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## DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

TUESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2016

A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on TUESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2016 at 10.00 AM

#### PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Neil Gethin

Councillors Nick Allen, Jessie Credland, James Hart, Mark Houlbrook, Andrea Robinson and Sue Wilkinson

Co-optees – John Hoare (Diocese of Sheffield)

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Other Members;

Councillor Nuala Fennelly - Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools  
Councillor Linda Curran  
Councillor John Healy

Officers;

Damian Allen – Director: Learning and Opportunities (DMBC)  
Mike Rees - Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor (DMBC)  
James Thomas - Head of Performance and Business Intelligence (Doncaster Childrens Services Trust)  
John Harris - Independent Chair, (Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board)  
Rosie Faulkner – Board Manager (Safeguarding and Standards)  
Mark Douglas - Chief Operating Officer (Doncaster Childrens Services Trust)  
Chris Toyne - Head of Service: Education Data, Intelligence & Performance (DMBC)

#### APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nigel Ball and Sue McGuinness

		<u>ACTION</u>
22.	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	None	

23.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	There were no declarations of interest made.	
24.	<u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2016.</u>	
	<u>RESOLVED</u> that the minutes of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on the 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2016, be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
25.	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	
	There were no public statements made.	
26.	<u>REPORT FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND SKILLS IN DONCASTER - SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS.</u>	
	<p>The Panel received a report that set out the findings and recommendations of the Independent Commission on Education and Skills in Doncaster, published on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016. The report outlined the process of consultation and the timeline for the Team Doncaster response.</p> <p>Members were informed that consultation seeking feedback to the report had taken place over a two month period. As part of that timeline the follow had taken place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engagement with young people via a meeting with the Youth Council and wider groups.</li> <li>2. Feedback received from Headteachers.</li> <li>3. Online survey undertaken via the Team Doncaster, Council websites and Social Media.</li> </ol> <p>The Panel fed into the Councils response by taking into consideration 30 recommendations made as part of 7 characteristics of a successful Education and Skills System for Doncaster.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 1 - Establish an Education and Skills Board</b></p> <p>A Member enquired whether there was anything in place that could be signed up to which may secure partners commitment. In response, it was commented that Team Doncaster would be expected to play their part and that any partner's commitment would be distinguished through the consultation process where a consensus would needed to be agreed. Members were informed that the resources and support needed would have to be identified. Members were assured that there was faith in the role of the board and it may be useful to learn what the board has achieved in about 18 months.</p>	

It was recognised that positive work had been achieved for Doncaster by the Sheffield City Region and acknowledged that there were a number of major projects which may provide the opportunity for educational projects to be taken forward.

It was noted that the Education Improvement Board's action plan had been signed off during Summer 2016. It was continued that there wasn't a great deal of new resources for the programme, which meant better joining up of existing resources was required. It was commented that a pathway into new jobs required improved collaborations.

It was added that the Council welcomed partner's involvement from the voluntary and communities sector as without this, it would not be possible to be successful about the whole child.

Members were informed that Team Doncaster was looking at what was currently in place in order to assess what supported was needed.

### **Recommendations 3 and 4 – Guaranteed experiences for all young people and the Doncaster Diploma**

Members briefly reflected on what it used to be like to be a child compared to being one today. It was felt that there was reluctance for children to go out and that they had less freedom. It was recognised that things had changed significantly and the challenge would be how that difference could be addressed.

A Member felt that in terms of activities and experiences for young people, there was a great deal to be offered by organisations such as the Guides and Scouts. It was added that such establishments may need financial support in order to develop. Reference was also made to the challenges created by an increased usage of electronic devices by children.

Acknowledgment was made regarding some outstanding examples that existed which provided a framework for activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. It was recognised that society was changing and that today's youth had a different experience from that of previous generations.

Although it was seen that there was a raft of opportunities for activities and experiences available, concern was raised regarding families who were unable to access them due to limited finances. It was stated that in reality these experiences shouldn't be costly as it was about being smarter and using what was already out there.

In respect of schools priorities in preparing young people for employment, it was acknowledged that there was a national policy which could not be altered. It was believed that the demands of local businesses may steer a new debate and although control was with the

school there was an enormous amount of latitude that existed.

There was a brief discussion about how the Doncaster Children's University worked. Members stated that they were very impressed with it but expressed concern that take-up was not widespread. It was also questioned what was in place for 13 year olds and over as the Children's University was only available for 8 to 13 year olds.

### **Recommendation 9 – Doncaster as a University City**

Members questioned how Doncaster as a University City would link in with inward investment and higher skilled jobs. They were informed that an infrastructure for learning was needed and was not just about input but about how you can retrain on the job.

In respect of engaging with key sectors within the Borough, Members were told how there was a central focus on the modern rail sector. It was stated that it was about seeing where demand was and then challenging the education system to meet this demand. It was stated that business had a role in driving this issue forward and it was acknowledged that commitments had already been made.

Members queried why there wasn't a more local offer to provide a higher education for young people. Members heard that there were proposals in place to improve and provide alternative routes that were more affordable and accessible. It was advised that building a new university within the locality required a student base, something which Doncaster only had in part. It was reported that there was evidence where a university city with a base attracts other employers.

### **Recommendation 10 – An independent all Age Careers information and guidance service**

Members asked what evidence had been found by the Skills Commission that indicated it was failing and also questioned how issues within current services could be addressed and resolved rather than recreated. It was outlined that information had been received through a series of focus groups and interviews. Members learnt that although the Local Authority had a responsibility to provide Careers Advice and Guidance, schools were free to determine how they would provide that support. It was therefore the case that inconsistencies existed in the quality and level of what was being provided. It was suggested that this may be further assisted through the introduction of a quality kite mark.

Reference was made about the continuation of advice and guidance service for 14-19 year olds moving into adulthood. Members were advised that a Peer Review would be undertaken that would include Children in Care. It was felt that the recommendation proposed would potentially provide the substance to change the current landscape.

	<p>It was felt it would be helpful to build on the power of professional support and that Doncaster could become the place to be in respect of teacher training and recruitment.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools informed the Panel that she had attended 78 schools to speak about transition and guidance. It was emphasised that there was a need to understand what was out there and for Headteachers to join together.</p> <p>It was explained that the infrastructure of collaboration had started to build up and provided a much sharper focus of what could be achieved in a more rational and affordable way. It was stated that there was a will and commitment to work together and pick up actions and key recommendations. It was noted that leadership and direction would be incorporated into the agreed final response.</p> <p>In respect of timescales, Members were informed that this characteristic would be driven by the demands of the business sector and skills gap. It was added that there was a commitment from academies to look at what needed to be done, in order to raise attainment. This would include how the curriculum could be tailored to offer choice, a pathway and provide key support. It was stressed there were opportunities out there that should not be missed.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 7 and 19 – Formal Reviews</b></p> <p>In respect of formal reviews, Members were informed that a peer review of virtual schools for Looked After Children had concluded and provided a much wider review of the whole system by considering special education needs within mainstream schools. It had been recognised that certain provision did not meet current demographics.</p> <p>A Member commented that they would be interested to see the outcome of the post 6<sup>th</sup> form review. It was queried what the Council was going to do to focus the offer provided by academies. Members were informed that the governance and oversight was not there previously and that the skills partnership will have that oversight although they were not obliged to do so.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 15 and 23 - Establish a School Improvement partnership and recruit great teachers</b></p> <p>Members were informed that the appetite for this was now there and that preconditions were right. In addition, Members were made aware of the positive relationship that existed with the Regional Schools Commissioner which itself has statutory duties.</p> <p>It was explained that change was an ongoing factor in respect of academies and that Chief Executive Officers were being questioned</p>	<p>Director of Learning and Opportunities :CYP</p>
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	<p>about what they could progress and achieve in meeting its outcomes for children in care.</p> <p>Reference was made to the benefits of learning in the workplace, for example, Union Learning which attracts mature learning where adults can develop skills in their own time.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the contents and findings of the report from the Independent Commission on the Education and Skills in Doncaster; and</li> <li>2. Note the on-going consultations with relevant stakeholders to inform the formal response; and</li> <li>3. Engages with the consultation process by providing its response to the Commission's report and recommendations.</li> <li>4. Recommends that wider staff are included into process.</li> </ol>	
27.	<p><u>DONCASTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD A) ANNUAL REPORT B) CSE UPDATE C) OUTLINE AND FUNCTION OF THE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNT BOARD</u></p>	
	<p>Members were presented with a report that outlined three aspects of the work of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board which included;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The arrangements for its consideration of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report.</li> <li>B. The Independent Chair of Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Doncaster – update on ten key CSE assurance questions.</li> <li>C. An outline of the functions of the Performance Accountability Board.</li> </ol> <p>Members were informed that the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report provided an update on the progress of the board and an overview of the effectiveness of each partner agency arrangements. The following key points were provided;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That there had been good progress on the Business Plan which had built on Ofsted 2015.</li> <li>• That partner agencies were more aware and critical of their strengths.</li> <li>• That key areas of agencies were cross cutting and that safeguarding themes included domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and participating in early help.</li> <li>• Evidence from reviews including Ofsted show an improved picture of the quality early help, but challenges still existed in this area.</li> </ul> <p>Members were provided with an outline of the role and functions of the Performance Accountability Board, a new partnership board that met on a quarterly basis focussing on key issues for the partnership.</p>	

Concern was raised that of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), that Doncaster was the 4th most deprived area in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. It was explained that when looking at performance data consideration was given to the national and regional data and also other local authorities of similar size and demographic (known as comparator authorities).

In relation to safeguarding issues of school aged children, it was reported that there were more children missing from education at primary and secondary school in Doncaster than compared with regional and national averages. It was responded that there were occasions when children were categorised as missing from school because the school had not been informed they were leaving and had not been taken off the role. In addition, some were identified as missing when they have been off the site for an extended period. It was noted that a report had been previously provided to CYPOSP which described the work being undertaken with children identified as missing. Members were informed that the Preventing Vulnerable People Group had broadened its remit to include children missing from education to ensure that this issue was more fully understood.

Members were told that the attendance and commitment of partners had been good at board level but that there had been a low attendance from agencies, where there was only one representative from that agency or where an agency represented a number of Boards in the region. It was clarified that substitutes were not always possible. Members were reassured that the overall business process is strong.

The report outlined a number of areas being undertaken in relation to mental health. Members were informed about the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan which was expected to address the issues identified. Members were informed that the Performance Accountability Board will be receiving a presentation about the Plan from the Chief Executive of Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) during February 2017. Concern was raised regarding an increase in self-harm and suicide attempts. It was explained that previously it was seen that although there was direct involvement from CAMHS service, this was at a late stage. It was therefore about providing a more preventative emotional health and wellbeing model. Members shared knowledge of schools where there was good support in place although it was unknown whether this was consistent across all schools.

Members were informed that work with Faith Groups had been slower than anticipated. As a result DCST had provided additional resources to enable the work to progress. Since then contact has been made with a number of groups and training has been provided.

Regarding referrals from different agencies, Members were informed that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub had been established and

there will be a single point of contact in 2017. It was reported that there was a commitment for partners to work together and a growing confidence that children will receive the right response.

In respect of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangements, it was reported that 73% of cases needed no further action. It was explained that there were ongoing discussions between DCST and the police which should reduce the number of referrals. In respect of Multi-Agency thresholds, it was reported that overall thresholds were satisfactory but work will continue to ensure so that families and organisations know how to access the right support

In respect of child protection, reassurances were sought as the report identified an increased number of children subject to a child protection plan. Members were informed that this was due to a review of children known to social care when the DCST came into existence which resulted in a more robust approach being taken. On this basis positive progress had been made as quality standards had improved and children were now being identified as being at risk at an earlier stage. Members were also told that this was regularly monitored and assurances could be provided that children were in right place with the right support and were being protected.

Members were updated that DCST performance indicators were negotiated on an annual basis and reviewed as part of the annual contract review. The review will look at what performance indicators it should be measured against within the contract and this will be signed off as part of annual contract report submitted to the Department of Further Education. It was acknowledged that some indicators were ambitious to drive improvement and the majority of them were doing well. The Panel was also updated on progress against strategic priorities.

A Member questioned how many referrals were made from local football associations or the wider sports sector. Members were informed that the safeguarding board had not received any referrals and there had been no indication of any escalations. It was further explained that there was a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who deals with all allegations against professionals was in place and that external validation showed that operations were robust and that referrals were dealt with vigorously. It was explained that sports organisations were aware of the arrangements and that there was a well-established link as the LADO meets with sporting organisations on a regular basis.

In respect of what could be achieved with football associations, Members were informed that the safeguarding board was being proactive and would work with football clubs to ensure that systems and processes remained robust so that victims and children were supported. It was explained that recent press articles about abuse



	<p>within football and other sports associations had only recently become a public issue. The Independent Chair stated that there was a need to ensure that systems and procedures were operating consistently and that the capacity was there. It was added that the DSCB would seek assurance in 2017 to ensure these are in place. The Chair of the Panel stated that the Panel would look forward to receiving more information within a future report.</p> <p>Concern was raised regarding a reference made within the report that work would continue with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. It was felt that this statement did not take into account that many heterosexual men may also suffer from such abuse. Representation from the police clarified that this statement was included as there was a small cohort of men exploring sexuality that had come to the forefront and were currently working with the Police. It was recognised that interactions with male victims did not just exist within LGBT groups and that the Police were engaging wider and not assuming that members of the LGBT communities were just victims.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel note;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The arrangements for its consideration of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report; and</li> <li>2. The updated assessment of the response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Doncaster; and</li> <li>3. An outline of the functions of the Performance Accountability Board.</li> </ol>	Independent Chair:DSCB
28.	<u>PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE OF THE DONCASTER CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRUST: QUARTER 2, 2016/17.</u>	
	<p>The Panel was presented with a report outlining the Performance Challenge of the Doncaster Children's Trust; Quarter 2, 2016/17. Members were reminded about the monitoring and challenge arrangements of the Trust and that the report provided a review and analysis of the Performance Challenge carried out Trust.</p> <p>Members were told how in October 2016, the second of the Ofsted monitoring visits had taken place with a focus on the quality and effectiveness of plans for children in need of help and protection.</p> <p>It was reported that there were 2 performance indicators below tolerance, of which one was A2 – Timeliness of single assessment.</p> <p>It was reported that timeliness performance has continued to decline and had been below target and tolerance for the past 3 quarters. It was noted that this had been allocated a high target and a push towards achieving it. It was questioned what percentage of agency staff used should be cause for concern. It was added that steps had been taken by the Trust to improve this indicator and added that there was a core of long serving agency staff that brought consistency to the</p>	

	<p>service. Officers were confident that children would have up-to-date cases; however, with performance at 82%, this puts Doncaster high on the scale.</p> <p>It was recognised that information presented from the report and Ofsted did not present a promising picture. It was acknowledged that it was important for the Council to understand its position before it reached the next Ofsted inspection. It was also recognised that some of the targets were set high and it was therefore good to achieve them.</p> <p>In respect of whether the Trust was headed in the right direction, Members were informed that this would not happen without an improvement on the management side although recognition was given to good quality appointments that had been made. Members were reminded that all staff had undergone appropriate learning and development around the practice improvement programme.</p> <p>Concern was also raised that the affordability and sustainability focus of the arrangements were of joint concern and Members were informed that OSMC will have sight of a financial recovery plan. It was added that it was in the mutual interest of both the Council and the Trust to improve standards and quality.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel note and evaluate the headline performance information and the resultant analysis.</p>	
29.	<u>CHILDREN IN CARE VIRTUAL SCHOOL.</u>	
	<p>The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update and overview on the work of the Children in Care Virtual School.</p> <p>An outline was provided to Members about the purpose and scope of the review. It was explained how it would hold to account the Council and Councillors on the progress of Looked After Children and Pupil Premium taking into consideration how money is spent against specific needs. Members were informed how the review would look at parts of system and make sure that Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) was focused on Education Outcomes.</p> <p>Members were informed that there had been positive findings, in particular, regarding leadership and challenge brought to schools as well as progress made with the consistency of Personal Education Plans (PEPS). Reference was made that the strategic oversight needs to be clearer.</p> <p>Members were told that there was recognition that the progress made by the Children in Care Virtual School needed to be undertaken under direct line of sight and that an action plan will be developed.</p> <p>Members of the Panel requested that the information is published on</p>	Head of

	<p>website and circulated to Members.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel note the information presented.</p>	Service: Education Data, Intelligence & Performance
30.	<u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PANEL WORK PLAN REPORT 2016/17.</u>	
	<p>The Chair requested that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26.1, Council Procedure Rule 13.7.2 that this item be deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the workplan be deferred to the next meeting of the Children and Young People Panel.</p>	

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