

**To the Chair and Members of the
SCHOOLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SCHOOLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PANEL
WORK PLAN REPORT 2012/13 (JANUARY UPDATE)**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Eric Tatton Kelly - Cabinet Member for Schools Children and Young People	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on the Panel's work plan.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

2. Not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Panel is asked to consider and comment on the revised work plan attached at Appendix A;

BACKGROUND

4. The Panel agreed its 2012/13 work plan at its meeting on 27th June. This report provides an update on key issues relating to the work programme attached at Appendix A. Members are reminded that the work plan is a live document to be regularly reviewed and updated. Appendix A also provides an ongoing summary of issues considered together with the impacts and outcomes resulting from the Panel's work and this will also be updated on a regular basis.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Out of Authority Budget Review Group

5. The budget review group recommendations will be forwarded to the Mayor and Cabinet for their consideration. The Panel's first verbal update on progress with reducing the numbers of children in care placed out of authority will be presented to this meeting.

Review of Careers Advice and Guidance

6. Six Members from this Panel and the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Panel met with Youth Councillors on 6th December, and information from the discussion was fed into the review meeting held on 11th December.

7. In addition to Doncaster MBC officers, the review group met with and gathered evidence from:-

Philip Harris, Chief Executive, Doncaster Chamber
Dan Fell, Deputy chief Executive Officer, Doncaster Chamber
Andrew Best, HSR Law
Ian Hanks, External Strategic Partnership Manager for Job Centre Plus
George Trow, Principal, Doncaster College

8. The review addressed the following main lines of enquiry:
 - To look at what measures are in place and what is being delivered at this present time to pupils, teachers, job seekers and businesses alike in terms of Careers Information, Advice & Guidance;
 - To look at the information presented in the Local Market Initiative, is what we have now delivering what is needed?
 - If not, what do we need to be doing differently/how can we take things forward in a different way
 - What funding is available and how can it be used to make what's available in terms of Careers and Advice Guidance more sustainable?
 - What work is taking place to ensure that any specific hard to reach/vulnerable groups, such as teenagers leaving care, have access to sufficient Careers Advice and Guidance.
9. Following the review meeting and prior to recommendations being agreed, Members requested a further meeting with school representatives (ie. Head Teachers, governors or career advice and guidance champions) for their views on provision and what school governors roles are with regard to the issue. The meeting will also be used to receive feedback from the private sector on this issue following a meeting of the Work and Skills Board in January.

10. Recommendations from the review will be presented to the Regeneration and Environment Panel in the New Year and Members of the group are welcome to attend to contribute. The date of the meeting will be confirmed nearer the time.

Minutes of the Children's Trust Board 15th November, and Corporate Parenting Panel 6th November, 2012

11. Minutes of the last meetings of the Children's Trust Board and Corporate Parenting Panel were not available when the agenda was distributed. The Scrutiny representatives, Councillors McNamee and Bosmans, will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

12. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for the Panel to develop a work plan for 2012/13.

IMPACT ON COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES

Priority Theme	Mayor's Priorities for 2011/12	Implications of this initiative
1. Creating a strong, connected and inclusive economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive forward the Doncaster economy • Get the balance of public and private transport right • Promote Doncaster as a tourist destination • Regenerate Doncaster's town centres 	The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of council and external partners services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.
2. Developing stronger communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community harmony and cohesion. Treat people as individuals, not by reference to labels and artificial groupings 	
3. Increasing and improving housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise housing standards 	
4. Protecting and improving all our children's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve education and skills • Build on a strengthening Children's Service 	
5. Improving health and support for independent lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage attitudes of self-reliance, self-improvement and mutual respect within Doncaster communities 	

6. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime and all forms of anti-social behaviour 	
7. Creating a cleaner and better environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to protect the environment from developers, decay and architectural vandalism 	
8. Internal Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local people get value for money from council services 	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

13. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function it is important that the work plan devised is manageable and that it accurately reflects the broad range of issues within its remit. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The Council's Constitution states that subject to matters being referred to it by other part of the Full Council, OSMC or the Executive and any timetables laid down by those references the Schools, Children and Young People's Panel will determine its own work programme (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6c).
15. Overview and Scrutiny Panels Terms of reference - 3 states that the Panel be empowered to establish ad hoc working groups from within its membership, to undertake project and policy development work, to meet the objectives and targets of its annual work plan.
16. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 (a) states that where, in the opinion of the Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the matters under discussion are relevant to matters referred to other Scrutiny Panel(s) he/she shall consider to what extent to invite the participation of the Chair and/or other Members of the other Panel in the deliberations

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. The budget for the support of the Overview and Scrutiny function 2012/13 is not affected by this report however, the delivery of the work plan will need to take place within agreed budgets. There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Any financial implications relating to specific reports on the work plan will be included in those reports.

CONSULTATION

18. The work plan has been developed in consultation with Members and officers.

CONTACT OFFICER AND REPORT AUTHOR

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Background Papers

None

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