

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 28th March, 2017 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday 30th March, 2017

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday 10th April, 2017 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday 11th April, 2017

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy Framework)

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor and Portfolio holder for Adult Social Care and Equalities)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio holder for Regeneration and Transportation
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Pat Knight	Portfolio holder for Public Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Portfolio holder for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio holder for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio holder for Housing

Apologies:-

An apology was received from Councillor Tony Corden.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

Mr Brown asked the Mayor, the following question:-

“Mayor Jones, Doncaster is ranked 301 out of 324 Local Authorities ref. CYP JSNA 2017-2020 pg. 103. Given this lamentable position, do you agree that the CYP Plan could be strengthened if the diverse range of children and young people covered by the term BME (Settled Black/ Asian, Travellers, Roma, Refugees, Asylum Seekers, EU migrant and children of mixed parentage) was better reflected within each stage of the plan and across all of the key outcomes areas to ensure that the specific needs of different groups of young people are being met e.g. no specific BME stakeholder engagement?”

The Mayor provided Mr Brown with the following response:-

“Thank you for your question Mr Brown.

You are right to raise the issue and importance of social mobility, and Doncaster’s ranking in the social mobility index is something we are already seeking to address, both as a Council and with our partners.

I’m pleased that the borough has recently been awarded Social Mobility Opportunity Area status, which brings with it £6m of funding from the Department for Education to help address the four areas set out: early years, school, youth and adulthood. This is also consistent with the priorities that were established by the independent commission on education and skills. We have already begun conversations with the DfE about how we might deliver our ambitions for improving social mobility in Doncaster and will be producing a delivery plan in the coming months.

You are also right to raise the issue of equality and it is vitally important that this plan delivers good outcomes for children from all backgrounds. This principle will need to be embedded across all priorities within the plan, as detailed actions are developed to meet each of the goals identified.

We also recognise the importance of the voice of children and young people in making this a success, in line with our ambition in the CYP Plan of becoming the most child friendly borough in the country.

During the production of the Plan, we consulted with the Youth Council and also ran a participation and engagement event involving young people from across the borough. To ensure that we continue to strengthen this area of our work, we are refreshing our Participation and Engagement Strategy for children and young people, which will run alongside the Plan for its duration (2017-2020).

This will seek to move us from consultation with children and young people to a more structured form of co-production and advocacy, giving them the chance to more directly influence the decisions that affect them. It will include actions that enable us to consult inclusively at every turn, making a consistent effort to engage with groups who have protected characteristics, including the diverse range of children and young people covered by the term BME.

This will enable them to bring their experience and opinions to bear more regularly and provide us with a deeper insight as to how we can meet their needs”.

Mr Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

“Thank you for your response and I am delighted that you agree with some of my comments made. If the CYP Plan is going to work then surely every effort needs to be made to address the wilful behaviour of some Council employees who have failed to monitor BME outcomes. Mayor, Ros Jones can I have your assurance that this Council will monitor outcomes for those groups with protected characteristics?”

Mayor Ros Jones provided the following response:-

“I can assure you that this Council will fight for all children within the borough, and deliver on their ambitions and aspirations for this borough, to ensure that all children and young people are given the best chances possible in life”.

Decision records dated 14th March, 2017, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Children and Young People Plan 2017-2020.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet endorsed the Children and Young People's Plan and the overarching ambition.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet were advised that the interim Children and Young People's (CYP) plan was due to expire at the end of 2016-17 and the Children and Families Partnership Board had established an Interim Executive Group in summer of 2016 to deliver the JSNA, the updated CYP Plan and an outcomes framework. The updated plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The plan set out how the overall ambition for children and young people translates into action and how the Council can assess the impact its having. It set out who was doing what and the priorities for the next 3 years and acts as the overarching partnership document that directs strategic commissioning across the partnership.

It was reported that the Plan outlines 12 priorities for improving the lives of children and young people in the borough and those priorities were set out under four key themes: safety, health, achievement and equality. It was noted that information for the themes had been gathered from the JSNA and using insight from the direct participation/engagement with children and young people.

Members were advised that there were a number of issues raised both from JSNA evidence and from engagement with children and young people. In terms of evidence led priorities, there was a need to reduce the levels of childhood obesity, implement the LTP and work to ensure alignment early help cohort of the Place Plan. It was noted that in terms of the Voice driven priorities, the most prominent issue was access to emotional wellbeing and mental health support which had been constantly raised by children and young people.

In a response to a query raised by Councillor Nuala Fennelly regarding the data that was highlighted as TBC (to be confirmed), it was reported that with regard to outcomes there were challenges because there was no national framework to work from therefore no base line for data to be measured against. It was stated that following the roll out of the Plan, it was envisaged that performance would be monitored against its 1st year of operation.

With regard to the estimated population projections highlighted in the graph at page

13 of the plan, the Mayor asked whether there were reasons for the percentage decreases and increases highlighted in the different age groups. It was reported that some changes in relation to 0-4 years could have been caused by demographic birth rates and inward migration could have been the cause in relation to 5-9 year olds. It was stated that a more detailed response would be provided outside of the meeting.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the well-presented report which demonstrated that the Council were working collaboratively to show a clear direction of travel. It was acknowledged that whilst there was a lot of work to be done, improvements were already visible in relation to education through the construction of the Rail College which will see young people gain degree standards of education and enable them to apply for higher paid jobs.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other options considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Damian Allen, Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills (DCS)

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Endorsement of the Children's Inclusion Commissioning Programme (February 2017 to August 2018)

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the following mandate:-

- (1) address inconsistent approaches in schools: for establishing a Doncaster-wide behaviour network to encourage collaboration, sharing of good practice and discuss future initiatives for both primary and secondary provisions coordinated through the local authority, in line with the directorate's intention to transform the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and behaviour pathway to ensure a coherent and consistent inclusion provision to support the needs of all children and young people;
- (2) address capacity issues: to review the thresholds and pathway for alternative provision including pupil referral units to establish clear and consistent practice in relation to children and young people with Social,

Emotional and Mental Health difficulties;

- (3) remediate and optimise the current model: to expand and reshape the provision of Key Stage 3 and 4 support service for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues for the academic year 2017/18 through a tendering process to deliver or co-ordinate a bespoke education and training offer;
- (4) in partnership with schools, commission an interim model to deliver alternative education provision through learning centre support (Key Stage 2 and 3), including provision of outreach services. All of the funding is from the Dedicated Schools Grant, Secondary schools support the current model (total cost £4.6m) through contributions of £740k to the Key Stage 3 Learning Centres, which is paid to them directly from the Education Funding Agency, as they are Academies; and
- (5) deliver a long term inclusion programme: to proceed with the development of a long term inclusion strategy in line with the One Doncaster Report and the Children and Young People's Plan (2017-21)

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report which highlighted the Learning and Opportunities: Children and Young People directorates intention to move towards an inclusive education system for all children and young people, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Behaviour issues in line with the recommendations and themes identified in the One Doncaster report and the Children and Young People's Plan (2017-2021).

Members were advised that the proposal was to re-commission the behaviour system and develop a Doncaster's Inclusion Strategy in 3 phases. Phase 1 of the Strategy was currently underway which involved a review of the current provisions and pathways, with on-going work regarding the setting of outcomes for children and young people and the establishment of a 'fit for purpose' governance structure accountable to the Children and Young People and Families Board. Phase 2 of the strategy would involve remediating and optimising of the current system for 2017/18 and Phase 3 would work on linking the strategy to the One Doncaster programme to create a sustainable fit for purpose system that meets the needs of all young people in the borough.

It was also noted that it had recently been acknowledged through Government statistics outcomes for Looked after Children (LAC) that Doncaster's Virtual School had been presented with attainment 8 putting Doncaster as one of the best Councils in terms of providing virtual school services.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly stated that when she became Cabinet Member for Children and Young People she visited 70 schools including many with children that required extra support in their studies. She welcomed the report and stressed that the strategy will ensure that children are in the right place where they will be given the required support to ensure they reach their potential.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report which demonstrated a prime example of what can be achieved through partnership working. The report also stressed the commitment to improving inclusion and increasing the aspirations of all learners in a collaborative way and providing every opportunity for children and young people to raise their ambitions and aspirations.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 – The option to do nothing and wait until 2018 when the full outcomes of the review is completed to Phase 3. This option is discounted due to the current pressures in the system and a duty to improve the offer and outcomes for young people in the immediate term.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Damian Allen, Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills (DCS)

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker