



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 6th February, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members on Friday, 9th February 2018.

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 20th February, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Wednesday, 21st February, 2018.

Present:

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

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Nigel Ball	Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Joe Blackham	Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services
Councillor Rachael Blake	Adult Social Care
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Bill Mordue	Business, Skills and Economic Development
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements made at the meeting.

Decision records from the meeting held on 23rd January, 2018 (previously circulated), were noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Early Help Strategy.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the progress made in relation to the partnership Early Help Offer; and
- (2) endorsed the refreshed Early Help Strategy.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report which set out the progress made in relation to the partnership Early Help Offer and refreshed Early Help Strategy 2017-2020, to support the commissioning and delivery of services for the prevention and earlier intervention (known as Early Help), to promote opportunity and secure better outcomes for children and young people and their families.

It was reported that significant progress had been made in the embedding of an early help partnership offer, which was evident through robust performance management and reporting and positive external scrutiny, including the most recent Ofsted Single Inspection Framework. 12 Family Hubs were operating in the 4 locality model and were integral in the delivery of the refreshed Early Help Strategy.

The refreshed Early Help Strategy was agreed by the Children and Families Executive Board in September 2017. The new Strategy provided the opportunity to refocus the partnership understanding and Early Help and importantly how Commissioners and provider services 'think' and 'work' more effectively together over the long term.

It was noted that Early Help should not only be seen as a response to additional or multiple/complex needs requiring a multi-disciplinary Team around the Family (TAF) alone. Early Help should influence all Strategies in Doncaster to achieve better outcomes for children and young people with a focus on the whole family's needs. In all cases, it should seek to narrow the gap in outcomes for some children and young people who were disadvantaged, either by their circumstances or the environment in which they lived.

It was noted that a further report would be presented to Cabinet in April 2018, evidencing the significant transformation of youth provision in Doncaster via Expect Youth.

Cabinet welcomed the Strategy, which would help to avoid greater costs to the Council, would help families that were struggling and would provide better outcomes for children and young people, focusing on a whole family approach.

Councillor Joe Blackham in welcoming the Strategy indicated that the Council would be seeking clarity to gain a better understanding of the universal element of the Strategy in relation to Expect Youth, which was expected to be carried out prior to April 2018.

In reference to the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework Early Help Offer, as outlined at paragraph 12 of the report, which had previously been rated as inadequate, Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools was pleased to report that following the recent Ofsted inspection report on 19th January 2018, Early Help services were now rated as good.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No other options were 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 People (DCAS/DASS).

DECISION 2

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Social Mobility Opportunity Area Programme.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) acknowledged and supported the Opportunity Area Delivery Plan;
- (2) agreed to accept funding of up to £8.75m over the lifetime of the programme and to receive a further report detailing the terms of the grant and proposed allocation of funding for 2018/19 and 2019/20;
- (3) approved a grant of £1,050k to Expect Youth and a grant of £300k to Partners in Learning and to agree the method of providing the funding, process/approval for withdrawing the funding and approval of the specific funding agreement to be delegated to the Director of People and Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Schools;
- (4) agreed to £100k of further expenditure through contracted services and grants of under £50k and the allocation of such funding be delegated to the Director of People in consultation with the Partnership Board; and
- (5) agreed that for 2018/19 and 2019/20, the Council work with the DfE and other Opportunity Areas to develop a national framework spanning all OAs over the early stages of the coming year.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report, which provided details regarding the recent publication of the Doncaster Opportunity Area (OA) Delivery Plan and set out the funding associated with the OA programme, which was due to be transferred to the Council over the life of the programme (2017/18 to 2019/20).

It was noted that the Opportunity Area Delivery Plan included the following 4 priorities:

- Building solid foundations for all children;
- Brilliant teaching and leadership for all secondary pupils programme;
- No career out of bounds; and
- Opportunities extend to all

It was reported that each priority was led by a working group made up of local stakeholders and the programme was governed by a Partnership Board (PB) into which all the working groups report. The Partnership Board was responsible for making decisions relating to the OA Programme, these would then need to be signed off through Council governance in accordance with relevant guidelines. For expediency, Partnership Board approval was sought of these proposals in parallel. Any substantive changes resulting from this process would need to be signed off by Cabinet.

The report provided an outline in relation to the dedicated funding to implement the activities promised in the Delivery Plan and proposed that the Council provided commissioning support to Expect Youth and PIL, to both enable them to commission further activity in year and to develop each organisations internal commissioning capacity, in addition to working with other OAs and DfE to establish a National framework for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Damian Allen, Director of People reported that the Minister had visited Doncaster on 18th January and had commended particularly the partnership working that was going on and had cited a couple of organisations, in particular Expect Youth, which was one of the providers in the Borough who were looking at creating a wider set of opportunities for young people and working with community organisations.

Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, in endorsing the report, welcomed the early discussions taking place by the Council in relation to the sustainability of resources beyond the duration of the 3 year SMOA Programme, which was an area of concern. Councillor Blake sought clarity on how the Council was to engage with older young people who had left school and had moved on to further education and university to act as role models to inspire other young children, which she felt was fundamental to the success of the programme.

Damian Allen, Director of People acknowledged that sustainability of resources was a critical factor and that the Council was looking to work with people from Doncaster that had been successful in a whole range of walks of life, who wanted to re-invest their life experience in building opportunities and self-esteem for young people.

In response to clarity being sought by Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, the Director of People advised that the Doncaster Opportunity Area Partnership Board was appointed to by the former Secretary of State, who had vetted and approved the membership of the Board. The Partnership Board was chaired by Professor Chris Husbands, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University, who brought with him a wealth of experience to the

Board, as well as being a key player in the sub-region in terms of skills and teacher improvement, and was accountable to the Secretary of State.

In referring to Annex B of the report, Councillor Fennelly felt that it would be helpful to include a diagram to clearly identify where the Board sat within the Council and who the Board reported to. The Director of People gave an undertaking to amend Annex B of the report accordingly and circulate a copy to Members.

In welcoming the report, the Mayor was pleased to see the overview of priorities, which she felt would help to build on the foundations for all children in the Borough and would help to narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children at primary school. The programme would also help to increase the number of good school places for every person in Doncaster that had a child and that no career was out of bounds for any of the Borough's children. The Mayor added that it was about raising the aspirations of all young people, and making them aware of the opportunities that would support them in and out of education.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do nothing – This was not a viable option, it would cause reputational damage with DfE and fail to realise the benefits of this funding on local children and young people. Failure to spend the funding in year 1 was likely to result in funding being withdrawn in future years.

A competitive tender process - The timeframes associated with a competitive tender of this scale were prohibitive if the Council was looking to commit funding this financial year. It was not possible in the available time.

Grant fund another provider - This was considered but discounted based on the strong track record PIL have in this area and the breadth of partners EY bring together.

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 People (DCAS/DASS).

DECISION 3

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Schools Admissions Arrangements for 2019/20 Academic Year.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the following admission arrangements for the 2019/20 school year:

- Community School Admission Arrangements
- Community School Nursery Admission Arrangements (as detailed in Sections 18 to 20 of the report).
- Primary Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements
- Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements (as detailed in Sections 21 to 23 of the report).
- Notification of parents of the arrangements for admission including those to the proposed University Technology College (as detailed in Section 16 of the report).

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report which outlined the requirements for the adoption of schemes for co-ordinating the Admission Arrangements for Primary and Secondary Schools and approval of the Admission Arrangements for Community Schools in the 2019/20 School Year.

It was noted that the Local Authority (LA) had a duty under Section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to make arrangements for enabling the parents of children in its area to express a preference for a maintained school and to give reasons for that preference.

By 1st January in the relevant determination year, the LA was required to formulate schemes for co-ordinating the admission arrangements for all maintained schools and academies in the Borough, and to seek the agreement of other admission authorities to the co-ordinated admission arrangements. These were intended to make school admissions easier, more transparent and less stressful for parents. They required parents to rank preferences on a single common application form, which they must submit to their home LA. Parents would then receive a single offer of a school place for their child from the LA on a designated day.

By 28th February each year the LA was required to determine the admission arrangements that would apply to schools for which it was the admission authority i.e. community schools. This had been brought forward from previous years by the DfE to allow more time for any necessary objections to be lodged with the School Adjudicator.

In drawing up its arrangements the LA had to have regard to relevant legislation, the School Admissions Code (the Code) and guidance from the DfE. These contained a number of mandatory requirements which all admission authorities were required to follow, and those requirements had been taken into account in the proposed arrangements.

The Private, Voluntary or Independent sector make their own arrangements for places within the Borough for 3 and 4 year old early years places. However, the LA had a duty to ensure that there were sufficient accessible and affordable places for children across a range of provision types and provided support and guidance as necessary.

Members noted that year on year the local authority had increased the percentage of the first choice school and Doncaster was currently achieving in the region of 98%.

The report was welcomed by the Mayor, who commented that she was delighted that people were getting their first choice and highlighted the importance of ensuring that young people get the best chances in life as possible.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

All options considered were set out in paragraphs 18 to 23 of the report.

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 People (DCAS/DASS).

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker