

To all Members of the

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

### AGENDA

Notice is given that a Meeting of the above Panel  
is to be held as follows:

**VENUE:** Council Chamber - Civic Office Civic Office, Waterdale,  
Doncaster, DN1 3BU

**DATE:** Monday, 11th July, 2016

**TIME:** 10.30 am

*Members of the public are welcome to attend*

#### Items for Discussion:

1. Apologies for absence
2. To consider the extent, if any, to which the public and press are to be excluded from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest, if any.
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th February, 2016 (*Pages 1 - 10*)
5. Public Statements

**(A period not exceeding 20 minutes for statements from up to 5 members of the public on matters within the Panel's remit, proposing action(s) which may be considered or contribute towards the future development of the Panel's work programme).**

Jo Miller  
Chief Executive

If you require any information on how to get to the meeting by Public Transport, please contact  
(01709) 515151 – Calls at the local rate

Issued on: Friday, 1 July 2016

Scrutiny Officer  
for this meeting:

Christine Rothwell  
Tel: 01302 735682

**A. Items where the Public and Press may not be excluded**

6. Education Excellence Everywhere - The Education White Paper 2016: A Summary (*Pages 11 - 20*)
7. Quarterly Performance & Progress against Ofsted Action Plan - Trust update report. (*Pages 21 - 44*)
8. Accountability Arrangements for the Doncaster Children's Services Trust (*Pages 45 - 50*)
9. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Work Plan Update 2016/17 (*Pages 51 - 60*)

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Chair – Councillor Neil Gethin  
Vice-Chair – Councillor Nigel Ball

Councillors Rachel Hodson, Sue McGuinness, Sue Wilkinson, James Hart, Jessie Credland, Andrea Robinson and Nick Allen

Education Co-optees\*

John Hoare  
Bernadette Nesbit

\*Education Co-optees are invited to attend the meeting and vote on any Education functions which are the responsibility of the Authority's Executive. They may also participate in but not vote on other issues relating to Children and Young People.

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4.

## DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY, 2016

A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the 008 - CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on MONDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY, 2016 at 10.00 AM

#### PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Rachel Hodson  
Vice Chair – Councillor Neil Gethin

Councillors Nick Allen, Nigel Ball, Bev Chapman, Sue McGuinness and Sue Wilkinson

Co-optees – Damien Thorpe and John Hoare

Invitee: - Jim Board (Unison)

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

John Harris, Independent Chair - Doncaster Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB)  
Rosie Faulkner, Manager of the DSCB  
Suzannah Cookson, Head of Quality for Children and Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and Looked After Children Nurse, (Vice Chair)  
Superintendent Neil Thomas from the South Yorkshire Police  
Rianna Nelson, Director of Children's Commissioning at DMBC  
Anne Chester-Walsh, Head of Service at the Doncaster Children's Service Trust (DCST)  
Jim Foy Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)  
Damien Allen, Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills at Doncaster Council  
Peter Featherstone - Business Manager, Learning, Opportunities and Skills at Doncaster Council  
Jackie Wilson, Director of Performance, Quality and Innovation  
Dawn Jones, Customer Experience Manager

#### APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James Hart and Alan Jones

		<u>ACTION</u>
	<b>NOTE:</b> In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Panel resolved to combine two items on the agenda, Quarterly Performance And Progress Against Ofsted Action Plan - Trust Update Report/Annual Report Of The Doncaster Children's Services Trust, detailed at number 32 below.	

25.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>	
	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Hart and Councillor Alan Jones.	
26.	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	None	
27.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	There were no declarations of interest made.	
28.	<u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2015</u>	
	The minutes were agreed and approved as a true record.	All to note
29.	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	
	There were no public statements made.	
30.	<u>CSE ASSURANCE UPDATE</u>	
	<p>The Chair welcomed John Harris, Independent Chair from the Doncaster Safeguarding Children’s Board (DSCB), Rosie Faulkner, Manager of the DSCB, Suzannah Cookson, Head of Quality for Children and Designated Nurse for Safeguarding and Looked After Children Nurse, (Vice Chair) Superintendent Neil Thomas from the South Yorkshire Police, Rianna Nelson, Director of Children’s Commissioning at DMBC, Anne Chester-Walsh, Head of Service at the Doncaster Children’s Service Trust (DCST) and Jim Foy Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at the DCST to the meeting.</p> <p>It was explained that the purpose of the item was to provide an updated assessment of the response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Doncaster. Members were reminded that since the initial report had been brought to the Panel in December 2014, there had been an OFSTED review of the DSCB, published in November 2015 which found that there had been ‘good coordination by agencies in order to tackle child sexual exploitation in Doncaster.....a child sexual exploitation sub-group and work stream chaired by a Police Superintendent coordinates well the operational partnership working’.</p> <p>The Panel held discussions which included the following areas:</p> <p><u>Faith and Culture Sub-Group</u> – It was reported that the Faith and Culture Sub-Group has led the work to link with wider communities. It was outlined that most faith culture groups worked with individual</p>	

communities such as the Polish community. Members were informed that the sub-group had made good progress in identifying and engaging with a broad range of Faith groups and providing training and advice on a range of safeguarding issues including safe guarding policies and safer recruitment. It was added that training had been provided in some communities on CSE and further training was planned. It was added that there was an intention to expand the work with black, ethnic and minority ethnic groups, targeting those not linked in through faith groups. Members were informed that further work was looking to be undertaken with the deaf community, children schooled at home and the Roma Slovak population. It was commented that engaging with such groups could be challenging and that engaging with individuals who were viewed as being influential proved particularly useful.

Training – Concern was raised by the Panel regarding the development of specific training programmes with faith and community groups. Members were informed that there were no barriers to the training being undertaken but just that there hadn't been the time and capacity to do it. Members were assured that this was now been looked at as a priority.

Data – In terms of the data, members were informed that this was complex area as the data came from a range of different places and collected in different ways. Members were informed that there was no intelligence or data gaps but that the challenge was bringing the information together and using it to present one clear picture. Members were informed that there was a lack of a single IT collection point and that IT issues were being reconciled to find an appropriate solution. It was further explained that it was challenging to identify the headline information to go in the report to be able to draw out an overall analysis of impact (an issue experienced with other safeguarding boards).

Local Problem Profile – Members were informed that there was no local organised criminality dealing in CSE at this time. It was explained that a national initiative was being created to develop local problem profiles. Members were told about THRIVE meetings where the Police were enabling information to be shared effectively with partners to ensure that vulnerable children and young people were supported and that offender behaviour was disrupted. Members were informed that Doncaster was unique in the way it was working with partners and that it had proved to be very positive.

Outreach Work – Members were informed that outreach work had taken place at venues where young people were likely to congregate and steps taken to discuss this issue with them in those settings. It was explained that with outreach work, it was a case of distributing leaflets and making initial contacts with young people, with the view that this might build up to more of a discussion. Members were

	<p>informed that social media was one of the biggest issues that was faced in prevention and keeping young people safe. Members were informed that in its recent review, Ofsted had commended the contact that had been made with bed and breakfasts.</p> <p><u>Communication Plan</u> – Members expressed their concern that there was no communication lead in post. Members were assured that this area was still moving forward and that there will be a final version of the communication plan in place within the next four weeks. It was agreed that a link to the published version on the website would be circulated to the Panel.</p> <p><u>LGBT</u> – The Panel was informed that there was no work being currently undertaken to specifically engage with LGBT groups although the new communications plan would help raise awareness.</p> <p><u>Future Progress</u> – It was explained to Members that the work being undertaken and progress made against actions identified in the action plan were all part of a ‘journey’ to improve the work being taken forward to tackle children sexual exploitation in Doncaster. It was noted that only a small number of LSCBs had received a rating from OFSTED that was better than that for the host local authority – and Doncaster was one of those LSCBs.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the analysis of progress against the DSCB CSE Assurance Questions.</li> <li>ii. Note the summative report on the CSE Action Plan 2015-16.</li> </ul>	<p>Independent Chair (DSCB)</p>
<p>31.</p>	<p><u>DONCASTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (DSCB): SUMMATIVE REVIEW OF BUSINESS PLAN 2014-16</u></p>	
	<p>The Panel was reminded that at its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, when the Panel considered the draft Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Annual Report 2015, it requested an updated Business Plan to be presented at its February meeting as a number of actions had been shown to be incomplete or off track.</p> <p>It was explained that the OFSTED’s report in 2015 assessed the DSCB as ‘requires improvement’; Members were informed that only 8 safeguarding boards nationally were assessed higher than the authorities that they served.</p> <p><u>Quality of Audits</u> – Members were informed that the quality of audits had steadily improved and that the audit process had been tightened up. It was added that a more coordinated approach had been adopted to ensure that there was it was more focused with smarter actions and that the quality of the auditing tool was being developed. Members</p>	

	<p>were informed that a recent audit of ‘Missing Children’ had been looked at in-depth and included views of young people.</p> <p><u>Early Help</u> – It was stated that early help arrangements were shown to be not good enough but there were now new arrangements at the Children’s Services ‘front-door’ that would help this. It was also mentioned that the inclusion of a health professional in the ‘Early Help Hub’ was improving the multi-agency response and coordination of early help support.</p> <p><u>Children and Young People Mental Health (Self Harm/Attempted Suicide)</u> – Members were alerted to the high number of children and young people admitted to hospital for self-harm and attempted suicide which had been noted in the Ofsted review. It was explained that as a result of this, there had been a performance challenge session focussing on young people’s mental health. Members were informed that good work was being undertaken although there was a lack of clarity regarding the cohort of young people. It was added that there had been an agreement to the scrutiny and analysis of data to be able to better understand this. Members were told that cases would be further considered to ensure that responses have been robust and data validated. Reference was made to the development of support for emotional health and well-being at an earlier stage rather than when concerns have escalated and come to light through presentation at A&amp;E. It was added that A&amp;E staff were in need of training to raise awareness.</p> <p><u>DSCB ‘Walk the Floor’</u> – it was explained there was a desire by the Board to have a better link to frontline services and practice. Members were informed Board members were undertaking visits to safeguarding services in partner agencies. To ensure a consistent focus for visits a standard questionnaire was being used to help the Board understand better the challenges facing frontline practitioners. It was added that so far it had been very useful and positive feedback had been received from practitioners.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the summative report on the DSCB Business Plan 2014-16;</li> <li>ii. Note the DSCB Progress Report on the response to the recommendations in OFSTED’s review of the Board published in November 2015;</li> <li>iii. Note the DSCB Strategic Priorities for 2016-17</li> </ul>	
32.	<p><u>QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS AGAINST OFSTED ACTION PLAN - TRUST UPDATE REPORT/ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DONCASTER CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRUST</u></p>	

The Chair welcomed James Thomas, Head of Performance and Business Intelligence from the Doncaster Children's Trust and Peter Featherstone, Business Manager, Learning and Opportunities at Doncaster Council to the meeting to provide an overview of the Quarterly Performance and Progress against OfSTED Action Plan Trust Update Report and the Annual Report of the Doncaster Children's Services Trust.

Members were informed that at the end of Quarter 3 there were two inter-related financial measures remaining outside tolerance, both relating to forecast expenditure against budget and one measure relating to the social care pathway for Children in Need which was in reference to monthly case file audits rated as "required improvement" or better which was reported as off target.

The group discussed the following areas:

Re-referrals – It was reported that this was on target and that the performance of this should show an improvement was the national average data is obtained. It was agreed that a session should be made available to the Panel to help them understand measures and when data is issued.

Child Protection Visits within Timescale – It was explained to Members that there had been a decline in the reported figure to 93%; this was because the measure had been subject to a monthly flux. It was explained that there was an aim to see all children within 2 calendar weeks and some had been missed by a day or two.

Children on CPP for more than 2 years – The question were raised about how long a child should remain within protection. Members were informed that contract targets were reviewed annually.

LAC Stability – 3 placement changes in one year – Members were informed that there were 2 cohorts within this measure which included; 1. Younger Children experiencing up to 5 quick placement changes and 2. Older and more troubled teenagers – experiencing multiple placement breakdowns. Members were reminded of the higher costs associated with specialist care for outside of authority residential placements. Members were informed that there was an ambition to repatriate childcare where appropriate and it was acknowledged that it was a difficult balancing act. Members acknowledged that our own children's homes were now good. Officers considered it as a challenging situation placed on the Children's Trust and one that was under constant attention including through monthly finance meetings.

The Panel's Co-optee offered that his own school placements were always made with school and undertaken when appropriate. It was supported that one long term placement might be ideal but it was better for the child to be in the right placement for the right reasons.

Head of Performance and Business Intelligence (DCT)



Percentage of Frontline FTE posts covered by Agency Staff - Members were informed that successful work had been undertaken to convert agency to permanent staff. Members were told that agency staff had reduced and that confidence in Doncaster as an authority had improved but some authorities were paying premium salaries which were making the market more competitive to be able to attract and retain staff. It was added that it was a challenge for the trust but that staff stability was developing in different ways.

Regarding staff satisfaction, Members raised concern that there had been 5 cases of live grievances (including Bullying and Harassment) during the last three quarters. Members were informed that the Department of Education had undertaken a separate study group to assess the journey of what it was like now at the trust compared to before. It was reported that this study had provided an independent assurance that staff had a high level of satisfaction and were highly motivated. Members were also informed that there were many initiatives being undertaken including work with University Sheffield and Step Up (the largest regional partnership in Yorkshire). Members were also informed that a robust approach was being undertaken to improve the quality of social workers. Members were also reminded that rises in sickness were often during the winter months. Reference was made to the 17 cases of live "Conduct/Capability/Suspensions" (that included 16 cases relating to sickness). Members were assured that processes were in place and cases were considered by Human Resources and a sub-group of the Board. It was clarified that sickness was a mix of chronic and surgery related sickness and support was being provided where necessary.

Monthly case file audits rates as "requires improvement" or better (Off Target) – Members were informed that there was a strategy improving the utilisation of what is in place within the trust. Members were informed that audit files had recently been revisited with appropriate challenges and judgements made and training provided where necessary. Members were informed that some of the issues were around the level of detail recorded within the case files. It was noted that the level of standards set by the trust were higher than those set by Ofsted.

ANNUAL REPORT - Regarding the annual report, Members were informed that it was a requirement for this to be submitted to the Secretary of State. It was explained that the report highlights progress and changes made to the agreement between Parties.

The Panel discussed the following;

Areas of Joint Focus – Members raised concern about the "proportion of children looked after who attend a school that is good or better is too low at 63%". The Panel was informed that the education offer was to

	<p>provide Children in Care placements where they leave with consideration taking into account the standard of schools. It was recognised that there was a need to improve standards of schools within the Borough, although it was recognised that the school itself might be good for that particular child.</p> <p>Members were reminded of Ofsted publishing their report on the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection; children looked after and care leavers on the 27th November 2015. It was noted that the report contained 20 recommendations based on findings from the inspection.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the Quarterly Performance Trust Update report.</li> <li>ii. Note the Ofsted Action Plan and progress made against it.</li> <li>iii. Note the Annual Report as submitted to the Secretary of State.</li> </ul>	
33.	<p><u>ADOPTION LEADERSHIP BOARD (ALB) BRIEFING HEADLINE MEASURES</u></p>	
	<p>The Panel welcomed Jackie Wilson, Director of Performance, Quality and Innovation and Sue May, Head of Service, LAC Provider Services to the meeting. The Panel received a report that provided information on the adoption process derived from the quarterly Adoption Leadership Board (ALB) Briefing Headline Measures. Members were informed that Doncaster continues to have twice the number of children waiting per 10,000 than the England, Statistical Neighbour and Yorkshire and Humber averages. It was reported that this figure shows an increasing trend, whilst the Yorkshire and Humber and England averages show a decreasing trend. It was explained that information from the regional consortia indicated that whilst Doncaster has continued to maintain a high number of placement orders; locally and nationally the number of placement orders made had reduced considerably. Members were informed that work was undertaken to recruit adopters and although there were a sufficient number of adopters there was a disparity between adopter request and children's needs. Members were told that there had been a decision made to not assess adopters who only wanted children under the age of 2 with no additional needs as we had sufficient number of adopters waiting.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Trust had been judged as Good both as an Independent Fostering Agency and also as a Voluntary Adoption Agency. Members were informed that efforts were being made to find adoptive placements for harder to place children.</p> <p><u>Regional Adoption Agency</u> - The Panel was told that one of the strategic priorities that had been agreed on was to lead on the sub-</p>	

	<p>regional adoption agency project. Although it was recognised that there was a shared desire to bring children closer, it was accepted that many children could not be placed within Doncaster due to risks associated with such a placement. It was agreed that the Panel would receive an update once the Regional Adoption Agency was up and running.</p> <p><u>Wider Issues</u> - Reference was made to some of the wider issues such as quality of early help and innovation schemes that were being targeted in the right way. Reference was made to the 'Pause Project' and it was agreed for the Panel to receive an update. In summary, it was explained that that this was a programme of support for women who have experienced or are at risk of repeat removals of their children from their care. Members were informed that to date 21 women had been engaged with, with a combined total of 68 children. It was outlined that there would be a saving of £400,000 if 8 children were prevented from going into care.</p> <p>The Chair thanked officers and commented that it was an interesting report which outlined underlying reasons as to why adoption was needed.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel notes the report and the efforts being made to improve service effectiveness.</p>	<p>Head of Service, LAC Provider Services</p> <p>Head of Service, LAC Provider Services</p>
34.	<p><u>DEVELOPMENTS IN TRUST COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT SINCE 17 SEPTEMBER, 2015</u></p>	
	<p>The Panel welcomed Jackie Wilson, Director of Performance, Quality and Innovation and Dawn Jones, Customer Experience Manager to the meeting to present and update on Developments in Trust Complaints Management. Members were reminded that the report presented an update on the actions taken by the Trust to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of complaints management as requested at the Panels meeting in September 2015.</p> <p>It was reported that actions had been taken in 14 out of the 15 areas highlighted in the September report with action being planned to address the outstanding area.</p> <p>Members sought clarification about the complaints process and what stage the local authority would hear about complaints. It was explained that the authority linked into the Ombudsman directly and that the Trust would be involved by the Council at stage 3. It was explained that the local authority received information from the local Ombudsman but that there was no existing liaison arrangement within the Service Level Agreement.</p> <p>Reference was made to the Ombudsman finding in relation to a homelessness issue of a 17 year old where intensive work has since</p>	

	<p>taken place to wholly review the arrangements for dealing with homelessness in 16/17 years. It was reported that advice had been provided by St Basil's Trust, a national organisation which delivers a range of homelessness services and acts in an advisory capacity to government departments. It was explained that the new joint protocol between DCST, DMBC and the Trust was currently at its final draft stage and will be presented for final sign off in March. It was added that training events would soon be taking place.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that steps were being taken towards streamlining the two systems to prevent anything slipping through including a review of the Service Level Agreement (which will have been agreed and implemented by April 2016). The Customer Experience Manager informed Members that she had been trained on the Councils system as well as the Trusts.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel: -</p> <p>i. Note the update on developments in Trust Complaints Management since the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015.</p>	
35.	<p><u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK PLAN REPORT 2015/16</u></p>	
	<p>The Panel noted the workplan and agreed for it to be discussed at its informal meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Workplan report and update be noted.</p>	

**To the Chair and Members of the  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE EVERYWHERE –  
THE EDUCATION WHITE PAPER 2016: A SUMMARY**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All	N/A

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report provides a summary update to Panel members for information on the DFE Education White Paper Educational Excellence Everywhere March 2016

**EXEMPT REPORT**

2. Not exempt.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Panel is asked to:
  - i) Consider and comment on The Education White Paper summary attached as Appendix 1.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

4. 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. This is achieved through making robust recommendations, monitoring performance of Council and external partners and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the borough. The immediate issues for consideration following the white paper are included in the appendix report.

**5 BACKGROUND**

In March 2016 the DFE published a white paper entitled Educational Excellence Everywhere. The paper is lengthy and includes a wide range of

proposals for change covering many areas of education. The enclosed appendix provides a concise summary of the contents for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny panel. It also includes some of the most immediate implications for the Council and schools.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. There are no specific options to consider within this report. It provides an opportunity for Members to digest and discuss the report.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. N/A

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i></li> </ul>	
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>	
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>	
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i></li> </ul>	
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	<p>The Council is aiming to modernise services in line with the changes embodied in the paper.</p>

	Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	The paper proposes wider engagement of strategic partners in the education of children and young people.
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

9. The attached report outlines the potential changes to service delivery relating to schools in the maintained sector as a response to the paper.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are no legal implications associated with this summary report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. There are no financial implications associated with this summary report.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

12. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

13. N/A

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

14. There are no significant equality implications associated with this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

15. N/A

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16. None

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

Jo Moxon  
Assistant Director  
Learning and Achievement

Tel: 01302 737210  
Email: [jo.moxon@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:jo.moxon@doncaster.gov.uk)

**Damian Allen**  
**Director, Learning Opportunities and Skills**

This page is intentionally left blank



## **Educational Excellence Everywhere – The Education White Paper 2016: A Summary**

Three key threads run through the White Paper which appeared in March 2016, the over-arching theme is an increasingly school-led system.

- **The first thread is the concept of competition whereby the most successful MATs grow in size and the less successful are taken over by other MATs**
- **The second is an ever-increasing level of autonomy delegated to schools, including the accreditation of teachers.**
- **The last is the ever-increasing influence of regional school commissioners.**

Before May 2010 there were just 203 academies. By December 2015 the total sponsored and converter academies had reached 5,065. The majority of secondary schools have now become academies.

Nothing is yet absolutely finalised and some things of course require changes to statute. (37 items in all)

### **Academies and MATs**

The government proposes that by the end of 2020 all schools should have become, or be in the process of converting to, an academy. LAs will be under a duty to facilitate this.

The vast majority of schools will work in multi-academy trusts (MATs). A MAT growth fund will be established.

The RSCs will in future intervene promptly where academies or MATs are underperforming to force MAT re-organisations and mergers. In this way the system will be dynamic, responding to success and failure.

### **Initial Teacher Training and Teaching**

The main thrust running through all proposals is to place much more focus on schools in the training, recruitment and retention of teachers. Increasingly, the “best” schools will be playing the key role in all of these elements.

*“By 2020 we want to build on these changes so that the school-led system is in control....”*

New high quality criteria for ITT providers will be introduced, with allocations to the best being made over several years to provide greater certainty.

There is no doubt that schools in some areas of the country are finding the recruitment and retention of high quality teachers becoming more difficult.

Independent working groups are working on different aspects: a framework for ITT initial with greater emphasis on subject knowledge, practical behaviour management skills and greater understanding of evidence based practice. This will be part of new accreditation.

The Teaching Schools Council is developing a new standard for ITT mentors. All groups will publish their reports in the coming months.

## Teaching School Alliances

These are seen as a source of support on which autonomous schools can choose to draw. They will have a specific focus on providing high quality leadership development activities. The government is committed to ensuring that teaching school alliances cover the whole country, especially boosting capacity in challenging areas.

The DfE intends to create up to 300 more teaching schools and 800 more leaders of education (NLEs) with school improvement funding “increasingly routed” through these system leaders from September 2017. They will be held accountable for the quality and impact of the support they provide.

They will act as “brokerage hubs” by coordinating the supply and activity of NLEs and specialist leaders of education (SLEs) and matching these with schools in need.

Teaching schools will take on a “more focused role” that prioritises coordinating and delivering school based ITT, spreading excellent practice and providing evidence based CPD for teachers and leaders across their network.

## Accountability and Assessment

Regional Schools Commissioners will be able to commission support and intervention for schools identified as under-performing. Headteacher Boards will provide checks and balances for academy leaders to challenge the decisions of RSCs.

More accessible performance data will be published, including MAT performance tables in addition to that for individual schools.

A new primary floor standard and a new secondary measure, Progress 8, will be introduced from 2016. Attainment 8 will also be published.

For 16-19 providers new headline performance measures will be introduced.

## Ofsted and Inspection

The White Paper proposes that, in the new academic year, Ofsted will consult on:

*“removing the separate graded judgments on the quality of teaching, learning and assessment”.*

It does, however, point out that:

*“teaching, learning and assessment are a school’s core business”*

and also reminds schools that:

*“inspectors will still report on the impact of teaching, learning and assessment though the other graded judgments.”*

Ofsted will expect to see evidence of the monitoring of teaching and learning and its link to teachers’ performance management and the teachers’ standards. This should be information the school uses routinely, not generated additionally.

## **Leadership Development**

The best leaders will be given a greater opportunity to spread their influence wider, with executive heads, MAT CEOs and system leaders playing a growing role within the system. MAT leaders (at all levels) in particular are seen as central, with the paper stating that a head of subject could lead that subject across 30 schools.

The National Professional Qualifications will be redesigned to make them fit for purpose within the new systems, but there is no stated plan to make them statutory, so they will remain voluntary. Executive heads and MAT CEOs are seen as the best placed professionals to “talent spot,” i.e. recognise teachers with leadership potential and provide opportunity for them to develop.

A new National Teaching Service will be introduced to support elite teachers and strong middle leaders, aligning this with existing targeted leadership programmes.

Seed-funding will be offered to stimulate new activities to support the development of strong leaders in challenging areas, where providers “with innovative new approaches” propose programmes that are able to become self-sustainable over time.

## **Curriculum**

There is a clear focus on knowledge alongside the instillation of character traits and values. There is little overt mention of skills and this reflects the National Curriculum itself, which is fundamentally core knowledge driven.

There is also strong emphasis on British values and character building, with a commitment to build in character development approaches to teacher training programmes, working with networks like teaching schools to spread the most effective methods.

The National Citizen Service (NCS) will be extended so that by 2021 it will cover 60% of all 16 year olds. Programmes will be expanded to spread the opportunity for pupils to take part in adventure challenges and complete social action projects.

Extra funding will be made available so that 25% of secondary schools can extend their school day and develop provision.

The National Curriculum programmes of study will be reviewed and a group comprising head teachers and practitioners will produce an action plan with recommendations for improving PSHE.

## **Additional Needs**

There will be an increased focus on the most academically able pupils in the new core ITT framework and this group will also be the focus of funding to further enhance their attainment in state schools.

There will be investment in training in areas such as autism and dyslexia so that schools and colleges achieve better outcomes for pupils with SEN and disabilities.

The DfE will consider extending the role and responsibilities of virtual school heads and designated teachers for LAC in schools so they continue to support children who have left care under an adoption order.

## **Governance**

Governing Boards remain the key accountable body for their school and retain the responsibility for strategic vision and ethos, holding leaders to account and ensuring that money is well spent.

There is a further move away from stakeholder involvement. No longer will academy trusts be required to reserve places for parents on governing boards. This applies to all open and new academies.

Parents will still be encouraged to sit on governing boards – if they can demonstrate the right skills. A competency framework will be developed through schools and MATs. Governing boards will be required to ensure all governors are properly inducted and receive the training they need to meet the skills contained within the framework.

Edubase will be extended to establish a database of everyone involved in governance, with schools required to provide information from September 2016. The DfE will take powers to bar unsuitable individuals from being governors of maintained schools, to match what is already in place for academies and independent schools.

## **Parents**

A new online “Parent Portal” to be launched in 2017, containing general information and key facts about individual schools. It will work alongside a new performance tables website.

There will no longer be places for parents on governing boards. This applies to all open and new academies. However, parents will still be encouraged to sit on governing boards (usually as trustees) – if they can demonstrate the right skills.

Governance structures are not the right vehicle for gathering parents’ views. Every academy will be expected to “*put in place arrangements for meaningful engagement with all parents, to listen to their views and feedback*”. The paper states that Free Schools will empower parents where they feel a new school will better deliver the type of education they want for their child

**Early Implications for Doncaster:**

- The most immediate implications for Doncaster are linked to the **increased role of the Regional Schools Commissioner** and the promised growth of academies. Doncaster already has a very complex landscape of providers. There is no logical landscape for growth of Primary academies based on their secondary partners. It is vital that , in order to avoid more fragmentation, that the Council works with the Primary Maintained and Special schools to support a place-based formation of future school partnerships.
- The white paper intention of **all schools becoming academies** is more likely to be applied to Council areas who have large numbers of school still requiring improvement. Our schools are making progress, but we have a number still awaiting inspection and it will take some time before the scores reflect the progress schools have made. It is unlikely that Doncaster would be considered exempt from forced academisation in these circumstances.
- **The growth of Teaching School Alliances:** Doncaster has a very successful teaching schools alliance that has been working in partnership with us to deliver training and school improvement initiatives. More use of this partnership as Council services diminish will be an advantage for Doncaster as it already holds the vast majority of schools as members.
- As the **powers of the Regional Schools Commissioner** are now equal and above those of the Local Authority, good communication with her is vital. We have improved our dialogue with the DFE in order for us to move forward with the formation of academy partnerships to suit the local need, rather than an ad hoc growth that is likely to occur otherwise.
- **The changes to school and academy governance** will impact on the roles our communities play in education. Our traded services to governors will be mindful of the proposed changes and ensure that governors are trained and advised on future involvement in schools.
- **The development and training of school system leaders is welcome.** Doncaster has offered training and support via Partners in Learning teaching school alliance, but central training programmes will provide a national structure for leadership development.

This page is intentionally left blank

**To the Chair and Members of the  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL**

**QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS AGAINST OFSTED ACTION  
PLAN – TRUST UPDATE REPORT**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Lead Member for Children's Services	All	No

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report provides an update on the Contract performance monitoring arrangements, along with a summary of the latest Quarterly monitoring performance meeting.

The Trust is showing improvement or stability across the majority of contract measures. Since the last quarter there has been a further increase in the number of measures within tolerance or at/above target. Trends are largely positive, and strategies are in place to address declining performance trends. Only one operational measure is outside tolerance; the Trust is clear about the reasons for this and the steps being taken to address this.

The Trust have commissioned a Peer Review of its services, to be conducted by the Local Government Association. This begins on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

The first Monitoring visit by Ofsted, following their inspection of services to children in need of help and protection will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August.

**EXEMPT REPORT**

2. There are no exemptions.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. That Panel gives consideration to the Quarterly Performance Trust Update report.
4. That Panel gives consideration to the Ofsted Action Plan and progress made against it, to provide assurance that both Council and Trust will be in a position to satisfy, through external scrutiny, that outcomes are improving for Children and Young People.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

5. Doncaster Children's Services Trust was established on 1 October 2014 at the direction of the Secretary of State with the mandate to deliver improvements to children's social care. This report provides an update of progress achieved to date by the Trust.
6. An external, public and independent measure of the progress made by Children's Services is through Ofsted Inspections. The recent inspection judgements, document and recommendations have now been published. Therefore, both Council and Trust are required to work in partnership to deliver the recommendations and make the progress required in anticipation for next inspection.

## BACKGROUND

### 7. **Monitoring of the Service Delivery Contract – Governance Assurance**

Summary of meetings / activities since last Scrutiny report

#### **Quarterly Monitoring Performance Meeting**

- 7.1 The Quarterly Monitoring Performance meeting is attended by Chief Executives from both organisations, along with representation from Trust Board, The Trust's Chief Operating Officer and Director of Performance Quality and Innovation, and Officers with Performance Management responsibility from both organisations. The most recent meeting was 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Minutes of this meeting are produced by DMBC.

#### **Monthly Operational Progress Group**

- 7.2 The Trust Contract Performance Monitoring Report presented at the Monthly Operational Progress Group details key performance indicators and is accompanied by explanatory narrative. Meetings are attended by Assistant Director: Commissioning and Opportunities (DMBC), Director of Operations (Trust) and Heads of Performance from both organisations. The most recent meeting of this group was 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015. Minutes of this meeting are produced by DMBC.

#### **Monthly Financial Monitoring Group**

- 7.3 The Monthly Financial Monitoring group principally reviews the financial position of the Trust as it relates to the contract with the Council, the delivery of savings, and considers options to address budget pressures. The most recent meeting of this group was 23<sup>rd</sup> June.



## **Annual Review**

7.4 The Annual Review process of the Contract and monitoring arrangements ended on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 with a submission to the Secretary of State for Education that included progress made during year 1 budget and priorities for year 2 and two notifiable changes to the contract. The two notifiable changes were:

- 1) The transfer of the Children with Disabilities social work team, and Oaklands Short Break Unit from Council to Trust. Approval through a statutory direction from the secretary of state was delivered in time for a transfer of services on 19<sup>th</sup> June, with the residential home scheduled for transfer in September.
- 2) Revisions to the contract performance indicator set to better reflect Trust activity. These are covered later in the report. These have approved by the Secretary of State as a minor change and are therefore now in place. This report is based upon the revised indicator set.

7.5 The Trust produces a number of internal performance management reports on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

## **7.6 Quarter 4 2015/16 Performance Summary – Performance Assurance**

### **Progress on indicators, projects and other related matters**

7.6.1 The latest full dataset is for Quarter 4 of 2015/16, January to March 2016. This was shared in the quarterly performance meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May, attended by Lead Member for Children's Services, Director of Childrens Services, C/Exec of the Trust and senior leaders representing both organisations. Minutes of this meeting and the preceding monthly performance monitoring meeting are held within the Council and will provide evidence of challenge provided by the Council when considering the Trust's performance.

7.6.2 The dataset contains 23 key performance measures and a further 37 operational measures. These are supplied each month, with the exception of financial measures that are delivered quarterly. Performance narrative is supplied for each of the performance measures to provide further detail of the Trust's understanding of the current position. The measures cover:

- 1) social care pathway for children in need,
- 2) outcomes for children in care and care leavers,
- 3) the workforce, and
- 4) finance.

These measures are listed in appendix A, along with performance position against target at the end of Quarter 4 2015/6

7.6.3 As at Quarter 4 Doncaster Children's Trust showed sustained performance; with the majority of measures within contract tolerance or at/exceeding target performance. Three measures were reported as being outside contract tolerance. These are covered in more detail later in the report. The Trust has enhanced its integrated approach to performance management and management oversight. This, coupled with restructure of operational services, is giving a sharper focus and accountability for performance.

7.6.4 At the end of Quarter 4 there were six measures at or exceeding target performance. These measures covered all 4 areas of the indicator set. Headline performance figures for these measures were:

- The percentage of children that were being re-referred as a child in need continues to remain low, and has been better than target for four successive quarters.
- Children on Protection Plans are being seen in accordance with expected timescales, due to effective management oversight and tracking.
- Low rates of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time, which means that planning and de-escalation of cases is appropriate.
- Children not spending a long time on Child Protection Plans.
- Young people working with the Youth Offending Service are in education, employment and training.
- Custody rates for young people in Doncaster have fallen significantly and were 0.07 per 1000 young people aged between 10 and 17. Performance for Doncaster in 2015/16 was 0.4 (per 1000 10-17 year olds), compared to a national average 0.37. This is the best custody performance in the Doncaster's history.

7.6.5 Performance remains within contract performance tolerance for a further five measures. These include an increase in the proportion of children in care remaining in long-term placements, length of care proceedings, and the proportion of children in care experiencing three or more moves in a year remains within tolerance. Workforce measures relating to rates of agency staff and supervision rates also remain within tolerance.

7.6.6 Finance measures within the indicator show that:

The Trust has managed to achieve a small surplus for the financial year 2015/16, which is subject to final external audit. The Contract between the Trust and DMBC has a surplus/deficit sharing policy for the first full year of operation (2015-16) set at 80%/20% split DMBC/Trust. The provisional outturn for the year against the revised budget shows the Trust made a small surplus of £3.7k. Under the arrangements for surplus/deficit sharing, £3k of the surplus is due to DMBC with the Trust retaining £0.7k.

It is acknowledged that the forecast outturn has been achieved through the support of DMBC who approved two contract variations during the year which officially adjusted the contract sum by £996k. This reflected efficiency saving targets deferred to the following year, increased grants and the

higher number of Special Guardianship/Child Arrangement Orders compared to the initial contract sum.

The Trust's forecasting was consistent throughout the year, demonstrating sound financial management within the Trust and confidence in the ability to forecast demand. This has been acknowledged by DMBC Finance Director.

The Trust operated with a high level of vacancies, particularly within the social work teams and Family Support, which were partly supported by Agency staff.

The year-end position for placements was £1.9m above the Trust planned budget, reflecting that activity across the majority of the placement types was at higher levels than assumed at budget setting.

Going forward, the budget for 2016/17 has been based upon challenging set of assumptions regarding the number of children in care and their position in the care ladder. There is also additional budget pressure due to deferred and new efficiency savings passed over to the Trust for the new financial year. The current level of children in care as at the end of May 2016, is already higher in number and cost than budget, reflecting the complexity and need of Doncaster children.

Regular finance meetings take place between the Trust and DMBC at working and strategic level. Finance is also reported through the quarterly performance meetings.

### **Actions to address performance measures outside tolerance**

7.6.7 Five measures lay outside tolerance in quarter 4, of which three were new measures, as defined in the indicator review for year 2. These are

7.6.8 **Timeliness of single assessments:** performance for this measure was at 86% for quarter 4, having been as high as 93% in previous quarters. This is due in part to an additional expectation that all cases open greater than 6 months are reassessed using a single assessment form, thus increasing demand and workload. It should be noticed that current performance is still above the national average (82%). Additional measures have been put into place to performance manage the assessment process and also to anticipate assessments due in the working week. There is variation in performance between teams that is being addressed through Performance Leads in Performance clinics, team managers and Heads of Service. Of those overdue, more than half were completed within 51 days rather than the 45 day deadline.

7.6.9 **Monthly casefile audits rated as "requires improvement" or better.** Performance remained below target figure for quarter 4. Activity over the summer of 2015 effectively changed the thresholds of each grading and also the rigour of how they were applied. This means that audits became more consistent from September onwards, and subject to more rigorous

standards. The Trust's Practice Improvement Programme began in January 2016, designed to improve practice through skills analysis, training and mentoring of delivery staff and managers. The impact of this programme is now being measured through audit and other mechanisms and should improve quality of case work. Although the figure is below the target, this is due in part to the high expectations of case work. Analysis of audited cases has demonstrated that there is now increased compliance with respect to case work recording; which will mean management focus will be directed more towards improving quality and reducing drift and delay. Additional audit activity has been initiated from March 2016, where team managers are expected to dip sample a further 10 cases per month to provide extra assurance and moderation of this measure. This will amount to approximately 200 per month. This excludes cases audited as part of the thematic audit calendar

**7.6.10 Percentage of Children in Need with an open and current Plan.** This is a new measure, and the target is set as a new expectation to staff. Caseworkers have been tasked with reassessing all cases open for 6 months or longer, which will in turn trigger revisions or new plans. A number of cases will have an open draft plan that will not be counted until it is made final. Draft plans are being identified and completed to ensure this target is achieved. This measure is monitored and reported weekly and reported in the monthly performance booklet. A number of cases are at the point of closure or step down, and therefore do not require a plan. The expectation is that as the focus is placed on recording issues and the finalisation of draft plans that this measure will see further improvement.

**7.6.11 Proportion of Care Leavers (aged 19-21) in Suitable Accommodation or in Education, Employment and Training (EET).** Both of these measures are new and required a change of recording practice for the 18+ Service, which means current figure is low but will improve once recording changes have been implemented. This relates to workers identifying which young people they are in current contact with. The Head of service has met with 18+ services to look at improved recording of contact that will be picked up through staff supervision. The 18+ Team have recruited a full time post to develop "entry to employment and learning" pathways for care leavers. They have already been successful in developing a pathway to apprenticeships with large training provider (Engage Training). This pathway and SLA will be used as template all major training providers in Doncaster area.

## **7.7 Progress since Ofsted Inspection.**

**7.7.1** The Trust, DMBC and partners continue to work together in order to both meet the 20 recommendations within the Inspection Report, and to achieve the target of being rated as "Good" by October 2017. The timing of the next inspection, and therefore the opportunity to be judged as "good" will depend upon the Ofsted inspection schedule, as this cannot be negotiated by Local Authorities.

**7.7.2** The Trust and DMBC met with Ofsted on 29<sup>th</sup> April to agree the post-inspection action plan and to set a schedule for monitoring arrangements.

Feedback from Ofsted was positive, and the action plan was reported to be “addressing the right areas.” The first monitoring visit is confirmed for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August. A revised framework for monitoring post-inspection was recently published by Ofsted, and describes a typical programme of at least 4 quarterly monitoring visits before a potential re-inspection. An extrapolation of likely visits, suggests re-inspection will take place in summer 2017 at the earliest. Therefore, the target will be that the re-inspection delivers a “good” judgement at this point.

7.7.3 On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016, a Peer review will be conducted by the Local Government Association, and will provide an additional opportunity to measure progress since inspection as well as assure the Trust’s own self-evaluation. The Review will focus on three key areas:

- 1: Effectiveness of safeguarding procedures through review of the Child Protection Pathway, from front door to de-escalation/escalation processes.
- 2: Experiences and outcomes of vulnerable children & young people, including the ability of the Trust to detect and respond to new/unrecognised needs
- 3: Baselining of services for Children with Disabilities, as they transfer to the Trust in June.

### **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.7.11 A Joint Strategic Inspection Group meets each month, attended by Trust and DMBC to ensure that shared recommendations are being progressed and to provide assurance that both organisations are progressing their actions. The most recent meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

7.7.12 Weekly Getting to Good meetings have taken place since December 2015, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Trust. These regular meetings are in place to maintain the pace of improvement, through the Ofsted Action Plan and Locality Action Plans. Head of Service attend each meeting to provide an update on progress against their plans/actions.

7.7.13 The multi-agency Performance Accountability Board meets quarterly and will provide an additional forum to consider recent inspections of services and ensure that shared recommendations are progressed. This Board is chaired by the Chair of the LSCB and attended at Chief Executive level by representatives of DMBC, the Trust, South Yorkshire Police, Doncaster CCG, RDaSH, and NHS foundation trust. The purpose of the Board is to oversee improvement in children’s services, focusing on cross-cutting issues that require effective interdependent working from partner agencies.

7.7.14 Within the Trust operational Heads of Service provide a monthly self-evaluation report (SEF). These SEFs have a specific focus on Management oversight and practice quality – two key areas for improvement if the Trust is to achieve a grade of Good. These documents will also be of value for any subsequent re-inspection as evidence of increased grip of performance in the locality teams.

### **7.8 Any other assurance activity since last report**

7.8.1 Since the last Scrutiny meeting two children’s homes have received a full inspection, in line with the 6 monthly inspection framework. The Trust managed home was rated as “Outstanding,” for the second inspection running. The Oaklands unit, that transfers to the Trust in September, was graded as “Good.”

7.8.2 The Trust also contributed to the recent review of Early Help Services, conducted by the Council’s improvement partner, Achieving for Children. The summary report has not yet been published.

## 7.9 Forward plan

7.9.1 Key areas of activity over the next quarter are:

- Transfer of services to Children with Disabilities into the Trust.
- Initial Ofsted Monitoring Visit.
- LGA Peer Review of services delivered by the Trust.
- Visit of the Children’s Commissioner in August.
- It is likely that a number of our children’s homes are inspected as part of the routine inspection programme.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8. Not applicable

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

9. Not applicable

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY PRIORITIES

10.

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p>We will support a strong economy where businesses can locate, grow and employ local people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster’s vital services</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Trust has been established with a mandate to continue delivering improvements in children’s social care. The formal contract with DMBC details a requirement for future Ofsted inspection judgements to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘Requires improvement’ or better by April 2016</li> <li>- Good or better by October 2017</li> <li>- And that overall the service should be Outstanding by October 2019</li> </ul>
	<p>We will help people to live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Contract with the Trust relates to the delivery of services to children in need of help and protection, and therefore has an</p>

		implication for the priorities relating to safeguarding our communities.
	<p>We will make Doncaster a better place to live, with cleaner, more sustainable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Trust is also a key strategic partner in delivering children’s services, and therefore an effective partnership is critical to improving outcomes for the Children and Young People of Doncaster.</p>
	<p>We will support all families to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster’s vital services</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Contract includes a budget for delivering services and therefore an expectation that the Trust will deliver value for money.</p>
	<p>We will deliver modern value for money services.</p>	
	<p>We will provide strong leadership and governance, working in partnership.</p>	

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

11. There are no specific risks associated with this report

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. In September 2014, the Secretary of State for Education issued a Direction transferring various children’s services to Doncaster Children’s Trust Limited (“the Trust”). Although the Trust performs Services on behalf of the Council, the legal powers and duties in relation to safeguarding children remain with the Council and court proceedings continue to be brought in the name of the Council.
13. On 30th September 2014, the Council entered into a contract with the Trust governing the provision of services by the Trust. The contract with the Trust contains various monitoring powers so that that the Council can assure itself that Services are being delivered correctly.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. See items 7.6.9 to 7.6.13

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

15. Not applicable

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

16. Not applicable

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

17. Not applicable

## **CONSULTATION**

18. The Doncaster Children's Services Trust has been consulted in the development of this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

19. None.

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

James Thomas, Head of Performance and Business Intelligence  
Telephone: 01302 736749  
E-mail: [j.thomas@dcstrust.co.uk](mailto:j.thomas@dcstrust.co.uk)

For

**Paul Moffatt**  
**Chief Executive, Doncaster Children's Services Trust**



## DONCASTER CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRUST PERFORMANCE AGAINST CONTRACT TO END OF MARCH 2016

### BACKGROUND

1. The contract between DCST and DMBC requires an overview of DCST's performance each month, and its financial position, each quarter. This report presents DCST's performance against its contract performance measures up until the end of March 2016 for the 2014/15 and start of 2015/16 financial years.

### RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that specific issues for further scrutiny be identified as well as noting the key areas for improvement and discussion below. The commentary within the scorecard provides details on key areas for discussion where exceptions are reported. The quarterly report issued one week ahead of the quarterly review meeting will provide detail on trends and plans.

### KEY TO REPORT

	Contract Performance Measure	Good Performance	Target (15/16)	Tolerance	Qtr3	Qtr3	Qtr3	Qtr4	6 month Trend
<b>Ref. no.</b>	Brief explanation of the performance measure. Definitions for each measure are held by the Trust.	Describes how "good" performance is identified: Bigger is better, Smaller is better, or Plan is best	Contract Target	Contract tolerance	Quarterly performance reported for each measure, with colour coding to explain performance against target and tolerance (see key below)				Providing direction of travel for last 6mths

Colour	Explanation
<b>RED</b>	Performance is outside the tolerance set within the contract
<b>AMBER</b>	Performance is not at target, but is within the tolerance range specified within the contract.
<b>GREEN</b>	Performance is equal to or better than the target specified within the contract

## A. SOCIAL CARE JOURNEY / PATHWAY

	Contract Performance Measure	Target (15/16)	Tolerance	Q1 <sup>1</sup> 14/15	Q2 <sup>1</sup> 14/15	Q3 14/15	Q4 14/15	Q1 15/16	Q2 15/16	Q3 15/16	Q4 15/16	6 month Trend
A1	Percentage of Re-Referrals in last 12 months	≤24%	≤28%	38%	33%	35%	30%	24%	23%	23%	23%	Stable
A2	Timeliness of Single Assessment ( <i>within 45 days</i> )	≥92%	≥90%	94%	89%	89%	91%	93%	74%	90%	86%	Volatile
A3	Percentage of monthly case file audits <u>rated</u> as 'requires improvement' or better	>95%	<90%	97%	97%	75%	88%	94%	81%	87%	81%	Volatile
	Graded: Inadequate										18%	
	Graded: Requires Improvement										74%	
	Graded: Good										7%	
	Graded: Outstanding										0%	
<b>NEW</b>	Percentage of Children in Need with an open and current Plan	≥95%	≥90%								87%	New measure
<b>NEW</b>	Percentage of Child Protection visits in timescale where child was seen by their Social Worker	≥80%	≥75%								92%	New measure

<sup>1</sup> Children's Services were provided by DMBC for Q1 & Q2

	Contract Performance Measure	Target (15/16)	Tolerance	Q1 <sup>2</sup> 14/15	Q2 <sup>1</sup> 14/15	Q3 14/15	Q4 14/15	Q1 15/16	Q2 15/16	Q3 15/16	Q4 15/16	6 month Trend
<b>NEW</b>	Percentage of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time within a 2 year period	≥16%	≥20%								8%	New measure
<b>NEW</b>	Percentage of children on a child protection plan for 2 years or more	≥3%	≥5%								0.7%	New measure

**COMMENTARY:**

**A1 - Re-Referrals.** Re-referral rates have remained better than target for the last 12 months, showing sustained performance in this area.

**A2 - Timeliness of Single Assessments.** This measure has been out of tolerance for the last quarter. This is due in part to an additional expectation that all cases open greater than 6 months are reassessed using a single assessment form, thus increasing demand and workload. Additional measures have been put into place to performance manage the assessment process and also to anticipate assessments due in the working week. There is variation in performance between teams that is being addressed through Performance Leads in Performance clinics, team managers and Heads of Service. Of those overdue, more than half were completed within 51 days rather than the 45 day deadline.

**A3 - Casefile audits.** Performance remains volatile for this measure, due to the relatively low casefile sample. We are now close to full sample size. Additional audit activity has been initiated from March 2016, where team managers are expected to dip sample a further 10 cases per month to provide extra assurance and moderation of this measure. This will amount to approximately 200 per month. This excludes cases audited as part of the thematic audit calendar. Increased rigour and a consistent approach to audit have been applied. Further “audit of audit” activity is scheduled to check grading. Quality of cases in the Good category has increased recently with fewer cases in the Requires Improvement category.

**New - Children in Need with an open and current Plan:** This is a new measure, and the target is set as a new expectation to staff. Caseworkers have been tasked with reassessing all cases open for 6 months or longer, which will in turn trigger revisions or new plans. A number of cases will have an open draft plan that will not be counted until it is made final. Draft plans are being identified and completed to ensure this target is achieved. This measure is monitored and reported weekly and reported in the monthly CIN booklet. A number of cases are NFA where recording is responsible for the higher than actual number and haven’t been closed correctly. Expectation is that as the focus is placed on recording issues and the finalisation of draft plans that this measure will see further improvement.

<sup>2</sup> Children’s Services were provided by DMBC for Q1 & Q2

**New - Child Protection visits in timescale where child was seen by their Social Worker.** Remains above target due to daily monitoring and a focussed effort by team managers to keep on top of key casework timescales.

**New - Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time within a 2 year period:** This is a new measure. Performance remains above target The number of children subject to a CPP has now started to decrease after a peak in December.

**New - Children on a child protection plan for 2 years or more:** Remains within target with an improving trend. The re-assessment of all cases open for greater than 6 months is providing some immediate scrutiny and management oversight to current casework and addressing any previous issues of drift and delay

## B. CHILDREN IN CARE

	Contract Performance Measure	Target (15/16)	Tolerance	Q1 <sup>3</sup> 14/15	Q2 <sup>1</sup> 14/15	Q3 14/15	Q4 14/15	Q1 15/16	Q2 15/16	Q3 15/16	Q4 15/16	6 month Trend
B8	Average length of care proceedings (weeks) <sup>1</sup>	≤26wks	≤30wks	-	34	34	27	27	31	25	28	-
B9	Stability of Placement of CiC: percentage length of placement >2yrs	≥70%	≥60%	62%	63%	62%	63%	65%	67%	67%	69%	Improving
B10	Stability of Placement of CiC: percentage of 3+ moves	≤9%	≤12%	9.8%	11.9%	10%	9%	8%	7%	10%	11%	Stabilising
New	Percentage of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (age 19-21yrs)	≥85%	≥80%								76%	New
New	Percentage of Care Leavers in Employment, Training and Education (age 19-21yrs)	≥45%	≥40%								36%	New

1: Reported quarterly due to low monthly figures

### COMMENTARY:

**B8 – Care Proceedings Length.** Now reported quarterly. Figure is within tolerance and relates to 22 cases in the quarter so remains subject to volatility, as one lengthy or complex case can skew the monthly and quarterly figures.

**B9 – Long Term Stability of Children in Care.** Continues to take an upward trajectory and has now at target level for two months in a row. The Trust's longer term ambition to rely less upon out of Borough placements will bring some long term placements to a close, providing it is in the child's best interests. To assist this teams are reviewing placements on a case by case basis.

<sup>3</sup> Children's Services were provided by DMBC for Q1 & Q2

**B10 – Short Term Placement Stability.** Performance has shown a slight dip this quarter. Overall we are approaching target figure with the strategies in place. A number of placement moves have been incorrectly recorded when in reality they were a move to independent living arrangements. These are being addressed through the Placements Team. A deep dive audit of these cases was completed and reported on 23rd February, identifying themes and workforce development proposals to address this performance. This includes the use of pre-disruption meetings, review of training/support groups for foster carers, and the development of trigger alerts for children experiencing a 2nd placement move in a short space of time. New recording mechanisms will mean reasons for placement change will be reportable. It is too early to tell the true impact of these new procedures.

**New – Care Leavers (19-21) in Suitable Accommodation.** This is new measure that requires a change of recording practice for the 18+ Service, which means current figure is low but will improve once recording changes have been implemented. This relates to workers identifying which young people they are in current contact with. Performance this month has worsened slightly and to address this, the Head of service has met with 18+ services to look at improved recording of contact that will be picked up through staff supervision. Annual return is identifying a review of all care leavers and this will result in an improvement and will be shown by reporting at a later date.

**New – Care Leavers (19-21) in Education, Employment and Training:** : New measure that requires a change of recording practice for the 18+ Service, which means current figure is low but will improve once recording changes have been implemented. The Head of service has met with 18+ services to look at improved recording of contact that will be picked up through staff supervision. This relates to workers identifying which young people they are in current contact with. Recent meetings between the Head of Service, Trust Chief Executive and Chamber of Commerce have identified potential opportunities for the care leaver cohort.

## C. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES

	Contract Performance Measure	Target (15/16)	Tolerance	Q1 <sup>4</sup> 14/15	Q2 <sup>1</sup> 14/15	Q3 14/15	Q4 14/15	Q1 15/16	Q2 15/16	Q3 15/16	Q4 15/16	6 month Trend
New	Youth Offending Services – %cohort currently EET	≥75%	≥65%								78.3%	New
New	Youth Offending Services – reoffending rate after 12 months <sup>1</sup>	≤32%	≤40%									New
New	Youth Offending Services – custody rates	≤0.42	≤0.75								0.07	New

1: Available each quarter due to reliance on datasets from other agencies

### COMMENTARY:

**New– %cohort currently EET:** Data now available from the YJMIS system, which is the national youth justice database. This measure fluctuates in performance due to small numbers in the cohort

**New - Reoffending rate after 12 months:** Data not available from the YJMIS system, which is the national youth justice database. This is a national problem experienced by all YOS.

**New – custody rates:** Data now available from the YJMIS system, which is the national youth justice database. We will need severally months of data to moderate this measure.

<sup>4</sup> Children’s Services were provided by DMBC for Q1 & Q2

## C. WORKFORCE

	Contract Performance Measure	Target (15/16)	Tolerance	Q1 <sup>5</sup> 14/15	Q2 <sup>1</sup> 14/15	Q3 14/15	Q4 14/15	Q1 15/16	Q2 15/16	Q3 15/16	Q4 15/16	Trend
<b>C14</b>	Percentage of frontline FTE posts covered by Agency Staff <b>Percentage of social worker agency staff of the whole establishment (case carrying).</b>	≤8%	≤12%	8% 18%	18% 20%	13%	12%	11%	10%		12%	
<b>NEW</b>	Staff turnover (leavers in month expressed as % of FTE)										1.5%	New measure
<b>NEW</b>	% front line staff receiving supervisions in timescale in accordance with policy (policy is 4 weeks for majority of staff)	≥90%	≥80%	-	-	-	-	-	76%	-	86%	Improving

### COMMENTARY:

C14 - Frontline FTE posts covered by Agency Staff. Available now after a quarter with no data, due to the Trust changing its Agency management contract and initial datasets producing unreliable data from our providers. A number of interviews have taken place and conversions from agency staff to appoint permanent Social Workers that will improve performance in this area. Sixteen social workers have been appointed from interviews in the last week and the trust has managed to convert and fifteen agency staff to Permanent contracts.

NEW: Staff turnover: This is a new measure. 20.97 FTE left in Quarter 4. Analysis of reasons for leaving will now be conducted over the last quarter. However the number leaving has dramatically reduced in March.

NEW Staff receiving supervisions in timescale. This is an emerging measure due to introducing a new system for capturing supervisions for case workers. Each team now submits a monthly tracker to provide dates of supervisions completed. To identify the trend we are still working with services to ensure record in a timely way and it is believed

<sup>5</sup> Children's Services were provided by DMBC for Q1 & Q2



this figure is under reporting the true position. Reasons for supervisions being missed are also recorded so that they can be challenged. It is likely that performance will improve further as staff are encouraged to complete and submit their trackers on time.

## D. FINANCE

	Contract Performance Measure	Target (15/16)	Tolerance	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	Trend
D17	<i>Trust Revenue Variance Breakdown</i>							
	<i>a) Year-end forecast –Income and Expenditure Account against plan</i>	>0	<0	£250k adverse	£348k adverse	£917k adverse	£4k Favourable	Improved by £921k
	<i>b) Forecast Income vs. budgeted Income</i>	>99.5%	>99%	£249k fav - 375%	£542k fav - 255%	£879k fav	£1,219k fav - 346%	Improved by £340k
	<i>c) Forecast Operational Expenditure (before tax, depreciation etc.) vs. plan (excluding agreed adjustments)</i>	<99.5%	>99.5%	£499k adverse - 98.9%	£890k adverse - 97.9%	£1,796k - adverse	£1,215k adverse	Improved by £581k
	<i>d) Liquidity (number of days – cash divided by average daily expenditure)</i>	>30	<15	55 days	55 days	55 days	55 days	–
D18	<i>Capital expenditure/Income vs. Plan</i>	TBC	TBC	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
D19	<i>Progress against savings in Improvement Plan</i>	TBC	TBC	2/3rds of savings are being addressed - final 1/3 still outstanding	2/3rds of savings are being addressed - final 1/3 still outstanding	2/3 rds of savings are being addressed - final 1/3 still outstanding	P2P saving and Pool Cars still outstanding	–

**COMMENTARY:**

Supplied through separate report delivered by HOS – Finance

## E. OPERATIONAL VOLUMETRIC MEASURES

	Operational Performance Measure	Transfer
E1	Contacts – Number	546
E2	Contacts – Number of 10,000	84
E3	Referrals – Number	218
E4	Referrals – Number per 10,000	34
E5	Assessments – Number completed	333
E6	Assessments – Number open	338
E7	Assessments – Number overdue 45 days limit	28
E8	CSE – Number of cases under investigation	-
E9	Conversion – Percentage Contact to Referral	55%
E10	Conversion – Percentage Referral to Single Assessment	87%
E11	Conversion – Percentage S47 to ICPC	43%
E12	Conversion – Percentage ICPC to CP Plan	85%
E13	CP – Number with CP Plan	360
E14	CP – Number with CP Plan per 10,000	55
E15	CP – Number with S47	47
E16	Early Help – Number of CAFs started	20
E17	Early Help – Number of CAFs completed	12
NEW	Number of cases open to IFST (open episode with IFST as Key Agency)	

Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16
853	661	595	733	1284	1713	1741	1936	2006	1881
131	101	91	112	197	263	267	297	308	289
493	338	269	436	452	349	285	248	348	353
76	52	41	67	69	54	44	38	53	54
355	319	280	354	349	388	313	339	364	357
698	644	555	661	671	626	621	576	804	826
29	48	102	25	24	37	70	40	50	45
3	2	5	0	6	4	5	3	5	5
58%	51%	45%	59%	35%	20%	16%	13%	17%	19%
94%	96%	94%	99%	91%	94%	85%	95%	98%	97%
47%	59%	48%	48%	39%	51%	42%	34%	28%	42%
80%	89%	91%	97%	84%	78%	98%	100%	100%	84%
321	308	314	315	357	397	443	418	407	401
49	47	48	48	55	61	68	64	62	62
85	51	64	134	154	116	101	82	95	77
148	163	40	62	93	86	67	104	96	79
50	68	18	18	43	18	7	20	17	22
							347	387	407



	Operational Performance Measure	Transfer
NEW	Care Ladder - Number on SGO	
New	Care Ladder - Number on SGO - Cost	
E34	CIN – Number	1,246
E35	CIN – Number per 10,000	351
NEW	Care Leaver Educational Attainment GCSE	
E36	Workforce - Average number of days sickness	-
NEW	Workforce – Joiners (non Agency)	n/a
NEW	Workforce – Leavers (non Agency)	n/a
NEW	Net increase in Foster Carers YTD	n/a

Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16
177	179	179	185	191		201	210	210	217
									178
1484	1556	1512	1529	1602	1537	1414	1508	1531	1493
379	387	383	387	403	398	384	366	374	353
10.4%	10.5%	5.1%	5.8%	7.0%	1.0%	7.6%	6.2%	5.4%	5.7%

**COMMENTARY:**

The volumetric measures are reported for information only.

1: Financial data are reported quarterly

11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

**To the Chair and Members of the  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**Accountability arrangements for the Doncaster Children’s Services Trust**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All	None

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report proposes a revision to the current arrangements for scrutiny of the Doncaster Children’s Services Trust.

**EXEMPT INFORMATION**

2. Not exempt.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Panel is asked to:
  - i) Agree the revised proposals for scrutiny of the Doncaster Children’s Services Trust ( ‘the Trust’); and
  - ii) Agree that these arrangements be implemented with effect from the next meeting of the Children’s Overview and Scrutiny panel on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

4. 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. This is achieved through making robust recommendations, monitoring performance of Council and external partners and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.

**BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION**

5. The current arrangements for holding the Trust to account are set out in the service delivery contract between the Council and the Trust, which states:-

*...’The Council’s Director for children’s services ( DCS) will report to the Council’s scrutiny committee four times per annum each contract year in respect of the Trusts’ s performance of its obligations under this agreement ( including the provision of services).... Where required by the DCS the Trust’s Chief Executive (*

*or his nominee) shall attend such scrutiny committee to respond to any requests for additional information made by the scrutiny committee in respect of the Trust's performance of its obligations under this agreement ( including the provision of the services) ‘*

6. However, the practice which has evolved since the Trust was created is that the Chief Executive of the Trust attends and formally reports to the scrutiny committee four times per annum and is directly held to account across the generality of performance of its services. At the same time, Council representatives attend and comment as appropriate on that report.
7. It is recognised that the practice which has evolved does not fully meet the contractual expectations to effectively hold to account both the Council and the Trust and does not reflect the extensive levels of and manner by which the Council holds the Trust to account.
8. The current arrangements by which the Trust is held to account are set out below and the panel will note that these are extensive and far reaching:-
9. The Trust is contracted to deliver services as specified within the contract with the Council. Contract monitoring arrangements are in place through monthly, quarterly and annual reviews. Quarterly performance meetings (QPM) which review performance against contract as well as wider performance and quality issues are attended at Chief Executive level of both organisations, with lead Member for Children's Services and Chair of Trust Board in attendance.
10. In addition, monthly performance challenge meetings adopting the same remit take place between the respective Assistant Director for Commissioning and Opportunities and the Chief Operating Officer of the Trust supported by Heads of Service for performance improvement at both organisations. These meetings cover contract indicators and operational indicators and pick up on any trends, exceptions or "spikes" in performance which trigger a deeper dive analysis to look for reasons or focus in on where performance is outside exception. These meetings have an audit trail of detailed minutes in which evidence of challenge and response are provided.
11. The Council also produces a quarterly performance report in which the DCST contractual measures are incorporated. A Quality assurance (QA) framework is being developed which will capture performance improvement in the wider sense by building upon the work which has commenced for the performance management framework and including activities such as QA, complaints and customer voice audits and peer evaluations. A recent innovation is the inclusion of a thematic report on quality which is provided to each meeting of the QPM.
12. Other governance arrangements in place include:-  
  
The Corporate Parenting Board, which meets at least 6 times per year, and is attended by cabinet members, senior managers from the Trust and the Council, carer representatives, the Clinical Commissioning Group, health providers and schools as well as receiving representation from children in care and care leavers.



A number of informal meetings also take place each month to assure continuous improvement; examples include meetings between the Trust Chief Executive and the Lead Member, Trust Chief Executive and the DCS, Heads of Service of Performance from the Trust and the Council, Finance leads from the Trust and the Council, Lead Member and Assistant Director, Commissioning and Opportunities.

13. In addition to specific contract and performance monitoring, the Trust's compliance with and progress against the post inspection Ofsted Improvement plan is overseen and monitored by three specific governance for a:-
  - At the strategic partnership level the newly established Multi Agency Performance Accountability Board (PAB) has assumed responsibility as the designated Improvement Board with responsibility for high level oversight of the Improvement journey.
  - At senior management level progress against the development of the draft Inspection plan has been continuously reviewed by the Joint Strategic Inspection Group (JSIG) which is a meeting comprising Trust and Council Assistant Directors and Heads of service for Performance Improvement. Highlight 'risk' reports from both organisations are presented to the Joint Strategic Inspection Group for mutual challenge and a progress report is reported to each meeting of the PAB.
  - At an operational level, both Doncaster Children's Services Trust and DMBC hold weekly "Getting to Good" meetings, the purpose of which is to challenge and receive assurance that Heads of Service are updating and evidencing against the actions for their respective service area.
14. The Trust and Council are represented on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board by the DCS and Trust Chief Executive, the Trust's Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Director for Commissioning in the Council. The Board receives monthly performance information across the full spectrum of safeguarding and social work, which includes, but is not confined to the performance of the Trust.
15. The current arrangements which have evolved for monitoring the Trust need to be sharpened and revised to avoid duplication with the monitoring arrangements which are already in place and described above. There is a recognised need to establish a 'whole system' focus in performance monitoring the Trust given the number of avenues where this activity currently takes place and a need for clarity of purpose. It is recognised by the Council that this monitoring needs to be appropriate and proportionate to respective remits and 'add value' to the accountability framework for Trust monitoring and with that in mind it is proposed that the current arrangements are revised.

16. Options for taking this forward are outlined below:-

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

17. Do nothing – would maintain current arrangements and perpetuate the current confusing, inefficient and ineffective practice in holding to account the Trust and is therefore, not recommended. .
18. Withdraw monitoring of the delivery of Social Care and Safeguarding services from the remit of the scrutiny committee – the grounds for so doing would be to recognise that this would provide capacity for the panel to challenge other areas of children’s activity and would streamline the current unsatisfactory arrangements. However, this option would remove the most important element of the accountability framework – that of the significant public interest scrutiny of a critical piece of children’s delivery in the Borough and fail to hold the Executive of the Council to account for its role as ‘commissioner’ of children’s safeguarding and social care services in accordance within the service delivery contract and moreover, would not discharge the Council’s obligations within the contract and is therefore not recommended.
19. Create a ‘split screen’ approach – by this arrangement there would be a two phased approach. In the first phase, the Council would be held to account for its monitoring of the Trust against the service delivery contract. Specifically, this would mean the Council would submit a report which the panel would review and question the DCS or his representatives. The second stage of this split screen would be that the Trust would be invited to respond to the Council’s report and the specific performance issues which this has raised. The end result would be that:-
- The panel would achieve a much more rounded, but focused perspective, of Trust performance;
  - The obligations within the contract would be properly discharged;
  - The scrutiny panel would ‘add value’ to the accountability process and would not duplicate, or overlap, with existing arrangements;
  - The panel would more clearly be able to identify areas of underperformance, the reasons for that under performance and request ‘exception’ or ‘deep dive’ reports, so as to become better appraised of the performance issues facing the Trust.
20. In recognition of the above points it is recommended that the split screen approach (Paragraph 19) should be adopted.

## IMPACT ON COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES

21.

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayoral priority – creating jobs and Housing</li> <li>• Mayoral priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</li> <li>• Mayoral priority: protecting Doncaster's vital services</li> </ul>	<p>The Council and the Trust as major partners in the Children and Families Partnership Board share the Children's plan outcome that all children should achieve their potential – in removing barriers and developing good quality service delivery children will be able to access the benefits of a thriving economy and will themselves be participants in creating and sustaining the strength of the economy.</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayoral priority: Safeguarding our communities</li> <li>• Mayoral priority: Bringing down the cost of living</li> </ul>	<p>Ensuring children and young people are free and feel from harm are key ambitions of both the Council and the Trust.</p>
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayoral priority: creating jobs and Housing</li> <li>• Mayoral priority: Safeguarding our communities</li> <li>• Mayoral priority: bringing down the cost of living</li> </ul>	<p>Delivering against the service delivery contract between the Council and the Trust has clear implications for safeguarding communities, in reducing risk and exposure of risk to children; improved early help and thus better outcomes for families.</p>
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance</p>	<p>Ofsted, in its inspection report commented favourably on the relationship and governance arrangements between the Council and the Trust, recognising that formal arrangements for monitoring and challenge exceed the requirements set out in the contract between the two organisations.</p>

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

23. Adopting the split screen approach, should further reduce the risk of underperformance leading to a material detriment for children young people and families in the Borough.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

24. Adoption of the split screen approach will enable the Council and the Trust to discharge their respective obligations under the terms of the service delivery contract between the two parties.
25. Adoption of the recommended option will enable the scrutiny panel to more effectively meet its remit to consider matters in the public interest.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

26. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

27. There are no equality implications directly arising from this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

28. The Chief Executive of the Trust has been consulted on the content of this report.

## **CONTACT OFFICER AND REPORT AUTHOR**

29. Paul Thorpe, Head of Performance Improvement, Commissioning and Opportunities Children's Directorate.  
Tel: 01302 862116

## **Background Papers**

Service delivery contract between Doncaster Council and Doncaster Children's services Trust

**Damian Allen**  
**Director Learning, Opportunities and Skills**

11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

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

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PANEL WORK  
PLAN REPORT 2016/17**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools	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:
  - i) Consider and comment on the Scrutiny work plan attached at Appendix A;  
and
  - ii) Receive and comment on the correspondence made following its review into children with disabilities.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

4. 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. This is achieved through making robust recommendations, monitoring performance of Council and external partners and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.

## BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Members will recall that OSMC and the standing Panels held work planning sessions in May and June, 2016 with a view to identifying areas for consideration over the coming year. The work plan attached at Appendix A, approved by OSMC provides an ongoing summary of the work currently being undertaken across the whole Scrutiny function
6. Children with disabilities review – The review was completed and ratified by OSMC in April, 2016 and a response has been provided by the Executive, attached at Appendix B.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for Members to discuss the Panel’s work plan for 2015/16.

## IMPACT ON COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster’s vital services</i></li> </ul>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>	
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs</i></li> </ul>	

	<p><i>and Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>	
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i></li> </ul>	
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

10. 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**

11. The Council's Constitution states that subject to matters being referred to it by the Full Council, or the Executive and any timetables laid down by those references Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will determine its own Work Programme (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6a).
12. Specific legal implications and advice will be given with any reports when Overview and Scrutiny have received them as items for consideration.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. The budget for the support of the Overview and Scrutiny function 2016/17 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.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

14. This report provides an overview of the work programme undertaken by Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny. There are no significant equality implications associated with this report. Within its programme of work Overview and Scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

## **CONSULTATION**

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

## **CONTACT OFFICER AND REPORT AUTHOR**

16. Christine Rothwell  
Senior Governance Officer  
01302 734941  
[christine.rothwell@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:christine.rothwell@doncaster.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

None

**Damien Allen**  
**Director Learning, Opportunities and Skills**



**Schedule of Overview & Scrutiny Meetings with Potential Items**

	OSMC	H&SAC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S (one review or one-off meetings)	C&E O&S (one review or one-off meetings)
May	Fri, 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2016, 11am –Chamber (CR)	Mon, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2016, 2pm – Sheffield (CR)		Wed, 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2016, 1:30pm Rm 209 (CM)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission Care &amp; Support (FP)</li> </ul>	Regional Health Scrutiny; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Together Programme</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work planning – R&amp;H O&amp;S</li> </ul>	
June	Fri, 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 9am – Chamber (CM)	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2016, 10am - Rm 410 (CR)	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2016, 9am –Rm 210 (CM)		Wed, 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2016, 3:30pm, Rm 210 (CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work planning - OSMC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work planning – HASC O&amp;S</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work planning – CYP O&amp;S</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work planning – C&amp;E O&amp; S</li> </ul>
	Fri, 10 <sup>h</sup> June 2016, 10am – Chamber (CM)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>O&amp;S Draft Work Plans</li> <li>O&amp;S Membership</li> </ul>				
	Mon, 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 – Rm 209 (CR)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Plan (Refresh)</li> </ul>				
July	Thurs, 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2016, 10am – Chamber (CM)	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2016, 10am – Rm 409 (CM)	Mon, 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2016, 10am – Chamber (CR)		Date to be confirmed (could be late July/August) (CM or CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMBC Finance &amp; Performance Qtr 4 15/16</li> <li>SLHD Finance &amp; Performance Qtr 4 15/16</li> <li>Youth Justice Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate Care – changes to current service (Jon Tomlinson/Debbie John-Lewis/Karen Johnson)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Childrens Trust Update Qtr 4 1516</li> <li>Education White Paper Update – Implications for Doncaster</li> </ul>		Drainage Board Overview to include Hydraulic Modelling – Environment Agency (Scrutiny led information session with all Members to be invited – Panel to then agree how to take the issue forward)
Aug	August - Dates TBC (CM or CR)	Mon, 8 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016– 3:30pm (CR)			Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2016 – All Day, Rm 210 (CM & CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget discussion</li> </ul>	Regional Health Scrutiny; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Together Programme (Doncaster supporting this meeting).</li> </ul>			Domestic Abuse (one day review) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy</li> <li>Meet Victims</li> <li>Meet with Partners:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing Futures</li> <li>Perpetrator Programme – Foundation for Change</li> <li>Changing Lives</li> <li>Police (Safeguarding Adults Team)</li> <li>Riverside</li> <li>DMBC Officers Sandra Norburn/Bill Hotchkiss</li> </ul> </li> <li>Refuge Visit (separate session)) – two members only</li> </ol>
Sept	Thurs, 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept. 2016, 2pm –Chamber (CR)	Wed, 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept. 2016, 10am –Rm 008 (CM)	Tues, 27 <sup>h</sup> Sept. 2016, 10am – Chamber (CR)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress Digital Council</li> </ul>	Health Inequalities. Incl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>description of overall approach</li> <li>focus on the health needs of BME populations</li> <li>plans to update the assessment</li> <li>Veterans</li> </ul> Information session to follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CQC</li> <li>Health Watch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Childrens Trust Update Qtr. 1 1617</li> <li>Chairs Safeguarding Board – Annual report including CSE Update (outstanding issues)</li> <li>Findings from the Education and Skills Commission (ESC)</li> <li>Outline of role and function of Performance Account Board (PAB)</li> <li>Overview of outcomes from: -                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGA Peer Review (incl. Early Help)</li> <li>DFE Achievements of Children</li> <li>Inspection Framework for SEN</li> </ul> </li> <li>School Results (by pyramid/sub-groups)</li> </ul>		
Oct	Thurs, 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2016, 10am – Chamber	Dates – TBC (CM &/or CR)			

	OSMC	H&SAC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S (one review or one-off meetings)	C&E O&S (one review or one-off meetings)
	(CM) • DMBC Finance & Performance Qtr 1 16/17 • SLHD Finance & Performance Qtr 1 16/17	• Age Friendly Review (cross-cutting)			
	Dates TBC - (CM or CR) • Budget				
Nov	Thurs, 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2016, 10am – Chamber (CM) Possible community themed meeting including; • Stronger Families Update	Wed, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 2016, 10am – 007b (CR) • Transformation Programme (Kim Curry) • Direct Payments • Community Engagement (future role of communities) • Sustainable Transformation Plan (Jackie Pederson)			
Dec	Thurs, 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016, 2pm – Chamber (CR) • DMBC Finance & Performance Qtr 2 16/17 • SLHD Finance & Performance Qtr 2 16/17		Tues, 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016, 10am – Chamber (CM) • Childrens Trust Update Qtr 2 1617 • Education & Skills Programme (Standards & Strategy) • Council Response to the Education and Skills Commission • Effectiveness of Pupil Premium across Doncaster • CIC – Virtual School		
Jan	Thurs, 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017, 10am – Chamber (CR) • Budget (formal/informal)	Wed, 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017, 2pm – 007b (CM) • Mental Health within Children’s Services (jt with CYP O&S) • Update on Care and Support at home	H&ASC O&S - Invite Wed, 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017, 2pm – 007b CYP O&S Invite for the following; • Mental Health within Children’s Services (jt with CYP O&S)		
Feb	9 <sup>th</sup> or 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2017, 10am – Council Chamber (CM or CR) • Budget (formal - will commence earlier tba)		Mon, 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017, 10am – Chamber (CR) • Children’s Trust Update Qtr. 3 1617 • Children’s Trust Annual report • Annual Complaints • Exam Results (& update on actions from E&SC)		Mon, 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017, 10am – 007b (CM or CR) • Crime & Disorder Meeting ○ Performance & Update on Priorities ○ Community Safety Strategy • Fly Tipping - Enforcement
Mar	Thurs, 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2017, 10am – Chamber (CM or CR) • DMBC Finance & Performance Qtr 3 16/17 • SLHD Finance & Performance Qtr 3 16/17	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2017, 10am – 007b (CM or CR) • Public Health Protection Responsibilities (annual) to include: - Vaccinations – how is data on reactions used - Air Pollution (performance targets/impact on public health)			15 <sup>th</sup> March 2017, 10am – 007b - invite CYP O&S Invite for the following; • Public Health Protection Responsibilities (annual) : - - Air Pollution (performance targets/impact on public health)
*** R&H O&S and C&E O&S review meetings to be scheduled at a later date ***					

Other potential issues to be considered and confirmed				
OSMC	H&SAC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S (one review or one-off meetings)	C&E O&S (one review or one-off meetings)
<p><u>Ongoing List of Plans</u></p> <p>Council Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Plan Refresh - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 2pm</li> </ul> <p>Statutory Plans: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Justice Plan (Yth Offending Plan) – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 10am</li> <li>Local Transport Plan – TBC</li> <li>Community Safety Plan (known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy – Refresh 2016/New Plan 2017) – May refer to Crime and Disorder Committee</li> <li>Health and Well-being Strategy - not required 2016</li> <li>Local Plan (Development Plan) - TBC</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devolution - Date/s TBC (Also see C&amp;E – Waste)</li> <li>New Library/Training/Museum/Cultural Centre (FP Item) - Oct 2016? TBC</li> <li>Equality Action Plan</li> <li>Borough Strategy (Sustainable Community Strategy no longer obliged to have as a Statutory Plan)</li> <li>Community Engagement Strategy - TBC</li> </ul>	<p>Review – Cross Cutting – Developing an Age Friendly Doncaster (see below)</p> <p>Health Inequalities: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult Obesity</li> <li>Health for homeless</li> </ul> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cancer</li> <li>Quality Accounts (annual)</li> <li>Updates e.g. CQC, Healthwatch, NHS England, NHS CCG,H&amp;WB, regional health scrutiny</li> </ul>	<p>Other: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ETE Opportunities for CIC – Career Advice &amp; Guidance (CYP O&amp;S Members involvement)</li> <li>Update – Ofsted</li> </ul> <p>Joint Scrutiny Work: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Health within Children's Services (jt with H&amp;ASC O&amp;S) – Possible piece of work/involvement with Youth Council</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Centre Plan – to consult with Panel on the way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic overview and direction</li> <li>Look at principal towns</li> <li>Include market (invite market traders), car parking and issues around homelessness within discussions</li> </ul> </li> <li>Economic Plan Refresh – to consult with the Panel (will include element of housing) – Autumn 2016</li> <li>Also for an update on the Place Marketing Action Plan and outstanding Delivery of Additional Housing actions to be provided at a later date.</li> </ol>	<p>If capacity allows:</p> <p>Waste – to look at future opportunities through Devolution how can the authority make the most out of joint opportunities.</p> <p>Vol/Com Strategy – update and impacts of the the new grant scheme.</p>

Councillor Neil Gethin  
Vice-Chair  
Schools, Children and Young People  
Overview & Scrutiny Panel  
Floor 2  
Council House

**Ros Jones**  
**Mayor of Doncaster**

**Tel: 01302 862225**  
**E-Mail: [ros.jones@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:ros.jones@doncaster.gov.uk)**

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

Dear Neil

Thank you for providing your Panel's findings of the recent Scrutiny review into Children with Disabilities. I note that Councillors had the opportunity to meet with young people who have a disability, their parents, officers and providers of respite care. My responses to each of your Panel's recommendations are below.

**Recommendation 1**

Consider actively promoting that parents of children with disabilities can contact their local councillors, to assist with directing them to appropriate support within the local authority and provide continued support to ensure they continue to receive the most appropriate cost effective support package.

Response:

Parents of children with disabilities are encouraged to seek support and contact their local councillors. The Cabinet member for Children's Services is a key member of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategic Partnership Board, which informs on all of the developments and gives regular service specific updates. Members of Doncaster Parents Voice have time allocated on the agenda of every meeting, and we seek to support co-production across all areas of SEND. Although services are being reconfigured to accommodate budget restrictions, engaging with parents and seeking to support by informing them via the Local Offer remains a priority.

**Recommendation 2**

Continue to support the need for an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) high functioning with sensory need resource and the work being undertaken to provide a pool of, or an increase in, respite providers who can be brokered by the Council and parents.

Response:

Respite care provides essential support to the families we have through commissioning activities and increasing our range of providers, thus reducing the time parents are waiting for support. After a great deal of activity, our respite care resource, Oaklands, is much improved. Parents now regularly meet to support and inform developments and recent Ofsted inspection evidenced improvement to achieve overall GOOD across the service.

**Recommendation 3**

Continue to support the work being undertaken to seek appropriate school placements for children and young people with ASD high functioning social communication difficulties (academically mainstream).

Response:

We continue to support the need for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) high functioning resource. Numerous options have been explored and we are implementing proposals which will support the opening of a resource, specific to meet needs. Parenting support services were commissioned via CAMHS. The commissioning for this has transferred to the local authority, and although the budget for this has reduced, we have plans agreed by the ASD Group to appoint to two vacant positions for Parent Advisors for September 2016.

**Recommendation 4**

Ensure mechanisms and statutory guidance are in place to make sure Education Health Care Plans to enable correct interpretation, for example, by schools and transport providers.

Response:

Education Health and Care Plans: Legislation for the changes across SEND was embryonic during the review. Since that time, we have progressed across all areas, developing Person Centred Planning. Parents report the new process has greatly improved the comprehensive assessment process. Ofsted Inspection has issued their framework for inspection for SEND, and we are preparing for this imminent inspection. A weekly inspection preparation group is currently working across all stakeholders to prepare. We can evidence much improvement.

**Recommendation 5**

Investigate whether Council transport could be used/hired to take groups of young people out in evenings, using their personal budgets.

Response:

The availability of additional transport provided by the local authority is extremely unlikely, given current financial constraints. We are supporting young people accessing a range of activities through their short break and personal assistants.

**Recommendation 6**

Support the POET Pilot and an evaluation be provided to a future Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Response:

Doncaster has piloted the first year of the Education Health and Care plan implementation through Personal Outcome Evaluation Tool (POET). As response to this was voluntary, we have had very low numbers respond in the first year. However, the parents who have responded report great improvements in the process and outcomes for their children. We wish to follow this up this year, by telephoning each parent after their EHC review and encourage them, where possible, to go on line and complete the evaluation.

**Recommendation 7**

Ensure continued work and commitment providing the best deals being procured for children where there is need to be placed out of authority.

Response:

The NEXT project, 16+ and post-19 developments to support young people into active employment continue to make sound progress. Special School Head Teachers are supporting this development across the borough, and have been instrumental in seeking to both improve the range of opportunities available, but have assisted local authority officers in challenging post-16 providers to improve their offer. The Hub have plans to increase their High Melton site offer as this site is more suited to meet sensory needs, compared to the busy modern Hub location.

**Recommendation 8**

a) Consider writing to the Secretary of State for Education asking if thought could be given to the development of interactive examinations and other support aimed at young people with disabilities to help them overcome barriers forced through the formal examination processes.

b) Support the current project with NEXT and investigate the possibility of such schemes being rolled out through the borough by the Council and its partners.

Response:

Across the borough, employment for all post-16 learners remains challenging. Our priority is to try and eliminate the barriers to full time employment that young people with SEND experience, so they have equality of access to employment opportunities. Northridge School continues to progress and champion this work, supporting increased numbers of pupils to experience work settings in preparation for full time work.

Across the span of SEND services, the local authority continues to make good progress. We have sustained our 100% targets for the transfer of Statements to Education Health and Care Plans, continuing to meet the twenty week deadline for issuing the new plan. Neighbouring boroughs are not meeting this target, and have seen an increase in the number of parents seeking recourse via the SEND's Tribunal process. To date, Doncaster has experienced very few appeals - one in the past 18 months – and the expertise and quality of our SEND support services have greatly contributed to this success. However, we will continue to support negotiation and mediation to achieve agreed outcomes with our parents and carers.

Preparation with all stakeholders for the area SEND inspection is a current priority. The framework for the inspection was released at the beginning of May, with the first area being inspected the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> May. Our preparation is going well. We have many things to be proud of, and we seek to present the inspectors with a realistic account of our achievements and challenges.

I trust the above is helpful, and thank you for your Panel's input into this review.

Yours sincerely

**Ros Jones**  
**Mayor of Doncaster**

This page is intentionally left blank