

Barnsley Parent Power

Through advice and guidance on accessing higher education, and developing skills in community organising, Parent Power seeks to empower parents and carers in Barnsley to make change in their children's future.

About Barnsley Parent Power

Barnsley Parent Power launched in November 2025, since then they have worked closely with schools to meet parents and carers, and listen to their hopes and worries for their young people.

The Parent Power model gathers interest from parents, follows up with one-to-one meetings, and then facilitates six group meetings led by a local Community Organiser. In meetings, parents decide which activities will benefit their communities – from tailored visits to universities for young people to training on student finance and university access.

Barnsley Parent Power expects to bring together an initial group of parents by the end of the 2025-26 academic year, who will decide on activities which will have the greatest impact in their community.

Extending this vital partnership in Barnsley underscores The University of Sheffield's civic commitment to increasing equality of opportunity across South Yorkshire. By empowering parents and carers through the Parent Power model, this initiative directly addresses our Access and Participation Plan objectives to support opportunities for and the progression of students from typically underrepresented backgrounds in higher education.

Heather Macleod Jones, Head of Access at the University of Sheffield

I'm excited to be joining The Brilliant Club for the launch of the newest Parent Power chapter in Barnsley! Parents and carers play such an important role in guiding their children through education, yet navigating that journey – especially towards university – can often feel overwhelming. That's why I'm so passionate about helping families feel confident and informed about the opportunities ahead, and supporting them to build a strong, supportive network in the Dearne Valley area.

Louise Houghton, Community Organiser - Barnsley Parent Power



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