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Dear Tony

DWP Work Programme

Thank you for your letter of 7th February regarding the DWP Work Programme, and the observations and recommendations that the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Panel has made. As the Mayor is currently on annual leave, I am responding on her behalf.

I am keen that the Work Programme delivers to maximum effect in Doncaster, and can link to the opportunities available, or on the horizon, and I find it interesting to note that while public health support in Doncaster is excellent, it is also disjointed, and that it appears to work better at an earlier stage, in Sheffield.

I have asked my colleagues in the Service Improvement and Policy Team to identify what, if anything, could be implemented in Doncaster to improve delivery to this client group, and will consider their findings. If there are actions that partners across Doncaster can take, I will work to ensure they are implemented and will communicate these with your Panel.

The Work and Skills Board is busy working to deliver their priorities and I will ask them to provide an update on their work at a future meeting, as requested. For your information, the Work and Skills Board's priorities are currently:

1. Improving employability skills of our young people, by better linking employers with schools.
2. Increase the number and quality of apprenticeships.
3. Increasing graduate recruitment and retention in Doncaster.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Glyn Jones
Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing, Equalities and Cohesion