

Barnsley Council – Executive Director, Children’s Services / Executive Director, Core Services

Strong political leadership, a really effective way of engaging with communities and an exciting programme of regeneration are just a few of the things that lured Sarah Norman to Barnsley Council.

Having become Chief Executive in the summer, Sarah has been impressed by both the lifestyle on offer across this vibrant and green slice of South Yorkshire and the way the council goes about its work.

‘Barnsley Council has a unique and impressive relationship with its communities,’ she explains. ‘It chose to invest more in communities because it understood that only by having strong and resilient communities would Barnsley be able to manage with austerity. That’s really paid off in a myriad of ways with lots of examples of fantastic things going on.’



Sarah Norman – Chief Executive, Barnsley Council



They include everything from volunteer-led environmental activities to foster carer recruitment and support for less advantaged families during summer holidays when free school meals aren’t available.

Now Sarah is looking for talented people to follow in her footsteps and fill two Executive Director openings – created by retirements – that are crucial to the borough’s future success.

The Executive Director for Children’s Services will have the opportunity to build on the council’s success, which saw it achieve a ‘good’ rating from Ofsted last year.

A focus on early intervention and prevention and permanence has paid

off in the shape of low numbers of looked after children and as a result the service is in good financial shape.

‘There is a really good foundation for the director to build on to take it to outstanding,’ says Sarah, who is a former Director of Children’s Services.

‘We have a skilled and motivated social work workforce and don’t use any agency staff at all. Very few local authorities can say that.’

The council has ‘made huge strides’ on improving education outcomes in recent years and GCSE results are now above the national average, helped by strong partnerships with both local authority schools and academies.

A key challenge for the new post

holder will be to raise young people’s aspirations and improve outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

‘I think this is a fantastic opportunity for an ambitious and aspiring DCS to make their mark in an environment that’s stable, supportive and doesn’t have significant financial pressures.’

The Executive Director for Core Services will cover a wide range of areas including HR, legal, finance and IT and whoever takes the role will lead on the council’s modernisation programme.

‘They will be providing leadership to all the critical support services across the council,’ says Sarah. ‘We have a really strong Future Council

programme that is designed to make the council more fit for purpose and develop the people who work for the council and have achieved Investors in People gold status.

‘They will lead the next phase and in particular take forward work on our Digital First agenda. We’re open-minded about the discipline they come from. They don’t have to have a specifically local government background, it could be another part of the public sector.

‘It will be someone with a track record around modernisation and developing those core services to help us be more efficient and more customer centric and achieve our Barnsley 2030 ambitions.’ ■



Town Spirit
Working together for a better Barnsley

Executive Director Children’s Services Executive Director Core Services

Salary: £125,000

Barnsley is a high performing Council with ambition, flair and imagination. We have transformed relationships with communities through our award winning area council model, achieved sustainability despite austerity through our Future Council Programme and are revitalising Barnsley through investment in the Town Centre and Principal Towns. We are now seeking two new Executive Directors to turn our vision for a brighter future, a better Barnsley into reality.

As the **Executive Director Children’s Services**, you will build on excellent foundations and help us deliver truly outstanding services to our children and young people. Key priorities will be to deliver outstanding children’s social care services, improve our SEND outcomes, raise educational aspirations and narrow the gap. To be successful, you will have a background in children’s services and strong knowledge of children’s social care but also have the drive and enthusiasm to keep developing creative solutions that support our children and young people.

As the **Executive Director Core Services**, you will manage all of the Council’s corporate services, and lead the next phase in the transformation of the organisation, building on our Investors in People Gold accreditation. With a background in corporate services gained in either local government or beyond, you will also maintain our strong financial and organisational performance, champion our digital first agenda and support us to deliver our Barnsley 2030 vision.

Whether you are an existing director or searching the next step in your career, these roles will give you the opportunity to make real impact. For further details please visit www.barnsley.gov.uk/executive-directors or contact Gary Evans (0113 205 6080) or Philip Emms (0113 205 6078) of GatenbySanderson.
Closing date: Friday 15th November 2019.

