



## Agenda

---

**To all Members of the  
CABINET**

**Notice is given that a Meeting of the Cabinet is to be held as follows:**

**Venue:** 007a and b - Civic Office Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

**Date:** Tuesday, 3rd September, 2019

**Time:** 10.00 am

---

**Item:**

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. Public Questions and Statements

**(A period not exceeding 20 minutes for questions and statements from members of the public and Elected Members to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones. Questions/Statements should relate specifically to an item of business on the agenda and be limited to a maximum of 100 words. As stated within Executive Procedure Rule 3.3 each person will be allowed to submit one question/statement per meeting. A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by e-mail to the Governance Team no later than 5.00 p.m. on 29th August, 2019. Each question or statement must give the name and address of the person submitting it. Questions/Statements should be sent to the Governance Team, Floor 2, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU, or by email to [Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk))**

**Damian Allen  
Chief Executive**

---

Issued on: Friday 23 August, 2019

**Governance Services Officer for this meeting:**

**Amber Torrington**

Tel: 01302 737462

4. Declarations of Interest, if any.
5. Decision Record Forms from the meeting held on 20 August 2019 for noting (previously circulated)

**A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded**

**Key Decisions**

6. Approval of the 'Get Doncaster Dancing' Strategy

1 - 22

**Cabinet Members**

**Cabinet Responsibility For:**

<b>Chair – Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster</b>	Budget and Policy Framework
<b>Vice-Chair – Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones</b>	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities
Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services.



# Doncaster Council

## Report

---

Date: 3 September 2019

To Chair and Members of Cabinet

**Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Nigel Ball – Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture.	All	Yes

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report has been developed to endorse the Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy and commit to supporting the development of the recommendations.
2. Dance is uniquely placed to contribute to getting people active and improving health and social outcomes across all ages of the population.
3. The Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy sets out our ambitions for increasing dance participation within our Borough. The strategy is supported by a technical document which is structured in three broad sections:
  - **Section 1:** an evidence review of the benefits of dance participation and an overview of the strategic policy context that influences participation in dance.
  - **Section 2:** Doncaster's current provision and participation in dance considering available physical activity data, mapping of dance opportunities and a range of consultation findings.
  - **Section 3:** the ambitions and priorities for dance in Doncaster, governance of 'Get Doncaster Dancing' and measuring impact.

### EXEMPT REPORT

4. Not exempt.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. The recommendations for this report are to:
  - a. Endorse the Get Doncaster Dancing strategy
  - b. Commit to supporting the development of the recommendations within the strategy
  - c. Champion the role of dance in contributing to a wide variety of outcomes for Doncaster residents.

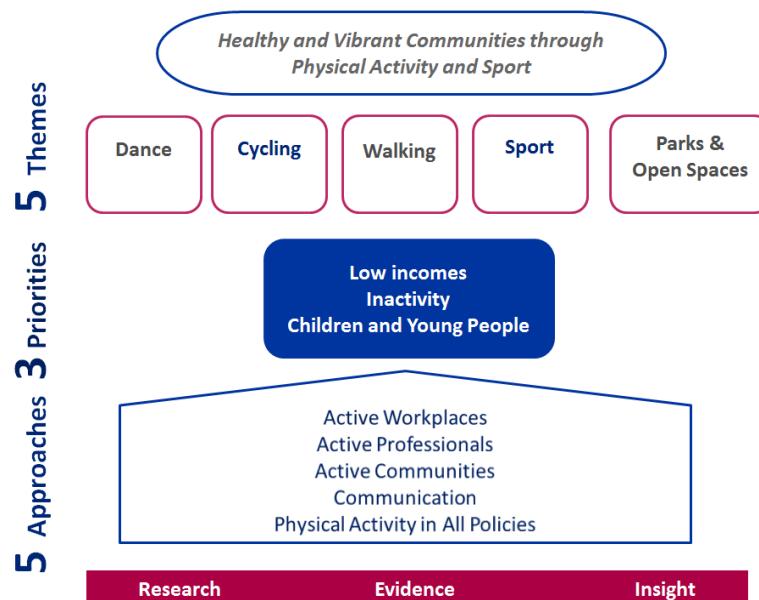
## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

6. Dance is uniquely placed to contribute to getting people active and improving health and social outcomes. At its best, it combines physical activity, social interaction, emotional and creative expression, all of which evidence shows improve health and wellbeing as well as improving mental health. Insight shows dance can also engage inactive people who are not motivated by health or fitness because it is viewed as a fun and social activity. It also engages a diverse population from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures.
7. The benefits of dance participation to everyday lives for Doncaster residents include:
  - a. **Early Years:** Dance improves cognitive and physical development and enhances social skills.
  - b. **Children and Young People:** Dance increases cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, improves bone mass content and can help to reduce obesity. As well as reducing anxiety levels and enhancing self-esteem, it can also promote vital skills for learning such as attention, memory and cognitive flexibility.
  - c. **Adults:** Dance can help maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of a range of health conditions including Type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal problems and chronic heart disease. It can also reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety.
  - d. **Older People:** Dance shows particular promise in improving the health of older people as it can maintain mobility, reduce the risk of falls, prevent social isolation and improve cognitive function. Dancing involves many parts of the brain simultaneously including those controlling movement, spatial awareness, balance, expression and memory recall. Studies have also shown that frequent dancing (mainly ballroom) was associated with a 76% reduction in risk of dementia, the greatest effect of any single leisure activity
  - e. **Social and Economic Benefits:** Dance can engage a diverse population from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and ages, having the potential to improve cultural cohesion, social inclusion and intergenerational connections. There are also economic benefits for local businesses with private dance schools and teachers making up most of the local workforce delivering activity as well as a range of training and qualification opportunities available.
8. For Doncaster residents we want dance to be more visible and easily accessible and provide an opportunity for interaction with other people in their local communities.
9. An adopted Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy will establish a coordinated, sector led approach to improving access to the whole dance participation offer available

to Doncaster citizens. This Dance Strategy is an opportunity to embed the dance sector in the physical activity agenda and to identify the opportunities to access dance across the life course.

## BACKGROUND

10. Doncaster does not currently have a cross-partnership dance framework that can support a coordinated and sector-led approach. The development of this strategy will put Doncaster in a stronger position when applying for funding opportunities to support increasing levels of physical activity in Doncaster through dance participation.
11. The endorsement and implementation of the Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy is linked to the success of the 'Get Doncaster Moving' (GDM programme) and the progress of Doncaster's 10-year Physical Activity and Sport strategy.
12. Dance is one of five themes of GDM (see diagram below) and assurance on the progress of the Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy will be provided by the Sport Project Board and overseen by the Get Doncaster Moving Board.



13. The review of evidence of the current position of dance participation in Doncaster is shown below:

Dance Participation Trends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data on the proportion of the population participating in any dance related activity is currently limited.</li><li>• The Sport England Active Lives survey 2017/18 showed 9.6% of respondents in Doncaster had participated in dance activity at least twice in the previous 28 days up from 7.7% in 2016/17, which is slightly higher than that of our neighbouring authorities.</li><li>• Nationally, People Dancing's survey show 4.78 million people take part in dance in England each year and most of these are women and girls.</li><li>• Also nationally, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Taking</li></ul>

Part Survey 15/16 shows that 41% of girls aged 5 – 10 years old took part in dance outside of school compared to 18% being part of a sports club.

#### Dance Provision in Doncaster

- Doncaster currently has a strong dance culture with approximately 60 private dance schools and groups delivering across the borough in a range of dance styles although these may not always be affordable to the whole of the local population.
- All private dance schools offer provision to children and young people but only some also offer adult classes.
- For people over 55 the main provision is through social dance forms and the Dance On project, although dance provision for those with disability is currently lacking in the borough.

14. The core aims of the Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy are to:

- Provide a vision for dance to improve health and social outcomes and contribute to inclusive growth in Doncaster, through a community and sector led approach
- Provide a bridge between the cultural and physical activity and sport strategies encouraging closer collaboration between partners
- Provide a platform to bring together, inspire and mobilise the dance sector to tackle inactivity and improve health and social outcomes through dance
- Test the impact that integrating dance into the physical activity and wider agendas can have on improving outcomes and share learning nationally

Our ambitions are:

- Changing behaviour and inspiring people to get active through dance
- Improved communication and promotion of dance opportunities for less active people
- Dance is accessible to everyone regardless of their age, ability and cultural background
- Dance is accessible locally for people living in disadvantaged communities and contributes to reducing health inequalities
- The dance and wider workforce has the skills and confidence to reduce inequalities through dance
- Dance is embedded in and supports all strategies that meet health, social and educational outcomes

15. The Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy makes a number of recommendations that will support delivery of the aims and its ambitions:

#### Ambition 1: Changing behaviour and inspiring people to get active through dance

1. Develop a marketing campaign using behavioural insight approaches to form key messages and channels for communication. This may include advocacy film, poster/print, social media campaign and social media champions to share content.
2. Develop dance ambassadors programme to ‘buddy’, promote and encourage participation.

#### Ambition 2: Improved communication and promotion of dance opportunities for less active people

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake insight to create initiatives to communicate local opportunities for people to dance in Doncaster. This may include the development of a one-stop website, Facebook advertising, poster/print campaign.</li> <li>2. Establish a community dance festival, raising the profile of dance and highlighting opportunities to dance in Doncaster.</li> <li>3. Promote dance participation through performances in public spaces and at events. These could include Flash Mobs in shopping centres, promotion at professional performances, dance school shows, galas and community events.</li> <li>4. Produce a dance ladder of opportunities for Doncaster to show people how they can engage and progress their participation in dance.</li> </ol>
Ambition 3: Dance is accessible to everyone regardless of their age, ability and cultural background	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify dance programmes to address gaps in current dance provision to reach priority groups and facilitate participation.</li> <li>2. Investigate use of technology to provide innovative digital approaches to remove barriers to access e.g. live streaming of dance classes.</li> <li>3. Encourage engagement and address isolation/mental health issues through making dance 'socials' and celebrations integral to provision.</li> <li>4. Audit accessible spaces and share information with providers to ensure that more people with disabilities can access dance provision.</li> </ol>
Ambition 4: Dance is accessible locally for people living in disadvantaged communities and contributes to reducing health inequalities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop an all age asset based community development dance model in 2-3 most disadvantaged localities to reduce health inequalities (e.g. DAZL model).</li> <li>2. Identify, train and support dance leaders from disadvantaged communities to deliver dance in their community. Test supporting dance leaders to become social entrepreneurs to provide dance programmes that are affordable and sustainable in their local communities.</li> </ol>
Ambition 5: The dance and wider workforce has the skills and confidence to reduce inequalities through dance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage training and skills sharing amongst dance workforce who have experience of engaging priority groups.</li> <li>2. Diversify the trained workforce including teachers from the private dance sector to increase capacity to work with priority groups.</li> <li>3. Create a volunteer recruitment and training programme to provide support for individuals, from priority groups, to engage with dance.</li> </ol>
Ambition 6: Dance is embedded in and supports all strategies that meet health, social and educational outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate and raise awareness of how dance can meet health and social outcomes across sectors</li> <li>2. Build partnerships and raise awareness of local dance opportunities within health, education, social care and sports sectors.</li> <li>3. Develop Head Teacher Ambassadors to gain 'buy in' to offer dance in and beyond the curriculum.</li> <li>4. Develop and deliver Active Learning and cross-curricula approaches through dance in schools, building on good practice e.g. BBC Supermoves.</li> <li>5. Initiate daily physical activity in schools through dance e.g. Wake Up Shake Up activities.</li> </ol>

16. The Get Doncaster Dancing Steering Group will be principally responsible for the implementation, governance and monitoring of the recommendations of the strategy. This currently includes members from Doncaster Council Public Health, Doncaster Community Arts (darts), Cast, Active Fusion, Cre8ive Dance Academy and an independent artist.

17. An action plan will be developed by the Get Doncaster Dancing Steering group to set out clear priorities and timescales of which the relevant portfolio holder will approve.
18. Annual reviews of dance participation levels will be carried out alongside additional consultation to assess changes in the number of people dancing and perceptions of dance in Doncaster.
19. Below are the initial recommended measures for ongoing monitoring. It should be noted that the baseline for some monitoring activity is still yet to be established:
  - Increase in the percentage of inactive people being physically active through dance measured through the Active Lives Survey
  - Increase opportunities to dance, mapped against baseline mapping
  - Increase in the numbers of schools providing after school dance activity
  - Impact on dance specific delivery programmes will be measured through methods specified in their design.

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

20. Two options have been considered:
  - Do something – To develop and implement the Get Doncaster Dancing strategy, establishing a sector-led steering group to deliver and monitor activity and participation.
  - Do nothing – The absence of an adopted Dance Strategy may restrict the ability of stakeholders and the dance sector to work in a coordinated and cohesive way, ensuring best value for the resources that we have and maximising the expertise within the local dance sector. This could result in opportunities being missed and in particular have a weaker position when applying for external funding.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

21. The strategy will enable Doncaster to develop and grow our dance participation aspirations enabling communities and residents to improve their health and wellbeing through dance. It provides focus on the priorities and recommendations that the strategy has identified from the comprehensive consultation and existing evidence base.

## **IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES**

- 22.

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <p>Better access to good fulfilling work Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish Inward Investment</p>	<p>The Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy has the potential to assist in providing support to local Doncaster businesses and individuals such as dance schools and practitioners.</p> <p>The health benefits of employees becoming more physically active through</p>

		dance include reduced absenteeism and improved productivity.
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <p>The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</p> <p>More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</p> <p>Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</p> <p>Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</p> <p>Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</p>	<p>Providing coordinated action to develop and maximise opportunities that supports dance participation will contribute to a healthy and vibrant Doncaster.</p> <p>Increased dance participation engages more people in cultural and artistic activities.</p> <p>People will have more opportunities to participate in dance in their local communities as well as the town centres.</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <p>Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</p> <p>Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</p> <p>Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</p>	<p>More children and young people have access to dance both through school and in their local communities.</p> <p>Children and young people are engaged in volunteering and training opportunities through dance to raise aspirations and support development of a range of skills.</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <p>Children have the best start in life</p> <p>Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</p> <p>Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</p>	<p>Dance provides opportunity for residents to be active in their local communities and stay healthy in mind as well as body, helping to boost mood and self-esteem.</p> <p>It can help maintain social interaction and improve community cohesion.</p> <p>Dance participation in older adults has been shown to improve strength, balance and coordination, reducing the risk of falling.</p>

	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <p>A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</p> <p>Modern, accessible customer interactions</p> <p>Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</p> <p>A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</p> <p>Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</p> <p>Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</p>	<p>We will work together to promote the dance assets that Doncaster has, not only to residents but to visitors too.</p>

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

23. The main risk is that the Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy is not endorsed. This will cause significant impact on the Council's ability to see an increase in dance participation and achieve its ambition to be a more active borough.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HMP Date 18.7.19]

24. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 Local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their local population and for public health services – this strategy assists in fulfilling that duty.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials OB Date 22.07.19]

25. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Funding was secured from the Service Transformation Fund (STF) earmarked reserve to commission an external provider to produce this strategy. A further £5k was secured from the STF for the development and delivery of the dance festival (Ambition 2:2 in report body) and £1.5k for items such as venue hire. It is acknowledged that this funding will not be sufficient to finance all the ambitions listed within this strategy and that some elements will only be able to go ahead if further funding is identified and secured by the Strategic Dance Partnership. Further reports may be necessary, subject to financial procedure rules.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials BT Date 23/07/19]**

26. There are no immediate HR implications as we already have an established Public Health Structure within which such initiatives are coordinated by staff within that Service Area. Obviously if the team had to be strengthened by increased resources then the relevant Theme Manager would liaise with the HR shared services at both Doncaster and Rotherham to ensure the appropriate processes were put in place to recruit accordingly.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 17/07/19]**

27. Any technology requirements to support the delivery of the strategy (including development of a one stop website and digital approaches to remove barriers to access) would need to be considered, agreed and prioritised by the Technology Governance Board (TGB). It should be noted that the direction from Leadership is to rationalise and move to a single website, wherever possible. As such, there is an expectation that the website requirements will be delivered through the existing corporate website.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CW Date 24/07/19]**

28. Physical inactivity will cost one week per person per year in lost productivity (Proper et al 2006). Physical inactivity is the 4th leading risk factor for global mortality accounting for 6% of deaths globally. People who have a physically active lifestyle have a 20-35% lower risk of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease and stroke compared to those who have a sedentary lifestyle. Regular physical activity is also associated with a reduced risk of diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and colon/breast cancer and with improved mental health. In older adults physical activity is associated with increased functional capacities. Doncaster has experienced low levels of physical activity and currently there is almost a third of our adult residents who are sedentary (do less than 30 minutes per week). As one of the key areas within Get Doncaster Moving, the Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy aims to support a reduction in inactivity levels in Doncaster through increased opportunities to participate in dance across the life-course and across the borough.

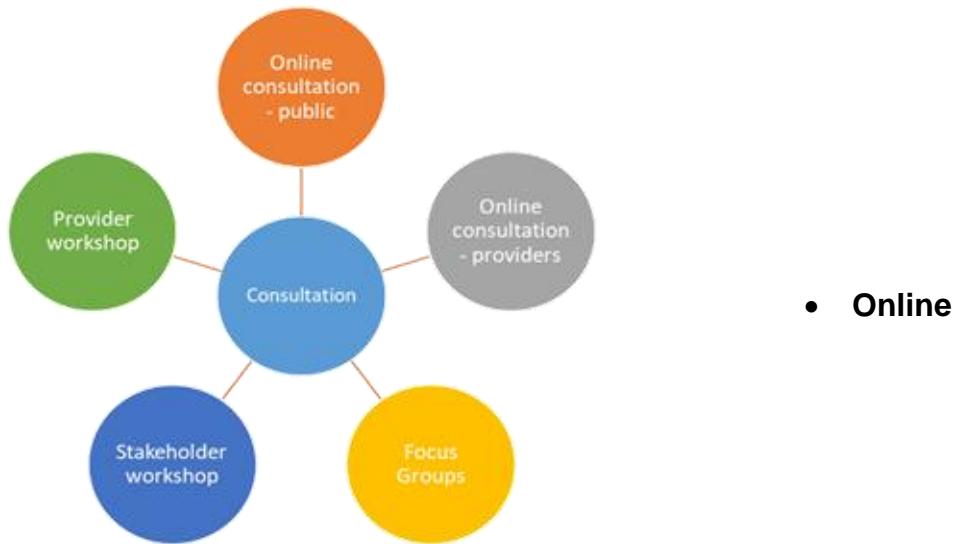
## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CW Date 24/07/19.]**

29. Decision makers must consider the Council's duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty at s149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not share that protected characteristic

An Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Due Regard Statement has been prepared and appended to support this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

30. The Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy has been developed in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders. To develop this strategy a multi-modal consultation approach was adopted.



**consultation – public:** this involved an online survey that was promoted via Doncaster Council webpages, email distribution lists and social media. A total of 508 responses received; 70% of which were not currently participating in dance activity.

- **Online consultation – providers:** this involved an online survey that was promoted via Doncaster Council webpages, email distribution lists and social media. A total of 28 responses were received from a range of dance schools, individuals and voluntary groups.
- **Focus groups:** A total of 5 focus groups were carried out with members of the public and included inactive older women, adults experiencing mental health issues and long term health conditions, and individuals from BAME groups.
- **Stakeholder workshop:** this included key stakeholders from the voluntary sector, dance sector, a range of health partners such as Doncaster CCG, RDASH, DBTHFT, and Doncaster Council teams.
- **Provider workshop:** this included dance providers and teachers delivering in Doncaster across a range of dance styles.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

31. Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy, July 2019.

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

Carys Williams,      Public Health Improvement Officer  
01302 862141      [carys.williams@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:carys.williams@doncaster.gov.uk)

Clare Henry, Public Health Specialist  
01302 734463      [clare.henry@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:clare.henry@doncaster.gov.uk)

**Rupert Suckling**  
**Director of Public Health**

This page is intentionally left blank

# Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy



“ Dance is uniquely placed to contribute to getting people active and improving health and social outcomes.

## Introduction

**Physical inactivity contributes to 1 in 6 deaths, equal to smoking. It is the fourth leading cause of poor health in the UK and Doncaster has recognised the need to tackle the high levels of inactivity in the borough.**

Dance is uniquely placed to contribute to getting people active and improving health and social outcomes. At its best it combines physical activity, social interaction, emotional and creative expression, all of which evidence shows improve health and wellbeing. Insight shows dance can also engage inactive

people who are not motivated by health or fitness because it is viewed as a fun and social activity. Dance is a popular activity with over five million people participating in dance across the UK each year.





## Gender inequality

Dance is particularly popular with women and girls who are more inactive than their male counterparts at every age across the life course. Only 38% of girls achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day compared with 63% for boys. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Taking Part survey shows over 40% of girls aged 5 – 10 years dance outside of school. Surveys have also shown dance is the most popular choice for PE for adolescent girls. Amongst adults 25% of women are inactive

compared to 19% of men. The Active Lives Survey showed that more women get their physical activity through dance than through cycling. This survey also shows dance engages women living with disabilities, with twice as many women participating in dance than men.

# Benefits of dance

Dance is a creative activity as well as a physical activity and there is a wealth of evidence on the benefits of arts to health gathered in the All Party Parliamentary Group Creative Health Report. Taking part in regular dance activity provides a wide range of benefits across the life course:

**Early Years:** Dance improves cognitive and physical development and enhances social skills. Parent and toddler dance sessions can provide opportunities to build bonds and positive relationships.

**Children and young people:** Dance increases cardiovascular fitness, improves bone mass content and can prevent or reduce obesity. It can also improve attainment, social skills and self-esteem.

**Adults:** Dance can help maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of a wide range of health conditions including Type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal problems and chronic heart disease. It can also reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety.

**Older People:** Dance shows particular promise in improving the health of older people as it can maintain mobility, reduce the risk of falls, prevent social isolation and improve cognitive function.

## Wider benefits

Dance can engage a diverse population from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures so has the potential to improve cultural cohesion. Dance therapy can provide benefits in a clinical setting including improved quality of life, self-esteem, or coping with a disease.

## Strategic Context

The DCMS Sporting Future strategy defines physical activity as “sport, dance, walking and cycling” so dance is recognised as an essential part of creating an active nation. The Get Doncaster Dancing Strategy forms part of the Get Doncaster Moving Strategic Framework and will link to Doncaster’s Creative and Cultural Strategy. It aims to provide a vision for dance to improve health and social outcomes and to contribute to inclusive growth in Doncaster, through a community and sector led approach.

The Get Doncaster Dancing Steering Group whose members include representation from local arts sector, PE and School Sport organisations and Doncaster Council Public Health are leading the strategy. It will provide a platform to bring together, inspire and mobilise the dance sector to improve health and social outcomes through dance. The strategy will also provide a bridge between the cultural and physical activity and sport strategies encouraging closer cross sector collaboration.

## Where are we now? Overview of dance in Doncaster

### Current dance provision in Doncaster

Mapping was undertaken with input from the Steering Group and the public and provider surveys. It gives an overview of the dance provision currently on offer in Doncaster and also identifies the gaps in dance provision, across the life course.

**Early years:** provision is primarily through private dance schools and it is unclear how consistently dance is offered in early years settings.

#### Children and young people

**In school:** Offering dance, as part of the curriculum in schools is an effective way of reaching children and young people, regardless of their backgrounds, to ensure participation. Dance is placed within the PE curriculum and should be offered in all primary schools with options for secondary schools to deliver dance if they choose. The Active Fusion survey of schools in 2017 showed a mixed picture about how far dance is offered in curriculum time, with the majority of primary schools offering it as an extra-curricular or one-off opportunity.



**Out of school:** The largest provider of dance for children and young people out of school is the private dance sector. The local audit showed there are approximately 60 schools operating in Doncaster engaging mainly girls, with approximately 2,700 children and young people participating each week through a range of dance styles including ballet, tap, stage dance, street dance and Scottish dance.

**Adults and older people:** There are some private dance schools that also offer adult classes, but the survey responses indicate that there is generally not enough provision. Respondents wanted more classes at different levels, especially at beginner level, and in various dance styles including Salsa, Rock & Roll, Modern and Jive. The Dance On programme does provide a network of dance sessions for older people accessible for those with limited mobility but not in all areas.

**Disabled people:** No regular dance sessions/programmes for disabled people were identified so this is as a gap that needs addressing.



**Location and costs:** Dance provision was mainly in the centre of the town rather than near where people lived. The charges made by providers are not high, with an average £5 per session, but this fee would be a barrier for people living on low incomes.

**Workforce:** There are some dedicated and highly experienced dance practitioners in the area, but they are not well networked. There is a lack of skills in working with older people and people living with disabilities but an interest to gain training and improve people's health and wellbeing through dance.

#### Performance and wider dance opportunities

Performing is an important element of dance, which allows people to share their passion with others and builds confidence and self-esteem. There are some performance opportunities through private dance schools however Doncaster lacks Youth Dance Groups, has no schools dance festival and few links to the wider national dance networks. Survey respondents recommended more public performances, festivals and celebrations of dance to encourage people to participate and raise the profile of dance.

## Consultation Process

The consultation process was led through the steering group to reach the widest possible range of stakeholders to inform and shape the strategy. This included:

- Public online survey hosted by Doncaster Council and promoted through partners and targeted social media advertising received 508 responses. 151 (30%) currently dance, 165 used to dance but don't currently dance (32%) and 192 don't dance (38%). 91% of respondents were female.
- Dance provider's online survey with 28 responses submitted from a range of dance schools, organisations and voluntary societies.
- Face to face consultations with disadvantaged groups including adults with disabilities, mental health issues, older women and people living with dementia.
- Networking event for strategic leads with attendees from public health, NHS, dance and cultural organisations, PE and School Sport and voluntary organisations.
- Networking event for dance teachers and practitioners.
- Consultation with Arts & Culture Programme Board.

# Results of the Consultation

From the surveys and the consultations, reported barriers to dancing were multi-faceted and included not knowing where to find dance activities, health and mobility problems, lack of motivation, confidence and local provision. There was high level of consensus about what needed to be addressed in the strategy.

## 1. Promotion

The respondents suggested that there should be promotion of the benefits of dancing as well as information about provision made widely available through using: social media, poster/print, advertising and a Get Doncaster Dancing website. There were also suggestions about creating dance presentations to encourage participation e.g. flash mobs, a dance festival, films on YouTube and promoting dance activity at performances at Cast and other venues.

## 2. Dance provision offered

Whilst there was recognition of current dance provision, many thought there needed to be changes to make it more attractive to people by offering: wider choice of styles, introductory level classes, shorter and low impact sessions, inclusive teaching approach and including social elements. Also, sessions made available via the internet for people to join in at home.

## 3. Access

Proposals to increase take up were focussed on taking activity to target groups through running classes in: care homes, schools/colleges and community centres etc. The importance of partnership working was raised, suggestions included working with hospitals, leisure centres, weight management clinics etc. to refer patients to dance classes and embedding dance within other strategies such as Starting Well (0-5 years). Running sessions at different times of the day and evening to encourage take up. Working with communities to support 'ground up' stimulation of localised activity in disadvantaged communities was a theme running through consultations with strategic leads.

## 4. Workforce development

There are highly experienced dance practitioners/artists working locally but there needs to be further training to increase the number able to work with priority groups. Creating a network for practitioners would provide a strong and coordinated group of workers to support the delivery of the strategy.

## 5. Cost/resources

The financial barrier to getting inactive people dancing was raised by many respondents. It was proposed that low cost sessions, free taster sessions and free classes for vulnerable groups are offered. The strategic leads felt it important to consider sustainability to support activity beyond short-term programmes, to make impact with target groups.



# Priorities identified

From the surveys and consultations, the following priorities have been identified, to be addressed in the strategy:

- Promotion – encouraging people to take part in dance, building confidence and addressing attitudinal barriers
- Promotion – signposting what opportunities are on offer in the borough
- Address gaps in provision – stimulating dance activity for adults, initiating/incentivising creation of local activity for those living in the most disadvantaged communities and for those living with health conditions and/or are disabled
- Increase access to dance in schools for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or are disabled
- Increase and upskill professional and volunteer dance workforce to work with and support disadvantaged, those living with health conditions and/or disabled people.

## Ambitions

These ambitions reflect the aims and priorities developed through the consultation process and an action plan will be developed and taken forward to deliver these:

1. Changing behaviour and inspiring people to get active through dance
2. Improved communication and promotion of dance opportunities for less active people
3. Dance is accessible to everyone regardless of their age, ability and cultural background
4. Dance is accessible locally for people living in disadvantaged communities and contributes to reducing health inequalities
5. The dance and wider workforce has the skills and confidence to reduce inequalities through dance
6. Dance is embedded in and supports all strategies that meet health, social and educational outcomes





## Governance & reporting

- The Get Doncaster Dancing Steering Group will be principally responsible for the implementation, the governance and monitoring of the recommendations of the strategy. With support from Doncaster Council it will be responsible for establishing the best approach to taking the strategy forward and developing a detailed action plan with timeframes. Monitoring will be on-going and progress will be reported to the Get Doncaster Moving Board.



## Measuring impact

Impact will be measured by one or more of the following methods, showing an:

- Increase in the percentage of inactive people being physically active through dance measured through Active Lives survey (Boosted to increase numbers of Doncaster residents surveyed)
- Increase in opportunities to dance, mapped against baseline mapping.
- Increase in the numbers of schools providing after school dance activity (baseline to be determined).
- Impact on dance specific delivery programmes will be measured through methods specified in their design.

This page is intentionally left blank