



City of Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 8th November, 2023 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: XXX

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on **(date)**. This decision will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy)
Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business.)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball	Portfolio Holder for Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People
Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Communities, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement
Councillor Phil Cole	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Traded Services and Planning
Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Councillor Sarah Smith	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Apologies:-

Apologies were received from Councillor Rachael Blake

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions.

Decision Record Forms from the meeting held on 11 October 2023 for noting (previously circulated).

The decision record forms from the meeting held on 11 October, previously circulated, were noted.

DECISION 6.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Equitable and Inclusive Access to Education for All.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet Agreed:

- 1) To note and comment on the changes implemented to date and the impact; and
- 2) Approve the future overall approach detailed in the report, including both the strategic intent and new provision extension identified in para 22 and financial implications, including the impact on future savings and cost avoidance

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Since the start of the pandemic Doncaster has seen a significant rise in the overall number of young people identified as having special educational needs or disabilities. This increase includes the number of young people with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) and those with SEND support needs. The rise in demand, alongside increasing financial pressures, has also placed challenges on the wider workforce connected to those with special educational needs including those in the health, care, and school sectors. update on the approach, and model that has been developed to support our overall vision for equitable and inclusive education in Doncaster.

The approach and proposals identified build on the work already underway through the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy to support children and young people to thrive, wherever their starting point including the following:-

- The delivery of a seamless pathway for assessment within localities is a joint commissioning priority for the partnership. The proposals in this report identify some changes to the Doncaster education landscape to support the delivery of this new way of working, ultimately enabling children to access placements closer to home, retaining a local community connection.
- Opening 40 places of specialist provision for children with social, emotional and mental health needs. These provisions will open in spring 2024. Several projects had been created where schools have been funded to make enhanced provision in areas with high levels of need, alongside increasing the number of places in specialist schools.
- More youngsters have been supported into local provision, where otherwise they would be educated out of Doncaster, whilst also improving the scrutiny of funding decisions in order to increase fairness.
-

All local processes are being revised around the identification of needs and funding in order to develop a fairer and more consistent level of practice across schools and settings. A programme of training, support and challenge to schools and settings accompanies this.

The activity described within the report will allow children and young people's needs to be understood and met earlier, thereby minimising frustration for families and schools. It will also deliver greater join up between services. The overall impact of this work will be to ensure greater consistency at the earlier stages of intervention, reducing the need to make more expensive provision at a later point. The Key Components of the proposals to ensure inclusive access to education are as follows:

- Developing a place based local Inclusion Charter.
- Locality planning, delivery and building relational practice.
- Delivering capability within the system.
- Effective transition and assessment at each phase.

Members welcomed the report and it was acknowledged that this would be a positive step moving forward for children and families across the Borough.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 1) To approve the new approach and model – This was the recommended option; and
- 2) To continue with existing landscape of provision, which is not financially sustainable and does not currently meet the range of needs in Doncaster.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker