



Doncaster
Council

Agenda

To all Members of the

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Venue: Virtual Meeting Through Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday, 24th March, 2021

Time: 5.00 pm

The meeting will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams. Members and Officers will be advised on the process to follow to attend the Panel meeting. Any members of the public or Press wishing to attend the meeting by teleconference should contact Governance Services on 01302 734941 or 735682 for further details.

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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 the 29th September 2020 and the 11th 1 - 14

Damian Allen
Chief Executive

Issued on: Tuesday, 16th March 2021

Governance Services Officer for this meeting

Caroline Martin
Tel. 01302 734941

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
www.doncaster.gov.uk

November 2020

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).

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

6.	Whole System Including Demand Management	15 - 30
7.	Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report	31 - 50
8.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan and Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions	51 - 64

Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Councillor Neil Gethin

Vice-Chair – Councillor John Gilliver

Councillors Nick Allen, Linda Curran, George Derx, Susan Durant, Tina Reid, Frank Tyas and Sue Wilkinson

Invitees:

Jim Board - Unison

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.

Agenda Item 4.

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

TUESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

A VIRTUAL MEETING of the of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held on TUESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 at 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Chair – Councillor John Gilliver

Councillors Nick Allen, Susan Durant, Tina Reid, Frank Tyas and Sue Wilkinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Jane Kidd – Chair of OSMC

Officers:-

- Riana Nelson – Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills
- Lee Golze - Assistant Director - Early Intervention & Localities
- Deborah Burton – Engagement Manager - Partnership and Engagement
- Dawn Hall - Local Office of the Children's Commissioner Manager
- Rebecca Mason - Head of Engagement and Partnerships
- John Raine - Project & Transformation Officer

Young Advisers:

- Marianne Zamgoni
- Owen Dungworth

		<u>ACTION</u>
8.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>	
	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Neil Gethin.	
9.	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	RESOLVED that there were no matters on the agenda requiring the press and public to be excluded.	
10.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	A declaration of interest was made by Councillor Jane Kidd by virtue that she works for a voluntary organisation.	

11.	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	
	There were no public statements made.	
12.	<u>DONCASTER OFFER</u>	
	<p>Members were provided with a report that outlined the new approach taken to refresh the Youth Strategy. Members were informed of the learning from the past four years and the direction for the next three years that included the role of a newly formed Youth Advisory Board, which will hold officers and the partnership to account for its delivery. A presentation was provided by a Young Advisers on the following areas alongside a short promotional video;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Current Picture • Participation Principles and Self-Assessment Framework • Voice Groups • Future Plans <p>There was a discussion held that addressed the following areas;</p> <p>Recruitment and Representation – It was explained that during the pandemic, the recruitment of Youth Advisors had been opened out to those schools that were in operation prior to the summer holidays, which identified some young people who were interested. Members were assured that those appointed to the Youth Advisory Board represented all 4 areas of Doncaster Borough and included individuals from uniformed and community groups as well as representation from the Youth Council. It was commented that as many number of schools as possible had been targeted although the Covid-19 pandemic which in itself had created certain challenges reaching a wider number of young people.</p> <p>Members were informed that there was a Youth Councillor in place in every secondary school and it was recognised that there was always a need for a new cohort coming through. It was continued that there were a great deal of Youth Forums across Doncaster with particular remits. Reference was made to Youth Surgeries and a move to establish something similar with Young Commissioners which would be more locality driven (as part of the locality model). It was hoped that this would bring Ward Members back into those meetings and produce opportunities for more joined up work.</p> <p>Expect Youth and VolCom Sector - Members raised concern around the previous involvement and varying experiences of what Expect Youth had achieved in the past across the Borough. Members were of the opinion that further information was required around their performance, what they had achieved and what had changed. Assurances were provided at the meeting that lessons had been learnt from the past and that their involvement in taking the Doncaster Offer</p>	

forward was to help build capacity. It was commented that Expect Youth had undertaken some positive work and engagement but not necessarily in a consistent way across the Borough.

Concern was raised at how the VolCom sector had been adversely impacted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and concern was raised about its sustainability. It was recognised that work needed to be undertaken to understand what was currently in place and what it needed to look like going forward.

A key element of the new Offer was to use Expect Youth as a middle tier organisation to attract external funding into Doncaster, through a mixed economy of grant funds and fundraising, totalling £300k.

Quality Mark - Members expressed concern that the quality mark had not been previously been achieved. It was explained by Officers that the UK Ambition Mark had been too comprehensive and involved too much resource. Members were told that by implementing the 5 participation principles on a local level should make this more achievable.

Engagement with Young People – Members were pleased to hear about the extent of engagement that had been undertaken with children and young people across the Borough, particularly in light of the ongoing pandemic.

Members were assured that there was a wide representation from across the borough. Members commented that it was important that avenues to engage with were accessible and made available to those who were not normally involved.

Some Members considered that there were now reduced opportunities for Councillors to engage directly with young people. This was based on an example used by a Panel Member, that when Councillor Youth Surgeries were held in youth clubs, they had been well attended and well utilised by young people who were passionate about local issues. The Young Adviser in attendance assured Members that their own involvement was mainly around having a local interest, that there was a broad coverage of young people. Finally, it was noted that the voices and opinions of others were fed back and represented at the meetings they attended.

Members were advised that through detached work undertaken in several communities by Youth Workers and Young Advisers, they had engaged with 1,000 young people and had been able to take back information around the Doncaster Offer work. It was continued that further work would be done with voluntary community sector groups for them to identify what young people want. Finally, Members were informed that Officers would be returning back when possible to those young people who wanted to be involved, in order to engage with them

	<p>and shape services accordingly.</p> <p>It was explained that in addition to previous learning from past years, that during the 12 weeks as part of the Doncaster Offer work, the established Youth Advisory Board had reached into an existing network of forums and contacts. Members were also reminded about the success of the 'Make Your Mark' survey 2019 (and how in Doncaster more children and young people voted than other areas).</p> <p>In terms of developing the framework, Members were informed that the Youth Council and Young Advisors (as our representation of young people across the Borough) had been considerably involved.</p> <p>It was recognised by a Member that a great deal of work had gone into the document.</p> <p>Funding – In terms of funding outlined in the report, it was explained that seed funding of £150,000 over 3 years provided to Expect Youth would expect to return around £300,000 investment back into the Borough. This money would be spent and used on youth activities and supporting the voluntary community sector and youth groups in localities to access funding and provide what young people wanted in that forum. Members were assured that it was about bringing in new monies to help provide activities through existing or new community and voluntary groups. A Member stressed the importance of spending the money wisely across the Borough.</p> <p>The Panel resolved that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the approach detailed in the report, based around seven principles and five strands to deliver a sustainable Doncaster Offer over the next three years. • Receive an annual report detailing progress as part of the Panel's workplan for 2021/2022. • Would like to provide further opportunity for Councillors engagement in this work through Expect Youth attending and providing information at Overview and Scrutiny and also for a wider discussion to take place around the approach and delivery of the strategy at Council. 	
13.	<p><u>MAKING DONCASTER THE MOST CHILD FRIENDLY BOROUGH IN THE COUNTRY - PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT THEME</u></p>	
	<p>The Panel was provided with a report on 'Making Doncaster The Most Child Friendly Borough in the Country' as part of a Participation and Engagement Theme. The report provided an update on progress through the increased participation and engagement of children and young people in services across the Council and partnership services.</p>	

The Panel received an update on the following:

- The very broad range of voice and representative groups to date involved in co-producing the Self-Assessment Framework for the Participation Principles.
- The diversity of the Youth Council.
- The forthcoming training of Young Advisors and Young Commissioners to be Young Inspectors to drive forward this piece of work.
- Future Plans

Monitoring - Concern was raised by a Member in relation to how progress would be monitored and evaluated. It was recognised that this was a new piece of work and monitoring would be undertaken through qualitative and quantitative means. Assurances were provided that the work would be advocated, supported and challenged through a number of strands.

These would include existing voice groups, representatives from Youth Council and Youth Parliament, social media, partners, the newly formed Youth Advisory Board, new governance arrangements and finally, through the role of the Local Office of the Children's Commissioner. It was acknowledged that as a new process this would evolve as it grows.

Range of voice and representative groups - Assurances were provided that an extensive amount of work had been undertaken to ensure that there had been a broad range of voice and representative groups involved in this process.

Members were assured that all Senior Managers had truly invested in the youth voice, and that Doncaster Council had been allowed to grow (where other places had decreased) with even more and different types of forums that enabled more young people to have a voice. Members were informed that there were Youth Councillors representation in every secondary school with specialist seats for young carers. In addition, there were representation with a broad diversity, very different levels of abilities and that ensures maximum inclusivity to include that were more disengaged.

Summer Staycation - Clarification was also provided on how funding had been provided and the type of events that had made up the Summer Staycation as well as other face-to-face activities that had been equally spread across localities to ensure full access. Members were also informed how priority places had been made available for more vulnerable children that needed provision during the Summer period. Members also heard that feedback received from families had been excellent, particularly for vulnerable children who had not been able to mix socially with their friends due to social distancing restrictions arising from COVID pandemic.

	<p>Future Plans - Members were pleased to hear about the future plans, in particular, that further work would be done to explore the possibility of Young Ward Members.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion around the role of the Junior Civic Mayor, their recruitment process and the aspiration for a future Deputy Junior. It was considered that this role had been a positive one.</p> <p>Following the Panel's early discussion around the Doncaster Offer and reduced opportunities for Councillors to engage in person with young people, the Panel expressed their support for this area of work by recommending the duplication of the role of Ward Members.</p> <p>The Panel resolved that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the report be noted; and • the participation of children and young people (in both the work of the council and its partners) be expanded through the duplication the role of Ward Members by exploring the possibility of Young Ward Members be further considered. 	
14.	<p><u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN AND COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS</u></p>	
	<p>The Senior Governance Officer presented the 2020/21 Scrutiny Work Plan for consideration and reminded Members of the current Forward Plan of key decisions.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion around future items for the Overview and Scrutiny future workplan following the meeting's discussions.</p> <p>RESOLVED the Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2020/21 and Forward Plan of key decisions be noted.</p>	

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

WEDNESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2020

A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the VIRTUAL MEETING THROUGH MICROSOFT TEAMS, DONCASTER on WEDNESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2020 at 4.30 PM

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Neil Gethin

Councillors John Gilliver, Nick Allen, Linda Curran, George Derx, Susan Durant, Frank Tyas and Sue Wilkinson

Co-optees – Bernadette Nesbit (Diocese of hallam Roman Catholic Church)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leanne Hornsby, Assistant Director Education, Skills, Culture and Heritage
Lee Golze, Assistant Director, Early Intervention and Localities
Paul Ruane, Head of Learning Provision
Neil McAlister, Learning Provision Organisation

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tina Reid and John Hoare, Co-optee (Dioceses of Sheffield Church of England)

		<u>ACTION</u>
1	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	None.	
2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	There were no declarations made.	
3	<u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020</u>	
	That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 th September, 2020 were agreed as a correct record.	
4	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	

	There were no public statements made.	
5	<u>ORGANISATION OF LEARNING PROVISION STRATEGY 2020</u>	
	<p>The Assistant Director for Education, Skills, Culture and Heritage provided an overview of the Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy 2020 that sets the future learning landscape for Doncaster. It was explained that the report addressed ensuring the right number of school places, in the correct locations were available across Doncaster and place projections moving forward.</p> <p>The following areas were addressed in detail by the Panel:</p> <p><u>Local Authority influence on Academy Trusts</u> – A Member referred to the changing pattern in Doncaster meaning that there were a number of schools where the governing body was increasingly autonomous with regard to pupil places and admissions policies and questioned what influence the Local Authority had in this regard. In response, it was explained that in Doncaster there was considerable collaboration and good relationships between the Borough’s schools and the Local Authority, with the response to Covid-19 highlighting such positive connections.</p> <p>Members were reminded that Academies by definition were independent in their own right, however, the Local Authority retained certain statutory responsibilities, particularly with regards to safeguarding. The Local Authority was effectively the Commissioner to ensure appropriate and sufficient school places were available across the board.</p> <p><u>Funding for school repairs</u> – in response to a question raised, it was explained that an annual review was undertaken on each school to prioritise refurbishment work funded from the capital condition funding allocation, available for community schools. With regard to voluntary aided schools, it was confirmed they had their own budgets for this purpose and Academies were required to make an annual bid for refurbishment works.</p> <p><u>Capital Funds for expansion</u> – It was explained that a programme of expansion works was undertaken through a number of funding opportunities available. This included applications through the annual allocation, Section 106 fund and more recently funding streams that were made available, for example, to build the new Bader SEND school that had been fully funded by the Department for Education and sponsored by the NEXUS Academy Trust.</p> <p><u>Bader SEND school</u> – The Strategy identified that there was a demand for places in SEND schools. It was confirmed that the Local Authority had the responsibility to provide sufficient places that met the needs all off children with individual needs. Reference was made to the New</p>	

Bader school, opening on 1st September, 2020 and provided places for children with social emotional mental health support. The school was based in the Edenthorpe area and provided 100 places for children with high functioning autism.

Growth demand of school places – specifically relating to special needs provision, it was questioned whether there was adequate capacity as the gap between this and the actual number was narrowing each year. It was the opinion that alternative provision when a child transferred from a normal to special school, provision had not always been adequate. It was explained that the document provided addressed learning provision and not school organisation, it took into account both SEND provision and children who required additional support.

It was explained that as part of the inclusion work the breach relating to reintegration was being addressed and had gained greater pace as a result of the Covid pandemic. An example of this was the reframing and reprofiling of “Big Picture Doncaster”.

In response to a question relating to the need for further schools like the new Bader school, it was explained that a SEND sufficiency plan was being developed and an item that the Panel could address at a future meeting.

The Panel was informed that the children on role at Heatherwood school was 71 and not 123 as set out in the report.

Asbestos removal – it was confirmed that asbestos only created a problem if disturbed and its removal from school buildings was managed on a case by case basis. For example, if planned works identified that asbestos was an issue, then the school concerned would be supported and measures taken for its automatic removal. With regard to specific questions relating to ceiling tiles, it was explained that this would be followed up after the meeting.

Section 106 monies - school build programme – Members noted that the Planning White Paper consultation proposed that a Community Infrastructure Levy would replace the Section 106 process and provided on an area by area basis. The number of additional school places required on any new build would be calculated with building developers required to contribute to this.

School transport and the demand for and growth of faith schools – In response to questions in relation to the number of pupils able to access their chosen faith school, the difficulties that could arise with travel arrangements, including the need for parents to use cars if their child lived outside the school locality, thus increasing traffic, the following was addressed.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide transport if:

a child is 3 or more miles away from their nearest secondary school, a child of 8 years and under and is 2 miles or more walking distance away from a school.

The Transport Policy was based on mileage parameters however, Members were reminded that parents had the right to appeal under the Policy if they were unhappy with the transport support allocated. This could be undertaken if parents were able to demonstrate that a particular school provided the environment and learning that was specific to the needs of their child, with a faith school being one example. With regards to admissions and transport assistance the Policy was being addressed moving forward, including engagement with South Yorkshire Transport, but recognised that any proposed changes would not happen immediately.

The acknowledgement of SACRE's involvement (Standing Advisory council for Religious Education) was very important when giving consideration to this issue.

School admissions – the Local Authority co-ordinated the admissions for a number of schools, however, it was noted that schools were Admission authorities in their own right. It was accepted that Doncaster had a multi-faceted structure with a number of Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools and it was important that everyone worked together to ensure sufficient places were available in the right areas. It was acknowledged that there were some areas that had a high demand for or surplus school places across the Borough but patterns of preference changed over time, and work was ongoing through the School Provision Strategy to address this.

It was recognised that historically oversubscribed schools were expanded and undersubscribed schools could fall victim to that position if they were in the same vicinity. Standards across Doncaster were generally improving and in turn so were schools' reputations, therefore if a school wished to expand, then it would be addressed in the context of all schools within the vicinity to ensure schools were not oversubscribed at the detriment to others.

A number of schools with surplus places were highlighted but it was noted that in the East of the Borough there was currently sufficient school places. However, the DN7 development would see an increase in the number of properties and in turn would increase demand in the Stainforth, Thorne and Hatfield areas. It was noted that discussions had been undertaken with the developer to secure S106 monies for additional school provision.

RESOLVED: that the report, be noted.

REPORT

NOTE: At this point the Chair, Councillor Gethin left the meeting and Councillor Gilliver, Vice-Chair assumed the Chair.

The Assistant Director for Education, Skills, Culture and Heritage presented the report outlining developments in Education and Skills during the initial lockdown phase of Covid-19 and the joint effort provided by the Local Authority, schools and partners.

The Panel noted that during this time Doncaster for the first time was able to publish the complete pathway of transitions online across all provisions, early years into infants, infants into junior, then into secondary and post-16. The work undertaken on the welfare of children was also highlighted, including welfare calls which could not have been achieved effectively without all partners working together. Members acknowledged that there had been very innovative practices established during the Covid-19 lockdown period during the spring and summer months.

NOTE: At this point Councillor Gethin re-joined the meeting and assumed the Chair.

Members highlighted that they appreciated the innovative work, co-ordination and development required to provide a place based education approach between March and July 2020, reopening of schools in September and resetting education priorities.

The Co-optee representing the Catholic Diocese and on behalf of school headteachers outlined her thanks to the Local Authority for the exceptional support to schools, following the initial National lockdown in March and subsequent work undertaken since.

The following areas were addressed by the Panel, in detail:

Elective Home Education (EHE) – the Panel learnt that numbers had increased quickly, in line with the national trend, but was pleased to note that engagement with parents was being undertaken to ensure the curriculum requirements and quality of teaching were being addressed. Concern was highlighted that some children being home educated may be finding it hard to keep up with the curriculum and not receiving support from their school.

The difference between genuine EHE and the anxiety faced by some parents of children returning to school was accepted, and the work being undertaken by schools and Public Health in promoting schools as a safe place and Covid compliant, was welcomed. It was acknowledged that it was important to capture parental perceptions in relation to how safety and Covid bubbles were being managed.

Hard to reach families – Members acknowledged the continuing partnership approach being undertaken to address this issue. With regard to school specific concerns it was explained that the Welfare group was continuing to undertake personal visits and phone calls.

With regard to areas of significant pockets of EHE children, concern was expressed that in these areas, plugging the knowledge gap would have a significant impact on some schools that may have high numbers, when children started to return to class. It was stressed that having evidence of this nature could assist schools moving forward, particularly with evidencing attendance figures. Members noted that this was an area that could be forensically addressed to support the wider welfare provision that may be required, and acknowledged that this would be a unique set of data to collate and use for policy development. It was stressed that understanding the wider specific needs of some families, through the localities model, was imperative before a support package could be provided to families.

The Young advisor outlined that young people were finding the lockdown position quite stressful, understanding the position and requirement for Covid bubbles, but their concern was not as high as the concern expressed by their parents and the older population.

Early years provision – Members’ concern with regard to early years developmental and emotional skills, being a priority particularly for the most vulnerable, were accepted. The Panel was pleased to note that family hubs had remained open and strong throughout the Covid pandemic with good attendance being recorded. The extensive virtual offer and supplementary face to face mother and baby sessions were highlighted as a good example of the continued support available.

With regard to the early years children entering school it was accepted that they need socialisation and the current pandemic had brought this to the fore, so when children were starting school or being reintegrated, emotional skills were a priority.

School attendance – Members were pleased to note that school attendance rates in September matched the national average of 92 - 93%. Unfortunately in the week prior to half term it was learnt that a number of school Covid bubbles in secondary schools had to isolate but since returning attendance figures had greatly improved.

With regard to the attendance administration required by schools, it was acknowledged that figures were being reported to the Department of Education daily along with reporting Covid cases to the Local Authority. The Panel paid tribute to all schools for undertaking a phenomenal job throughout the whole Covid period whilst working under such difficult circumstances.

It was also noted that the Local Authority persistent absence strategies

established prior to the Covid pandemic, had assisted with the reduction in persistent absence figures, but only due to the hard work being undertaken by colleagues in the school system.

Examinations 2021 and Catch up premium – the Panel heard from a Young Advisor about how young people reacted to studying the curriculum and examinations in the initial lockdown period. Members also learnt about the hard work and mechanisms put in place by schools and the Local Authority across the Borough to ensure young people continued to achieve their education and examination result goals. The Panel therefore proposed that the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools lobby the Department of Education on the following areas:-

Possible cancellation of exams in 2021 and cancellation of Primary School assessments - After the announcement by the Welsh Government that examinations for 2021 would be cancelled with results based on classroom assessments, the Panel was of the opinion that the same path could be taken by Central Government for English schools. Members appreciated the hard work and support that had been provided for young people taking their GCSE's and 'A' levels in 2020 but wished to press the Department for Education for an early decision, if this proposal was being considered. Additionally it was requested if consideration could also be given to an early decision on whether all primary assessments would be cancelled, as was the case in 2020.

Catch up premium funding (one off 2021 academic year support for pupils to make up for lost teaching time) – clarity was required on whether an extension would be provided to spend this funding allocation. It was noted that some children were currently not in school, for example, isolating as part of a Covid-19 school bubble or opting for elective home education and were missing out on interventions. The Panel feared that the Borough's most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups would be hardest hit.

NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) – it was acknowledged that there had been a lot of success stories, and noted that this was due to the active engagement with young people, employers and education providers by the Participation and Transition Service. It was also highlighted that the young people in Doncaster sought opportunities and was encouraging to see.

RESOLVED That:

1. The report be noted; and
2. The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools be requested to lobby the Department of Education on the following areas for the reasons set out above:-

	<p>A) Possible cancellation of exams in 2021 and cancellation of Primary School assessments; and</p> <p>B) Catch up premium funding (one off 2021 academic year support for pupils to make up for lost teaching time).</p>	
7	<p><u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN AND COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS</u></p>	
	<p>The Senior Governance Officer presented the Overview and Scrutiny work Plan and Council's Forward Plan of key decisions.</p> <p>Following discussion undertaken as part of the item on the Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy, it was agreed that Alternative Provision be added as a topic to the 2021/2022 work plan.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that the report be noted and Alternative Provision be detailed on the 2021/2022 work plan.</p>	



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 24th March 2021

To the Chair and Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

THEME: SAFEGUARDING AND A WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH TO DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor Ros Jones	All	No

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(1.1) The purpose of this report is to provide the Chair and Members of the Panel with an overview of two key issues. How the partnership convened to safeguard children and manage demand throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and secondly the approach to recovery and resilience through the new Partnership Recovery and Resilience Board and Plan.

2. EXEMPT REPORT

(2.1) There are no exemptions.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

(3.1) It is recommended that the Panel note:

- i. The strength of the partnership response to the pandemic in Doncaster in keeping children and young people safe, and how it quickly mobilised to put in place robust and effective support, in extremely challenging times.
- ii. The role and scope of the Partnership Board and its commitment to improvement as part of recovery and resilience, and that by doing so, will effectively manage demand.

4. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

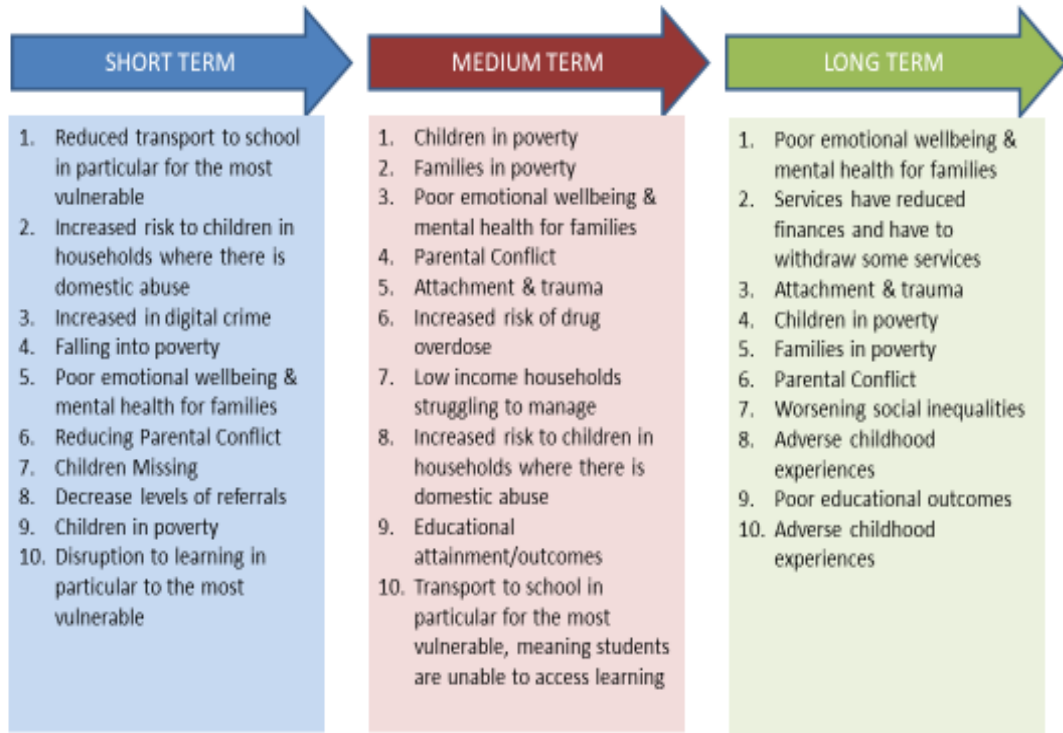
(4.1) The Covid-19 pandemic has had a notable impact on all people of Doncaster putting added pressure on all aspects of people's lives, from their health and livelihoods through to their relationships and childcare. In this environment it has been, and continues to be, vitally important that the partnership effectively

delivered services in a way that supports all its people, including its most vulnerable children, young people and families as effectively as possible.

5. BACKGROUND

- (5.1) In the prelude to lockdown, the Local Authority convened strong partnership governance structures, which brought together partners with a focus on Children and Families. Through the local resilience and emergency planning arrangements a Children and Families Safeguarding Partnership & Oversight Board (including statutory partners) was developed as the senior meeting to provide a more responsive and flexible forum. Reporting to the Partnership & Oversight Board, two Cells were created. The Children and Families Cell and Education and Skills Cell.
- (5.2) The purpose of the Children and Families Cell is to oversee the management of the children and family's portfolio response to the pandemic. The Cell has grown and continues to be attended by all partners, including statutory partners. The underlying principle of the Cell is to understand any issues and challenges across the partnership, sense check this data in real life terms, look at mitigations and any risks, and to shape service delivery to bring about positive impacts.
- (5.3) The purpose of the Education and Skills Cell is to oversee the management of the education and skills portfolio response to the pandemic. Like the Children and Families Cell, there is excellent attendance and there have been significant developments in how the education system works together.
- (5.4) One of the early tasks of the Cells was to develop a robust impact assessment, through a strong methodology. The purpose of the impact assessment was to allow the partnership to quickly understand what the possible impacts of the pandemic would be, and what needed to be done to mitigate these impacts. The impacts were split into short-term (0-3mths), medium term (3-12mths) and long-term (12mths+), which reflect the three-horizon framework, which is the agreed approach of Team Doncaster. The 'Three Horizons' framework is a foresight tool that can help to structure thinking about the future in ways that spark innovation. It describes three patterns or ways of doing things and how their relative prevalence and interactions evolve over time. The diagram below captures the top 10 impacts from the impact assessment.

Children and Young People Impact Assessment



- (5.5) Once the impact assessment was completed, the cells mapped out what services were already in place (to mitigate these impacts), and if there were any gaps in service provision. For all gaps identified, responses have, either already been put in place, and/ or are in the process of being established, these are captured in the text below. The impact assessment has proven to be very effective in so far that the suggested risks are the ones that have and are being realised locally, and as such, the partnership has been able to respond quickly to ensure support is provided in the right areas.
- (5.6) To allow the partnership to have a clear understanding of data and intelligence, a new children at risk dashboard was developed. This dashboard captures key information on a weekly basis, quickly highlighting any emerging issues and trends, that in turn allow the partnership to respond. A good example are the recent emerging issues around eating disorders, where the data quickly identified an increase in levels of acuity, and the Children and Families Cell mobilised partners to provide increased support.
- (5.7) Both Cells developed a plan on a page that outlined the key objectives for 2020/21 and have indicators in place to monitor progress.
- (5.8) There was a significant change in demand for services during the pandemic compared to the same period last year across, which were primarily a result of the pandemic. The data below is taken from key service areas, which offer a good temperature check on the system.
- (5.9) **Social Care** – there were a number of changes including (quarter 3 data):
- Referrals to Social Care increased by 339, an increase of 36%.

- Section 47 enquires increased by 146, an increase of 59%. (A Section 47 enquiry means that social care must carry out an investigation when they have 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. The aim is to decide whether any action should be taken to safeguard the child).
- The number of referrals that initiated an assessment increased by 273, an increase of 29%.
- Children entering Care increased by 2, an increase of 5.5%.
- Children in Need increased by 203, an increase of 14.4%.
- Children with a Child Protection Plan increased by 94, an increase of 27%.

(5.10) **Education** – there were changes in education and associated areas too. These included:

- Average attendance obviously reduced as only children deemed vulnerable and/ or the child of a key worker were advised to attend. Therefore, average attendance during this period was 950, which around 2% of the total pupil population.
- Children missing in education increased by 347, and children elective home education increased by 248, giving a combined increase of 220%.
- The number of children eligible for free school meals has increased by 1662 since March 2020. This equates to 24.26% of the pupil population in Doncaster are now eligible.
- The number of requests for Education, Health and Care Plans has increased by 12% to 2253.

(5.11) **Early Help** – there were changes in the number of families accessing Early Help support:

- The number of enquiries into Early help continues to reduce, with 638 children less in 2020-2021 compared to 2019-2020.
- A decline in the early help referral rate by 78, a decrease of 4.7%.

(5.12) **Social Emotional Mental Health** – there were changes in the number of young people experiencing mental health concerns, including.

- A significant increase in the number of young people, experiencing episodic periods of crisis resulting in an A&E attendance, with circa 100 presentations.
- An increase in the number of young people with acute eating disorders that require a hospital admission and/ or high level support in the community.

(5.13) **Domestic Abuse** – there were changes in the number of households experiencing domestic abuse, including.

- The number of referrals into the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor service increased by 85, an increase of 38%.
- The number of referrals into the Domestic Abuse Hub increased by 30, an increase of 22%.
- The Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor service and Domestic Abuse Hub reporting up to 61% and 70% of referrals identify as having children or do not state whether they have children respectively.

- The most common age brackets of children and young people living in households with domestic abuse are 1-3 years (21.43%), 6-9 years (35.71%) and 10-13 years (21.43%).

(5.14) In addition to the changes in requests for support, there were changes across the partnership in other areas too. The partnership experienced significant staffing changes and difficulties within their respective organisations/agencies, including changes at a senior level across statutory agencies, changes to the Safeguarding Board and several vacant social work posts, which impacted on caseloads.

(5.15) The partnership experienced a decline in safeguarding performance, which identified a weakness in the strategic 'line of sight' to practice.

6. DONCASTER RESPONSE

EARLY HELP

(6.1) Throughout the lockdown period, the council supported school leaders to provide school meals for 11,429 eligible children. This included vigorous lobbying of Department for Education on schools' behalf to ensure that vouchers were provided throughout lockdown and especially over the summer holiday period and Christmas holiday period. Doncaster made an early decision to fund free school meals prior to the Government's decision to do so.

(6.2) The Early Help offer has been vitally important throughout lockdown. Staff across the Early Help partnership showed great ingenuity to engage with families and children within the Covid-19 restrictions, using a mix of virtual and physical visits. Families reported the value of these visits. Families reported the value of these visits. Between March and December 2020, vulnerability levels from start to the end of an early help case have improved for 155 families (51.3%), and 223 families have improved family resilience and reduced risk (63.4%).

(6.3) During Covid-19, it has been crucial to have the ability to deliver accessible evidenced-based parenting support virtually, in a range of different languages. Solihull Parenting has been purchased to support all residents, regardless of role in the family unit to access this support. The courses are easy to access, available in all languages and developing all of the time. A total of 130 Antenatal and Pre and Post Questionnaires (based on Douglas and Bateso, 2017) have been completed. These evidence a reduction in anxiety for 58 (45%) parents, 46 (35%) reported an increase in closeness to their baby. A large majority of parents 94% (122/130) reported they found the course helpful and enjoyable and 90% (17/130) would recommend the course to others. Most recently, a course for teenagers and parents of teenagers has been produced, to support understanding of child development and support needs of teenagers.

(6.4) The current pandemic has simultaneously increased the strain on families and reduced some school's capacity to manage Early Help cases, in particular step-downs from social care, which places a potential risk in the system for vulnerable children and young people, especially any not in an educational setting. Therefore, significant investment in Early Help was needed to reduce

the risk. Additional funding has been secured to introduce new Family Lead Practitioners into the current model. Adding in these extra resources will mean that educational settings can be better supported, ensuring children, young people and their family's needs are identified and supported. The Family Lead Practitioner will also more effectively catch the step-downs and ensure support is provided to prevent escalation of need and therefore, further reduce the pressures on statutory social care.

EDUCATION

- (6.5) It is important to note that schools retained and effectively implemented their roles and responsibilities around safeguarding. Teams from across the council and social care supported schools with safeguarding updates and welfare calls particularly over the Summer holiday period. The school system in Doncaster has responded in a collaborative and coordinated way to the challenges posed by this lockdown, and the overwhelming majority of schools remained open throughout this period providing childcare for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. A single point of communication was established called Edulog. Edulog is a two-way channel of communication where school leaders can ask for advice and support and has worked really well.
- (6.6) Doncaster adopted a place-based approach to wider reopening following regular discussion with school leaders, and with due regard to the latest advice from the Director of Public Health. The principle throughout has been that schools should only open when it is considered safe to do so. During June and July, schools worked closely with officers from Doncaster Council and external partners on a range of critical issues. This included ensuring sufficient Personal Protective Equipment, robust risk assessments, contingency plans for any outbreaks, blended learning offer and planning for the full September opening.

ATTENDANCE AND WELFARE

- (6.7) A dedicated welfare team from across the partnership was set-up, that quickly developed a single list of children and young people deemed vulnerable. Doncaster again took a place-based approach to broaden the criteria from just those shielding/ clinically extremely vulnerable) to include other vulnerabilities including children with special educational needs, those with complex care issues, elected home educated, children missing education and those known to the Family Hubs. Professionals who knew the child or family the best (often the lead practitioner) led on the welfare calls as they already had the relationships in place. There are two points to lift out of this comprehensive piece of work, the first being that schools were supported throughout the school holidays where they requested it, and any child or family at risk had a robust contingency plan in place regarding the flood risks in January 2021.
- (6.8) In line with the national picture, Doncaster saw a steep increase in the number of parents electing to home educate children, from September 2020. Following changes in working practices from before the start of Covid-19 and a re-shaping of service structure in March in order to anticipate the needs of the system, locality officers have been able to work with each case

proactively. They have worked all potential Elective Home Education notifications with schools and related agencies wherever possible and over 51 Elective Home Education cases (19%), have since returned to school, with many more prevented through early conversations with all parties. Welfare calls were made to these cohorts during the first lockdown and at intervals since. The numbers of Children Missing Education also rose from September with an increasing number of families becoming mobile over this period. Again, Local Authority officers have prioritised these cases and have used welfare calls to maintain contact where necessary, with a case closure rate of 89% (186 cases) over the autumn term. This meant that many of the most vulnerable and transient young people have been able to access a suitable education and safeguarding support within school settings.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

(6.9) Due to the restrictions of being able to observe children and young people performance in meeting the statutory 20-week deadline has fallen, due to a number of factors, including the difficulty of getting consultation responses from partners, in particular health, albeit that is understandable considering their current challenges. However, agencies are working well remotely and resourcefully to identify alternative means of consultation and engagement across agencies and with families, including the establishment of socially distanced face-to-face assessments. Regular conversations and meetings are being held with schools and providers to follow up consultation responses. Any continued delays are being discussed at a management level to ensure appropriate escalation and action. Some delays have been due to parents not being able to visit settings and are therefore hesitant to make preferences; the service is working with parents, young people and schools to ensure they can support them in having all the information available, including holding virtual reviews. The decline in performance continues to be a concern however, there has been a recent upturn in this with as the new approaches are having an impact.

SOCIAL CARE

(6.10) The increase in demand has led to an increase in caseloads. In recognition of this, increased capacity has been put into the system via additional funding agreed by Doncaster Council, in particular a fifth assessment team in the Front Door, which has added capacity for staff to complete robust assessments, commit to practice developments and reduce caseloads.

(6.11) As Doncaster entered into lockdown, every open case in the Trust was reviewed and RAG rated. This was to ensure they understood all their cases and could identify those children and families that may be most vulnerable. The Trust have been consistent in their planning for, reviewing of and completing statutory visits for Children in Care, including maintaining the usual visiting patterns, with the exception of those children in isolation and/or shielding, although these children were seen virtually. The Trust have maintained high levels of physical visiting by ensuring staff have adequate personal protective equipment and that social distancing was adhered to. Staff have been innovative in how they have engaged with children and families and have actively encouraged children to attend school where it is safe to do so, resulting in above national average attendance. At the start of

lockdown, fewer than 65 vulnerable children attended school, by mid-July and just prior to the summer holidays this had risen to 787. This meant more vulnerable children were accessing additional services, were being seen regularly by professionals, and families had respite from the long-term impact of national lockdown restrictions.

- (6.12) Multi-agency meetings continued but quickly became virtual, included Children in Need, Team around the Child and Core Groups, reviews.
- (6.13) Care leavers have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19. The Trust maintained contact virtually and through physical visits. Practical support was offered, including, the establishment of a food and provisions store in the early stage of lockdown. The Trust have decided to make this a permanent feature of their support and widened this, so it is accessible to all families receiving targeted or specialist support. An additional 7 Personal Advisors have been employed, which has helped to reduce average caseload from 28 in April 2020 to 23 in October 2020, with a target to reduce this further.
- (6.14) Prior to Covid, the Trust were quick to place children in Early Permanence Placements/adoption placements and are performing better than both the national and regional comparators at 36.3 days. However, indicator performance has been severely affected by Covid and the challenges are securing medical assessments and information, accessing drug and alcohol testing, carers being unwilling to meet prospective adopters.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL MENTAL HEALTH

- (6.15) Since the start of the pandemic last year, The Children and Adolescents Mental Health Team have continued to operate and provide their usual range of services. Young people accessing the service have been given the option of physical or virtual appointments, and home visits have taken place for the most vulnerable. The Looked After Children Team have continued to maintain the established Care Pathway for referrals; providing consultations, systemic interventions, and direct work.
- (6.16) During the pandemic the Mental Health Support Team 'With Me in Mind' service changed the way consultations, interventions and training were delivered to schools, The service quickly established a virtual platform to continue to offer consultations and interventions via a multitude of virtual platforms. In order to meet the needs of children/young people and their families they extended the trailblazer offer to all schools, even though it is specifically linked to certain schools as a wave one trailblazer site. This was extremely helpful in supporting schools around emerging issues and giving them support mechanisms. It was also recognised that the usual evidence based therapeutic interventions needed to be extended from 4-6 sessions to 8/10 sessions, due to increased anxiety in children/young people linked to continued isolation.
- (6.17) In response to Covid 19, the Clinical Care Commissioning Group formed a Children's Health Subgroup across the Health System to understand the pressures on the systems within health. Discussions were had around presentations of children and young people presenting with Social and Emotional Mental Health in A&E and it was agreed that a formal group would

be developed to lead on this area of work moving forward. The group has been established since May 2020 and continue to meet on a weekly basis in order to support children and young people across Doncaster. The role of the group is to review children and young people with social emotional and / or mental health needs who are at risk of hospitalisation or placement breakdown. For those children and young people that are in hospital, the group review discharge planning as a means of reducing any potential risk within the community and prevent further hospital admission. The group provides clear accountability and focus that supports Case Managers in risk assessment and care planning. There is excellent partnership involvement in this group.

- (6.18) A separate broad multi-agency group has been convened to prepare and deliver the 'Young People's Mental Health in Schools' strategy. This group has consisted of all health agencies parents and young people's groups, children's social care, Early Help, commissioning teams, school nursing, outreach, psychology, early years, school improvement, special needs and inclusion teams. This group is developing further resources to support school responsiveness, developing communication strategies and ensuring further join up and removal of barriers. This group has done an excellent job in connecting mental health support services to schools.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

- (6.19) The Domestic Abuse Chief Officers Group leads on domestic abuse for the partnership and the membership was reviewed and bolstered with children and young people representatives from across the partnership. The group are in the process of reviewing the strategy and have commissioned the development of a new dashboard, that is still emerging at the time of writing. The dashboard is able to provide intelligence on the developmental age ranges of children and young people and their place of residence. There are 7 priority areas for the group, with 2 having a specific focus on children and young people. These are to understand the emerging data and intelligence, around children living in households experiencing domestic abuse, and if there are any gaps in service provision.

- (6.20) A working group was established to look at the priority areas and have completed a significant amount of work to understand the data, and are now confident that partners know where all children are and that the process for referring these into services is working. The process has recently been improved through developments at the Social Care Front Door and better partnership working and sharing of information.

- (6.21) The working group identified that there is a gap in providing support to the whole family, and in particular trauma informed practice. Funding has been agreed through the Mayoral Sprint Plan and services will be put in place to fill this gap. The services include extra Domestic Abuse Navigators to provide whole family, trauma informed support, extra training sessions to increase workforce knowledge and the development of community champions.

LOCALITY DELIVERY – Going Forward

- (6.22) Within Team Doncaster, there is a notable strategic drive towards implementing a multi-agency locality delivery model in the borough. This

would mean an integrated approach to service delivery across the borough, with priority given to providing services within communities and tailoring offers to meet need at a hyper local level. The current plans include 4 strands of work that are at different stages of development and will be layered into one another to create the final model. Those strands are centred on social isolation, frailty, town centre management, and finally vulnerable children and families.

- (6.23) This last strand is central to managing demand on statutory services within children’s social care and providing quick access to holistic early intervention and prevention services at a community level to meet need earlier and manage vulnerability more effectively. The vulnerable children and families strand, currently being piloted in areas of the South locality builds on learning and experiences of the Local Solutions Model that the borough has used to, among other things, respond to flooding in 2019 and the pandemic in 2020. This evolution of the model incorporates work from the community safety agenda; so, alongside working with teams such as children’s social care, early help, education, child and adolescent mental health services, health visiting service, and family hubs the vulnerable families’ pilot also incorporates representatives from the Communities Team, St. Leger Homes, and South Yorkshire Police.
- (6.24) Combined into community based “local solutions teams” covering Edlington, Mexborough, and Conisbrough and Denaby, these practitioners are working together to identify children and families who need support and to develop community level responses to meet those needs and manage those vulnerabilities effectively. This incorporates cases that range from providing information, advice, and guidance, through to supporting complex cases that require a holistic multi-agency response. It also enables practitioners from all disciplines to play an integral role in developing and informing community plans to address endemic and acute place-based issues. By combining both of these functions into one, the partnership will have a better understanding of the people and the places they are employed to support and will be able to make better use of the staff and resources in those communities to provide integrated, multi-disciplinary support that address the needs of a family and the context which they are operating in.
- (6.25) As the pilot progresses and the learning and experiences of the practitioners involved are taken on board, this approach will be rolled out across the borough. This will then act as the foundational piece of our Locality Delivery Model and have the other elements layered on top of it as they are developed.

RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

(6.26) The Improvement Board – Established in November 2020

During the autumn term it became evident that vulnerable children were less well served by Team Doncaster children’s agencies in comparison to a year ago. The November floods followed by the Covid-19 pandemic have created additional needs in the communities Doncaster serves, and complex partnership challenges have been exacerbated. Immediate action was taken by the partnership and established the **Partnership Improvement Board to oversee the Recovery and Resilience Plan** for the Children’s Safeguarding Partnership. It is independently chaired and aims to:

- reset the partnership approach to improvement,
- holding each organisation and agency to account, with the goal of getting the basics right,
- buy time for the Doncaster Children’s Safeguarding Partnership to re-establish itself in a post COVID-19 climate.

(6.27) It is envisaged that the Improvement Board will be in place for 12 months. These are the priorities agreed by the Partners for this time limited Improvement Board with a clear exit strategy and handover to the DSCP as sufficient progress is being made:

- **The Partnership Front Door** – To ensure CYPF receive the right service at the right time, through accurate assessment and strength and relationship-based approaches
- **Partnership Early Help** – To ensure the Doncaster’s early intervention and prevention offer is effective, local, visible and easily accessible, and works collaboratively with children, young people, their families and communities
- **Front line safeguarding practice** – To ensure there is an established system to Establish a clear line sight, communication and reporting cycle between frontline practitioners to the IB so that practice experiences, concerns, challenges and innovations can be promptly identified and acted on. To support staff across the partnership to provide effective front-line practice, that is underpinned by quality assurance systems and processes. The partnership is committed to being a learning one that supports staff development and excellence.
- **Performance and Continuous improvement framework** – To ensure the establishment of a unified performance and quality framework will allow senior leaders to assess system efficacy, streamlines monitoring arrangements, and sets standards for practice, leadership, and accountability. It will embed and inform a unified understanding of need and vulnerabilities in communities and empower staff at an operational and strategic level to drive improvements and shape services to meet those needs and vulnerabilities.
- **Effective Leadership and Governance fit for and responsive to a COVID recovery climate** – To ensure a coherent, streamlined, multi-agency governance structure that enables a culture of collaboration, innovation, transparency, and accountability for all aspects of the system and at all levels of the partnership. This is accompanied by a commitment to leadership, at both the operational and strategic levels, that works across organisational barriers to create and drive a vision for the future and models the behaviours required to embed cultural improvements and embrace positive change.

(6.28) Children’s Partnership agencies have remained committed to mobilising and ensuring quick responses to emergent issues arising from the Boroughs challenges. The Partnership has acted quickly to implement adaptive and transitional improvements to a number of the priorities areas identified above.

(6.29) There is a real commitment across the partnership towards recovery and response, and an acknowledgement that some things may either take a long time to return to how they were, or that some things may never return. The

impacts on children and young people may be long lasting and the best approach, is for the partnership to stay responsive and pro-active in identifying need and providing support at the earliest possible stage.

7. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

(7.1) This section is not applicable

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

(8.1) This section is not applicable

9. IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Doncaster Working: 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>The continued availability of education during the Covid-19 pandemic has enabled key workers to access childcare to continue with their vital roles in Doncaster's key services.</p> <p>The recovery curriculum approach and stronger partnership working between key agencies aims to provide local children and young people with the skills and competencies to access local employment and/or ignite interests that allow them to access further education locally.</p>
<p>Doncaster Living: 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>Improved outcomes along with early access to high quality multi agency services help all children and young people make the most of opportunities offered by the borough.</p>
<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in 	<p>The recovery curriculum approach aims to ensure children access meaningful education opportunities that exercises and promotes life-long learning.</p> <p>The further development of The Education and Skills Strategy 2030 will ensure that every child and young person is well prepared to meet future challenges.</p>

<p>Doncaster Schools that are good or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Effective multi agency working will ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people have opportunities to thrive and learn.</p>
<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>Improved outcomes help children to make the best possible start in life.</p> <p>The emphasis on equity and diversity will ensure that no section of the borough's population is left behind.</p> <p>Joint partnership working will ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people receive the support they need</p>
<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>The work contained within this report relating to safeguarding and wider partnership working will enable all our children and young people to benefit from improved outcomes and opportunities.</p>

10. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

(10.1) **Reputational Risk:** There is a risk to the council that not safeguarding and supporting our most vulnerable children and young people would result in a lack of opportunities and prevent this group of children and young people from meeting their full potential. The added pressures on schools and settings caused by the current Covid-19 pandemic further compounds this risk. The collaborative approach across the school system will help to mitigate these risks.

(10.2) **Financial Risk:** There is a risk of increasing pressure on other council resources due to limited educational and social opportunities for this group of vulnerable children and young people. Extra Funding provided during the pandemic will help mitigate this risk.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

[Officer Initials: SRF Date: 26/02/21]

(11.1) There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Focused legal advice can be provided to the panel on any matters arising.

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

[Officer Initials: DB Date: 26/02/21]

(12.1) There are no specific financial implications arising as a direct result of this report. All budget pressures identified within the council throughout 2020/21, including as a result of Covid-19, have been captured and reported throughout the year and included within the quarterly finance and performance improvement cabinet reports. Identified future years budget pressures have been included within the 2021/22 council budget setting process and will continue to be monitored and reported as part of ongoing financial monitoring by budget holders and directorate leadership team, with the support of financial management.

13. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: JC Date: 26/02/21]

(13.1) There are no HR implications associated with this report.

14. TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

[Officer Initials: NR Date: 26/02/21]

(14.1) There are many existing technical solutions within Doncaster's Digital solution that could assist in the objectives above, it's paramount that wherever technical requirements are identified the appropriate process is followed to ensure we first utilise the existing technologies and investments to their maximum, reduce duplication, increase integration and data sharing opportunity. A small example of these technologies would be:

- DIPs – Synergy (Schools integration and Educational Modules)
- Local Covid-19 case management solution with integration to Citizens, Central Government and PowerBI for reporting.
- Early intervention (Multi Agency Access) development underway with Localities to create an integrated response.
- MS teams and O365 for Secure collaboration (including Document management) and virtual meeting with Citizens, staff and partners.
- Complex Live (Multi Agency Access / view) Awarding win solution that is used across partners.
- Stronger Family existing solution for managing cases.
- IDCR (Integrated Digital Care Record) used across all the main Doncaster Social Care and Health Care Partners.
- DIPS (CPIS integration and NHS number integration)

(14.2) In addition, Security/Information Governance must be applied with a particular focus around Social media engagement, due to the nature and potential sensitivity of the conversations and the information within them.

15. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

[Officer Initials: CW Date: 26.02.21]

(15.1) The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health and wellbeing of children and young people may not be fully realised for years to come, but early indications are that poor mental and emotional health has also most certainly increased during the pandemic. Children have been forced to be at home in potentially volatile situations without usual support systems. The pandemic has created additional stresses on families which may lead to them requiring additional support. Previous, existing and emerging safeguarding issues are

of particular concern for our most vulnerable children.

(15.2) The report describes how vulnerable children have been supported throughout the pandemic with welfare calls and support with free school meals. Support to return to education settings since the lifting of restrictions is also described. Improving accessibility and attendance to education is likely to have a protective effect and support the educational attainment and health and wellbeing outcomes of these children.

(15.3) The Covid-19 pandemic has placed an enormous strain on our health services. Despite this, the report describes the effective partnership working with health services throughout, and the support partners have provided for each other to ensure vital services for children and families have continued. Moving into the recovery phase, it is important to consider the expectations and ask on our health services. Whilst there is no doubt of the importance of endeavours such as the Local Solutions Groups, care must be taken to ensure that health services have the capacity to partake in such asks and are not diverted away from other important functions.

16. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

[Officer Initials: PR Date: 21 /02/21]

(16.1) Improved provision in all services will ensure that all children's education and development continue to benefit; this will increase and strengthen our Local Offer and support our obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

(16.2) The Council's duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when exercising its functions to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a protected characteristic and those who do not share that protected characteristic, ensures fair access to learning, opportunities and support for all Doncaster's children and young people.

17. CONSULTATION

(17.1) During the Covid-19 pandemic, all services have continued to work together in consultation with officers across the council; including Finance and key officers from the Learning Organisation: Children and Young People.

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

(18.1) This section is not applicable

19. GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

(19.1) None

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Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 24th March 2021

To the Chair and Members of the
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

REPORT TITLE

Annual Report – Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP)

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor Ros Jones	All	Yes

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report accompanies the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership and sets out the approach to the report for 2020/2021.
- 1.2 This is the first full year covered by the new legislative requirements outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The new arrangements were initiated from 1 April 2019.

2 Future Reporting 2020/21

- 2.1 The next annual report to cover April 2020 – March 2021, will be published in July 2021.
- 2.2 The revised approach to future report and format will be as follows:
- 2.3 Approach:
 - Review of the current strategic safeguarding plan ending in 2021.
 - Link and reference throughout the report the wider strategies, reports and safeguarding information to avoid duplication.
 - Highlight the impact of Covid-19 on the Safeguarding partnership including issues and lessons learned.
 - Strengthen the Voice and involvement of Children and Young People.

2.4 Format:

- Report on revised priorities following the new Strategic Safeguarding plan 19/21
- Foreword from the Independent Chair & Safeguarding Manager
- Feedback obtained from individual partners, front line workers, Children and Young People and Families.
- Update on the Structure of the joint safeguarding unit and arrangements across partners.
- Finance for 20-21
- Feedback from Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services.
- Review and extend infographics for population and demographic information to cover all vulnerable and at risk children in Doncaster.
- Scrutiny and assurance of partnership safeguarding arrangements.
- Learning and Improvement to include key strengths, learning points and improvement as well as forward planning.
- Training and Development for both corporate parenting and workforce responsibilities as identified in 2020 Audits and linked to wider improvement works.

3 EXEMPT REPORT

3.1 Not applicable.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the Annual Report (19/20) in Appendix 1, format and approach for the next Annual Report (20/21)

5 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

5.1 The report demonstrates the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for Children in Doncaster and across the local strategic partnership, providing assurance regarding the quality and breadth of provision. Its purpose is to demonstrate the partnership commitment to building a skilled and resilient workforce through effective training and continued professional development. The partnership regularly reviews and refocuses on priority areas in response to intelligence received to ensure that support is delivered where it is most needed, supporting the delivery of improved outcomes for and the safeguarding of the children, young people and families of Doncaster.

6 BACKGROUND

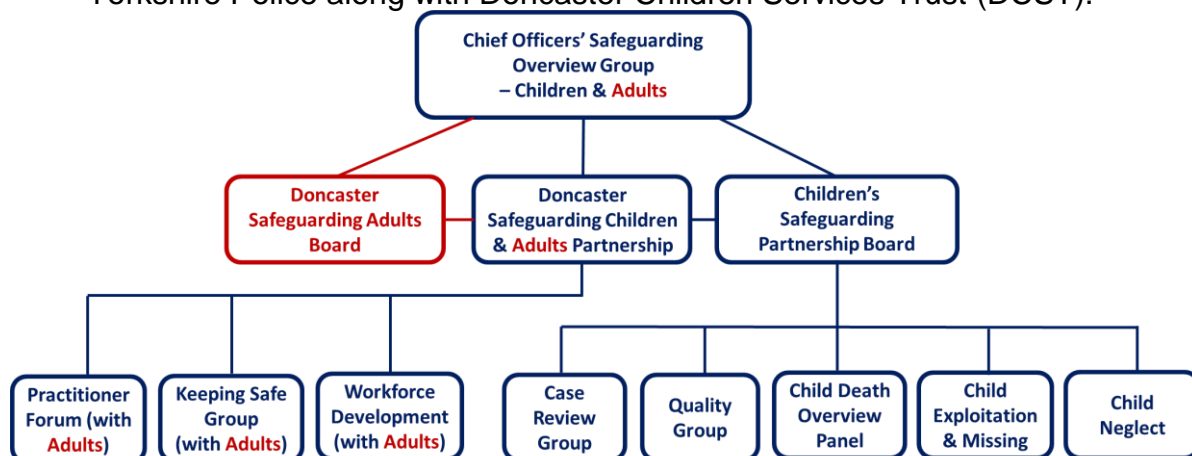
6.1. Position Statement

The Joint Doncaster Safeguarding Children's Partnership (DCSP) and Doncaster Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) Safeguarding Strategic Plan 2019-21 contains a commitment to an all-age Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and to Work across Children and Adult partnerships identifying further opportunities to work more closely together.

- 6.2 The Children’s Safeguarding Business Unit transferred from Doncaster Children’s Services Trust to the Council on 1st September 2020. As part of the restructure to an all age joint business unit, a consultation process is underway with staff and Trades Unions.
- 6.3 The proposed structure supports the increased requirement for review work, the rapid review process and the statutory requirements of the Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018.
- 6.4 An update of the outcome of the restructure and the revised new structure will be detailed in the 20/21 Annual Report
- 6.5 John Woodhouse retired as chair of the DSCP at the end of December 2020, with John Goldup appointed a new chair from January 2021.

7 Summary of Key Points – Annual Report 19-20

- 7.1 Legislative changes (2017 Children Act) mean local safeguarding children arrangements are now the responsibility of the three statutory ‘**safeguarding partners**’ –Doncaster Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, and South Yorkshire Police along with Doncaster Children Services Trust (DCST).



- 7.2 Practitioner Forum - Quarterly
- Keeping Safe Group - Quarterly
- Workforce Development - Quarterly

- 7.3 DSCP:
 - Case Review Group, DCST - Monthly
 - Quality Group - Quarterly
 - CDOP– Arranged when DBTH Child Death Team have cases prepared and ready for review
 - Child Exploitation & Missing 6 weekly
 - Child Neglect DCST 6 weekly

- 7.4 The DSCP Board meets quarterly: a children’s partnership meeting, an adult board meeting and a joint meeting all take place on the same day.

- 7.5 Demand for children’s services in Doncaster is higher than the national average: referral rates to children’s social care are higher. This has been the

case for a number of years and is likely to reflect the impact of historical serious case reviews alongside other demographic factors.

8 Partnership Achievements

- 8.1 One of the most successful aspects of the multi-agency learning centred on the audits that were undertaken around exploitation; mental health; sexual abuse and domestic abuse. The learning from these led to improvements in procedures and practice briefings being produced to cascade the learning across the workforce.
- 8.2 Overall progress has been made in implementing the new arrangements. Feedback has been positive. Members consider the revised joint format to be more effective.
- 8.3 The Early Help Strategy for Children, Young People and their Families 2017 – 20 provides prevention and earlier intervention when a need is identified. During 2019 –2020, there were 7063 referrals made for Early Help support; slightly up from the previous year of 6181 referrals. The focus on practice development improved outcomes for families, evidenced in the overall closure outcome; most notably 'plans completed' 'family disengagement' decreased and 'step up' to social care fell.
- 8.4 The DSCP has continued to develop the Neglect Strategy aiming to ensure the early recognition of neglect and improved responses to it by all agencies.
- 8.5 In response to two Lessons Learned Reviews, a detailed suicide contagion protocol has been developed in conjunction with Public Health.
- 8.6 The Partnership has a strong commitment to multi-agency training and continues to work with our established multi-agency training pool to offer a training programme covering a wide range of safeguarding issues.
- 8.7 In February the Partnership hosted its first joint conference with the DSAB. This followed on from the nine previous conferences and was equally well received. It was described variously as inspiring, informative, excellent and powerful.
- 8.8 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)- Significant progress has been made in meeting the requirements of Working Together 2018. The four South Yorkshire areas have collaborated to strengthen the existing shared learning forum, which takes place quarterly.
- 8.9 Quality and Performance - The group has explored the use of data and intelligence to inform the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. A revised data set and reporting process has been implemented during 2019 - 20. The group has commissioned four highly successful multi agency audits using the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) framework. These have led to action plans to improve practice. The impact of the group is that the Partnership is better able to understand and analyse the functioning of the whole system and implement actions to resolve any issues.
- 8.10 Practitioner Forum: This is chaired by the Independent Scrutineer and has representation from multi-agency practitioners across adults and children's services in Doncaster. Each forum has led to sharing of valuable information on practice issues. These help inform the Board of those priorities to take forward.

9. Areas of development and future challenges

- 9.1 There is a need to more systematically capture the voice of the child; there is a need to develop this on a multi- agency basis.
- 9.2 Key priorities for 2020-21 will include:

- i) The multi-agency response to the ongoing Covid pandemic and continuing work with the Children’s Recovery and Resilience Board.
- ii) Improved integration with the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership at both a strategic and operational level to address issues arising from domestic abuse.
- iii) Seeking assurance from the Health and Wellbeing Board in respect of the impact of mental health issues on young people’s well-being.
- iv) A review is currently underway to further development the recently enhanced website and further embed partnership-working practices.

10 OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10.1 There is a statutory duty to produce and publish an annual report; however, options regarding the format of the report are being considered for future

11 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

11.1 The report gives the assurance required that Doncaster children are safe, that there is a strong multi agency approach and response and demonstrates impact, whilst involving children and young people and includes their voice.

12 IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

12.1. As above, the annual report provides assurance regarding the robust and effectiveness of Doncaster’s multi agency approach to safeguarding Children and young People.

12.2

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>The Annual Report demonstrates the consistency of safeguarding policy and practice across Doncaster partners.</p> <p>Workforce development is highlighted throughout the annual report</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport 	<p>The annual report demonstrates joined up practice, with adults for an all age approach to safeguarding.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Education provision across Doncaster is a key partner and contributor, ensuring consistent and robust safeguarding policy and practice.</p> <p>Lifelong Learning is a strong theme, developing best practice.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>The Annual Report identifies early help, vulnerable young people, looked after children and vulnerable adults and provides a multi-agency focus on keeping these target groups safe.</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>Working with partners and stakeholders to ensure a safe, skilled, effective and resilient work force.</p>

13 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

13.1 Overarching legislation (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) describes a safeguarding partnership working on a joint funded partnership to safeguard the people of Doncaster.

14 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NC Date 15/3/21]

- 14.1 Section 16E of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Police (“the Safeguarding Partners”) to set up a Safeguarding Partnership and to exercise their functions and work together for the purposes of safeguarding and the promoting the wellbeing in their area.
- 14.2 Section 16G of the Children 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 require the Safeguarding Partners to prepare and publish a report at least once in every 12 month period to set out what Safeguarding partners have done as a result of the safeguarding arrangements in place and how effective the arrangements have been.

15 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: AB Date: 15/03/21]

- 15.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. The Children’s Safeguarding Board budget for 2020/21 is £248,230. Following the transfer of the service to the Council on the 1st September 2020, budget of £103,130 remained with Doncaster Children’s Services Trust to cover the spend incurred up to the point of transfer, and the remaining 2020/21 budget of £145,100 transferred to the Council. The budget of £103,130 that remained with Doncaster Children’s Services Trust in 2020/21 will transfer to the Council on 1st April 2021.

16 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CR Date 15/03.2021]

- 16.1 There are no immediate HR implications arising from the approval of this report, however, any future changes that impact on the workforce will require HR engagement and would involve separate approval as appropriate.

17 TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 15/03/21]

- 17.1 The report refers to a review and further development of the recently enhanced website (<https://dscp.org.uk/>). The DCST contract with Proportion Marketing for this website ends 30/6/21 and a report relating to a 12-month extension and consideration of future options is going to the Technology Governance Board (TGB) in April 21.

18 HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CW.Date 15/3/21]

- 18.1 The impacts of the COVID pandemic on the health and wellbeing of children and young people may not be fully realised for years to come, but early indications are that poor mental and emotional health has also most certainly increased during the pandemic. Children have been forced to be at home in potentially volatile situations without usual support systems. The pandemic has created additional stresses on families, which may lead to them requiring additional support. Previous, existing and emerging safeguarding issues are of particular concern for our most vulnerable children.
- 18.2 The COVID 19 pandemic has placed an enormous strain on our health services. Despite this, the report describes the effective partnership working with health services throughout. Moving into the recovery phase, it is important to be clear about expectations and ask on our health services and ensure they

have the resource and capacity to fully support safeguarding functions, and not be being diverted away from important preventative elements of the service offer.

19 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...KLN... Date...12/3/21]

19.1 The Annual Report 19/20 covers the breadth of the most vulnerable groups in the Borough through its changing focus on priorities and through its fully inclusive multi agency approach, including elements of co-production and feedback from children, young people and families.

20 CONSULTATION

20.1 The Annual Report is developed and written in consultation with key partners and stakeholders

21 BACKGROUND PAPERS

21.1 DSCP Annual Report (See Appendix 1)

22 GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

22.1	CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
	DCST	Doncaster Children's Services Trust
	DSAB	Doncaster Safeguarding Adults Board
	DSCP	Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership

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**DONCASTER
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP**

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019/2020

Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce the DSCP Annual Report for 2019/20.

I took up the role of Independent Chair of the Joint Adults and Children Safeguarding Board in December 2020. I had no involvement with safeguarding in Doncaster in the twelve months covered by this report, and of course am not in a position to comment in any detail on the work undertaken, the achievements, and the areas for improvement identified in that period. However, one key role of an independent chair is to challenge and scrutinise performance and reporting. Statutory guidance requires this annual report to be subject to independent scrutiny. I hope therefore that there may be some advantage in the opportunity for a newcomer to cast an independent eye over and comment on this first annual report published under the revised multi-agency safeguarding arrangements introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

As that newcomer I ought to give a brief summary of my background. I have spent my career in social work practice, teaching and management across both adults and children's services. I was Director of Adult Services in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for nine years, and then Director of Social Care and Deputy Chief inspector in Ofsted from 2009 to 2013. Since then I have undertaken improvement work in a number of local authorities, and currently chair the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adult Board in the London Borough of Redbridge.

This report covers the twelve months to March 2020. The floods of November 2019 made huge demands on all public services, challenging them to find new ways of responding to crisis; and since then, of course, the world has been turned upside down by the terrible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. All services and agencies have had to respond at pace to the unprecedented circumstances of this pandemic with even greater flexibility, capacity to innovate, and readiness to adapt. Services have faced huge challenges, but at the same time the crises have opened up opportunities for new ways of working and strengthened partnerships. It is already clear to me from my brief engagement with Doncaster that partner agencies, and above all individual practitioners and managers, have risen to this challenge, going the extra mile and beyond, and demonstrating an outstanding example of public service values and commitment at their best.

This report does not cover the period since March 2020 which has been dominated by the demands of the pandemic response. An analysis of those demands, the risks that have emerged to children and young people during the pandemic, and the way in which the partnership has worked to manage and mitigate those risks, will undoubtedly be a major theme of the report for 2020/21. Inevitably, the pressures on all agencies have delayed the production of the report, and it is now almost a year since the period covered by the report ended.

There is much that is positive in the report. The evidence on the impact of the Early Help Strategy on outcomes for families in the year in question is particularly encouraging. I know that partners in Doncaster are very clear that effective engagement with families at an early stage can be crucial both in securing better outcomes and experiences for children and families, preventing a need for more intensive and potentially invasive interventions at a later stage, and in managing demand for more intensive services. There is some recent evidence that the early help pathway needs some reviewing and strengthening, to make sure that more families get the right help at the right time, and I am aware that much work is currently being undertaken on this.

The report reflects on the first year's experience of the arrangements that have been put in place in Doncaster to achieve a more integrated approach to safeguarding across both adults' and children's services. There is a Joint Adults and Children Safeguarding Board, with a linked Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Partnership, supported by a Joint Business Unit. It is encouraging to learn from the report that:

Feedback from the reconfigured Boards has been positive. Members consider the revised joint format to be more effective in facilitating a joint approach to shared issues across Children and Adult Services.

The report highlights some creative initiatives that have come out of cross-fertilisation between what were previously two entirely separate Boards. The community-focused Keeping Safe Forum was originally developed by the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Practitioners Forum by the Safeguarding Children Partnership. Both now operate across both sectors, and I look forward to engaging with them in the coming months.

Partners have agreed that two years on from the implementation of these new arrangements it would be timely to review them. I have been asked to carry out that review. It will be important to ensure that the benefits of integration are maximised, focusing on genuinely shared issues with a real impact on outcomes for vulnerable adults, children, young people and families, while at the same time making sure that focus is not lost on those challenges and issues that are specific to the adult safeguarding or children's safeguarding agendas.

The annual report is required, under the 2017 Act, to evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in practice. It ought to answer the question: how well are children and young people in Doncaster safeguarded? What are the key strengths, and what needs to be better? I hope that next year's report will be able to answer those questions more robustly than it has been possible to do in this first report produced under the new arrangements. There is clearly much good practice in Doncaster, commended most recently by Ofsted in reporting on their "focused visit" in December 2018. The annual report refers to a series of multi-agency audits that were undertaken in 2019/20. Having read those audits, I can confirm that they were thorough and rigorous, and they did indeed identify much good practice. They did also, however, identify some very significant areas for improvement: inconsistencies in some basic practice (in the

quality of assessment, for example), inconsistencies in reflecting and reflecting on the lived experience of some of the children concerned, and a need for the much better “join up” between different services that the joint safeguarding arrangements in Doncaster ought to be exceptionally well placed to promote – between children’s social care and adult mental health services, for example. I am aware that partners in Doncaster have identified the need for practice and service improvement in a range of areas and have established a Partnership Improvement Board charged with delivering the necessary improvements at pace.

Children’s services in Doncaster were found by Ofsted to be failing in 2015, and in only two years had improved to ‘good’ – perhaps the fastest trajectory of improvement in the country. A year later, services were judged to be still focusing “highly effectively” on continuing improvement. I have been very impressed by the strong commitment of all partners to refocus on that improvement, and I look forward to working with them on the next stage of what overall has been a very impressive improvement journey.

John Goldup, Independent Chair of Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership

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Principles, Priorities and Values

The DSCP and DSAB have a joint strategic “plan on a page”. The guiding **principles** of this are:

- Always put the wellbeing of the child, young person or adult first;
- Ensure services address the impact of adverse childhood experiences across the life stages;
- Promote a culture of creativity and curiosity;
- Promote whole family working.

There are four strategic priorities:

- To assure effectiveness and impact of safeguarding arrangements;
- To lead and shape safeguarding practice;
- To be able to respond to current and emerging issues;
- To collaborate, trust and build partnerships.

A core **value** is that we ensure the voice of the Child / Adult informs all that we do “*Nothing about me without me*”.

Legislative changes (2017 Children Act) mean local safeguarding children arrangements are now the responsibility of the three statutory ‘**safeguarding partners**’ –Doncaster Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, and South Yorkshire Police along with Doncaster Children Services Trust (DCST). The new arrangements require the statutory partners to put in place local arrangements including how they will work with relevant agencies (agencies who the safeguarding partners identify as having a key role in safeguarding children). The partners have previously agreed to form a joint Board with the DSAB as well as having a partnership board specifically for children. The Board commissions an Independent Scrutineer who has no connection with any of the local agencies. The implementation of the strategic plan is delegated to a range of sub groups some of which are run jointly with the adult board.

The structure provides oversight so that all agencies in Doncaster are clear about their responsibilities and that they work together to co-ordinate all their safeguarding activities. The Partnership is supported by a joint Adult and Children Business Support Unit. It works closely with a number of other multi-agency strategic partnerships including the: Health and Wellbeing Board; Safer Stronger Doncaster; Children & Young People’s Partnership and Early Help Strategy Group. There are clearly overlapping areas of concern across these areas. To address this Doncaster has put in place a Chief Officers Safeguarding Overview Partnership (COSOP) in order to ensure that there is co-ordination and linkages with other partnerships and plans such as Doncaster Growing Together, and the plan for Team Doncaster. The DSCP Board meets quarterly: a children’s partnership meeting, an adult board meeting and a joint meeting all take place on the same day.

CONTEXT

66,918 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Doncaster, this is **21%** of the total population in the area.



Doncaster (based on ONS Mid-Year Estimates)



22%

Approximately of the local authority's children aged under 16 years are living in low-income families.

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for **11%** of all children living in the area, compared with **27%** in the country as a whole.

The proportion of children entitled to free school meals:

20.5% in primary schools (the national average is 17.7%)

19.5% in secondary schools (the national average is 15.9%)



The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are White Eastern European, including Gypsy/Roma Communities



Doncaster is

41

in the ranking for deprivation



The total number of open Children In Need Cases as at 30th September **2,580** – including care leaver's **2,284** – Excluding Care Leavers

2.8% of our pupils had an EHCP compared with **3.3%** nationally, and **12.3%** had SEN Support compared with **12.1%** nationally (As at January 2020)



Doncaster has:

383 children with a Child Protection Plan

519 children are in care

296 care leavers.



The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language:

12.0% in primary schools (the national average is 21.3%)

8.9% in secondary schools (the national average is 17.1%)



5.8% of our young people are 'Not in Education, Employment or Training, compared with **10.4%** nationally (As at August 2020)



Local Context

Doncaster is currently ranked 41st most deprived out of 326 local authorities according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2019) suggesting that a significant proportion of families in Doncaster will face challenges in caring for and raising their children. There are approximately 65,000 children and young people under 18 in Doncaster. Demand for children's services in Doncaster is higher than the national average: referral rates to children's social care are higher. This has been the case for a number of years and is likely to reflect the impact of historical serious case reviews alongside other demographic factors.

In Doncaster, 6.2% of residents were born outside the UK. The main group outside of white British is 'white other' which equates to 3.1% of the population aged 0-24. The main language in Doncaster, for people aged 3-15, if not English, is Polish.

A report **By us, for us: A youth-led commission on child poverty in Doncaster**, commissioned by the Children and Families Executive Board (September 2018) concluded the following: *in Doncaster almost 1 child in 3 lives in poverty – that's over 20,000 children. Poverty affects children's lives in lots of different ways: people can lose their homes, or become victims of crime if their area is unsafe. Poverty affects how well children do in school, how healthy they are and how they behave. It also affects their future – what kind of jobs they can get and whether they end up being poor as adults.*

Partnership Achievements

One of the most successful aspects of the multi-agency learning centred on the audits that were undertaken around exploitation; mental health; sexual abuse and domestic abuse. The learning from these led to improvements in procedures and practice briefings being produced to cascade the learning across the workforce. The DSCP has a statutory duty to undertake Section 11 audits on a bi-annual basis. No Section 11 audits were undertaken during the time period covered by the report. These occur bi-annually and these are underway at the time of writing.

Overall progress has been made in implementing the new arrangements. Feedback from the reconfigured Boards has been positive. Members consider the revised joint format to be more effective in facilitating a joint approach to share issues across Children and Adult Services.

The Early Help Strategy for Children, Young People and their Families 2017 – 20 provides prevention and earlier intervention when a need is identified or as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. During 2019 –2020 there were 7063 referrals made for Early Help support; slightly up from the previous year of 6181 referrals. The focus on practice development improved outcomes for families, evidenced in the overall closure outcome, most notably 'plans completed' rose from 29.2% in 2018-19 to 43.9% in 2019-

20; 'family disengagement' decreased from 26.6% to 20.2%; and 'step up' to social care fell from 26.6% to 23.5%.

The Year 2019/20 began with 314 children subject to Child Protection Plans, and closed with a decrease to 300. The trend is a steady decline over recent years, and there are no Child Protection Plans that have been in place for two years or longer. This suggests that effective early intervention is preventing problems from escalating to a point where child protection procedures are required. When child protection plans are required the gradual reduction in duration of these plans suggests that effective and timely planning and support for children and families is being provided. This is generally desirable as child protection procedures can feel intrusive and threatening for families, hence it is preferable to be able to engage families voluntarily at an earlier stage. There has been an increase in children and young people's attendance at conferences and at core groups, with more meaningful contributions and greater engagement with the plan. There is a shift in culture leading to other professionals habitually seeking the views of young people and championing their involvement and contributions. Overall, this represents a very successful area of practice and helps towards meeting the statutory requirement to ascertain the voice of young people.

Local Solution Groups were piloted to inform the transition into the locality-working model and were key in managing demand caused by the November 2019 floods and Covid response from March 2020 onwards.

The DSCP has continued to develop the Neglect Strategy aiming to ensure the early recognition of neglect and improved responses to it by all agencies, so that life changes of children are promptly improved and the risk of harm is reduced. This is led by a Neglect Strategic Group, which is part of the Team Doncaster Children and Young People's Partnership.

DSCP Sub Groups

The Sub Groups are the "engine room" of the Partnership and have delegated responsibility for implementation of the strategic plan. It delegates its functions to a number of sub groups via the strategic plan and each group has an individual action plan.

Case Review Group: The CRG fulfils the statutory requirements outlined in Working Together 2018 relating to "child protection and safeguarding practice". Learning Lessons Reviews promote the participation of frontline practitioners and provide a detailed insight into issues and experiences in safeguarding casework. A key impact of the group is that Practice Briefings are produced to disseminate the learning to the wider workforce. In response to two Lessons Learned Reviews a detailed suicide contagion protocol has been developed in conjunction with Public Health. During Q4 the first Rapid Review was completed leading to a Local Child Practice Safeguarding Review being commissioned. Publication is delayed pending the conclusion of the criminal process.

Workforce Development: The Partnership has a strong commitment to multi-agency training and continues to work with our established multi-agency training pool to offer a training programme covering a wide range of safeguarding issues based on a training

needs analysis. Places are provided at no charge funded by annual partner contributions. During the year 1365 multi-agency professionals attended a total of 412 hours of training covering a diverse range of subjects. This contributes to a well-trained and highly skilled workforce. In February the Partnership hosted its first joint conference with the DSAB. This followed on from the nine previous conferences and was equally well received by the 180 delegates present. It was described variously as inspiring, informative, excellent and powerful.

Child Death Overview Panel: CDOP reviews all child deaths that occur in Doncaster in accordance with the statutory responsibilities outlined in Working Together 2018. Modifiable factors arising from reviewed cases included: Smoking by either parent during mother's pregnancy; Body Mass Index of mother; Co-sleeping and parental compliance advice; Internet safety and online information regarding self-harm; Low birth weight of baby; Delay in seeking medical attention by parents. This has led to recommendations for the following actions: Health staff training regarding safe sleeping and alcohol use, and smoking in pregnancy; Young people's safe user use of the internet.

Significant progress has been made in meeting the requirements of Working Together 2018. The four South Yorkshire areas have collaborated to strengthen the existing shared learning forum which takes place quarterly.

Quality and Performance The group has explored the use of data and intelligence to inform the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, in response to Working Together 2018. A revised data set and reporting process has been implemented during 2019 - 20. The group has commissioned four highly successful multi agency audits using the JTAI framework. These have led to action plans to improve practice. The impact of the group is that the Partnership is better able to understand and analyse the functioning of the whole system and implement actions to resolve any issues.

Child Exploitation: A Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2017-19 and Action Plan is overseen by the Group, chaired by a senior Police Officer who is a member of the Partnership Board. The multi-agency team is co-located with specialist police officer colleagues and Missing Persons Investigators. This means that information can be shared in a timely way and responding to concerns can be undertaken quickly. The Industry Sector Group has worked hard to train taxi drivers, private landlords and hoteliers, to raise awareness of the signs and indicators of exploitation.

Practitioner Forum: This is chaired by the DSCP Independent Convenor and has representation from multi-agency practitioners across adults and children's services in Doncaster. The Forum has met on 5 occasions within the period of 2019/20. Each forum has led to sharing of valuable information on practice issues. These help inform the Board of those priorities to take forward. The Forum has always been well attended and seen an increase in engagement. It is a platform for practitioners to directly inform senior leaders in the DSCP of practice related issues.

Keeping Safe Sub Group and Forum The sub group and Forum are run jointly between adults and children. Engagement with the voluntary and faith and culture sectors is being

further developed into the Keeping Safe Forum, to ensure that the sector is well represented serving as a voice and influence sub-group for both the Adult and Children's Boards. Community, faith and cultural groups and sports clubs are also invited to DSCP training events and conferences. Both safeguarding partnerships have also worked together on an annual safeguarding fortnight, with activities and communications to raise awareness about safeguarding and protection issues with the general public and professionals.

Areas of development and future challenges

A significant amount of time was invested in developing the new DSCP website. It is envisaged that this will promote a universal training calendar detailing all children and adults training courses linked to Safeguarding.

There is a need to more systematically capture the voice of the child. While a number of agencies have been very successful in doing to this to the extent where young advisors are commissioned to inform individual governance boards there is a need to develop this on a multi- agency basis.

The DSCP has been fortunate in that since the advent of Working Together 2018 up until April 2020 there has only been one serious incident that met the criteria for Rapid Review. This occurred in January '20 so the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review was only at the stage of being commissioned by the end of March'20. The most significant learning arose from Lessons Learned Reviews following two young people taking their own lives. A suicide contagion protocol has been developed as a consequence of this and has proven to be effective.

Key priorities for 2020-21 will include:

- The multi-agency response to the ongoing Covid pandemic.
- Improved integration with the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership at both a strategic and operational level to address issues arising from domestic abuse.
- Seeking assurance from the Health and Wellbeing Board in respect of the impact of mental health issues on young people's well-being.

References

DSCP Website: <https://dscp.org.uk/>

New Local Arrangements can be found at <https://dscp.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-09/DSCP%20New%20local%20arrangements%20to%20safeguard%20children%2006.2019.pdf>

DSCP- DSAB Strategic Plan 2019-2021: <https://dscp.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-10/DSCP%20DSAB%20Safeguarding%20Strategic%20Plan%202019-2021.pdf>

DSCP Policy and Procedures: <https://dscp.org.uk/professionals/policies-and-procedures>

Early Help Strategy: <https://dscp.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/Early%20Help%20Strategy%20Revised%202017%20to%202020%20Final.pdf>

DSCP Training Calendar : <https://buy.doncaster.gov.uk/training>

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PLAN 2020/21

	OSMC	H&ASC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S	C&E O&S
May	Friday 1st May, 2020 11am – Briefing Session				
	OSMC and Vice Chairs - way forward during the Covid-19 pandemic period.				
	Wednesday 13th May, 2020 5pm – Briefing Session				
	How the Local Authority is identifying and responding to the needs of vulnerable people				
	Thursday 28th May 2020 5pm – Briefing Session				
	Use of grant funding and impacts				
June	Thursday 11th June 2020 5pm – Briefing Session				
	Street scene services, cleaner and greener; Household Waste Centres				
	Thurs, 25th June 2020, 10am (AS)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qtrly Finance & Performance Report – Qtr 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMBC • SLHD • DCST • Scrutiny Work Plan 				

Agenda Item 8.

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

July	Cancelled Thurs, 16 th July 2020, 10am	Cancelled Thurs, 2nd July 2020, 10am	Thursday 9 th July 2020 5pm – Briefing Session	Thursday 23 rd July 2020, 5pm – Briefing session	Wed, 29 th July 2020, 10am
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home schooling during Covid-19 pandemic – schools approach and support and advice available Potential impact on educational outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on delivery of major projects during the covid-19 pandemic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Environmental Strategy and Climate Commission Work planning meeting
	Wed 29 th July 2020 1pm	Mon 27 th July 2020 12.30 pm	Cancelled Thurs, 23 rd July 2020, 4:30pm	Thurs 30 th July 2020 5pm	
	Work planning meeting	Work planning meeting		Work planning meeting	
		Tues 28th July 2020 11am (CM) South Yorkshire Regional Joint Scrutiny Virtual Meeting.			
Aug		Thurs 6th August 2020 5pm (CM)	Mon 3rd Aug 2020 5pm		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health (include suicide prevention) – impact from the covid-19 pandemic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work planning meeting 		
Sept	Thurs 3rd Sept 2020, 12:30pm Cancelled & moved from 10th Sept 2020, 10am (CR)				Friday 18th Sept 2020 9.30am (CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qtrly Finance & Performance Report – Qtr 1 (specific issue staff sickness and back to work interviews) (c) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMBC SLHD DCST O&S Workplan – Sept Update (c) 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding Briefing session

FP – Forward Plan Decision

CR, CM or AS – Officer Responsible

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensing Strategy (c) 				
	Tues, 22nd Sept 2020 at 4pm Briefing Session		Thurs, 17th Sept 2020, 4:30pm (CM)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning White Paper Consultation (c) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme - Early intervention in localities supporting families in the place (c) 		
	Tues, 23rd Sept 2020 at 5pm Extraordinary Meeting		Ext Tues, 29th Sept 2020, 5:00pm (CM)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call-in – financial assistance market operators 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme – Participation Child Friendly Borough (c) Doncaster Offer (Youth Strategy) (c) 		
Oct				Thurs 8th Oct 2020 at 4pm R and H Briefing Session (All Members welcome)	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Strategy Housing Delivery Plan 	
	Thurs, 8th October 2020, 10am	Thurs, 1st October 2020, 10am (CM)		Mon, 12th Oct 2020 at 1pm rescheduled from Wed, 14th Oct	Thurs, 22nd October 2020 At 2pm (CM)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Compliments and Complaints (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring access to day support and short breaks during the Covid 19 pandemic (c) Health Protection Assurance Report (deferred from meeting in March 2020) (c) 		<p>Economic impact arising from COVID (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To include Business Support Grants (main fund and discretionary fund) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how has this been utilised. 	<p>Flooding (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 19 requirements; Winter preparations for flooding assurance ahead of winter period
Wed, 21st October 2020, 4pm Members Seminar –OSMC led					

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning White Paper Consultation (c) 				
Nov	<p>Mon 2nd Nov 2020, 10am rescheduled from Thurs, 5th Nov</p>	<p>Thurs, 26th Nov 2020, 10am</p>	<p>Wed 4th November, 2020 at 4pm – Members Briefing</p>		<p>Wed 25th November, 2020 at 10am</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Recovery & Renewal Strategy(c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Planning Partnership Plan to including hospital discharges to care homes, track and trace (local) and CV-19 Doncaster position (c) Update from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doncaster Offer (Expect Youth) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Abuse (during the pandemic) – briefing session (c) Briefing session Environmental Strategy development (c)
			<p>Extraordinary- Wed 11th November, 2020 4.30pm</p>		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme Education, Skills and Curriculum Recovery Achievements in relationships with Academies; Reintegration into education; NEET; Skills and transition into employment. Education achievement and attendance (c) Learning Provision Organisation Strategy; (c) 		
Dec	<p>Thurs 3rd Dec 2020, 10am (AS)</p>		<p>Wed 2nd December, 2020 at 4pm – Members Briefing</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qtrly Finance & Performance Report – Qtr 2 (c) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMBC SLHD DCST 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Picture Project Update 		

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

Jan	Wed, 20th Jan 2021 10am Members Briefing (CM, CR and AS)	Mon, 11th Jan 2021 at 1.30pm Members Briefing (CR)	Postponed Wed, 27th Jan 2020, 4:30pm (was 10th Dec 2020) items transferred to 11th March (CM)	Thurs, 14th Jan 2021, 1pm Members Briefing (CM)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Ward Budgets - 6 months on – addressing community vibrancy, lessons learnt particularly operating through Covid-19, barriers - review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Delivery Model for Public Health Services for 5-19 year olds (c) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Investment Plan Doncaster and Stainforth (c) 	
	Fri, 29th Jan 2021 10am Members Briefing (CM)	Thurs, 28th Jan 2021, 10am CR			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Plan (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childhood obesity (c) Get Doncaster Moving (to include invite to DCLT) (c) Substantial variation GP Practice Proposed Merger (c) 			
Feb	Mon, 1st Feb 2021, 1.30pm Members Briefing CR			Thurs 18th Feb 2021, 2.30pm Members Briefing CR	Wed, 10th Feb 2021, 10am CM
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget (c) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Commission Recommendations Impact on Housing (c) Quality Streets Active Travel and Digital Infrastructure programme: Doncaster Town Centre. (c) 	<p>Crime and Disorder Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection on Covid period 2020 (c)
	Thurs, 4th Feb 2021, 10am CM?				Thurs 18th Feb 2021, 11am Members Briefing CM
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and Skills Strategy (c) 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Winter Preparations (Flooding) Environmental Strategy (c)

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Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	Thurs, 11th Feb 2021, 9:30am CR and CM				Friday 19th Feb 2021, 10am CR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Corporate Plan (c) 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree Policy (c)
	Thurs, 25th Feb, 2021 10am AS				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qtrly Finance & Performance Report – Qtr 3 (c) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMBC SLHD DCST 				
		Thurs, 18th March 2021, 2pm CM	Wed, 24th March 2021, 5pm (to include items transferred from 27th Jan) CM	Wed, 3rd March 2021 – 10:00am CR	
March		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Protection Assurance Report (c) Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (c) Doncaster All Age Strategy for Autistic People and People with a Learning Disability (c) 	<p>Theme – Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole System including demand management; Doncaster Children’s Safeguarding Board Annual Report (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Impact Update and Assistance Provided to Business in Doncaster (invite Doncaster Chamber) (c) 	
	Thurs, 1st April 2021, 10am Members Briefing				
Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible scoping of Contract Commissioning for possible 2021/22 review 				
May					

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

POSSIBLE ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OR TO BE SCHEDULED				
<p>Youth Justice Plan – being dealt with through a different process in 2020</p>	<p>Changes to Adult Social Care Charges 1 year on – first meeting in 2021/22</p>	<p>Doncaster Offer (Delivery Strands) (TBC)</p>	<p>Town Centre Car Parking (TBC) – 2021/2022</p>	<p>Environmental/Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation (link to Climate Change/Covid) – Review – timing tbc link to Regeneration and Housing – 2021/2022 • Environment Strategy (Cleaner/Green proposed early January) – Ongoing 2021/2022 <p>Other areas arising out of the above will be reviewed throughout the year and maybe rolled over on a continual basis.</p>
<p>TBC: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DGT 2 • Borough Strategy • Corporate Plan 		<p>All Age Learning Disability Strategy (TBC) – 2021/2022</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management Consortium and Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board– update following 2018/19 Flood Review (deferred from 2019/2020 tbc) – re Internal organisational changes
<p>Contract commissioning – roll over to 2021/22</p>		<p>Alternative Provision – Agreed to be added to the 2021/22 work plan at the 11th November 2020 meeting</p>		
BRIEFING NOTES				
	<p><u>Briefing Note</u></p> <p>Adults Safeguarding – January/February 2021</p>		<p><u>Briefing Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness – End January 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ response to homelessness (in 	<p><u>Briefing Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Improvement Programme – 2021/2022 • Future parks' and green spaces – 2021/2022

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

				<p>response to Covid 19) and implications on housing stock/budget/support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ending of suspension of evictions for those renting in private renting (23rd Aug) when court actions can resume ○ impact on number that could be made homeless ○ support to those finding new accommodation/sustaining tenancies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council Properties Rent Payments; - End January 2021 ○ Impact from job losses/redundancies/delays in Universal Credit ○ measures in place to support those impacted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flooding– flooding being addressed by C & E so may need to review what is covered to avoid duplication and ensure the issues remained linked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Isolation and Loneliness Alliance Update - 2021/2022
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Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Flood resilience and housing – how we can become more resilient to flooding.○ Economic impact from flooding <p>To be considered at R&H O&S meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCR Devolution• Funding Streams and progress made eg. Towns Fund January 2021 – 2021/2022?	
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DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31 JULY 2021

The Forward Plan sets out details of all Key Decisions expected to be taken during the next four months by either the Cabinet collectively, The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holders or Officers and is updated and republished each month.

A Key Decision is an executive decision which is likely:-

- (a) to result in the Local Authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Local Authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the Local Authority;
- (c) any decision related to the approval or variation of the Policy and budget Framework that is reserved to the Full Council.

The level of expenditure/savings which this Authority has adopted as being financially significant are (a) in the case of the revenue budget, gross full-year effect of £250,000 or more b) in the case of capital budget, £1,000,000 or more in respect of a single project or otherwise across one financial year.or the decision has a significant impact on 2 or more wards.

Please note in addition to the documents identified in the plan, other documents relevant to a decision may be submitted to the Decision Maker. Details of any additional documents submitted can be obtained from the Contact Officer listed against each decision identified in this plan.

In respect of exempt items, if you would like to make written representations as to why a report should be considered in public, please send these to the contact officer responsible for that particular decision. Unless otherwise stated, representations should be made at least 14 days before the expected date of the decision.

KEY

Those items in **BOLD** are **NEW**

Those items in **ITALICS** have been **RESCHEDULED** following issue of the last plan

Prepared on: 1st March, 2021 and superseding all previous Forward Plans with effect from the period identified above.

Damian Allen
Chief Executive

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member For:

Mayor - Ros Jones

Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillor Nigel Ball

Councillor Joe Blackham

Councillor Rachael Blake

Councillor Chris McGuinness

Councillor Bill Mordue

Councillor Jane Nightingale

- Housing and Equalities

- Public Health, Leisure and Culture

- Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services

- Adult Social Care

- Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment

- Business, Skills and Economic Development

- Customer and Corporate Resources.

Some Decisions listed in the Forward Plan are to be taken by Full Council

Members of the Full Council are:-

Councillors Nick Allen, Duncan Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, Nigel Cannings, Bev Chapman, Phil Cole, John Cooke, Mick Cooper, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, George Derx, Susan Durant, Neil Gethin, Sean Gibbons, John Gilliver, Martin Greenhalgh, Pat Haith, John Healy, Rachel Hodson, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, David Hughes, Eva Hughes, Glyn Jones, R. Allan Jones, Ros Jones, Ken Keegan, Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Nikki McDonald, Tosh McDonald, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, Bill Mordue, John Mounsey, David Nevett, Jane Nightingale, Ian Pearson, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Tina Reid, Andrea Robinson, Kevin Rodgers, Dave Shaw, Derek Smith, Frank Tyas, Austen White, Sue Wilkinson, Jonathan Wood, Paul Wray.

WHEN DECISION IS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN	KEY DECISION TO BE TAKEN	RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER	DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY	CONTACT OFFICER(S)	DOCUMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY DECISION MAKER	REASON FOR EXEMPTION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SCHEDULE 12A
13 Apr 2021	To designate Hexthorpe as an area for Selective Licensing for a 5-year period.	<p>Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities,</p> <p>Councillor Joe Blackham, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services</p>	Cabinet	<p>Nasir Dad, Head of Service – Regulation & Enforcement, Email: nasir.dad@doncaster.gov.uk</p>		Open
8 Jun 2021	Quarter 4 2020-21 Finance and Performance Report.	Mayor Ros Jones	Cabinet	<p>Matthew, Smith, Head of Financial Management Tel: 01302-737663 matthew.smith@doncaster.gov.uk</p>		Open

8 Jun 2021	St Leger Homes Performance Report 2020/21 Quarter 4	Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities.	Cabinet	Julie Crook Tel: 01302 862705, Dave Richmond, Chief Executive, St Leger Homes of Doncaster dave.richmond@stlegerhomes.co.uk		Open
8 Jun 2021	DCST Finance and Performance Report - Quarter 4.	Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools (Sadly passed away on 8th March 2021)	Cabinet	James Thomas, Chief Executive of Doncaster Children's Services Trust James.Thomas@dcs trust.co.uk, Rob Moore, Director of Corporate Services and Company Secretary rob.moore@dcstrust.co.uk		Open