

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY PANEL

10th JANUARY, 2013

A MEETING of the SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the MANSION HOUSE,
DONCASTER on THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER, 2013

PRESENT:

Chair – Councillor Alan Jones

Councillors Joe Blackham, Monty Cuthbert, Sandra Holland, Alan Jones, R
Allan Jones, Tracey Leyland-Jepson, Sue McGuinness, Sue Wilkinson,
Doreen Woodhouse, Mr John Hoare (Diocese of Sheffield Church of
England) and Mr Jim Board (UNISON).

Also in attendance:

Councillors Eric Tatton-Kelly (Cabinet Member for Children and Young
People), Ros Jones, Richard Cooper-Holmes, Nuala Fennelly and Kevin
Rodgers.

Jo Moxon, Assistant Director, Education

Vicki Lawson, Assistant Director, Children and Families

Carrie Wardle, Public Health Co-ordinator

Helen Tuck, Public Health Service Improvement Manager

Kath Formby, Headteacher, Maple Medical Pupil Referral Unit

Education Welfare Officer, CMARAS

Derek Brogan, Connexions Manager, Universal European Social Fund

Ian Walker, Head of Service Children in Care

Christine Hargreaves, Headteacher, Virtual School for Children and Young
People in care

Debra Roberts, Pastoral Manager, Mexborough School

Jo Rivers, Assistant Head for Key Stage 4, Hungerhill School

Sandra Whitely, Pastoral Support Officer for Key Stage 4 Hungerhill School

Louise Parker, Policy and Performance Manager

Allan Madeley, Senior Procurement Category Manager

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hilary McNamee,
Rachel Hodson, Andrew Bosmans and Mr J Parkes (Parent Governor
Primary Sector representative).

21. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR ACTION
- In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair from the meeting, the Panel was invited to make nominations to take the position of Chair for the duration of the meeting.
- RESOLVED:- that Councillor Alan Jones, be appointed as Chair for the duration of the meeting. All to note
22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.
- No declarations of interest were made. All to note
23. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 2013
- In relation to minute number 19 resolution 2 – Fostering Advertisement Campaign, the Scrutiny Officer reported that most of the enquires now came through the improved website, so having an attractive, modern looking website had made the biggest single impact over the last year. It was hoped that over the next year it would continue to be improved and developed. It was stressed that to raise interest and guide people towards the website the range of other activities undertaken needed to continue, for example, regular recruitment drop-ins, newspaper adverts, banners in public places, radio interviews, facebook and fostering fortnight events. All to note
- RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. All to note
24. PUBLIC STATEMENTS.
- There were no public statements. All to note
25. TEENAGE PREGNANCY
- The Panel received a detailed multi-agency presentation, led by Jo Moxon, Assistant Director for Education, relating to teenage pregnancy and gave an overview of the following areas:
- Teenage pregnancy overview;
 - Local context;
 - Looked after children including healthcare pathway;
 - NEETs figures for teenage parents;

- Contraception and sexual health services; and
- Future plans.

The Panel learnt that Doncaster had in general seen a decline in the rate of under 18 conceptions since the launch of the national Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in 1998, however, the decline had not been consistent and rates remained above average for both England and Yorkshire and Humberside.

Members noted the detailed information provided in the presentation, raised questions and discussed the following areas in more detail:-

The adverse outcomes associated with becoming a teenage parent. For example, a teenage parent was much less likely to finish their education, at greater risk of living in poor accommodation, suffering poor health and at much greater risk of post natal depression and have lower rates of economic activity later in life. Additionally, pregnant teenagers in care were at threat from further risk factors.

NEETs (not in education, employment or training) – some teenage parents would not class themselves as being in this category and not viewing it as a negative position. It was highlighted that for some teenagers it could prove to be a positive and encourage them to improve their circumstances. In Doncaster there were currently 87 young people aged between 16 and 18 who were teenage parents and NEET plus a further 27 who were NEET and pregnant. This was 1% of the total 16 – 18 cohort.

Personal, Social and Health Education was not a statutory part of the national educational curriculum and therefore difficult to gauge how many schools were delivering information to students on relationship and sexual education. However, schools must have a policy approved by the Governing Body and made available to parents.

Representatives from two of Doncaster's secondary schools gave Members an insight into the type of education they provided, for example, biological functions of the body, managing relationships, how to say "No", sexually transmitted diseases and how do you know you are ready for sex?

It was noted that parents had the option for their child(ren) to opt out of sexual education but not curriculum classes for example, biology. A school representative explained that she knew of only two children in the last five years that had opted out of sexual education classes.

A staying safe evening for both parents and students was delivered by one school, looking at issues such as sexual health, cyber bullying and drugs.

The Panel addressed teenage pregnancy trends across the borough and commented that any good practice in schools was shared through partnership working. In response to a suggestion for a possible travelling road show to schools, NHS Doncaster explained that there was a proposal to run a carousel event with schools, with one school offering to pilot the initiative.

Generally Members addressed how young people could be better informed of sexual education for example, through social media/online information and discussions with school nurses. It was highlighted that work was currently being undertaken by Doncaster Arts Service and young people to determine how they wished for information to be designed and presented to gain maximum interest.

It was recognised that no matter how much young people were supported whilst in school, it was always difficult out of term time. It was stressed however, that for young people who were at risk and not in education, all partners, not just the local authority, continually provide support packages to ensure their safety was paramount.

Fostering for teenage parents and babies was a specialist role, and one that required strengthening in the borough. Currently private fostering agencies with a strong track record provided this service.

Young people at risk, including sexual exploitation, were assessed and strategy meetings assist with providing access to sexual health services.

To conclude it was acknowledged that there were many complex reasons teenagers conceive and decide to continue with a pregnancy and that decisions were influenced by many different factors.

RESOLVED that the presentation and discussion, be noted and any future work required be discussed with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Assistant Director for Education. Scrutiny Officer

26. VERBAL UPDATE ON THE OUT OF AUTHORITY PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN CARE

The Panel received an update on the continuing work being undertaken by the Children in Care Placement Review panel, which included representatives from health, education and social workers, to reduce the numbers of children in out of authority placements.

Members noted that it was unlikely for the projected overspend of £3.1m to change up to March, 2013, however, there had been a reduction of £100,000 since quarter 2 figures.

Through discussion it was stressed that the reduction of numbers in out of authority placements could only reduce if placements were available in the Borough, and in the last six months only six new placements had been required. Of these three were education led determined through the statementing process, one was for a welfare secure placement, one was for a mother and baby assessment placement and as such therefore, only one new out of authority care led residential placement was made.

It was reported that during the Scrutiny review reference was specifically made to 23 cases being addressed, but it was noted that the Children in Care Placement Review project now covered a much larger number of cases, with a rolling scope of around 150 - 170 children or young people. The review group was constantly working towards successfully supporting these children and young people through to their planned transition point.

Following the introduction of the Legal Aid Sentencing Punishment and Offenders Act, Members were reminded of the possible additional costs that had previously been met by the Youth Justice Board. A projected contingency of £50,000 had been made and was calculated on the number of nights children/young people had been remanded in custody last year.

In response to a query from Members, it was explained that following the introduction of the White Rose

Framework procurement process, there had been an average 12% decrease in fostering fees to the Authority. Additionally, work was currently on-going to ensure costs associated with health care, were charged appropriately. Members were pleased with this outcome and wished for the Panel's congratulations be forwarded to the staff concerned.

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RESOLVED that the update, be noted.

27. WORK PLAN

The Scrutiny Officer outlined the following areas to the Panel:

Careers Advice and Guidance Review – The final meeting was scheduled for 11th February, at 1.30pm where Members will receive information from the Private Sector following a meeting of the Work and Skills Board in January, and to develop recommendations.

It was noted that the final document will be considered by the Regeneration and Environment Panel and Members of the group were welcome to attend to contribute to debate.

Corporate Parenting Board – The Scrutiny Officer provided an update from Councillor Bosmans, the Panel's representative, on the last meeting held on 6th November, 2012. It outlined that a suggestion had been made for the young people to attend a future meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to outline the importance of their role and to remind Members of their duties as Corporate Parents.

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Special Educational Needs (SEN) – it was noted that a new Head of Service had been appointed and it was hoped that the SEN review update would be presented to the Panel in June.

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Panel Meeting 8th March, 2013 – Proposed items for consideration at the next Panel meeting were agreed as:-

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- Safeguarding – outcome from unannounced inspection October, 2012
- Quarter 3 Performance
- Cabinet Member update
- Verbal update on out of authority placements for children in care
- Paediatric Health Service Presentation – The

Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group was developing a community based paediatric and child health services redesign, which required discussion and feedback from the Panel.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The work plan, be noted;
2. The Scrutiny Officer arrange for young people from the Corporate Parenting Board to attend a future Panel meeting; and Scrutiny Officer
3. The Scrutiny Officer arrange for the issues, detailed above to be considered at the next meeting.

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