central Jobcentre as part of parents week.

Service level agreement with Jobcentre Plus agreed regarding referral of parents to the CIS for information regarding childcare needs and employment opportunities.

Worked strategically with the Surestart Forum and within each area delivered targeted information sessions.

Newsletter sent to all parents of primary school age children.

Targeted awareness raising campaign with 3 major employers (BMBC, SY Police and NHS)

Rolling programme of marketing throughout the borough.

Worked in partnership with the Inland Revenue i.e. distribution of WFTC leaflets

Childcare as a barrier

Evidence from Surestart partners suggests childcare is a barrier to work and training for lone parents. However, the growth of the sector described in Target 6 will help to address this issue.

Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus has been represented on the Barnsley Choices Board throughout the year. Organisational restructures have led to changes in personnel on several occasions limiting the opportunities to maximise the development of the partnership.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

See Target 6 for creation of childcare places.

Development work with providers to focus upon the need to offer flexible services to meet the diverse needs of parents.

Develop the registered homecarers scheme through the Carousel project (currently offering a staff pool) that childcare providers and businesses can access.

Ongoing partnership development at a strategic and operational level with the Surestart Forum and individual programmes.

Further develop the partnership with Jobcentre Plus to enable feedback of unmet demand from lone parents, leading to targeted development work.

Work with lone parents to stimulate the demand for childcare and raise awareness of their choices in childcare.

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Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic goal

N/A

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DfES Strategic Goal 4: By March 2004 to reduce the difference in the number of formal childcare places available in England for children aged 0-14 between the 20% most disadvantaged wards and other areas to no more than 3.7 places per 100 children.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 goal and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 4b within the Excel workbook.

Box 2: Progress to date

N/A

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Continue the significant expansion programme with a strong focus upon sustainability through sound business planning and market research, scrutinised by the Barnsley Choices Board's Funding Sub Group and supported by the Business Advisor. See Target 4.

For expansion programme in disadvantaged areas see Target 6.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic goal

N/A

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DfES Strategic Target 6: To have set up, by 2004, a minimum of 70,000 new childcare places for pre-school aged children in areas of disadvantage; this figure to broadly comprise 45,000 group-care based places (equivalent to 900 new 50 place nurseries) and 25,000 childminder based places.

This target covers all aspects of the Neighbourhood Childcare Initiative, and as previously is split into three separate sections – on Neighbourhood Nurseries (target 6a), Neighbourhood Out of School projects (target 6b) and Neighbourhood Childminding (target 6c).

Strategic Target 6a – Neighbourhood Nurseries

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 6a within the Excel workbook.

Box 2: Progress to date

N/A

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Complete the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative (NNI) programme so that all settings are operational

Support NN's in maximising their operational potential through ongoing business support and aftercare.

Encourage NN's to enhance their potential for sustainability through diversifying their range of services.

Maximise new funding opportunities.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

N/A

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Strategic Target 6b: Neighbourhood Out of School projects (New Opportunities Fund out-of-school childcare in Disadvantaged Areas)

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 6b within the Excel workbook.

Box 2: Progress to date

The target of 288 places to be created in 2002-3 will not be met. This is due to low numbers of providers initially coming forward to access NOF funding via the single application route. Barnsley Choices took advantage of the DfES Fastrack scheme and as a result submitted a consortium bid in the October 2002 bidding round.

The bid for was for 245 places and the outcome will be known in February 2003. Due to the success of this approach the Barnsley Choices Board has agreed to take the consortium route for further bidding rounds.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Promote remaining rounds of NOF funding and the consortium route.

Target areas with little or no provision using unmet demand statistics from the CIS.

Target businesses to consider holiday care and out of school care for their staff.

Work with partners of successful consortium applications to support them in the start up process and ensure the development of sustainable provision.

Monitor the successful consortium applicants.

Increase publicity to parents as the number of out of school childcare providers increase.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

N/A

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Strategic Target 6c: Neighbourhood Childminding (Childminder Start up grant and Sustainability Grant)

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 6c within the Excel workbook.

Box 2: Progress to date

N/A

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Target development work with emphasis on market research.

Targeted recruitment in Surestart areas, together with on going support to ensure sustainability of childminders in these areas, particularly in the early weeks of registration

Ongoing publicity for, and delivery of CIS sessions across the borough.

Amend start up grant pack, publicity and training package to account for the change in how the grant is allocated i.e. the removal of grants of up to £600.

Encourage childminders to access NOF out of school childcare consortium route funding

Research funding streams if appropriate.

Provide ongoing childcare surgeries where one to one advice can be accessed

A new tracking system to follow potential childminders through the system from application to registration is being developed as part of the 'Pathways to Registration' framework ensuring that childminders are offered targeted support

As part of the 'Pathways to Registration' process, develop a realistic formula to estimate anticipated places created in relation to the number of initial enquiries

On going support to 'Childminders Together' (formerly Association of Barnsley Childminders) – development of mentoring system for potential childminders

Encourage new childminders to join a network and undertake 'Quality First'

Enhance links with other projects and agencies to help sustainability e.g. Surestart, health initiatives, community schools.

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Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

N/A

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DfES Strategic Target 12: To ensure sufficient training is available so that all childcare providers can meet the national standards for under eights day care and childminding.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 12 within the Excel workbook.

Box 2: Progress to date

The target for number of paid leaders will not be met. The original target was over estimated. This was due to the way that the Barnsley Registration and Inspection Unit registered leaders – the unit registered more than one leader per setting. Following the transition to Ofsted the assumption is now made that all settings have one leader.

The target for number of volunteers will not be met. As the childcare sector grows along with training opportunities, individuals that would have previously volunteered are accessing paid employment.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

To address the significant challenge of meeting the 2004 target for level 3 qualified leaders:

- A significant number of learners are currently undertaking level 3 qualifications and activity will be focused on ensuring achievement and minimising drop out rates
- Continue to offer and promote training leading to accredited qualifications.
- Continue to offer an annual training programme aiding continual professional development, choice, diversity and accredited training.
- Use audit data to target settings that do not have sufficient qualified staff or staff that are working towards a relevant qualification.
- Ensure the Barnsley Choices Board Quality Sub Group is committed to improving the quality of the sector by developing relevant training opportunities.
- Establish an effective working partnership with the Learning and Skills Council which includes strengthening the training provider infrastructure, thereby offering flexible choices to learners.
- Identify relevant funding streams and maximise resources by working with South Yorkshire partners particularly regarding Objective 1 and the Learning and Skills Council.

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Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

There is a proposed reduction in target of the number of paid leaders. This is due to an overestimated original forecast. See Box 2. The original target of 200 has been revised to 130 representing 1 leader per setting.

There is a proposed reduction in target of the number of volunteers. See Box 2. The original target of 60 has been revised to 40.

Related qualification targets have been adjusted accordingly.

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DfES Strategic Target 13: To ensure that all practitioners delivering Foundation Stage education as part of their EYDC Plans have access to an average of 4 days relevant training and development per year, by 2004.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 13 within the Excel workbook.

Box 2: Progress to date

A more accurate method of calculating the number of practitioners has revealed a higher number than previously estimated. Whilst the required number of training days was offered the take up was less than 4 days per practitioner.

Please see over page.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Increase the up take of training

Funded courses to be offered on an average of 4 days per practitioner and/or repeated at varied times and throughout the borough.

Courses to be publicised in annual brochure, newsletter and flyers sent to targeted groups.

Certificate of professional development for attendance on 4 days or equivalent for.

To increase the uptake of maintained sector staff on training courses, the training brochure is to be incorporated in the Barnsley LEA professional development manual for QTS teachers in schools.

To increase the uptake of the voluntary sector staff on courses QTS visits to include training needs analysis ensuring courses are accessible in terms of time and venue.

Key Priorities for Training

These have been identified by training needs analysis, audits, course evaluations, feedback from visits, LEA Early Years Advisor, Foundation Stage Study Group meetings and Ofsted reports.

The key training priorities identified have been:

Oracy – a multi agency steering group has been established to plan and monitor the oracy strategy in Barnsley. A conference to launch the strategy planned for September 2003. All Foundation Stage practitioners to be offered training with pilot projects planned.

Leadership and Management of the Foundation Stage – targeted training is being offered to maintained sector co-ordinators and managers in the private and voluntary sector. Regular meetings are held for co-ordinators and managers. All settings are to have a Foundation Stage Development Plan and targeted visits to settings will support this. In addition the Lead Practitioner Initiative will be promoted in the maintained sector.

Assessment Planning and Recording – 1 day training on observational assessment and Foundation Stage Profile for all practitioners, with reception QTS teachers prioritised. Working party to develop the Barnsley 'framework for planning, assessment and record keeping' to be launched September 2003. Foundation Stage study groups and support visits to underpin this.

Developing Foundation Stage Units – Following the Integrated Foundation Stage conference in January 2003, support for schools considering developing a Foundation Stage unit is offered through visits and a termly network meeting.

Other training needs identified and included in the programme:

All practitioners – Numeracy, Literacy, early writing, phonics music, outdoor learning environment, Cultural Diversity, Introduction to High/Scope Approach.

QTS Teachers – Improving learning and teaching in the area of knowledge and understanding of the world. Designing and making, exploring and investigating, a sense of time, a sense of place.

Private, voluntary and independent sector – All areas of learning.

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Barnsley School Effectiveness Team to lead on managing mixed key stage classes, literacy and numeracy.

Ongoing evaluation of the programme with consideration given to accessing the programme being a condition of grant where possible.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

N/A

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DfES Strategic Target 14: To ensure that, by 2004, all settings that deliver a Foundation Stage curriculum have access to the input and advice from a QTS teacher. The target ratio for involvement is 1 teacher to every 10 non-maintained settings, by 2004.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestones/targets

Please complete Table 14 within the Excel workbook

Box 2: Progress to date

2 QTS teachers are currently being recruited to meet the target ratio in April 2003.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

To increase the number of full-time QTS teachers offering support due to an expansion in the number of settings, largely due to the NNI.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

See column 4 of table and box 3.

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DfES Strategic Target 16: To ensure that at least 40% of providers nationally have been accredited by a quality assurance scheme by 2004.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 16 within the Excel workbook.

Box 2: Progress to date

The target for settings accredited will not be met in 2002-3. It is estimated that 14% of settings will be accredited, not 26% as stated. However, 37.5% of settings are registered and not yet accredited and it is anticipated that this will result in the overall strategic target being met 2003-4. This reflects the high level of interest generated in pursuing quality assurance schemes.

The decision of the Barnsley Choices Board was to promote the national schemes and funding has been allocated to support this. Progress on the schemes has been slower than anticipated due to very low levels of providers undertaking a quality assurance scheme prior to this project coupled with the difficulties faced by the national quality assurance scheme lead bodies identifying appropriate personnel able to support providers progressing through the schemes.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Targeted recruitment of providers to appropriate QA schemes to meet 40% target.
Incentives will include financial assistance.

Further recruitment to KCN Aiming High scheme of settings accessing NOF funding through the consortium bid

Ongoing support to providers to achieve quality assured status.

The identification of an appropriate scheme for registered crèche provision

Maintain regional networks with other Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

N/A

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DfES Strategic Goal 5/Target 17: To ensure that 94% of early years settings, inspected by Ofsted, are making satisfactory or better progress in delivering the Early Learning Goals, by September 2004.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 goal/target and any intermediate milestone targets

N/A

Box 2: Progress to date

Actions to support weaker settings:

Within settings

Signposted and encouraged to attend training

Observation and development of practice by QTS teacher.

As a result of the support offered, all settings have or are developing Foundation Stage Action Plans. Planning in settings reflects the Stepping Stones within the Foundation Stage curriculum with an improvement in the quality of activities provided.

Actions to support new settings:

Initial visits to discuss planning, provision and to observe practice.

Signposted to training and Area SENCOs as required.

Foundation Stage Development Plan created with a programme of support if required.

As a result of the support offered knowledge, assessment and planning for Foundation Stage curriculum will be increased. Foundation Stage Development Plans are in place ensuring that children are making good progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

A programme of proactive and reactive visits to:

Support new and weak settings (see Box 2)

Identify strengths and areas for development

Support writing Foundation Stage Action Plans

Provide pre and post Ofsted support

Assess impact of and underpin training

Support self development

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic goal/target

N/A

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DfES Strategic Target 19: To put in place a network of area SENCOs, with a target ratio of 1 area SENCO to 20 non-maintained settings delivering funded early education, by 2004.

Box 1: Local 2001-04 target and any intermediate milestone targets

Please complete Table 19 within the Excel workbook.

Box 2: Progress to date

Ratio achieved. This will be subject to ongoing review taking into account the expansion of the childcare sector (see Target 6).

Box 3: Key priorities and actions for 2003-04

Raise awareness of the Discrimination and Disability Act and its implications.

Continue to audit new settings and train Early Years SENCOs.

Extend training programme for Early Years SENCOs to further develop skills and knowledge.

Area co-ordinators to review the assessment package for meeting the needs of children with SEN.

Box 4: If applicable, proposed revised strategic target

N/A