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**City of
Doncaster
Council**

Would you please note that a Group Meeting will be held at 1.00 p.m. in the Civic Office.

Agenda

To all Members of the

COUNCIL

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

Venue: Council Chamber, Floor 2, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

Date: Thursday, 18th January, 2024

Time: 2.00 pm.

BROADCASTING NOTICE

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**Damian Allen
Chief Executive**

Issued on: Wednesday, 10 January 2024

Governance Officer for this meeting

Jonathan Goodrum
01302 736709

City of Doncaster Council

www.doncaster.gov.uk

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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 Council Meeting held on 16th November 2023.	1 - 8
5. To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council, the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet or the Head of Paid Service.	
6. Questions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13:- None received for this meeting.	
 A. Items where the Public and Press may not be excluded.	
<u>For Decision</u>	
7. Results of the Rossington and Bawtry Ward By-Election held on 16 November 2023.	9 - 14
8. Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - 6 month Review of the Allocation of Seats on Committees and Sub-Committees and Appointments to Outside Bodies.	15 - 26
9. 2023 Director of Public Health Annual Report for Doncaster.	27 - 72
10. Vote of Thanks to Dr Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health.	
11. Overview and Scrutiny Update - May to December 2023.	73 - 86
12. Proposed Diary of Meetings - 2024 to 2026.	87 - 118
13. Vote of Thanks to Reverend Canon David Stevens.	
14. Questions by Elected Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 15.2 and 15.3:-	
(i) Questions on Notice to the Executive:- None received for this meeting.	
(ii) Questions without Notice to the Executive and the Chairs of Committees.	
 <u>For Information and Not Endorsement</u>	
15. Approval of Councillor Absence.	119 - 124

16. To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities.

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A. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board held on 14th November 2023.

[South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board held on 14th November 2023](#)

B. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 9th October and 20th November 2023.

[South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 9th October 2023](#)

[South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 20th November 2023](#)

C. Team Doncaster Executive held on 12th September 2023 (attached).

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Agenda Item 4

CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2023

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER DN1 3BU, on THURSDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2023, at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Duncan Anderson
Vice-Chair - Councillor Julie Grace
Mayor - Ros Jones
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Bob Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, Glenn Bluff, Laura Bluff, Nigel Cannings, Bev Chapman, James Church, Gemma Cobby, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, Susan Durant, Yetunde Eleuibon, Sue Farmer, Martin Greenhalgh, John Healy, Leanne Hempshall, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Debbie Hutchinson, Richard A Jones, Jake Kearsley, Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Sue Knowles, Sophie Liu, Emma Muddiman-Rawlins, Tim Needham, David Nevett, Thomas Noon, Ian Pearson, Cynthia Ransome, Andrea Robinson, Glynis Smith, Sarah Smith, Gary Stapleton and Austen White.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phil Cole, Jane Cox, Aimee Dickson, Sean Gibbons, Tracey Moran, John Mounsey, Jane Nightingale, Andy Pickering, Rob Reid and Dave Shaw.

38 Minute's Silence for the recent death of former Councillor Paul Coddington

Prior to the commencement of formal business, Elected Members, Officers and members of the public, observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect and remembrance in relation to the recent death of former Councillor Paul Coddington.

39 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

40 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st September, 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st September, 2023, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

41 To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council, the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet or the Head of Paid Service

The Chair of Council, Councillor Duncan Anderson made the following announcements:-

“I am delighted to announce that Maria Jacob, a pupil at St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Rossington, was appointed as Doncaster’s Junior Civic Mayor at a ceremony held at the Mansion House on the 13th October, 2023. Many congratulations to Maria and indeed all the young people who submitted an application.

We also appointed 13 new Primary Ambassadors whose role is to champion children's voice and work on issues important to children.

I would also like to say a massive thank you to Evia Shaw-Lewis, the out-going Junior Civic Mayor, whom I have had the privilege to work with during my time in office, as well as the previous Primary Ambassadors, all of whom did a fantastic job representing the young people of Doncaster.

This weekend Doncaster held it’s Remembrance Observances to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military, and civilian servicemen and women, in the two World Wars and later conflicts. On Saturday 11th November, we gathered on the steps of the Mansion House to observe the national 2 minutes silence and on Remembrance Sunday, a service was held at the Cenotaph, and later at Doncaster Minster. It was both humbling and a great honour to be part of these services, and I would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of the event, and all those that joined us to pay their respects to those that made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today.

I would like to offer the Councils best wishes to Canon David Stephens. Canon Stephens has announced his retirement and will be greatly missed. He has been a friend to this Council, a pillar of the community and the cornerstone of many civic events. He is a friend to many and whoever takes on his position has big shoes to fill. His last service at the Doncaster Minster will be on 4th February, 2024 and I invite as many of you as possible to attend.

I am proud to announce that two charities in Doncaster; Firefly Cancer Awareness and Support, and the Cantley Neighbourhood Centre, are amongst the organisations across the UK that have been awarded the first ever King’s Award for Voluntary Service. Formerly known as The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, it was established in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II’s Golden Jubilee. It is equivalent to an MBE and is the highest honour awarded to voluntary groups, and is given for their outstanding community service.

Firefly provide free transport to local cancer patients and their families to regional treatment hospitals, using their fantastic team of volunteer drivers, and Cantley Neighbourhood Centre provides fellowship, comfort and advice, food, clothing and refreshments and signposting for health and well-being. I would like to formally record our congratulations to both organisations on receiving this award and thank them for the tremendous work that they do.”

The Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, made the following announcements:-

Can I offer my congratulations to both charities. I am delighted to see charities from Doncaster gaining the recognition they deserve; a big thank you from all of the people.

Re-opening Doncaster Sheffield Airport is my number one priority and by following our careful plan, and proper procedure gives us the best chance of securing its future.

I would like to update Council that negotiations are ongoing with the current landowners, and I am pleased to report that positive progress is being made on a potential lease.

We have launched a procurement exercise to obtain an Airport operator. The first stage has now closed. I can report that eight bidders submitted an interest which have been carefully considered and assessed, and we are now in a position where four have been invited to the next stage of the procurement process which is the Invitation to Tender stages. We are currently on track to have an operator finalised for Spring 2024. Obviously details of these four cannot be divulged due to confidentiality of the procurement process.

I will be bringing a further report to Cabinet with the Outline Business Case that will be submitted to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, in order to draw down gainshare funding. Draw down of gainshare funding must be approved by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority at hopefully the January meeting. Whilst we are at this critical juncture with negotiations, we will continue to engage with UK Government and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), in relation to protecting our airspace to aid efforts to reopen our Airport.

I do hope that we can share more good news soon as we continue the journey to reopen our beloved Airport.

Over the past 5 weeks we have seen horrific violence that has claimed thousands of lives in both Palestine and Israel. Innocent civilians on both sides are suffering terribly in this war.

International law requires the protection of civilians and access to food, water, medical supplies and electricity, and this must be supported. All nations have a responsibility to ensure that innocent civilians are protected as much as possible.

Our Government and the international community must put pressure on all involved to uphold their obligations under international law and afford the protections provided for civilians under International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. The long-term solution is the same as it's always been; a secure and sovereign Israel, and a secure and sovereign Palestine.

Councillors will probably already be aware that HS2 phase 2 from Birmingham to Manchester, has been cancelled and that the funding has been reallocated through 'Network North'.

My views on HS2 are well documented. Sadly for communities in Mexborough, Conisbrough and Denaby, it could be another year before safeguarding of the previously cancelled eastern-leg route through Doncaster is lifted. This will be to review any safeguarding needed for Northern Powerhouse Rail.

There is currently very little detail around the 'Network North' proposals. I would expect more information to be released in the coming months and years, around the detail of the funding and schemes. The increased investment for Doncaster and South Yorkshire is of course welcome.

The funding allocated to South Yorkshire from the cancelling of HS2 accounts to an additional £543m for South Yorkshire and is scheduled for delivery between 2027 – 2032, as part of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement 2. This new money cannot be used in our efforts to save and reopen our Airport. However, it could provide additional investment for transport links to our Airport once re-opened.

As part of the 'Network North' proposals, there is the mention of a new £1 billion roads fund to fund new schemes such as the A1-A19 Hickleton bypass. This sounds positive as I have been lobbying for a bypass for Hickleton & Marr since I first became Mayor in 2013. However, we must wait until we see the details of the potential funding. I have been in discussions with the Leader of Barnsley Council and we have agreed to explore the development of a combined bid in order to deliver the A1-A19 Hickleton bypass. We await the details of the fund and the criteria. We expect to see this in the coming years.

There was no mention of the upgrades to the A1(M) Doncaster bypass which has been promised since 2010. There was also no mention of the upgrades promised for the East Coast Mainline.

I will lobby to ensure that Doncaster receives it's fair share of funding from the 'Network North' proposals, but we need to be realistic in that these are long-term proposals for the next 10 years, and the devil will of course be in the detail."

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, made the following announcements:-

"I would like to formally announce that Councillor Emma Muddiman-Rawlins has replaced Councillor Bob Anderson on the Planning Committee."

Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement, made the following announcement:-

"This Festive Season, Doncaster Council will once again be supporting City Centre Businesses and our residents by offering free Town Centre parking after 2.00 pm from Friday 1st December to Friday 5th January, 2024 at the popular Markets Car Park, St Georges Car Park and the Colonnades underground car park.

Additionally, we are also offering every Saturday in December, free all-day parking at Chappell Drive Car Park."

Councillor Mark Houlbrook, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Waste, made the following announcement:-

"This weekend alongside the Flying Scotsman visit, we commemorated Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, with events taking place across Doncaster. This provides an opportunity to remember and honour our armed forces, and their families from Britain and the commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict, so that we can continue to enjoy our freedoms today.

We are incredibly proud of our Armed Forces in Doncaster. I never cease to be amazed by our Armed Forces community, but what I have particularly been impressed by recently, is how all parts of our community, including Sea, Army, Air, Regulars,

Reserves, Cadets and Veterans, have all come together, supporting one another and working collaboratively to achieve the best for them and for Doncaster.”

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities, Leisure & Culture, made the following announcement:-

“Last weekend saw the most famous locomotive in the world return home as we welcomed Flying Scotsman back to Doncaster as part of her centenary year.

We are incredibly proud of our rail heritage in Doncaster, and we will always be associated with Flying Scotsman which was built here at the Doncaster Works 100 years ago. We also need to remember that 10 years later, we built another world beater, the Mallard. Hopefully, in a few years time, we will try and get that one back as well.

Thousands of people managed to visit her over the weekend and were able to marvel at Flying Scotsman’s beauty and historical significance, but also to recognise the part she played in shaping industries, economies and cultures across the world.

A huge thanks to the organisations who helped to make this event a reality, especially Riley & Son E Locomotive Engineers, National Railway Museum & Freightliner Group Ltd. Internally, there is a debt that needs to be paid to our staff at Doncaster Council because it’s the grit and determination of these individuals that have pulled this together. This event would not have been possible without Bill McHugh, who is the Culture Transformation Lead within our Heritage Services. Bill and his Team were instrumental in the organisation of getting Flying Scotsman to Doncaster, alongside our Events Team who managed this historic event for Doncaster. We must not forget Jenny Dewsnap and the Events Planning Team who did the City proud in terms of the smooth running of the event; it was very well organised and was a professional job.

In honour of the special visit and to recognise Doncaster’s award of City status which was given in 2022, Freightliner Group Ltd marked the occasion with a locomotive naming and a commemorative plaque that was presented to this Council as in the City of Doncaster.

I am delighted that thousands of visitors got the opportunity to see Flying Scotsman for themselves, as I know how much this means to the local people of Doncaster, but also the culture of the City as well.”

42 Questions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13

There were no questions from the public received for this meeting.

43 Questions by Elected Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 15.2 and 15.3

A. Questions on Notice

There were no questions on notice received from Elected Members for this meeting.

B. Questions without Notice

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.2, the Chair accepted the following questions from Elected Members during "Question Time":-

A. Questions to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones

Q. From Councillor Glenn Bluff to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"In terms of the Hickleton bypass that you mentioned in your announcements, this comes under the purse strings of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority, so can you provide assurance that Councillor Ransome and myself will be included in any discussions relating to this?"

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

"I will update you of course as discussions are held, but if you listen to my earlier announcement, you have heard the dates when it will come into force. If that is the case, it will be after the next Election but we will keep people updated as we have done with Doncaster Sheffield Airport. It has to be apportioned fairly and go through the MCA; I will always fight for our fair share."

Q. From Councillor Nick Allen to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"Do you think future Council Meetings can be live streamed rather than just recorded?"

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

"I do not know what the cost implications of this would be. I have no problem with live streaming taking place."

B. Questions to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business

There were no questions put to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business.

C. Questions to Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Early Help, Education, Skills and People

There were no questions put to Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Early Help, Education, Skills and People.

D. Questions to Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities, Leisure and Culture

There were no questions put to Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities, Leisure and Culture.

E. Questions to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement

There were no questions put to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement.

F. Questions to Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Equalities

There were no questions put to Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Equalities.

G. Questions to Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance, Traded Services and Planning

In the absence of Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance, Traded Services and Planning, Members were asked to submit any questions in writing to the Executive Office and a written response would be provided.

H. Questions to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources

In the absence of Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources, Members were asked to submit any questions in writing to the Executive Office and a written response would be provided.

I. Questions to Councillor Mark Houlbrook, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Waste

There were no questions put to Councillor Mark Houlbrook, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Waste.

J. Questions to Councillor Sarah Smith, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

There were no questions put to Councillor Sarah Smith, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

K. Questions to Councillor Austen White, Chair of the Audit Committee

There were no questions put to Councillor Austen White, Chair of the Audit Committee.

L. Questions to Councillor Julie Grace, Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee.

There were no questions put to Councillor Julie Grace, Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee.

M. Questions to Councillor Rachael Blake, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

There were no questions put to Councillor Rachael Blake, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

N. Questions to Councillor Jane Kidd, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

There were no questions put to Councillor Jane Kidd, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

44 To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following Joint Authorities meetings be noted:-

- A. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board held on 12th September, 2023.
- B. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 11th September, 2023.
- C. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 25th September, 2023.
- D. Team Doncaster Executive held on 14th June, 2023.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____



Report

Date: 18th January 2024

To the Chair and All Members of the Council

Report Title: Results of the Rossington and Bawtry Ward By-Election held on 16 November 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To report to the Council the results of the Rossington and Bawtry ward By-Election held on 16 November 2023.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATION

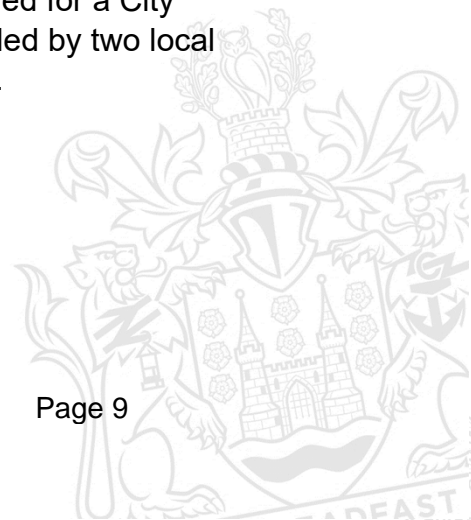
3. The Council is asked to note the report and make any comments in relation to the contents.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Local elections are the cornerstone of our democratic process and are important to all of our residents. Elections give the electorate the opportunity to hold politicians to account and shape the future direction of local government.

BACKGROUND

5. Due to the resignation of a sitting Councillor a vacancy occurred for a City Councillor for the Rossington and Bawtry ward which was called by two local government electors to fill the vacancy by holding an election.



Elections and Referendums are significant projects, which are delivered by a small Electoral Services core team with polling stations supported by internal staff from across the Council.

ROSSINGTON AND BAWTRY WARD BY-ELECTION

6. There was an eligible electorate of 13,473 electors of which 3,585 were issued with Postal Votes and 1,984 (55.34%) were returned and personal identifiers correctly verified. A further 5 postal votes were rejected due to having the incorrect date of birth and those electors will be notified accordingly.

The total number of ballot papers verified for both polling stations and postal votes were 2,599 giving a total turnout of 19.29%.

There were four candidates and Ken Guest was duly elected as City of Doncaster Councillor for the Rossington and Bawtry ward; a full breakdown of the results can be found below:

7. RESULTS

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes
COOKE John Nolan	Independent	461
DUHRE Surjit Singh	Reform UK	168
GREENHALGH Carol	The Conservative Party Candidate	492
GUEST Ken	Labour Party	1467 Elected

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:	Number of ballot papers
A want of an official mark	0
B voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to	9
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
D unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	2
Total	11

Electorate: 13,473	Ballot Papers Issued: 2,599	Turnout: 19.29%
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OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8. Elections and Referendums are a statutory function and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements. To support the Elections Act changes all polling station staff undertook a lengthy training session dedicated to Voter ID and accessibility in the polling station. Extra polling staff were also appointed to busier polling stations as recommended by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).




REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

9. This report is primary for information only.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 10.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
Comments:				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments:				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments:				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner				✓

communities where everyone belongs				
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
Comments:				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive	✓			
Comments: The Council has a duty to ensure Elections and Referendums are well managed to allow all eligible electors to freely vote by secret ballot ensuring freedom of expression and political debate by exercising their vote.				

11. Legal Implications [Officer Initials: SRF | Date: 08/01/2024]

The arrangements detailed in this report are designed to ensure compliance with a range of statutory duties including:

- Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006, 2014, 2018
- The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2014, 2015 and 2018
- Representation of the People Acts 1983, 1985 and 2000
- Elections Act 2022

12. Financial Implications [Officer Initials: PH | Date: 08/01/2024]

The government have committed to providing New Burdens Funding to local authorities via Section 31 Grants to cover the increased costs resulting from implementing measures in the Elections Act 2022. Funding was used to pay for privacy ID booths, mirrors, extra poll clerks and towards extra training of staff.

All other costs associated with the Rossington and Bawtry ward by-election are contained within existing budgets.

13. Human Resources Implications

There are no significant HR implications associated with reporting the outcome of this by-election.

14. Technology Implications

There are no significant Technology implications associated with reporting the outcome of this by-election.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

15. Ensuring the necessary arrangements are in place to ensure the Council, RO and ERO meets the Electoral Commission's Performance Standards and complies with their legal statutory duties. Delivering well-run elections improve our reputation and meeting the Electoral Commission's Performance Standards. All Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks undertook a lengthy training session dedicated to voter ID and accessibility in advance of working on polling stations. All Polling Stations were supplied with a privacy ID booth, mirror, tactile voting devices, large print elections stationery, pencils with grips and magnifiers to assist the visually impaired. Electors are also able to apply for a Postal Vote if they were unable to attend a polling station. Electoral Services continually review arrangements and look to improve these where possible.

CONSULTATION

16. Not applicable

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. EDSC report

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

18.

ERO	Electoral Registration Officer
RO	Returning Officer
DLUHC	The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
VAC	Voter Authority Certificate

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Report

18th January, 2024

To the Chair and Members of the
COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 - 6 MONTH REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Council:-
 - (i) On the mid-year review of the proportional allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by Council as a consequence of changes to the Political composition of the Authority;
 - (ii) On the position in relation to the proportional allocation of seats on the basis of the number of Elected Members in each Political Group. This report does not account for any further changes in the composition of Political Groups that may occur prior to this meeting of Council; and
 - (iii) Of named changes made by Political Groups to their memberships of Committees, Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies appointed by Council.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. It is recommended that Council:-
 - (i) resolves before any adjustments are determined, that seats on Committees and Sub-Committees are allocated, as set out in the table at paragraph 15 of the report;
 - (ii) determines the appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees in accordance with the wishes of Political Groups;
 - (iii) determines the necessary adjustments resulting from the Mexborough First Group losing 1 seat on a Committee/Sub-

Committee, as detailed within paragraphs 16 to 20 of the report

- (iv) as a consequence of (iii) above allocate 1 seat on Elections & Democratic Structures Committee to the Independent Member, Councillor Rob Reid;
- (vi) note the changes to the Licensing Committee as detailed in paragraph 21 of the report and confirm Councillor Chapman's appointment as a Labour Group Member to this Committee;
- (vii) as a consequence of revisions to seat entitlement, note the change that Councillor Reid is removed from the Chief Officer Appeals Committee and the Labour Group retain 4 seats on the Chief Officers Appeals Committee as detailed at paragraph 24 of the report and therefore a further nomination is required;
- (viii) notes that Councillor Ken Guest is Labour Group's nomination to replace the seats held by former Councillor Barry Johnson as a Labour Group Member, on the following for the remaining period of the current Municipal Year commencing from 27th November, 2023:-
 - Elections & Democratic Structures Committee; and
 - Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- (ix) to note the Outside Bodies appointments detailed in paragraph 25.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

- 4. The Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance. By appointing to Committees in line with recommendations within this report, the Council satisfies its legal requirements for appointments to Committees.

BACKGROUND

- 5. At the Annual Meeting held on 19th May, 2023, Council determined the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees, having regard to political balance in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and also appointed the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees.
- 6. Since the Annual Meeting on 19th May, 2023, a by-election was held on 16th November, 2023, following a casual vacancy that had arisen in the Rossington and Bawtry Ward, which resulted in Councillor Ken Guest being elected to the vacant seat. In addition, Councillor Bev Chapman resigned from the Mexborough First Group in November, 2023, and is now a Member of the Labour Party which is an affiliated Political Group registered with the Council for the purposes of political proportionality under the provisions of the 1989 Act.

7. As a consequence of these changes, the membership of Mexborough First Group has reduced by one Member and the membership of the Labour Group has increased by one Member.

The political composition of the Council is now as follows:-

Political Group	Members
Labour	42
Conservatives	11
Mexborough First	2
Independent Members	1

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

8. The allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees must be in accordance with the principles set out in the legal implications below. In summary, representation on Committees and Sub-Committees must, so far as possible, be proportional to the number of Members any Group has on the Council as a whole. This means that out of a total of 60 seats, 59 seats are allocated to the Political Groups on the following proportional basis:-

Labour	- 45 seats	i.e.	42/56
Conservatives	- 12 seats	i.e.	11/56
Mexborough First	- 2 seats	i.e.	2/56

9. This completes the allocation of seats to Political Groups. The remaining 1 seat is allocated to the 1 Member of the Council who is Independent who is not affiliated to any of the Political Groups registered with the Council for the purposes of political proportionality under the provisions of the 1989 Act. i.e. Councillor Rob Reid.

ALLOCATION OF SEATS - HOW THIS IS DONE

10. In general, seats are allocated by calculating the seating entitlement to each Political Group as a proportion of seats available to Groups on a particular Committee, subject to:-
- (i) the majority party must have a majority on each Committee; and
 - (ii) retaining proportionality across the total number of seats allocated to each Group across all Committees.
11. In practical terms, this means a small number of minor adjustments being made which skews strict proportionality on one or two individual Committees to ensure that correct proportional allocation of seats to each group in relation to the total number of 60 seats available across all Committees.

PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION OF SEATS

12. The seat entitlement of Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees of 11, 7 and 5, is calculated by dividing the number of seats available on the Committee between the Groups in the same proportion as the number of seats a Group has on the Council, e.g. on a Committee of 11 for the Labour Group $42 \div 56 \times 11 = 8.25$ seats. The table below shows the allocation for all Groups on the Council:-

	5	7	11
Labour	3.75	5.25	8.25
Conservatives	0.98	1.38	2.16
Mexborough First	0.18	0.25	0.39

13. A Political Group's seat allocation can then be calculated as follows. By way of example, set out below is how seats are initially allocated on a Committee of 11 seats before adjustments.

Firstly, consider 'whole' seat entitlement.

Labour	8
Conservatives	2

This completes the whole seat allocation to Political Groups.

14. Secondly, the remaining 1 seat is allocated to the remaining Group with the best proportional fit, indicated by the remaining "part" figure i.e. 1 seat to the Mexborough First Group (0.39 entitlement). The same approach is applied to the remaining Committees having regard to the size of each Committee. This completes the allocation of seats to Political Groups.

PROPOSED SEAT ALLOCATIONS

15. Group Leaders have been advised of their respective seat allocations on Committee and Sub-Committee sizes to reflect a best proportionate fit, as detailed in the following table:-

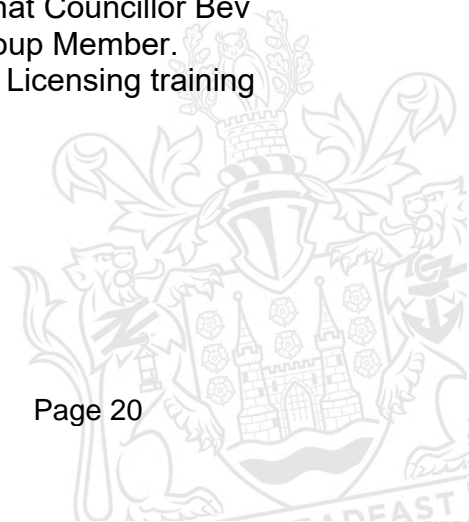
	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVES	MEXBOROUGH FIRST	
COMMITTEE	Seats Allocated	Seats Allocated	Seats Allocated	Total No. of Seats on Committee
PLANNING	8	2	1	11
ELECTIONS & DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES	8	2	1	11
CHIEF OFFICERS APPOINTMENTS	8	2	1	11
AWARDS, GRANTS & TRANSPORT (APPEALS)	5	2	0	7
AUDIT	4	1	0	5
CHIEF OFFICERS APPEALS	4	1	0	5
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DISPUTES RESOLUTION	4	1	0	5
CHIEF OFFICERS INVESTIGATORY SUB	4	1	0	5
TOTAL ALLOCATED	45	12	3	60
Required Seat Allocation	45	12	2	59
Adjustments Required	0	0	-1	-1

16. It can be seen that this initial allocation to provide proportionality on individual Committees and Sub-Committees, results in the Mexborough First Group being over represented by 1 seat.
17. To achieve the best proportional fit, adjustments are therefore required and the Council must decide:-
 - (i) to remove 1 Mexborough First Group seat on a Committee from the list shown below:-

Planning Committee
Elections and Democratic Structures Committee
Chief Officers Appointments Committee
 - (ii) following the adjustments chosen under (i) above, determine the allocation of the 1 seat to the Independent Member, Councillor Rob Reid.
18. The Mexborough First Group have been asked to express a view on which Committee they would prefer to have reduced representation to assist the Council in determining where adjustments should be made.
19. The Leader of the Mexborough First Group has indicated that the Group would wish to lose 1 seat on the Elections & Democratic Structures Committee. Council is therefore requested to approve the allocation of the vacated seat on Elections & Democratic Structures Committee to Councillor Rob Reid.
20. These allocations give effect so far as reasonably practicable to the requirements of the Act. It remains open to Members to agree a different allocation, but only if no Member votes against such proposals. If such agreement cannot be reached, the Council has no alternative but to act in accordance with the principles set out in the legal implications in paragraphs 29 to 36 of this report.

Allocation of Seats on Licensing Committee/Sub Committee

21. Licensing Committee is cross party and not proportional in terms of seat entitlement however, seats are allocated in proportion to the overall composition on the Council. Councillor Bev Chapman previously sat on this Committee/sub committee as a Mexborough First representative. Following the change to political group make up this seat could now be deemed either a Labour or Mexborough First seat as both have the same part seat entitlement. Following consultation with the Labour Group and Mexborough First to determine the appointment to this seat, it is recommended that Councillor Bev Chapman retain her seat on this Committee as a Labour Group Member. Councillor Chapman has already undertaken her mandatory Licensing training and is therefore able to take up this position immediately.



Changes to Group Representation on Committees and Outside Bodies







22. As part of this review, Political Groups were given the opportunity to revise their appointments on Committees, Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies.
23. As a consequence of the casual vacancy which had arisen in the Rossington and Bawtry Ward there were 2 vacant seats allocated to the Labour Group on the Election and Democratic Structures Committee and the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.1 the Monitoring Officer was informed by the Labour Group that the newly elected Member Councillor Guest would take up these vacated Labour Group seats with effect from 27th November, 2023. Council is asked to note this change in membership.
24. In May 2023, the Labour Group gave up 1 seat on Chief Officers Appeals Committee to the Independent Member, Councillor Rob Reid. Due to changes to seat entitlement, the Labour Group now retains 4 seats on the Committee and the Independent Member is removed. The Labour Group Leader has been consulted and asked to nominate a member to sit on the Committee. Council will be advised of this nomination in due course.
25. With regard to outside bodies, the following in-year changes to appointments have been approved by the Monitoring Officer under his delegated authority granted by Full Council, in consultation with the relevant group leaders:-
 - Police and Crime Panel – Councillor James Church
 - South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority – Councillor Cynthia Ransome



OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

26. The Council has a statutory duty to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups at its Annual Meeting in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989.
27. When determining the allocation of seats, Council must follow the wishes expressed by Political Groups. Therefore, no other options are considered relevant or appropriate.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

28. Whilst there is no direct impact on the Council's Key Outcomes, the Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of Governance to allow for the proper discharge of the Council's functions, ensuring openness and transparency.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
Comments:				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments:				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments:				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and				✓

family-friendly borough				
Comments:				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive				✓
Comments:				

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SRF Date 14.12.23]

29. Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, set out the duties of the Local Authority and the allocation of seats to Political Groups on Committees to ensure political balance.
30. The cumulative effect of these duties is to require “proportionality” across the formal activities of the Authority, representing the overall political composition of the Authority so that there can, for example, be no one party Committees so far as they are constituted as formal Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council.
31. Section 15 provides for the Council to review the representation of different Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees when:-
 - (a) the Authority holds an Annual Meeting; and

- (b) as soon as practicable after the Members of the Authority divide into different Political Groups.
32. The duty to make a determination as to political representation on Committees arises as soon as practicable after a review, according to the overriding principles that:-
- (a) all the seats on a Committee are not allocated to the same Political Group;
 - (b) the majority of the seats on a Committee go to the Political Group which has a majority on the Full Council;
 - (c) subject to the above two principles, that the number of seats on the Committees of the Authority allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the Committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the Membership of the Authority: and
 - (d) subject to (a) - (c) above, that the number of the seats on the Committee which are allocated to each Political Group, bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Committee as is borne by the number of Members of that Group to the Membership of the Authority.
33. Section 16 provides that once the Council has carried out its review and determined the allocation of seats further to the principles by which it is bound listed above, the Council has a duty to exercise its powers to make appointments to Committees as to give effect to such wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats on that Committee which are allocated to a particular Political Group as are expressed by that Political Group.
34. Section 16(2A) requires that where appointments fail to be made to seats on a Committee to which Section 15 applies otherwise than in accordance with a determination under that Section, it shall be the duty of the Council to exercise its power to make appointments so as to secure that the persons appointed to those seats are not Members of any Political Group.
35. Exceptions to these requirements of political balance may be made where arrangements are approved by the Council without any Member of the Council or a Committee voting against them.
36. The Licensing Committee is a dual function Committee. It is constituted under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, to undertake various licensing functions and also under the Licensing Act, 2003, to exercise all the functions of the Licensing Authority.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

37. There are no risks identified or assumptions relevant to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 13.12.23]

38. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report. There are no new positions being proposed and so the existing Members Ward Office budget is expected to be sufficient.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SH Date 13.12.23]

39. There are no HR implications associated with the contents of this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 13.12.23]

40. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report. Governance and Members Services will be responsible for updating the changes in the modern.gov system, when agreed.

CONSULTATION

41. Consultation has taken place with the Mayor, Group Leaders and Independent Members in respect of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report to Council – 19th May, 2023 - Local Government & Housing Act 1989 - Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees & Sub-Committees.

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**Damian Allen
Chief Executive**



Report

Date: 18th January 2024

To: Chair and Members of Full Council

Report Title: 2023 Director of Public Health Annual Report for Doncaster

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Directors of Public Health in England have a statutory duty to produce an independent annual report of the health of their local community. The 2023 Director of Public Health Annual report for Doncaster is the ninth Annual Report of Dr Rupert Suckling as Director of Public Health for City of Doncaster Council. The 2023 annual report is presented by Rachael Leslie who has been in the Acting Director of Public Health role for part of 2023.
2. The 2023 DPH Annual Report is available [here](#). It focusses on Doncaster's children, young people and families. Nationally and locally we measure and monitor a variety of health, wellbeing and other outcomes for children and young people. Behind each indicator is a story of equity and the influence of services, relationships and the places that children live, grow, learn and play can have on their health, wellbeing, opportunities and aspirations.
3. The Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted the health and wellbeing of children and young people. School closures and limited opportunities to socialise and build relationships outside the home affected the mental health and development of young people. At the start of 2023, Doncaster established a Fairness and Wellbeing Commission with the aim of making an independent, strategic assessment of the nature, extent, and causes of inequalities in Doncaster. For children and young people, commission members observed persistent and elevated rates of children living in poverty and the impact this has on all elements of their lives and futures.
4. This year's report provides a high-level assessment of the overall health status for all Doncaster residents. Using national child and maternal health indicators, an overview of how healthy children and young people are in Doncaster is presented and local data and experiences shared by families and people who work with children describes how some children can experience health inequalities and role

of 'the other 80%' - the social factors and physical environments - have in addressing this inequality.

5. In 2019, City of Doncaster Council worked on a participatory action research project with the University of Sheffield and a group of young people from Doncaster to understand capabilities - the things young people felt they need to 'live their best lives'. A summary of the capabilities report and a framework for incorporating these protective factors into services for children and young people is presented.
6. The report also shares a series of examples of how we collect and use insight and the voice and input of local children and young people – through the school health profiles, an annual pupil lifestyle survey, the development of compassionate approaches and active young apprentices to focus efforts and resources and shape services. The report also describes how Public Health teams have worked with partners around the national allocation of additional fixed term funding for substance misuse and family hubs, using intelligence and insight to address local challenges.
7. The annual summary of how the public health grant is allocated is again provided, along with some 2023 highlights from the Public Health team including the achievements from Doncaster's Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) first year.
8. Finally, in the context of emerging recommendations from the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission and the upcoming launch of a refreshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Doncaster, the report shares some final thoughts:
 - **The importance of voice and experiences of children and young people** in the shaping of policy and in service design and delivery
 - **Taking compassionate, prevention focussed approaches** that address the wider determinants of health, including mental health, to build the social conditions for better health, choosing kindness to reduce health stigma
 - **Equalities and inclusion health focus**, to close the inequalities gap for children and young people who face additional barriers and challenges to health and opportunity, we must use community based approaches to involve and hear from children and families who are most affected, and to influence and sustain improvement we must work alongside our communities.

EXEMPT REPORT

9. No

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. Council is asked to NOTE and PUBLISH the report

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

11. The publication of this report demonstrates the Council's commitment to its leadership duties with regard to health improvement, health protection and health and social care quality.

BACKGROUND

12. The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to write an independent annual report on the health of the local population. The content and structure of the report may be decided locally. The local authority have a duty to publish it (under section 73B(5) and (6) of the National Health Service Act 2006 Act).

OPTIONS CONSIDERED




13. No other options considered

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

14. The recommendation fulfils the council's duty to publish the Director of Public Health annual report

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 15.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to climate change and the health impacts on local people				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report describes the impact of the pandemic on children's education. The importance of education and skills for children and young people and their parents in realising opportunity in life and work is detailed throughout the report				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs	✓			

Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to the need for the City to have a thriving economy as a contributor to good and fair health and wellbeing.

 **Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all**



Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to health status across Doncaster and provides a summary on vital elements of improving health and wellbeing for all.

 **Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs**



Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to wider determinants of health and the importance of communities.

 **Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough**




Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report focusses on the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families, including a range of examples of nurturing a child and family friendly borough

 **Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future**



Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to wider determinants of health

 **Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities**



Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to wider determinants of health

Fair & Inclusive



Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes explicit the link between fairness, inclusion and health.

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: _SRF_ | Date: _21.12.23_]

16. The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to write a report on the health of the local population and the authority has a duty to publish it (section 73B (5) & (6) of the National Health Service Act 2006, inserted by section 31 of the Health & Social Care Act 2012). The content and structure of the report is something to be decided locally.

Financial Implications HR 03/01/24

17. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report

Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: SB | Date: 20.12.2023]

18. There are no apparent human resource implications associated with this report

Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW | Date: 04/01/24]

19. There are no specific technology implications with this report

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

20. There are no specific risks associated with this report

CONSULTATION

21. No formal consultation has taken place to contribute to this report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. 2023 Director of Public Health Annual Report for Doncaster

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Public Health Annual Report

2023



City of
Doncaster
Council

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Councillor Nigel Ball

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture

I am pleased that this year's Director of Public Health Annual reports focusses on children, young people and their families.

We need to use this report to reflect on how we develop services for children and young people and how we rise to the challenge of creating and ensuring compassionate communities and supportive environments for them to thrive, live their best lives and achieve their aspirations as the future parents, workers and leaders of this City and Borough.

The data in this report shows how families have been impacted by the cost of living crisis and how this affects children's wellbeing, health and life opportunities. Young people have told us about the things they need to achieve their full potential and how their learning and relationships have been affected by the covid pandemic. Young people in Doncaster have created their own plan – the Children and Young People's Plan – to actively address their own priorities and we must continue to support them through including their voices and experiences and sustaining and scaling the things that make a positive difference in their lives.

We must continue to work with school leaders and the voluntary, community and faith sector, using creative approaches and trusted relationships to help us target vital support in effective ways for children and families that may be facing additional challenges in their lives.

I want to thank the Public Health team for their dedication and commitment over the last year – the first year since the start of the pandemic where the team has been able to maintain focus on their core priorities. Particular thanks to Dr Rupert Suckling MBE, who has embedded the core values in the public health team – to learn by doing, to show relentless kindness and to make the invisible, visible.

Directors of Public Health in England have a statutory duty to produce an independent annual report of the health of their local community.

THANK YOU to: City of Doncaster Council Public Health team, including Carrie Wardle, Saima Nasir, Sarah Atkinson, Holly Campbell, Agatha Agema, Laura Booth, Clare Henry, Grace Bennett, Lucy Louise Garnham, Susan Hampshaw, Katie Marvin-Dowle and Claire Hewitt. Dr Katie Shearn from Sheffield Hallam University and the young people involved in the capabilities report research. Doncaster's Fairness and Wellbeing Commission Secretariat and Commission members. City of Doncaster Children, Young People and Families team, including Andy Hood and Alison Tomes. Doncaster's Youth Advisory Board. Health Visiting and Zone 5-19 Services from Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humberside NHS Trust and Doncaster's Family Hubs. Amber Rhodes and Duncan Rynehart for communication, presentation and design.

Welcome to my ninth Annual Report as Director of Public Health for City of Doncaster Council.

This year's annual report is presented by Rachael Leslie who has been in the Acting Director of Public Health role for part of 2023.

Children and young people make up 23% of Doncaster's citizens and this year's annual report focusses on them, their families and their communities.

Nationally and locally, numerous health, wellbeing and other outcomes for children and young people are monitored and measured, from birthweight to exam results and behind each indicator is a story of equity and the influences of the places that children live, grow, learn and play.

Locally, we use conversations and surveys to hear from children and young people about what is important to them, their aspirations and their views. Doncaster also has an active group of Young Advisors who have developed a Children and Young People's Plan based on their own priorities.

The Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted the health and wellbeing of children and young people. School closures and limited opportunities to socialise and build relationships outside the home and 'bubbles' impacted on the mental health and development of young people. Nationally, there were increases in safeguarding concerns for vulnerable children during periods of lockdown and demand for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) grew with an 81% increase in referrals between 2019 and 2021.

The long-term impact of Covid-19 on children's health will not be fully understood for some time, however, schools, families and children themselves have described the immediate and shorter-term impacts on health and wellbeing, friendships and family relationships, learning and development.

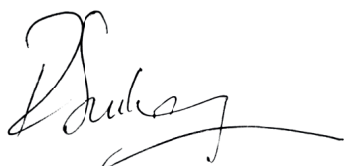
At the start of 2023, Doncaster established a Fairness and Wellbeing Commission with the aim of making an independent strategic assessment of the nature, extent, and causes of inequalities in Doncaster based on an examination of evidence and insight into experiences of people who live in Doncaster. Commission members saw children describe their aspirations and heard, through the Youth Council, about the varying experiences of being part of a school community. For children and young people, commission members observed persistent and elevated rates of children living in poverty and the impact this has on all elements of their lives and futures.

Children with bold aspirations do not always have the opportunities to realise them – from findings of the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission

In the Spring and Summer of 2019, City of Doncaster Council worked on a participatory action research project with a group of young people from Doncaster to understand capabilities. Post covid and in anticipation of the Fairness and Wellbeing commission recommendations, this report has been revisited. A summary of the capabilities report and a framework for incorporating protective factors for children and young people's good health and wellbeing in services is presented alongside examples of how we enhance understanding of school age children in Doncaster through School Health Profiles and an annual pupil lifestyle survey.

This year's report also provides a high-level assessment of how the overall health status is changing for all Doncaster residents and an overview of how healthy children and young people are in Doncaster using national child and maternal health indicators.

It has been a busy year for the commissioning of prescribed (mandated) services. The annual summary of how the public health grant is allocated is again presented, along with a summary of how additional national allocations for substance misuse and treatment and family hubs has been used for better outcomes for children and young people.



Dr Rupert Suckling
@rupertsuckling

Director of Public Health
City of Doncaster Council





The state of health in Doncaster



Last year's DPH annual report outlined the anticipated long-term health and wellbeing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

This year a Fairness and Wellbeing commission was established with commissioners examining data, stories and experiences of Doncaster people.

The impact of poverty on all aspects of daily lives is clear to see in the data trends and voices shared. Pressures on the local health and care system continue to affect access to services and the experiences that Doncaster people share with us, tell us that some people face even greater challenges.

The data packs used by the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission and summaries of each of the commission sessions are available online:

www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/doncaster-fairness-well-being-commission

As described in previous reports, everyone knows when they feel healthy, and we use a range of population outcome measures to assess overall health status. The three headline measures used to describe overall population health, Life Expectancy, Healthy Life Expectancy and Health Inequalities have again been updated in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) by Team Doncaster and this report provides additional focus on health inequalities for children and young people.

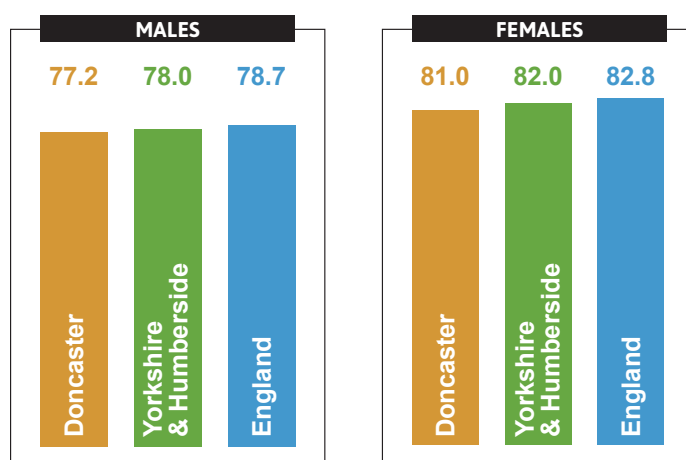
The JSNA groups data into 3 life stages: Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well and updated demographic data from the 2021 census has meant that we are able to have a more up to date understanding of the demographics of Doncaster people. The JSNA is available at:

www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/jsna

Life Expectancy

The most up to date data for life expectancy at birth is for 2021. Single year data for 2021 is based on the latest 2021 Census based midyear population estimates and is used to view the current picture of life expectancy. Three year data is usually used, however this is based on the older 2011 Census based midyear population estimates, and cannot be usefully compared with 2021 data.

Life expectancy at birth (2021)



Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy is affected by many factors, including specific characteristics including sex, disability and social exclusion access to and use of health care, behavioural risks such as smoking and wider determinants such as education, income and housing. Life expectancy is closely related to overall level of deprivation in an area.

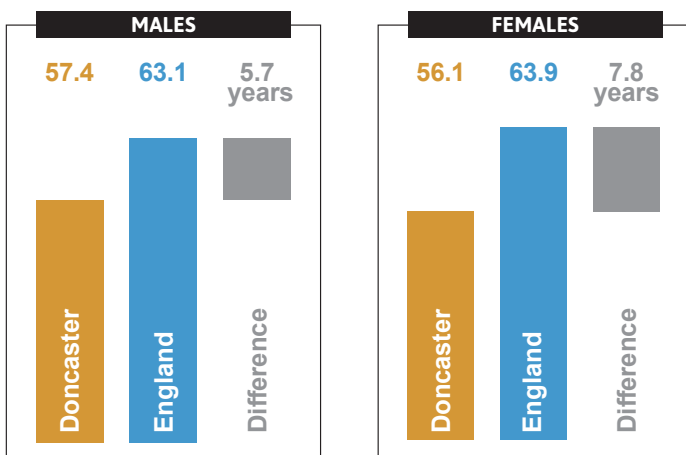
Tobacco is the risk factor making the largest contribution to years of life lost for both males and females

Healthy Life Expectancy

Years of good or great health are also an important measure alongside length of life. Healthy life expectancy (HLE) is a measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on mortality rates and the proportion of people, who, when surveyed self-report 'good' or 'very good' health, rather than 'fair', 'poor' or 'very poor' health.

In England, Healthy Life Expectancy has been steady over a number of years, however for both males and females in Doncaster, rates have been falling since 2015-17 and Doncaster now reports some of the worst Healthy Life expectancy data in the country. The most up to date data available is for 2018-20. The impact of covid and the rising cost of living is likely to reduce the number of people self-reporting 'good' or 'very good' health

Healthy life expectancy at birth (2018-20)



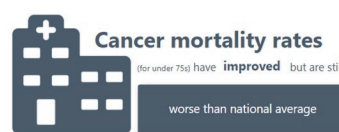
Long term health conditions and multimorbidity – the presence of two or more long term conditions are the clearest drivers of self-reported poor health. Long term conditions are physical and mental health conditions of long duration and include chronic musculoskeletal conditions, diabetes and mood disorders.

Low levels of physical activity, smoking status and household income are also associated with self-reported poor health and will have important and complex interaction with physical health status.

Increased physical activity significantly reduces the odds of self-reporting poor health. In many studies, this association persists after controlling for multiple potential confounders.

Preventing the onset of preventable long term conditions and supporting people with long term conditions to improve their health, is key to improving population level self-reported health and healthy life expectancy. Prevention services and approaches are important in reducing the risk of preventable conditions, which are around 50% higher in Doncaster than in the rest of England. For people with one or more long term health condition, clinical condition management, alongside support, including peer support to manage the affects and impacts of health conditions is key.

The wider determinants of health, including low income, poor housing, educational attainment and lack of or low quality employment are all associated with self-reported poor health.



How Healthy are Children and Young People in Doncaster?

To prepare for recommissioning of Health Visiting services in 2023, and to support the development of Family Hubs, a health needs assessment (HNA) was completed and published in July 2023. A HNA for school aged children (age 5-19) was completed in 2021. The HNAs use child and maternal health intelligence reports from The Office for Health and Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and insight collected through in person consultation and local surveys to understand health and wellbeing priorities.

Smoking Status at Time of Delivery:

In 2022/23, 356 (12%) of Doncaster mothers were smokers at the time of their babies birth, smoking during pregnancy causes premature births, miscarriage and perinatal deaths. It also increases the risk of stillbirth, complications in pregnancy and low birthweight. Bespoke support is available to provide support to quit and promote smokefree homes.

Under 18s Conception Rate:

Around 35 babies were born to teenage mothers aged 17 and under in 21/22, there has been a steady reduction in teenage pregnancies nationally and locally over the last 10 years. Like all parents, teenage mothers and young fathers want to do the best for their children and some do very well, but for many their health, education and economic outcomes remain disproportionately poor which affects the life chances for them and the next generation of children.

Breastfeeding:

Responsive feeding has benefits for mother and baby, including emotional attachment. Babies who are breast fed have lower levels of gastro-intestinal and respiratory infections.

- 62% of babies born in Doncaster have breastmilk for their first feed (England 71%)
- 35% of infants are partially or totally breastfed at age 6-8 weeks (England 49%)

Health Visiting and peer support are key to providing support in the early stages of a breastfeeding journey. As part of the Family Hubs programme, a new breastfeeding support worker role lined to family hubs was created in 2023.

School Readiness:

Being 'ready to learn' at age 5 is strongly linked with future educational attainment and life chances. To be school ready, a safe and nurturing environment is needed to promote health, independence, emotional security and practical and social skills.

Health visitors promote 15 hours funded childcare for 2-year-olds for families who are on a low income or receive certain benefits.

Indicator	Period	Doncaster			Region England		England		
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Range	Best
Transition to parenthood and the early weeks									
Under 18s conception rate / 1,000	2021	—	113	22.0	17.1	13.1	31.5		2.7
Smoking status at time of delivery New data	2022/23	↓	356	12.0%	11.6%	8.8%	19.4%		3.4%
Smoking in early pregnancy	2018/19	—	-	-	-	-	-		-
Obesity in early pregnancy	2018/19	—	-	-	-	-	-		-
Low birth weight of term babies	2021	→	82	2.9%	3.0%	2.8%	5.0%		1.5%
Infant mortality rate	2019 - 21	—	53	5.3	4.4	3.9	7.5		1.2
Breastfeeding									
Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth - current method New data	2022/23	↑	1,178	35.2%	*	49.2%*	-	Insufficient number of values for a spine chart	
Healthy weight									
Reception prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (4-5 yrs) New data	2022/23	→	840	25.1%	22.5%	21.3%	29.6%		1%
Managing minor illnesses and reducing accidents									
A&E attendances (0 to 4 years)	2021/22	—	12,960	766.4	727.6	762.8	2,080.6		387.2
Emergency admissions (0 to 4 years)	2021/22	—	1,645	97.3	170.3	161.5	328.3		63.0
Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0 to 4 years)	2021/22	—	155	91.7	108.8	103.6	204.5		42.0
Percentage of 5 year olds with experience of visually obvious dental decay	2021/22	—	-	32.7%	27.0%	23.7%	46.0%		9.7%
Health, wellbeing and development									
Population vaccination coverage: MMR for two doses (5 years old) New data	2022/23	→	3,190	84.2%	87.1%	84.5%	56.3%		94.4%
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> <90% 90% to 95% ≥95% </div>									
Child development: percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 to 2 and a half years New data ⚠	2022/23	→	1,946	80.9%	84.6%*	79.3%*	4.1%		94.4%
Child development: percentage of children achieving the expected level in communication skills at 2 to 2 and a half years New data ⚠	2022/23	↓	2,034	84.5%	89.0%*	85.3%*	12.0%		96.0%
Child development: percentage of children achieving the expected level in gross motor skills at 2 to 2½ years New data ⚠	2022/23	→	2,280	94.7%	94.8%*	92.8%*	13.3%		98.8%
Child development: percentage of children achieving the expected level in fine motor skills at 2 to 2½ years New data ⚠	2022/23	→	2,297	95.4%	96.0%*	92.6%*	13.8%		99.1%
Child development: percentage of children achieving the expected level in problem solving skills at 2 to 2½ years New data ⚠	2022/23	↓	2,245	93.3%	93.7%*	91.8%*	11.3%		98.3%
Child development: percentage of children achieving the expected level in personal social skills at 2 to 2 and a half years New data ⚠	2022/23	↓	2,215	92.0%	93.3%*	90.3%*	13.7%		97.2%
School readiness: percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception	2021/22	—	2,295	65.0%	64.4%	65.2%	53.1%		4%
School readiness: percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of Reception	2021/22	—	2,833	80.3%	79.5%	79.5%	68.0%		6%

Early Years High Impact areas (Doncaster Child and Maternal Health, 21/22 and 22/23)

*Note that data with an exclamation point within a triangle indicates data quality concerns.

The state of health in Doncaster 2023

Indicator	Period	Doncaster			Region England		England		
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Range	Best
Children in absolute low income families (under 16s)	2021/22	–	10,578	18.5%	17.7%	15.3%	35.3%		4.2%
Children in relative low income families (under 16s)	2021/22	–	13,796	24.1%	22.7%	19.9%	41.7%		5.4%
Free school meals: % eligible New data	2022/23	↑	13,475	28.0%	26.0%	23.8%	43.0%		1.5%
Reception prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) (4-5 yrs) New data	2022/23	→	375	11.2%	9.9%	9.2%	14.1%		1.9%
Year 6 prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) (10-11 yrs) New data	2022/23	↑	1,010	27.7%	24.1%	22.7%	31.7%		
Percentage of physically active children and young people	2021/22	–	-	44.2%	45.7%	47.2%	-	Insufficient number of values for a spine chart	
Under 18s conception rate / 1,000	2021	–	113	22.0	17.1	13.1	31.5		2.7
Under 16s conception rate / 1,000	2021	–	21	3.9	3.2	2.1	7.0		0.6
Percentage of 5 year olds with experience of visually obvious dental decay	2021/22	–	-	32.7%	27.0%	23.7%	46.0%		9.7%
Population vaccination coverage: HPV vaccination coverage for one dose (12 to 13 year old)	2021/22	↓	1,484	81.5%	74.5%	69.6%	34.3%		93.2%
Children killed and seriously injured (KSI) on England's roads	2018 - 20	–	85	47.1	24.9	15.9	55.0		2.6
Children aged 6-10 killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	2018 - 20	–	23	38.8	19.3	12.2	55.9		0.0
Admissions for asthma (0 to 9 years)	2021/22	–	85	242.9	172.9	172.7	637.9		45.3
Admissions for diabetes (0 to 9 years)	2021/22	–	20	57.1	39.4	37.0	121.3		12.7
Admissions for epilepsy (0 to 9 years)	2021/22	–	10	28.6	95.7	89.7	230.7		28.6
Persistent absentees - Primary school	2021/22	–	4,864	21.1%	18.8%	17.7%	22.9%		
Persistent absentees - Secondary school	2021/22	–	5,681	32.3%	29.7%	27.7%	40.9%		

School Aged Children Indicators (Doncaster Child and Maternal Health, 2021/22 and 2022/23)

Being Physically Active:

Children and Young People aged 5-18 should aim for 60mins of physical activity per day, spread across the week. In the most recent pupil lifestyle survey, 44% of secondary school pupils said they walked to school and a third travel by car. 79% of primary school aged pupils have a positive attitude towards physical activity.

Parental Wellbeing and Mental Health:

Health visitors and Family Hubs provide support for good wellbeing for new parents. The Health Visiting service uses mandated visits to check on child development and the wellbeing of parents.

Around 1 in 5 women will experience a diagnosable mental health issue before, during and after pregnancy. Perinatal mental health services offer confidential, non-judgmental care to mums who have more complex mental health needs.

Healthy Homes:

Poor housing, housing instability, homelessness and fuel poverty impact on many areas of a child's life and future prospects. In the current cost of living crisis, some families might struggle with the cost to keep their homes warm.

Poor housing costs the NHS around £2.5 billion each year, with illnesses directly linked to living in cold, damp homes or homes with hazards. Treating children and young people injured by accidents in the home costs A&E departments across the United Kingdom around £146 million each year.

In Doncaster, every family receives a free thermometer from their midwife to help families check the temperature of their home or babies' room. Further information on the support available for Doncaster families is available through the Your Life Doncaster webpage, including energy bills support and Healthy Start information.

Healthy Weight:

The national child measurement programme in 22/23 found that for children in Doncaster:

- 25.1% of Reception age children are overweight or obese (England average 21.3%)
- 40.7% of Year 6 children are overweight or obese (England average 23.4%)

Children who are overweight or obese have a higher risk of some conditions including type 2 diabetes. They are also more likely to have exacerbations of conditions such as asthma.

Vaccination:

Vaccinations remains one of the most effective public health tools we have in our line of defence against a range of serious infectious diseases. As we emerge from COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a re-emergence of some vaccine preventable diseases. Cases of measles infections have been reported in some parts of England.

High coverage of measles, mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination among our children provides wider protection across communities. GPs in Doncaster have been working to improve missed childhood vaccinations and there has been an increase in uptake of MMR vaccination. More work is needed to build on this achievement and increase the uptake of MMR vaccination (2 doses for all 5-year-olds) from 84.7% to the national target of 95% or more.

A schedule of childhood vaccinations is available [here](#).

Oral Health:

Tooth decay and gum disease causes pain and can lead to difficulties with eating, sleep, speech and confidence. In 2022, a third of 5 year olds in Doncaster had tooth decay in 2022. Doncaster has some of the highest numbers of child tooth extraction clinics in the country. Rates of tooth decay are higher in more deprived communities and for children from non-white ethnic groups.

Health Visiting services provide toothbrush packs and advice to families around the time when babies have their first teeth. There is also a programme of supervised toothbrushing in some schools and early years settings.

Health Inequalities

People's life chances differ greatly depending on the level of deprivation of the area in which they live, their level of education, income, ethnicity, level of disability. The result is inequalities in health. Sir Michael Marmot (2010)

Last years report stated that, over the last decade, Doncaster has not closed the life expectancy and healthy life expectancy gap with the rest of England, and described that gaps are getting wider.

“Despite the best of efforts of local people and services, given the challenge of recovering from the pandemic and now the cost of living crisis these impacts are going to grow”

This year, a wide range of national and local data was collated and updated for the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission with an aim of looking closer at the many determinants, aspects and experiences of Doncaster peoples lives. The ‘data walks’ used by the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission are [available to view online](#).

Young carers, children in care, ethnic minority young people, LGBTQ+ young people, disabled children and young people, people with mental health conditions, and young people living in the criminal justice system are more likely to experience health inequalities.

Ethnic diversity in Doncaster has increased, the 2021 Census shows that the Doncaster population was 86.6% White British compared with 96.5% in 2001. This brings a richness of culture, but people from black and minority ethnic groups can experience poorer outcomes in their health. Around 7500 households in Doncaster have no members that speak English, and this can affect how services and support is accessed.

Healthwatch England has published new findings on the challenges facing ethnic minority groups in accessing healthcare. It describes that people who don't speak English often get poor support for communication, people are less likely to receive quick or correct referrals if they are not white British, and examples of discriminatory treatment by health services were shared by people from ethnic minority groups.

Poverty, employment and income has a strong association with health and wellbeing. Considering the links between deprivation and the social determinants of health, children and young people living in poverty are at greater risk of experiencing poorer health outcomes. In 2021/22, there were 4.2 million children living in poverty in the UK with 35.2% - almost 21,000 children in Doncaster -living in poverty. Almost half of them (10,192) living in working households. 11,715 (12.5%) of households in Doncaster are lone parent households and children in lone parent families, in larger families and children from minority ethnic families are more likely to live in poverty. Children living in a family where someone is disabled have a poverty rate of 36% after housing costs, compared with 25% for children living in families where no-one is disabled.

- 129,000 Doncaster residents live in the 20% most deprived areas of England (IMD 1 and 2).
- 29,000 Doncaster Residents aged 16+ have never worked or are long term unemployed.

For people who work, median income is £25,356, a growth of only 1.9% on the previous year and 27,000 Doncaster residents earned less than the Real Living Wage in 2021

Children are eligible for free school meals when their household income is less than £7,400 per year, 13,828 of Doncaster pupils are eligible for free school meals

Inequalities Faced by Children and Young People

What happens during these early years (starting in the womb) has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and wellbeing – from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status Sir Michael Marmot (2010)

‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’, was published in 2010, and concluded that reducing health inequalities would require action on six policy objectives, including two with a particular focus on children and young people:

1. Giving every child the best start in life
2. Enabling all children, young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Creating fair employment and good work for all
4. Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all
5. Creating and developing sustainable places and communities
6. Strengthening the role and impact of ill-health prevention.

The roots of health inequalities can be set before birth and will sometimes be passed through generations. Women living in more deprived areas are more likely to smoke during pregnancy and as a result more likely to have a baby with a low birth weight and a higher risk of developing asthma in later life. A five-year-old from a low income household is twice as likely to be obese than a child from the most affluent neighbourhoods, this becomes three times more likely at age 11 years. Inequalities that start in early years can persist and impact across the life course. The Born and Bred in Doncaster (BaBi-D) cohort study began recruiting

in 2022 and, over decades, will provide insight into the various factors that influence health and opportunities for Doncaster born babies.

Long-term conditions can develop in childhood. As part of Doncaster’s 2022 Pupil Lifestyle Survey, 13% of Secondary pupils and 12% Primary pupils reported that they live with a long term illness or medical condition and 6% of secondary pupils and 7% of Primary pupils said they have a disability. This impacts many parts of their life - while 5% of secondary pupils say they are unable to get a restful night’s sleep, 19% of pupils with disabilities or long-standing illnesses say the same.

Mental health conditions can also develop in childhood and early adulthood with 75% of mental health problems becoming established before the age of 24. Responding to Doncaster’s 2022 Pupil Lifestyle, 71% of pupils say they have felt lonely at least sometimes in the previous year. 59% of Secondary School pupils are ‘happy’ or ‘very happy’ with their life. 29% of young carers and 31% of LGBTQ+ pupils say they are ‘not happy’ or ‘not at all happy’, higher than other groups.

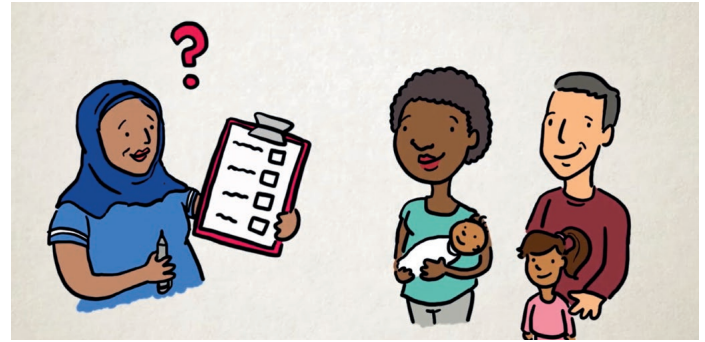
Childhood and adolescence are periods of development and change, where families, schools, health services and other communities can help children and young people to adopt and learn behaviours and form trusted relationships that can improve their health outcomes. This includes attachment and resilience and preferences and habits around food choices, oral health, sleep patterns and the opportunity for and enjoyment of physical activity. A focus on prevention and early action and support in childhood can prevent ill health in later life. Economically, interventions to improve health outcomes for children are particularly effective and cost effective as they can influence health status across the life course.

Born and Bred in Doncaster (BaBi-D)

Understanding exactly how and why some children in Doncaster are healthier than others is key to starting to level the playing field and helping all children to enjoy good health and wellbeing. Doncaster is therefore proud to be among one of the first areas to host a Born and Bred in cohort study in collaboration with partners from the long established Born in Bradford family of research studies. The study is managed collaboratively by Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Teaching Hospitals and City of Doncaster Council, with representatives from other key stakeholders across the city represented on our steering committee.

Born and Bred in Doncaster asks women during pregnancy for their consent to collect routine data relating to themselves and their child. This includes medical records as well as other sources of data that are routinely collected by organisations such as health visiting, social services and education. As the cohort grows this will enable researchers based within City of Doncaster Council and elsewhere to examine links between early life circumstances and health and wellbeing in later life and pave the way for more effective and earlier intervention to improve the life chances of all our residents.

Born and Bred in Doncaster began recruitment in July 2022, meaning that it is still early days for a study of this size. That said, over 1,000 women have agreed to take part in the study and agreements are now in place to allow for data to be shared between Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust and City of Doncaster Council in a way which protects the security of the data and therefore the privacy of our participants.



Similar cohorts are also being set up in other areas around the country. Following Bradford, Doncaster was one of the first three sites to set up alongside Leeds and Wakefield. Further sites are also now established in Nottingham and East London with further areas in discussions with the coordinating centre in Bradford. The ambition of the network is that local sites will contribute anonymised data to a meta-cohort hosted in Bradford, providing the opportunity for researchers to look at larger dataset to answer questions with national importance. Doncaster's early involvement in the project therefore puts the needs of our residents central within this wider program of work.

For more information about Born and Bred in Doncaster and the wider network of BaBi studies please visit [Born and Bred In Doncaster \(BaBi-D\) - Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals \(dbth.nhs.uk\)](https://www.bornandbredin.org.uk)



The other 80%

At times of crisis, it can be easy to focus on the immediate issues and the demands in acute care. The challenge is to not only focus on the immediate but also to focus on the important and the other 80% of factors that contribute to health and wellbeing. Dr Rupert Suckling

Last years annual report decribed **the Crises of 2022 - COVID-19, Climate, Conflict, Cost of Living**. Each of these crises prevail into 2023 and beyond and continue to draw attention to, and exacerbate structural inequalities.

Although the health, wellbeing and attainment experiences and outcomes of children and young people must be considered and addressed in the context of recent events. Children and young people themselves can affect the world around them, using their enthusiasm, growing their skills and being active in their school and home communities.

To enable this, the underlying and intersected catalysts of inequality – physical home and learning environments and social factors – require focus to create nurturing and protective environments and consequent good health and wellbeing for children and young people and resilience and equal and greater opportunity for their later life.

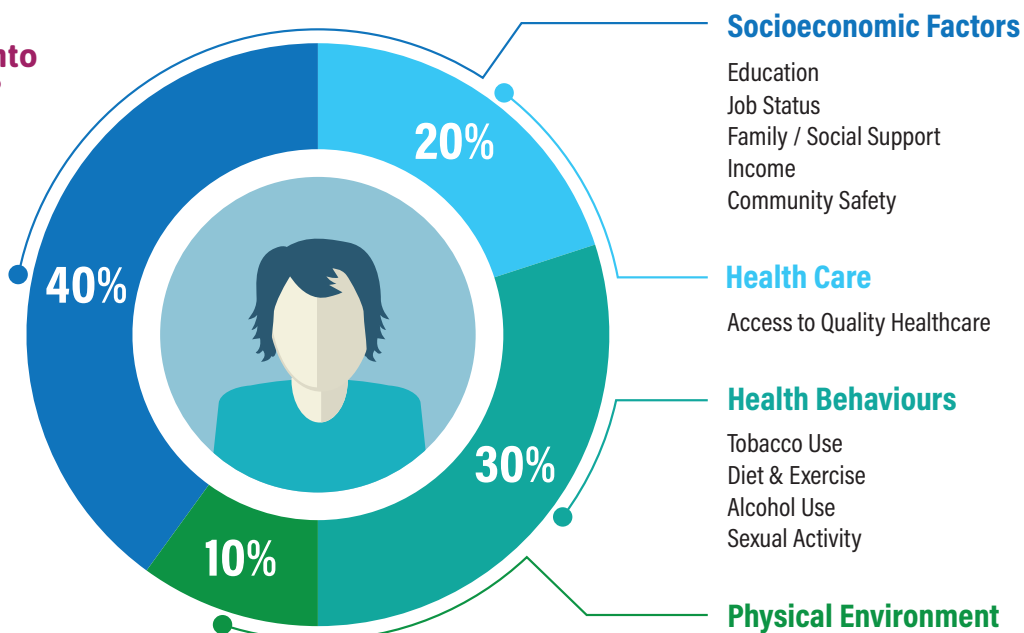
“Our approaches see every child given the opportunity to increase their knowledge, develop independence and skills, making memories as individuals and as part of their own community.

We recognise that not all children have the same experiences, backgrounds and home lives as each other and sometimes they can need a little more specialist support.

Every child is given the opportunity to grow in confidence and thrive, the impact... they help each other and want everyone to do well.”

Headteacher - Doncaster Primary School responding to the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission Call for Evidence

What goes into your health?



Doncaster's Fairness and Wellbeing Commission

“By taking a step back and taking a deeper and long-term view, commission members have been working together to develop recommendations that will make our society fairer and just for everyone”

Doncasters Fairness and Wellbeing Commission

The Fairness and Wellbeing Commission was established in January 2023 and came together over 8 sessions to examine data, testimonies and evidence to develop policies that will make our society fairer for everyone in Doncaster.

Recommendations for creating a fairer Doncaster will address structural and wider determinants of health and wellbeing at the heart of long standing challenges. The final report will be published in 2024.

27
hours of sessions

576
survey responses

20+
formal progress presentations

19
experts presenting

3
“What Works” evidence packs produced

600+
post its recorded

14
formal evidence submissions

4
data walks

15
personas developed



2023 Highlights and Progress



This year, Local Authority public health teams have returned to 'business as usual' public health priorities, following a period of operational, local pandemic response.

Health protection assurance and local support to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) continues as a function. Our Public Health team have been working with Team Doncaster partners and residents to ensure that Public Health services and opportunities for good health are available for all.

- By 31st March 2024, the Public Health team will have commissioned and recommissioned Public Health services to the value of £17 million.
- We have worked with partners to support the development of family hubs as part of the Start 4 Life Programme to join up and enhance services and support for families with children in their early years, including the critical 'first 1001 days'.
- Well Doncaster use community based approaches to reduce health and wealth inequalities, working with communities to involve, strengthen, sustain and scale through bold leadership and collective bravery. Young Apprentices working with the Shaping Stainforth project have been inspiring and encouraging other young people to engage in opportunities to make changes in their own community.
- The Wider Determinants Team received funding to trial Active Travel Social Prescribing. The service - Walks and Wheels – has launched in Balby and provides bespoke support for people with long term conditions and/or disabilities to gain confidence in walking or cycling.
- Get Doncaster Moving - our partnership approach to increasing levels of physical activity -was commended by the Sports Minister who chose to launch the National Sport and Physical Activity Strategy in Doncaster in recognition of our innovation.
- On 1st October, The Healthy Lives team launched an age friendly movement to make Doncaster an age friendly city. We have heard from over 1000 people about how they would like to experience an age friendly Doncaster.
- The newly formed Combatting Drugs Partnership developed a Drug and Alcohol delivery plan for Doncaster, in line with local insight and the National Drug Strategy 'From Harm to Hope'. The partnership has directed additional investment from the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant to local partner organisations engaged in improving capacity and quality of drug and alcohol treatment in Doncaster.
- A Real Time Surveillance system has been established to record and learn from suspected suicides, and drug and alcohol related deaths, in order to work to further prevent future deaths.

Research is key to discovering how we can improve community health and reduce health inequality.

In 2022/23 the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) funded HDRCs to ensure there is local public health research capacity to look into wider health determinants of health so that decision makers have the research evidence they need.

More information about HDRCs can be found at: www.nihr.ac.uk/news/nihr-invests-a-further-55m-to-tackle-health-inequalities-through-local-government-research/34972

HDRC Doncaster is a collaboration between City of Doncaster Council, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University and represents significant investment to grow our capacity to do and use research. The HDRC team includes several embedded researchers with complementary experience, knowledge and expertise.



Image credit: @Nat_Beebe

NIHR | Health Determinants Research Collaboration Doncaster

Dr Susan Hampshaw, Chief Investigator for Doncaster's HDRC, outlines some of this year's achievements:

"We know that the Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted the health and wellbeing of children and young people. For this reason, one of our priority areas for research activity is children and young people. It is early days for the HDRC, but we are working on several children and young people projects: Born and Bred in Doncaster (BaBi D), Vaping and Young People, Early Years Evaluation, Remake Learning Festival Evaluation, LGBTQ+ Health Needs Assessment, and Contraceptive Aspirations. HDRC staff are assigned to each of these studies working alongside local government officers and other stakeholders to deliver the projects.

As a HDRC, we have also been able to contribute to Doncaster's Fairness and Wellbeing Commission as two HDRC embedded researcher professors (in evidence synthesis and public health) have worked to support the evidence needs of the commission. They have attended all meetings, responded to themes generated by the Commission, and coordinated data from research/practice initiatives with local context working with local government officers.

In September 2023, we held our inaugural HDRC Doncaster Research Festival with a range of speaker and skills sessions. We had the opportunity to showcase BaBi D illustrating the collaboration, data linkage, alongside our activities to involve local people in determining research priorities. We are looking forward to our next year and being able to report the outcomes of this work."

To find out more about our work, email: HDRCDoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk



Use of the public health grant

In June this year, national guidance on the role of the Director of Public Health was updated, although overall, the core objectives remain the same as when they were initially published in 2020.

Directors of Public Health are tasked with leading the local Public Health function and have a duty to take steps to improve the health of people living in the area. Working with Team Doncaster partners and communities themselves, public health teams are well placed to take action to address the wider determinants of health and narrow health inequalities.

To achieve these goals, Public Health teams work in systems and across boundaries both within and between partner organisations. However, City of Doncaster Council's Public Health function receives a ring-fenced public health grant to support activity.

The Public Health ring fenced grant is allocated through the Council's budget setting process and can be directed to both mandated 'prescribed' and non-mandated 'non-prescribed' services and functions. Priorities are guided by the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF), the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the local Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The table shows how the Public Health grant was used in 22/23 and the budget allocation for 23/24. Investment in mandated services (indicated by *) has been maintained or increased where additional national funding has been made available (e.g. supplemental substance misuse grant). Public Health advice costs have increased as staff have returned from covid response roles.

The wider determinants fund of £5.5 million has been maintained at a similar proportion of grant spend.

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Budget
	(£000s)	(£000s)
Public Health - Grant	25,300	26,126
Public Health - Other income	7,932	7,932
Total Public Health Income	33,232	34,058
Spend: Commissioned Services		
Health Visiting (Children 0-5 public health) *	6,458	2,350
School Nursing (Children 5-19 public health)	1,964	350
National Child Measurement Programme *	68	1,704
Substance Misuse *	7,691	68
Sexual Health *	2,370	233
NHS Health Checks *	-	80
Obesity	236	7,798
Physical Activity	112	731
Smoking and Tobacco	522	1,955
Health Protection: Infection Prevention & Control	123	6,186
Mental Health - Suicide Prevention	126	148
Other public health services and activity	5,385	7,372
Sub-total: Commissioned Services	25,055	20,065
Spend: Public Health Team		
Public Health advice (including Salary costs)	1,487	2,726
Support Services	1,130	1,194
Sub-total: Public Health Team	2,617	3,919
Spend: Wider Determinants		
Realignment	5,235	5,330
Growth	263	263
Sub-total: Wider Determinants	5,498	5,593
Total Spend	33,170	34,434

Children and Young People Living their Best Possible Lives



City of Doncaster Council want to provide support for young people that promotes health and wellbeing.

The Capabilities Approach (CA) (Biggeri, Libanora, Mariani & Menchini (2006), Dominguez-Serrano, del Moral Espin & Galvez Munoz, 2019) has been described as a progressive approach to supporting the wellbeing of young people.

Capabilities Approach:

The opportunities of a person to pursue lives they have reason to value - to live their best possible lives. Equitable and sustainable support should be provided to help all young people grow to be capable and responsible, and have opportunities to thrive.

In 2019, City of Doncaster Council and a research team from Sheffield Hallam University worked with 17 young people to find out what would help them to 'live their best lives'. The young people designed and undertook research and contributed to the analysis of the results. They talked to a further 30 friends and classmates about their ideas. They also took part in a workshop with people who work in services, to plan together what support the council, and wider community, should give young people and how this support should be provided.

The primary aim of the study was to ensure that services for children and young people were designed to best support young people to have the freedom and capability to live lives they have reason to value. Research questions for the study were:

- To understand what young people in Doncaster have reason to value
- To explore what and who young people in Doncaster feel supports them to become capable, responsible and provide them with opportunities
- To investigate what assets can be built upon and what further role public services can play in their development

Through the programme of research, the young people came up with their own framework for support which would help them to 'live their best lives'. This framework included 5 themes:

PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS:

- ✓ Develop trusted adult to young relationships.
- ✓ Develop peer relationships.
- ✓ Have someone listening, somewhere.

PLACES, SPACES AND TIME FOR ME:

- ✓ Have our own private space for 'me time'.
- ✓ Be fit and physically active.
- ✓ Visit places that are fun inspire us.
- ✓ Be able to pursue hobbies
- ✓ Help others through volunteering opportunities
- ✓ Get around easily and cheaply

LEARNING AND SKILLS:

- ✓ Develop social skills to negotiate with people, online and in person
- ✓ Develop life skills (time management, confidence, access to advice and direction)
- ✓ Overcome challenges
- ✓ Have access to content to help understand our experiences (content availability and means to access via technology)

FREEDOM AND RIGHTS:

- ✓ Speak up and be listened to
- ✓ Have our views taken seriously and treated in confidence
- ✓ Be accepted and loved for you are.
- ✓ Be 'authentically yourself'
- ✓ Be safe from harms (people, safe spaces)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

- ✓ Be physically and mentally well
- ✓ Have access to information about how to stay well and where to get support.

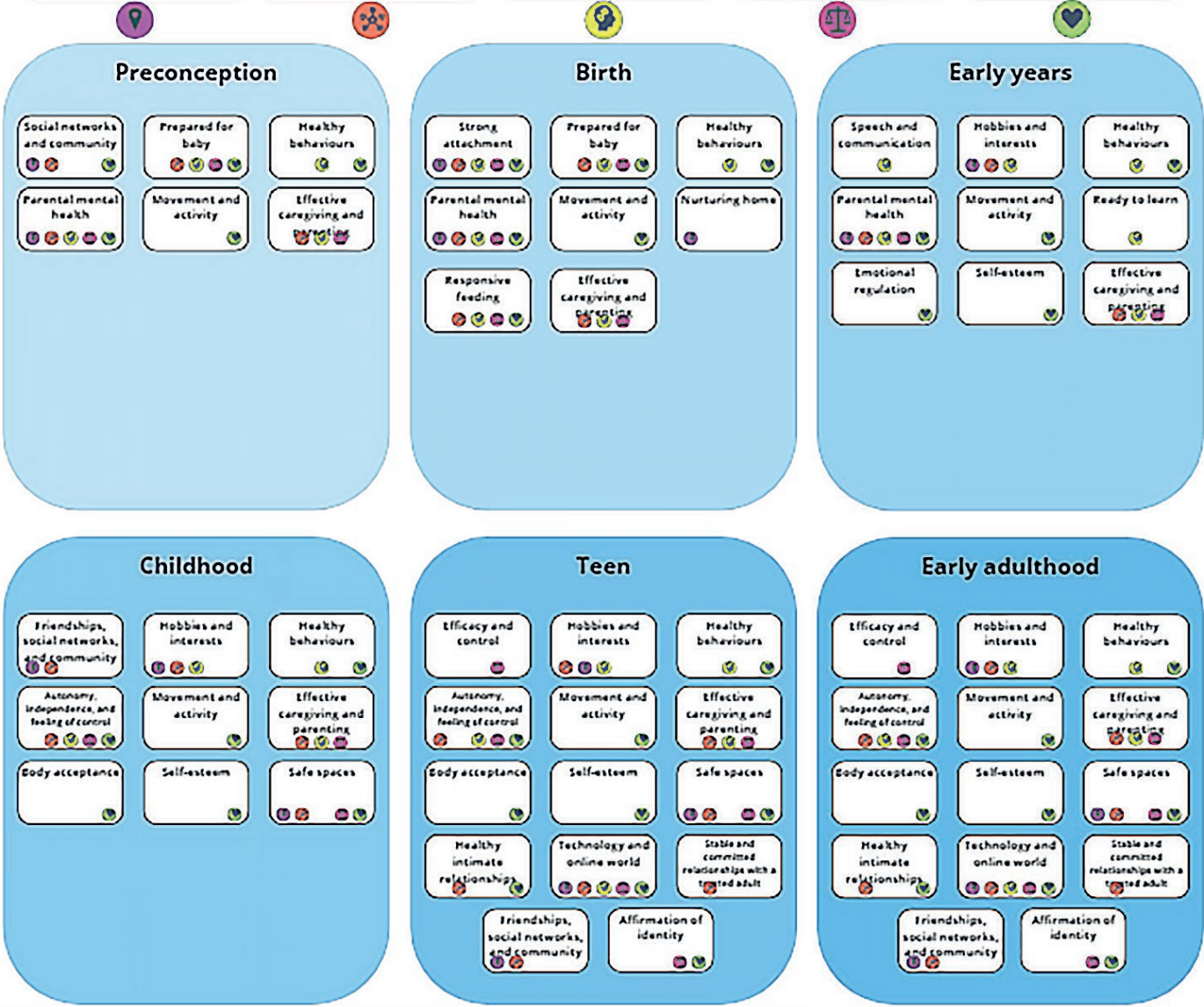


In each of these themes, the young people were able to agree what helped them to grow well, what stopped them from flourishing and what people could do to support them.

They focussed on the need for trusted relationships with adults, their own space and access to valued activities. They wanted education to be broad – building knowledge about academic subjects but also social and life skills. The young people stressed the need for support for their mental health and to be able to influence decisions that affect them. The project successfully showed that young people were able to make relevant suggestions for the ways in which the community and services might support them to thrive. The Council are committed to building young people's ideas into the support they offer and continuing to give young people decision making power in areas that affect them.

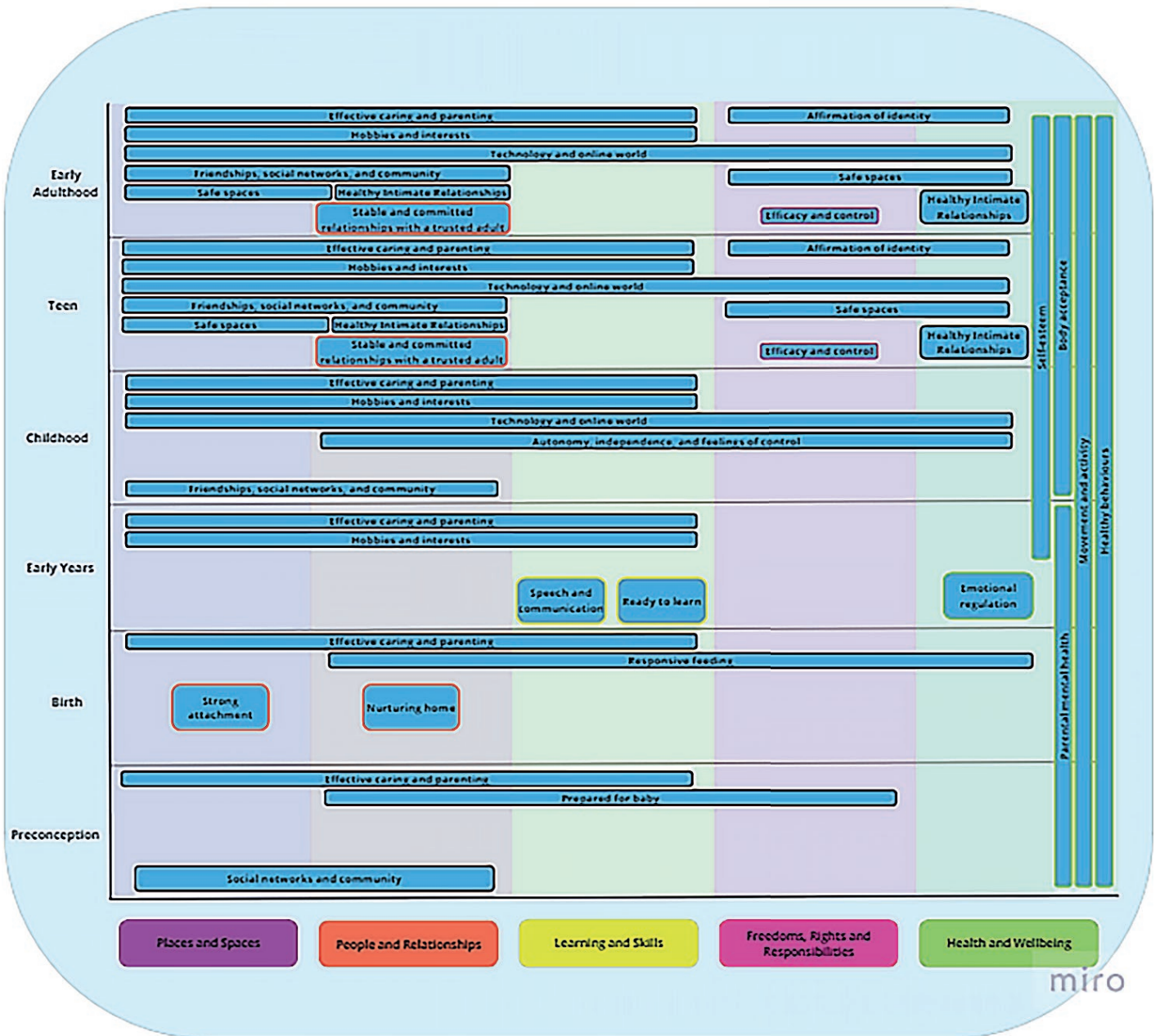
The ideas generated from the programme have been used to review the questions and responses received through the Pupil Lifestyle Survey, embedded in the development of the service model and delivery Zone 5-19 and have been included in the development of the Compassionate Approach to Health and Wellbeing which is now adopted by Public Health.

The Public Health team have also looked at the themes the young people generated, to consider the types of protective factors and support that could be offered to strengthen these – the tables on the following page bring these together to support service planning locally.





PUBLIC HEALTH
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES



miro

Using Local Intelligence and Insight

To supplement nationally collated data and indicators and performance reports from commissioned services, school health profiles and an annual pupil lifestyle survey provide additional, hyper local insight into health and wellbeing of children and young people of school age.

School Health Profiles:
Facilitated conversations between schools and school nursing to plan services to improve health, wellbeing and attainment.

The Health & Social Care Act (2012) sets out a local authority's statutory responsibility for public health services for children and young people aged 5-19 years. Universal public health services for children and young people are an essential component of promoting, supporting and protecting their health and wellbeing.

In 2021, Doncaster Public Health commissioned a new service model for the provision of 5-19 public health services. The new service model brings together the School Nursing and the Integrated Young Person's Services into one delivery model, now known as 'Zone 5-19'. The service provides support for children, young people and families through interventions in school, the community, and a town centre clinic as well by phone, social media, e-clinic app and a website.



The service is tasked with completing a School Health Profile with each Primary and Secondary school in Doncaster, incorporating the local Healthy Schools Award – Healthy Learning, Healthy Lives and the Pupil Lifestyle Survey. Through this process, the service can better understand the level and focus of support each school needs from the School Nursing teams of the Zone 5-19 service.

School Nursing services support children and young people across a range of domains; Resilience and emotional wellbeing; Improving lifestyles; Maximising learning and achievement; Supporting additional and complex health and wellbeing needs; Seamless transition and preparation for adulthood.

School Health Profiles were first carried out in the 2022/23 Academic year, and profiles are in place for 97% of Doncaster schools. The issues most often identified for age-appropriate support from the service were:

- Oral and dental health
- Healthy friendships and relationships
- Managing worries and feelings
- Sleep
- Puberty

The School Health Profiles demonstrate the role of strong partnership working, recognising and utilising links – between Public Health, commissioned services, education settings and wider agencies offering support to schools. The service will be conducting School Health Profiles for the 2023/24 academic year and will be taking into account the learning and feedback from the first year.

Doncaster's Pupil Lifestyle Survey

Since 2015, we have conducted the Pupil Lifestyle Survey (PLS), an anonymous school-based questionnaire, providing valuable data on children and young people's health related behaviour for primary and secondary aged children. All mainstream primary and secondary schools across Doncaster are invited to take part for free. Since the 2018/19 academic year the survey has been completed annually.

The PLS is designed for young people of primary and secondary school age within Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 (specifically year group 4, 6, 8 and 10). In recent years, schools have included additional year groups in order to gain insight into health and wellbeing behaviours of a broader range of their pupils.

The PLS takes the form of an online questionnaire and asks a range of questions covering key themes which include:

- nutrition and oral health
- physical activity
- keeping safe
- emotional health and wellbeing
- risk taking behaviours



Every participating school receives personalised data and can find out how attitudes to key themes are changing. The feedback from schools demonstrates the value of the PLS for our education settings in Doncaster.

“Positives – our students seem far better informed of the resources and advice available around sexual health – even taking in to account Y10s who have had less Life Skills than Y8 have. Smoking was a real concern (very significant difference) compared to other schools in Doncaster in the last survey and I know we adjusted Life Skills and our whole school sanctions to reflect this.”

Secondary School

An overall report is produced for all pupils taking part. The results from the survey are used in the Doncaster Children and Young People's Plan and other strategic plans including the Mental Health Strategy and the Get Doncaster Moving Strategy. Findings are also used in setting the RSHE curriculum. The previous data from the survey has provided a set of Doncaster-wide figures at key points in children and young people's development.

The survey gives a broad overview of a range of health and wellbeing issues affecting children in Doncaster and is a key source of child voice in the borough. The results have enabled more effective targetting of support for children and young people, by using the geographical reports by ward or locality and the characteristics reports to understand specifics for children who are entitled to free school meals, young carers and children with Special Educational Needs.

Compassionate Communications

We know that body image is an issue for young people. This year, the NSPCC reported that their Childline service gave over 4,000 counselling sessions on the topic of body image and disordered eating. Our own Pupil Lifestyle Survey has reported that Doncaster children worry about the way they look. Amongst secondary school children in particular, perceptions of the way they look is the thing they most worry about (36%). This number is 20% for primary school children but rises to 27% amongst primary girls.

In primary schools, physical attributes are most often the target of bullying, with 29% of pupils saying they were bullied because of the way they looked and a further 25% because of their size or weight. In secondary schools, these numbers rise, with 51% of all pupils who say they have been picked on or bullied say it was because of the way they look and a further 36% say it was because of their size or weight.

A person's body image is affected by a wider variety of factors, and there are certain times of the year where a person's body image is more likely to be affected. Around New Year, there can be a lot of pressure to set unrealistic goals for the year ahead, and often these can revolve around changing the way you look.

We want to continue to encourage health-promoting behaviours, such as increasing physical activity levels and eating a varied diet, without focusing on body image and weight. The ineffectiveness of dieting and traditional weight-loss programmes can contribute to weight stigma, feelings of shame, poor mental and physical health outcomes, as well as negatively impacting a person's relationship with food and exercise.

We ran a successful communications campaign with the purpose of providing alternative support and inspiration for new year's resolutions, and to address and rebalance the popular messaging around new year that promotes diet culture and harmful ideas about weight and health.

ALTERNATIVE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

New Year can feel like you need to change overnight– but we know it's not that easy!

Try out some 'Alternative Resolutions' this year that center **your own** health and wellbeing journey.

Why not try a sport you used to love or check out Get Doncaster Moving?

- ~~1. Lose weight~~ Get back into swimming (I used to love it!)
- ~~2. Detox~~ Check out Get Doncaster Moving!
3. Start that new club
4. Treat myself with kindness! ❤️

Your Life Doncaster **choose KINDNESS**

Find out more: yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/wellbeing

ALTERNATIVE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

'Habit Stacking' is a way to build your health and wellbeing goals in a way that centres you.

Why not start with a walk with friends and see where that takes you!

- New habit: 5 Minutes of mindfulness
- Existing habit: Morning Cup of Tea
- New habit: 5 minutes of stretching
- Existing habit: Brush my teeth

Your Life Doncaster **choose KINDNESS**

Find out more: yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/wellbeing

Shaping Stainforth Young Apprentices

Shaping Stainforth (SS) is a three-year funded approach with The Health Foundation. Focusing in one community in the East of Doncaster, Stainforth, the approach aims to lay the foundations for long-term change that will lead to a community that has the conditions that are conducive to good mental health.

Core to this is creating local opportunities for local young people, an approach that has been shaped by two young apprentices employed as part of the programme.

The young apprentices work with other children and young people who live in Stainforth to bring their ideas for their communities to life.

In their time working with the team, they have grown the young peoples steering group, worked with the local voluntary, community and faith sector and worked with local schools to develop a Stainforth youth action plan.

The apprenticeship roles provide local young people with skills that they use to enrich the places and opportunities for other young people. They provide a method for involving and including the voice and experience of other young people into decision making. They also set an example to other local young people to set their own aspirations for their future, linking these hopes and dreams with real local opportunities.



Utilising additional Investment

Nationally, there has been additional fixed term investment in substance misuse and family hubs. Public Health teams have been able to work with partners to allocate and use this additional funding to address local challenges.

Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant

While the majority of children and young people do not use drugs, and most of those who do are not dependent, drug and alcohol misuse can have a major impact on children and young people's health, their education, their families and their long-term chances in life.

In Doncaster, as has been the trend nationally, there has been a decline in people accessing substance misuse treatment services. There are a number of contributors which have potentially influenced this downward trajectory, however, the recent decreases in numbers in treatment are not necessarily reflective of the actual need.

In 2021, the Government published 'From Harm to Hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives'. With this strategy, the Government also announced three years of additional funds through the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant. The drug strategy includes objectives specific to young people, including a pillar of action to achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs.



In Doncaster, a Children, Young People and Families subgroup developed a workplan of actions including:

- Boosting existing local services, including the Zone 5-19 Service through allocating additional funds to increase the capacity of substance misuse workers
- Strengthening partnerships to improve referral pathways through better understanding of local assets, like trusted relationships, and needs of young people
- A training and skills audit for both the specialist and wider children and young people workforce and development of training and development programme

Additional funding has been invested in the Families Moving On Together Programme (FMOT) to support attendance at the programme. FMOT is a whole family program designed to help parents, carers and children talk more openly about the effects of parents or carers drug and alcohol misuse in a safe space and make small changes to improve their family life.

FMOT is a free service for families where one or both parents or carers have experienced or are still experiencing difficulties with their drug and, or alcohol use and where there are children in the family aged between 8 years and 18 years.

Additional funding has been used to recruit a Youth Support Worker into the EP ICteam to focus on substance misuse. EPIC delivers a range of programmes for young people, working in the community with young people through a range of positive activities. An EPIC Hub provides a pop-up youth zone in the Frenchgate Shopping Centre where EPIC youth workers are on hand to offer

Baby Friendly Initiative – Antenatal Support in Family Hubs and Early Days workers

Pregnancy and the early postpartum period are transformative moments in the lives of individuals and families.

The foundations of a healthy and productive life are laid in this period. However, some new parents can experience poorer physical or mental health. In Doncaster, the Starting Well strategy sets out a number of actions to support families through their pregnancy and in the first years of the child's life. Much of this co-ordinated support is provided through Doncaster's Family Hubs.

The Family Hub ante-natal offer is provided in partnership with Midwifery Services with every Family Hub hosting a midwife clinic in the community. As part of the Family Hub ante-natal offer, baby friendly initiative bags are given to all families in the later stages of pregnancy by Early Days workers. The bags contain information to help families prepare for their new baby. Breastfeeding information and support from the We Support Our Mums scheme is shared, and Early Days workers are able to answer any questions. Timetables for the family hub are also shared.

The Early Days Worker role was introduced as part of the Start 4 Life project using the additional fixed term national funding for the crucial early years. Following the birth of a new baby, the Early Days Worker will contact the family within the first 2 days to provide extra practical support, in addition to midwife visits, giving families additional support before the first visit from the Health Visitor. Support focusses on feeding of the baby and parents can also be supported with their wellbeing.

Early findings demonstrate that mothers value support around breastfeeding, which helps them to breastfeed for as long as they choose. Teams have also strengthened the partnership working with and between Health Visiting and Midwifery services.



Including the profile of our Early Days Workers in the baby friendly initiative bags provides an opportunity to introduce them to families at an early stage, building a good foundation for the post birth contacts.

Summary and Final Thoughts

There are opportunities to improve health, wellbeing and life chances at all stages of childhood – from preconception to adolescence and young adulthood. The moral and economic case is clear...

Doncaster children have bold ambitions and should be supported through their trusted networks and places and by responsive, tailored services.



The emerging findings of the Fairness and Wellbeing commission set an ambitious, but deserved vision – a desired future state - for children and young people:

Doncaster is a place where children and young people are supported to be kind, healthy, happy, safe and active members of their community guided by three fundamental principles:

1. RESPECT AND VALUE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

Recognising their inherent value and potential, fostering a culture of respect and appreciation with opportunities that match their high aspirations.

2. EQUITABLE TREATMENT:

The city promotes equity in its treatment of children and young people; it ensures that all individuals, regardless of their age, background, or circumstances, are treated fairly.

3. EMPOWERMENT AND OWNERSHIP OF THE FUTURE:

Doncaster empowers its children and young people to voice their opinions, shaping their lives and the community they live in.



The framework and themes generated by the young people involved in the Capabilities project in 2019 match well with the emerging findings from the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission and can be used to provide a unifying, strategic focus to underpin all children and family focussed developments and activities across the borough.

The framework and themes highlight the importance of children and young people having safe and inspiring places to grow and learn and opportunity to practice and improve core life skills. The importance of supportive, responsive relationships in developing resilience is a feature throughout childhood and adolescence.

Working across the four Doncaster Localities, with Team Doncaster partners and working with communities themselves to enable and enhance assets will further drive a bespoke and responsive way of working as we move into the future.

Some final thoughts as we move into 2024...



Summary and Final Thoughts

The importance of voice and experiences of children and young people

This report has highlighted the importance of ensuring that the voice and experiences of children and young people is used in shaping policy and service design and delivery. The pupil lifestyle survey, and insight gathered from research approaches including BaBi D provide a local picture to supplement data produced nationally.

Voices and experiences of young advisors, young apprentices and young commissioners working on behalf of communities of children and young people in Doncaster ensures that young people are able to take a hands-on leadership role in shaping their priorities.

Doncaster's Children and Young People's Plan 2022-2025, developed by the Youth Advisory Board sets the priorities against the ambition for Doncaster to be the most Child Friendly Borough in the Country - a safe, happy, healthy, connected and inclusive place for all children and young people.



Taking a compassionate, prevention-focussed approach

The economic argument for early intervention is compelling and illustrated by the Heckman Curve. For children and young people this means working with families as early as preconception. Understanding and addressing the wider determinants – the causes of the causes of ill health – includes taking a compassionate approach.

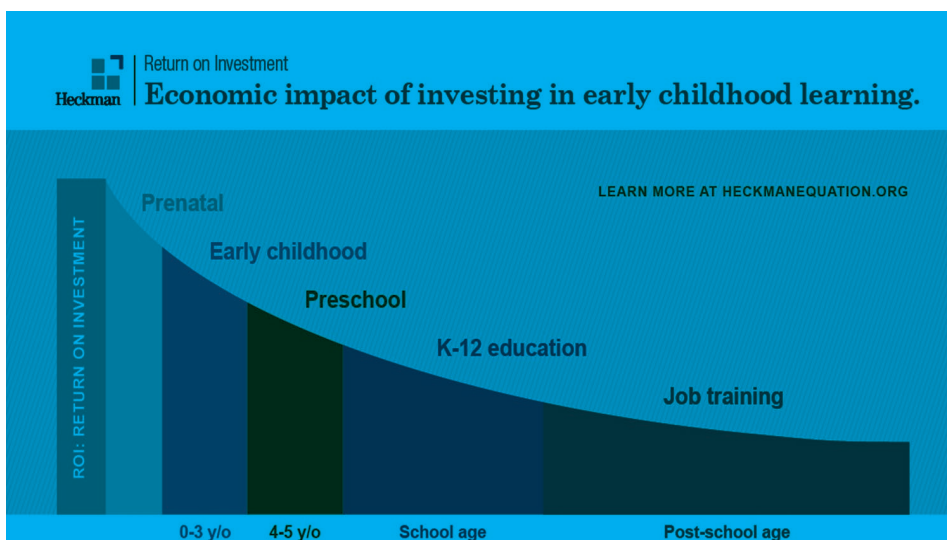
Good health and wellbeing is not just the result of the decisions we make. It is greatly affected by the social environment we live in – which can be improved if we have the shared ambition to do so. We need to move away from blaming individuals for their poor health and instead build the social conditions for better health through choosing kindness, this means reducing health stigma, practicing ‘no judgement’ and investing in prevention.

Communities, places and services for children, young people and families can support in building the social conditions for better health through compassionate approaches.

Schools and early years settings can have an impact far beyond the provision of education and can extend to be a source of supportive social connections, inspiring relationships and a place for children and young people to feel safe and develop core life skills. This enrichment can have a long-standing impact on improving outcomes and supporting aspirations of children.

Sustaining good mental health for parents and children is key. Parents who have good mental health often feel able to better support their children’s needs and development and poor mental health for children can impact their physical wellbeing, educational attainment and their relationships.

The relationship between poverty and mental health is well evidenced and the solutions for sustaining mental health across society includes tackling the structural and root causes. The Great 8 Priorities include actions to nurture a child and family friendly borough, including approaches to tackle child poverty and ensure families have all the wellbeing essentials.



Heckman, J.J. (2006) Skill formation and the economics of investing in disadvantaged children. Science 312(5782): 1900-1902.

Summary and Final Thoughts

Equalities and inclusion health focus

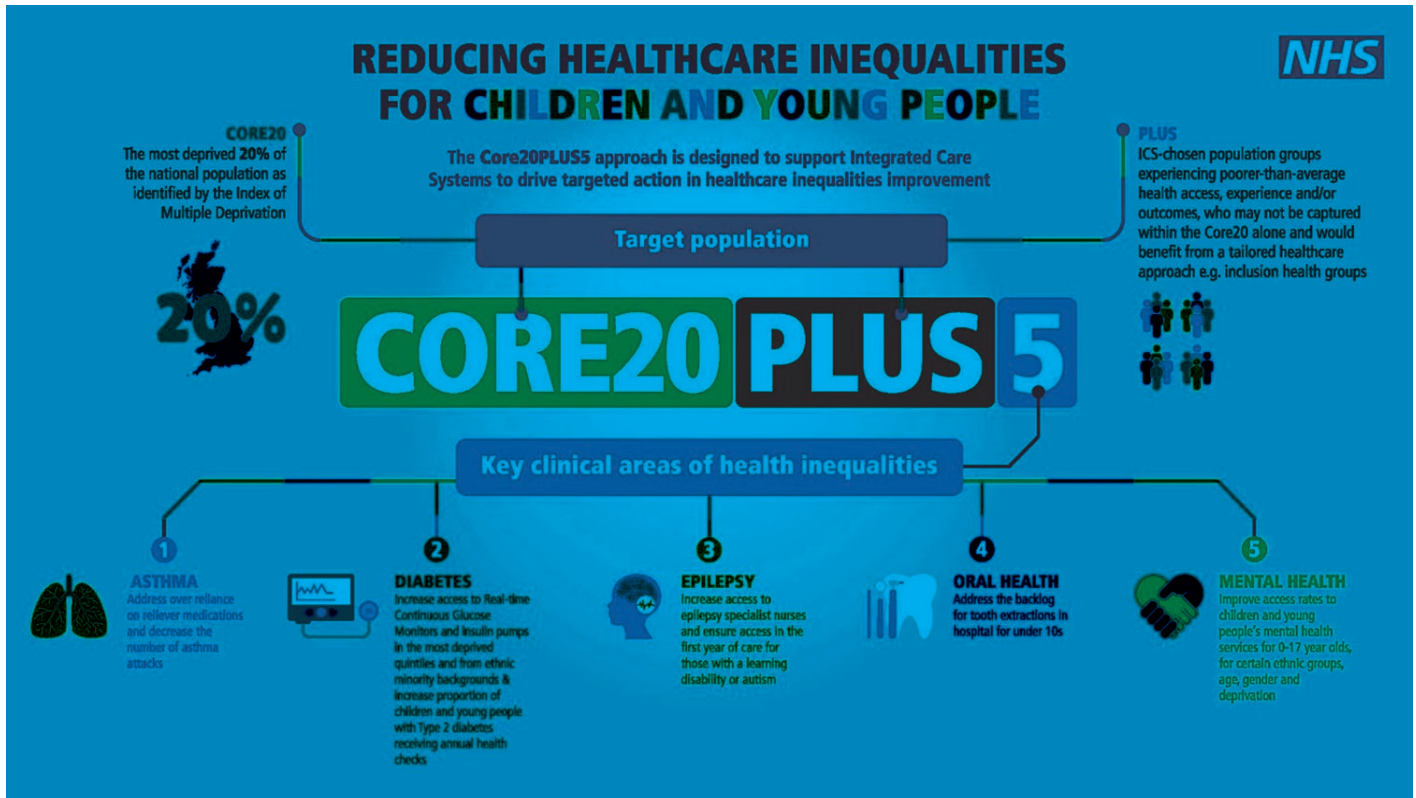
Some children will face additional barriers and challenges to health and opportunity and will be more likely to experience poor health outcomes and more negative experiences when trying to access and use services. Children in 'inclusion health' groups can include young carers, children in care and children with a disability or special educational need. Children from ethnic minority communities or who are LGBTQ may also need support or services more tailored to individual need.

Core20PLUS5 is a national NHS England approach to support the reduction of health inequalities at system level. The approach defines a target population cohort – people living in the 20% most deprived communities - and people in the 'plus' inclusion health groups. The approach also identifies five focus clinical areas for improvement, for children this is asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, oral health and mental health.

For Doncaster, around 40% of people live in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods as categorised nationally by the index of multiple deprivation. Local NHS services can narrow inequalities in health service provision by considering youth friendly standards and the tailored support that some young people may need to achieve equitable access, excellent experience and optimal outcomes.

More widely, places and services that support children, young people and families should prioritise identifying and supporting young people who are more vulnerable earlier. Actions that reduce potential harm and stress, and increase capabilities and skills and opportunities to build trusted relationships should be targeted and weighted to children and families who will benefit most.

To close the health inequalities and opportunities gap we must use community based approaches to involve and hear from children and families who are most affected. To influence and sustain change and improvements and affect the wider determinants of health, we must work alongside our communities.





City of Doncaster Council

18th January 2024

To the Chair and Members of the Council

Overview and Scrutiny Update – May to December 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report updates Council on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the four standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels for the period May to December 2023.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Council receive the update on the work of the OSMC and the four standing Scrutiny Panels for the period May to December 2023.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Reviewing the activities of Overview and Scrutiny provides an opportunity to demonstrate to the public how the function has contributed to decision-making and the improvement of services.

BACKGROUND

5. This report includes a summary of some of the key work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during the current municipal year. The activities of OSMC and the standing Panels include, holding decision makers to account, performance review, policy review and development and external scrutiny. Work plans are agreed early in the municipal year and reviewed at each ordinary OSMC and Panel meeting, to track progress and ensure they take account of emerging issues and future key decisions.

6. The membership of OSMC includes the Chairs of standing Panels and this seeks to ensure greater co-ordination of Overview and Scrutiny activity. The Committee meets regularly to consider issues around performance, the budget and policy framework, pre-decision scrutiny, in-depth/spotlight reviews undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels and areas of strategic importance.
7. The Overview and Scrutiny structure includes:
 - **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC)** - The membership of OSMC includes the Chairs of standing Panels and other Members. This ensures cross party representation, greater co-ordination of Overview and Scrutiny activity and alignment to the corporate goals.
 - **Children and Young People's Panel (CYP)** – considers issues relating to improved outcomes for Children and Young People including Learning and Opportunities and delivering services to keep Doncaster children safe;
 - **Regeneration and Housing (R and H)** – considers issues relating to regeneration, economic development, strategic transport and housing;
 - **Community and Environment (C and E)** – considers neighbourhood issues, street scene and highways, community safety as well as environmental issues; and
 - **Health and Adult Social Care (HASC)** – considers issues that fall within the remit of Public Health, adult social care and the NHS. The Chair represents the Authority on Regional Health Scrutiny bodies.
8. The Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meet regularly with the Mayor and respective Cabinet Members to ensure regular communication on portfolio issues and Overview and Scrutiny work plans.

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny activities

9. This report provides a snapshot of some of the key work undertaken by OSMC and the Panels between May and December 2023. A full account of the work undertaken by OSMC and the Panels is included on the Overview and Scrutiny work plan, which can be accessed through the following link - [Modern Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](https://modern.gov.co.uk) and minutes of meetings, which are available on the Council's website.
10. Training and support is available to all Members on the role of Overview and Scrutiny, work planning, adding value, questioning skills and understanding their role. Importantly OSMC and the Panels have all held meetings and have engaged with the public, individuals with lived experience, partners, officers and Executive Members.
11. The work plans and the OSMC/Panel remits for 2023/2024 take account of the six wellbeing goals and the Great '8' priorities outlined in Doncaster's Corporate Plan and Doncaster Delivering Together. This report aligns the activities of

OSMC and the Panels to these priorities through their work plans.

Regional Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (South Yorkshire)

12. The Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Doncaster's representative on this Committee, attended a number of meetings throughout the year. The Integrated Care Board (ICB) has a legal obligation to consult with the Committee with regard to substantial variations to service. It also consults with the Committee on many health issues and had asked Members to give consideration to the NHS Five Year Joint Forward Plan for South Yorkshire. The Committee's comments were noted and taken on board in the following areas:
 - Consultation - the low rate of consultation responses highlighting the need to emphasise that the Plan should be a top priority particularly with people who were vulnerable;
 - Achieving the ambitious programme – how the aims and objectives will be met from existing resources; and
 - Availability of appropriate workforce to deliver demands and maintain staff retention.
13. The Yorkshire Ambulance Service outlined its wish to attend this Committee regularly, to seek its views on the 5 year service proposals. This issue is therefore continually being monitored.
14. Meetings have also been held with the NHS to consider the Oncology review and the Integrated Care Board running costs.

Consultation with Scrutiny

15. There are a number of areas where Scrutiny Members have been asked to consider or be consulted on specific issues. This ensures the views of Members are heard and taken into account during development of proposals. These include:

Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan (OSMC)

16. The Committee was informed of how the 2023/24 plan would be developed in collaboration with partners. The Committee gave its support to the work being undertaken to deliver priorities.
(Great 8 Theme: Regenerative Council)

Customer Experience Strategy (OSMC)

17. Information presented focused on the work relating to Licensing, possibly establishing a citizens panel and ensuring documents were in Easy Read formats. The Committee recognised that the use of new technology was being promoted and had increased following the pandemic. The Committee acknowledged the positive progress taking place.
(Great 8 Theme: Regenerative Council)

Fairness and Well-being Commission (OSMC)

18. The Committee was provided with an update on the progress and recommendations from the Doncaster's Fairness and Wellbeing Commission. The purpose of this was to keep the Committee informed of the progress of the Commission (set up with the aim to help to address systemic inequality in our society), and an opportunity to find out more about its approach and methodology, findings, recommendations, timeline and next steps. The Committee expressed an interest in drilling down further into certain recommendations going forward as part of its future scrutiny work.
(Great 8 Theme: All)

The Community Prevention Model and Locality Plans overview (OSMC)

19. The Committee was presented with a detailed presentation outlining the current position. Members provided experiences regarding their work with key teams across the Council and Partners, including Ward and Lead locality meetings, what was working well, what could be improved and challenges and risks. It was agreed the Committee's views would be fed into the development of the Community Development Model.
(Great 8 Theme: All)

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Policy Framework and other strategies and policies

20. As part of the Scrutiny pre-decision role, a number of Statutory Plans are considered by the OSMC and Panels, some are reviewed prior to their adoption by full Council, and this provides an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to feed in any views and comments. It also requires the Executive to respond to any specific comments and recommendations put forward by Overview and Scrutiny. These plans cut across the Delivering Doncaster Together themes and during the reporting period the following plans and strategies have been considered and supported:

- Youth Justice Plan
- Doncaster Delivering Together (DDT) Investment Plan;
- Play Parks Strategy;
- Local Lettings Policy;
- Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Allocation Policy;
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy; and
- Special Educational Need and Disability Strategy (SEND).

(Great 8 Theme: Regenerative Council)

Quarterly Performance and Financial Management

21. To support accountability and transparency, Cabinet Members (Councillors Cole, Houlbrook, Blackham, Blake and Lani-Mae Ball) have attended the Quarterly

performance meetings, to respond to questions and provided an insight into strategic delivery.

22. OSMC continues to review finance and performance on a quarterly basis. This is a key role for the Committee and supports the Council's performance management arrangements by reviewing the extent to which the Council and its key partners are operating within resources and delivering value for money. The performance information is also used as a means of identifying future work plan issues. This is an important role for the Committee as it provides critical friend challenge to the Cabinet Members, Directors and St Leger Homes of Doncaster. (Great 8 Theme: Regenerative Council)

Annual Complaints and Compliments Report 2022/2023

23. Further critical friend challenge is provided by consideration of complaints and compliments. This helps raise awareness of the types and volumes of complaints, identifies trends, communicates lessons learned and identifies service improvements. It provides Members with an understanding of customer perceptions of Council services, St Leger Homes, and the Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust. The report also enables Councillors to understand the extent to which service complaints impact on performance detailed within the quarterly performance and finance meeting. (Great 8 Theme: Regenerative Council)

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel:

Child Exploitation

24. Members examined the multi-agency approach and Child Exploitation Strategy. The discussion centred around process, local and national issues, resources, information on caseloads and partnership working, including what is being undertaken by South Yorkshire Police and throughout schools. The approach has assisted Members understanding of how the complex nature of child exploitation is being addressed in their communities and the importance of reporting any concerns promptly. (Great 8 Theme: Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough)

Child Poverty

25. Part of the Panel's investigation into the factors that influenced child poverty included a site visit to Adwick Family Hub and Woodlands Library and information provided by the Youth Council. Families explained how helpful the service was when they needed help, no matter how small, and that staff and partners understood their community's need. Councillors were able to speak with:
 - Service users, parents and foster carers;
 - Volunteer groups;
 - The local Reverend who ran a food bank via referrals from partners or the Family hub, and
 - Partners that provided support to families through the Hub.

26. The Panel provided an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the work of the Family Hubs. The Panel recognised this was a well-regarded service valued by users and the wider community.
(Great 8 Theme: Nurturing a child and family-friendly Borough)

Social care front door referrals - school experience update

27. The Panel met and received an update on social care front door referrals. Topics discussed included dental assessments, Mosaic computer system, children in need, sharing of information, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) network, re-referrals and issues around capacity, pressures and demands. This provided the Panel with a valuable opportunity to continue its look into progress and improvements made.
(Great 8 Theme: Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough)

Educational Achievement Outcomes 2023

28. The Panel received and noted the annual educational outcomes for Doncaster and noted the action taken, changes made to learning improvement and update in relation to the data, achievement and improvement across all key stage phases. This enabled critical friend challenge in considering educational achievement in comparison to regional and national trends.
(Great 8 Theme: Developing the skills to thrive in life and work)

Equitable and Inclusive Access to Education for All

29. The Panel received information on the approved future approach and proposals identified that 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. This was positive in helping the Panel understand how educational provision effectively develops the skills of children and young people to address the new landscape of employment and training opportunities for young people when they leave school. The Panel agreed to review the issue in March 2025 giving the proposals time to take effect.
(Great 8 Themes: Developing the skills to thrive in life and work and nurturing a child and family-friendly borough)

Regeneration and Housing Panel

Local Lettings Policy and Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Allocation Policy

30. The Panel's input was requested prior to the development of the final proposals. The Panel's comments were reviewed, and the Policies were formally agreed. The main areas of consideration related to ensuring thorough consultation was undertaken particularly with hard-to-reach groups, personal circumstances being taken into account with banding allocation priority (and securing reasonable preference) and finally the redevelopment of the Home Choice Website.
(Great 8 Theme: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all)

Housing Retrofit progress – moving to net zero

31. The Panel considered this issue because reducing the carbon emissions from housing is a key element of mitigating the impact of climate change and to help minimise the costs to households of future energy price rises. Councillors considered the progress, advantages and difficulties of moving to the net zero target, including: Retrofit Funding, Delivery and implementation, Employment and business expansion in housing retrofit and heat pump installation. The Panel will continue to monitor progress in this area.
(Great 8 Theme: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all and Tackling climate change)

Transport overview

32. The Panel held an informative meeting attended by a representative from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority relating to local and regional public transport. The discussion covered a range of topics that included funding challenges, franchising proposals, ageing stock, electric vehicles, and the importance of connectivity as part of the Town Deal aimed at driving the economic regeneration of the city. The Panel agreed to bring transport and town deal to a future formal meeting as it was a key issue going forward.
(Great 8 Theme: Building transport and digital connections fit for the future)

The new Regulatory Regime for Social Housing and implication for the Council

33. Members were updated by Strategic Housing and St Leger Homes of Doncaster (SLHD) on the new regulatory regime being introduced by the Regulator for Social Housing from April 2024. Members learnt that this would bring a stronger and more proactive regulatory regime to drive up standards in social housing and hold landlords to account for the service they provide to their tenants. Members were informed about emerging priorities and discussed several areas including key performance indicators, stock condition surveys, the impact of possible rent increases (that could be created by regulatory body fees) and demand for rental properties. It was a key issue that would be monitored by the Panel who welcomed the early consultation on these potential changes.
(Great 8 Theme; Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all and Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs)

Health and Adult Social Care Panel

Substantial Variation – Bentley and Rossington Primary Care Estate Development – Integrated Care Board (ICB)

34. The Panel was consulted on whether the ICB had met its statutory duties in relation to the new health centres / community hubs at Bentley and Rossington. This is a statutory consultation and the Panel considered a number of areas that could ultimately impact on the communities including travel and access,

communication, pharmacy location and easy read documents. The Panel was satisfied with the proposals presented.

(Great 8 theme: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all)

Public Health Protection Annual Report

35. Members highlighted there had been a continued response to the health protection challenges presented by Covid-19 but that the service had now moved from core response to pre-pandemic levels of emergency planning, resilience and response. Many issues were raised but the main focus related to bowel programme screening for people with learning disabilities, cervical screening work and infection prevention control to prevent covid and respiratory conditions. The Panel considered ways to promote preventative screening and measures within their communities to promote long term health improvement.
(Great 8 Theme: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all)

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2023

36. The information received by the Panel sets out the work undertaken on the 2023 JSNA, the forward plan and the enabling infrastructure. The discussion highlighted that for the first-time that women's health in Doncaster had deteriorated below figures shown for men. This was an area the Panel would continue to monitor throughout the year.
(Great 8 theme: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all)

Mental Health aged 18 to 25

37. The Panel gave consideration to information provided to young adults (aged 18–25) experiencing mental health problems in Doncaster. An update was also provided on a new provision established in Doncaster ('Better You'), which offers mental health support to young adults aged 18-25. The meeting was attended by partners including RDaSH, NHS ICB, and service providers through Better You. Members also listened to the lived experience of an individual who themselves had benefitted from this new service. A discussion took place that included the transition of young adults from Children's Mental Health Services to Adult Mental Health Services, the Better You offer, referrals supporting individuals into employment, care leavers who access the service and other initiatives that support young adults.
(Great 8 Theme: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all)

Winter Strategy

38. The Panel considered the support planned in Doncaster this winter and how it will be coordinated. Some of the key areas and comments raised by the Panel during the meeting included winter predictions, discharge planning and communication. This allows scrutiny the opportunity to look at challenges and

pressures that could be faced during winter against how robust the Council and partners winter plans are. The Panel recommended that consideration be given to delivering wider publicity (including a school campaign), to encourage greater handwashing to prevent viruses from spreading.

(Great 8 Theme: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all)

Update from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

39. An annual update from the Chief Executive of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals provided the current position on a range of strategic issues that included future aspirations, challenges and impacts. Members considered a number of specific topics and as part of the debate including: Emergency department waiting times and ambulance handover; Reducing long waits for elective care, Recruitment and Staffing; and Virtual Wards.

(Great 8 Theme: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all)

Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel

Safer Doncaster Partnership

40. As part of its statutory role the Panel was presented with a 6 month update in respect of the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) crime and re-offending theme, with a particular focus on retail crime. Members considered retail crime trends and offences, support for first time offenders, support for businesses in the city centre and outside of the city, and finally prevention and police publicity campaigns. This meeting provided the Panel with an opportunity to focus in detail on one aspect of crime that has worsened over the last 12 months and to find out more about why and what actions were being taken to address the position.

(Great 8 Themes: Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs)

Community Assets/Community Asset Transfer Review

41. The approved Corporate Budget for 2023/24 provided a savings target of £1m for running costs for the Council's property portfolio. The Panel met to find out more about what was being done to take this forward and how it was impacting on other areas through a range of information and evidence. The discussion involved the review process, portfolio and different types of assets and also impacts such as on services and staff. Regarding its Corporate Assets Policy Review completed earlier in 2023, the Panel was updated on work to be undertaken on the Community Assets Transfer Policy which would take into account the recommendations it made during its previous review.

(Great 8 Theme: Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs)

Renewal of City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order

42. Prior to consideration by Cabinet, Members were able to review the revised Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and the robustness of the public consultation on the future of the city centre PSPO. Responses were provided to a number of areas that included lessons learnt and challenges, impact on city centre economy (and night-time economy), issues from the city centre that dispersed across boundaries into other areas and how effective the engagement had been as part of the public consultation.
(Great 8 Theme: Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs)

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 – 2029

43. Prior to its adoption the Panel considered the proposed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 – 2029. The Strategy was supported with a recommendation that further information be sought on whether the strategy can form part of the Local Plan as a planning policy document or ensure its principles are reflected within the Local Plan.
44. It was concluded that robust consultation had been undertaken, despite there being a small number of public responses. Other issues raised included the role of flood wardens, surface water and planning applications, future preparedness and the monitoring and identifying potential areas that may be flooded in the future.
(Great 8 Theme: Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs)

Street scene

45. The Panel was provided with an update on the service. This included highlighting improved performance, whilst addressing the difficulties faced with fly-tipping enforcement, cleaning resources for the largest geographical City Council including rapid response work, graffiti, collection of volunteer waste collections, street bins and street sweeping. Members learnt about the new initiatives to tackle fly-tipping, for example, development of a community garden in an identified hotspot area. Other cleansing responsibilities were addressed for example, response to flooding, snowfall, safe disposal of roadkill and weed spraying. Members were able to use this information to aid their understanding and better inform the community.
(Great 8 Theme: Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs)

Joint Scrutiny Meeting - Children and Young People and Community and Environment Scrutiny Panels

Play Parks Infrastructure Policy

46. The Panels jointly had early sight of the Play Parks Infrastructure Policy which had been commissioned to monitor and assess the quality of Doncaster's

existing parks and set out visions and principles for what should be included in each. Members took part in a discussion that enabled them to express their concerns and consider the improved outcomes to be achieved through this policy. The discussion provided an opportunity to look at issues impacting their communities and users, the aims of the policy, maintenance and inspection requirements, quality of equipment, funding opportunities and availability of data. (Great 8 Theme: Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs and Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all)

OPTIONS CONSIDERED






47. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides the Council an opportunity to review the activities undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny over the period May to December 2023.




REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

48. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 b) requires the Chair of OSMC to take a half yearly update report to Full Council to provide an overview of the work being undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

49

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner				✓

communities where everyone belongs				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Fair & Inclusive				✓
<p>Overall Comments:</p> <p>The work of Overview and Scrutiny supports the Council's contribution to all of its key priorities. Regular review of the Overview and Scrutiny work plan enables the Committee to ensure it remains relevant and is responding to important issues for citizens and the borough. The work plan update helps support openness, transparency and accountability as it summarises outcomes from overview and scrutiny activities. Citizens are able to contribute to the work of overview and scrutiny by attending meetings or contributing to reviews.</p>				

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (NC 2/1/24)

50. In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23(b) the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is required to take a half yearly update report to Full Council, to provide an overview of the work being undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and progress against any priorities set out in the Annual Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (MS 15/12/23)

51. There are no specific financial implications attached to this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES (SH 15/12/23)

52. There are no specific HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (PW Date: 14/12/23)

53. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this update report.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

54. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function it is important that the work plan is manageable. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function. National research has identified that over ambitious work plans that include too many items are a common cause of frustration for Scrutiny Members as they fail to achieve any outcomes. The Overview and Scrutiny work plan will continue to be reviewed at each ordinary meeting of OSMC and officers will advise on the capacity available to undertake any additional work.

CONSULTATION

55. The Chairs of OSMC and Scrutiny Panels have been consulted in respect of feedback on the progress against work plans.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

56. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2023/24 and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

57.

- OSMC – Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- CYP – Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
- CQC – Care Quality Commission
- SEND – Special, Educational Needs and Disabilities
- CAMHS – Children and Adult Mental Health Services
- SLHD – St Leger Homes Doncaster
- HASC – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel
- R and H – Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel
- C and E – Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel
- JNSA – Joint Needs Strategic Assessment
- ICS – Integrated Care System
- ICB – Integrated Care Board
- DDT – Doncaster Delivering Together
- RDaSH – Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber Foundation Trust
- PIDMAS - Patients Initiated Digital Mutual Aid System

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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Scott Fawcus
Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services



Doncaster Council

Report

18th January, 2024

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

PROPOSED DIARY OF MEETINGS – 2024/26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Council for comment, a provisional Diary of Meetings for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Municipal Years, attached at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to:-
 - (i) consider and comment on the proposed Diary of Meetings for the 2024/26 Municipal Years, attached at Appendix A; and
 - (iii) note that the final version of the Diary of Meetings will be presented to the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2024, for approval.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. Approving an advanced calendar of meetings encompassing two Municipal Years from May 2024 to May 2026, provides advance notice and an opportunity for citizens to better engage in the democratic process; where provided for in the Council's Constitution e.g. asking questions at Council meetings, Cabinet and its Committees.

BACKGROUND

4. At its Annual Meeting in May, the Council determines a programme of meetings for Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees. Prior to submitting a report on this issue to the Annual Meeting, Members receive a report, usually in January each year, outlining a proposed timetable of meetings for comment in order that provisional room bookings can be made to hold these meetings.

5. Whilst recognising that Committee membership may change from year to year at the Annual Council Meeting, agreeing Council dates over a longer period provides Members and Officers with advanced notification of meetings and other key dates. This is particularly helpful for Members who may have to organise their time due to other commitments e.g. work, caring, voluntary, family or other commitments.
6. The proposed programme of meetings covers a two year period and encompasses the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Municipal Years. However, there will be an opportunity to review the meeting dates for the period 2025/26, once these have been agreed, as Council will be asked to agree a diary of meetings for the period 2025/26 to 2026/27, in May 2025. This will enable Council to make any adjustments, if required.

PROPOSED DIARY OF MEETINGS - OVERVIEW

7. During peak holiday periods in late July and August, and over the Christmas period, meetings have been kept to a minimum.
8. The frequency of meetings of Full Council and Statutory, Regulatory or Quasi-Judicial Committees and Sub-Committees, have remained unchanged from last year's cycle.
9. The scheduling of meetings for the Overview and Scrutiny function reflects its approach to delivering its work plan. Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meets monthly to ensure it retains its overview of the function whereas the Panels meet less frequently but call additional meetings as required for evidence gathering sessions, briefings and other activities to support the delivery of their work programmes.

Cabinet Meetings

10. Cabinet Meetings have been determined by the Mayor of Doncaster.

Meetings of Full Council

11. The frequency of Council meetings has been retained at six meetings in each Municipal Year. Evening meetings starting at 6.00 pm, will be held in the months of July and September. With the exception of the Annual Council Meetings starting at 11.30 am in May each year, all remaining scheduled meetings will start at 2.00 pm. In order to comply with statutory requirements for agreeing the Council Budget and setting the Council Tax, it is proposed to hold a meeting of Council in February each Municipal Year.

The E-Diary





12. The Diary of Meetings can be accessed via the Council’s website www.doncaster.gov.uk. This helps raise awareness of public meetings and may encourage members of the public to attend. To reduce possible clashes of Member commitments, Officers are asked to check the diary of meetings before organising Member events not shown in the diary. When additional meetings are organised, the diary is updated to maintain an accurate list of known Member commitments from a Doncaster Council perspective.





OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

13. Members are requested to either approve or amend the proposed Diary of Meetings.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

- 14.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
Comments:				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments:				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments:				

 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
Comments:				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive				✓
Comments:				

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SRF 11.12.23]

15. There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 11.12.23]

16. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [SH Date: 13.12.23]

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

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials ET Date 11.12.23]

18. There are no technology implications in relation to this report. Governance & Members Services maintain the diary of meetings electronically in the Modern.Gov system that is accessible via the Council's website.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

19. There are no identified risks associated with this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SM Date 24/11/23]

20. There are no specific equality implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

21. The report is being presented to Full Council to allow the Mayor of Doncaster, other Political Group Leaders and Elected Members, to be consulted on the provisional Diary of Meetings for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Municipal Years, prior to formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2024.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Scott Fawcus
Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th May, 2024	13th May, 2024	20th May, 2024	27th May, 2024
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting AGM (Parts 1 & 2)		BANK HOLIDAY
	7th May, 2024	14th May, 2024	21st May, 2024	28th May, 2024
T U E S D A Y				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	1st May, 2024	8th May, 2024	15th May, 2024	22nd May, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	2nd May, 2024	9th May, 2024	16th May, 2024	23rd May, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY ELECTION			10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee (Work Planning)
	3rd May, 2024	10th May, 2024	17th May, 2024	24th May, 2024
F R I D A Y			10.00 am Group Meetings 11.30 am Annual Council Meeting - Mansion House (Reconvene @ 2.00pm, Civic Office) 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits
				31st May, 2024

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd June, 2024	10th June, 2024	17th June, 2024	24th June, 2024
M O N D A Y	3.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning Meeting)			
	4th June 2024	11th June, 2024	18th June, 2024	25th June, 2024
T U E S D A Y				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	5th June, 2024	12th June, 2024	19th June, 2024	26th June, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y		9.30 am Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning) 11.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Cabinet	10.00 am Licensing Committee
	6th June, 2024	13th June, 2024	20th June, 2024	27th June, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board		2.00 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	
	7th June, 2024	14th June, 2024	21st June, 2024	28th June, 2024
F R I D A Y		9.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st July, 2024	8th July, 2024	15th July, 2024	22nd July, 2024	29th July, 2024
M O N D A Y		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting			1.00 pm Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
	2nd July, 2024	9th July, 2024	16th July, 2024	23rd July, 2024	30th July, 2024
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council		10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	3rd July, 2024	10th July, 2024	17th July, 2024	24th July, 2024	31st July, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	4th July, 2024	11th July, 2024	18th July, 2024	25th July, 2024	
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL		10.00 am Audit Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	
	5th July, 2024	12th July, 2024	19th July, 2024	26th July, 2022	
F R I D A Y		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th August, 2024	12th August, 2024	19th August, 2024	26th August, 2024
M O N D A Y				BANK HOLIDAY
	6th August, 2024	13th August, 2024	20th August, 2024	27th August, 2024
T U E S D A Y			12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	7th August, 2024	14th August 2024	21st August, 2024	28th August, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		
	1st August, 2024	8th August, 2024	15th August, 2024	22nd August, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee		
	2nd August, 2024	9th August, 2024	16th August, 2024	23rd August, 2024
F R I D A Y		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions and Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd September, 2024	9th September, 2024	16th September, 2024	23rd September, 2024	30th September, 2024
M O N D A Y			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
T U E S D A Y	3rd September, 2024	10th September, 2024	17th September, 2024	24th September, 2024	
		10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee 12 Noon Deadline for Motions & Questions to Council	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		
W E D N E S D A Y	4th September, 2024	11th September, 2024	18th September, 2024	25th September, 2024	
		10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		10.00 am Licensing Committee	
T H U R S D A Y	5th September, 2024	12th September, 2024	19th September, 2024	26th September, 2024	
	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Audit Committee	
F R I D A Y	6th September, 2024	13th September, 2024	20th September, 2024	27th September, 2024	
	5.00 pm Deadlines for Questions & Statements to Cabinet				

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th October, 2024	14th October, 2024	21st October, 2024	28th October, 2024
M O N D A Y				
	1st October, 2024	8th October, 2024	15th October, 2024	22nd October, 2024
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee
	2nd October, 2024	9th October, 2024	16th October, 2024	23rd October, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		
	3rd October, 2024	10th October, 2024	17th October, 2024	24th October, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Audit Committee
	4th October, 2024	11th October, 2024	18th October, 2024	25th October, 2024
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th November, 2024	11th November, 2024	18th November, 2024	25th November, 2024
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	5th November, 2024	12th November, 2024	19th November, 2024	26th November, 2024
T U E S D A Y		12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		
	6th November, 2024	13th November, 2024	20th November, 2024	27th November, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet		5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	7th November, 2024	14th November, 2024	21st November, 2024	28th November, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Health & Adult Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 2.00 pm Audit Committee
	1st November, 2024	8th November, 2024	15th November, 2024	22nd November, 2024
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd December, 2024	9th December, 2024	16th December, 2024	23rd December, 2024	30th December, 2024
M O N D A Y					
	3rd December, 2024	10th December, 2024	17th December, 2024	24th December, 2024	31st December, 2024
T U E S D A Y		12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee			
	4th December, 2024	11th December, 2024	18th December, 2024	25th December, 2024	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		BANK HOLIDAY	
	5th December, 2024	12th December, 2024	19th December, 2024	26th December, 2024	
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel		BANK HOLIDAY	
	6th December, 2024	13th December, 2024	20th December, 2024	27th December, 2024	
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet				

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th January, 2025	13th January, 2025	20th January, 2025	27th January, 2025
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	7th January, 2025	14th January, 2025	21st January, 2025	28th January, 2025
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	
	1st January, 2025	8th January, 2025	15th January, 2025	22nd January, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	2nd January, 2025	9th January, 2025	16th January, 2025	23rd January, 2025
T H U R S D A Y			9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Audit Committee 1.30 pm Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
	3rd January, 2025	10th January, 2025	17th January, 2025	24th January, 2025
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd February, 2025	10th February, 2025	17th February, 2025	24th February, 2025
M O N D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting
T U E S D A Y	4th February, 2025 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	11th February, 2025 10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures	18th February, 2025 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee 12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	25th February, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y	5th February, 2025 10.00 am Cabinet	12th February, 2025	19th February, 2025 10.00 am Communities & Environment Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel	26th February, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	6th February, 2025	13th February, 2025 10.00 Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	20th February, 2025	27th February, 2025 1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL (Budget Setting & Council Tax)
F R I D A Y	7th February, 2025	14th February, 2025	21st February, 2025	28th February, 2025 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd March, 2025	10th March, 2025	17th March, 2025	24th March, 2025	31st March, 2025
M O N D A Y					
	4th March, 2025	11th March, 2025	18th March, 2025	25th March, 2025	
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee				
	5th March, 2025	12th March, 2025	19th March, 2025	26th March, 2025	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		
	6th March, 2025	13th March, 2025	20th March, 2025	27th March, 2025	
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Licensing Committee 2.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	
	7th March, 2025	14th March, 2025	21st March, 2025	28th March, 2025	
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th April, 2025	14th April, 2025	21st April, 2025	28th April, 2025
M O N D A Y			BANK HOLIDAY	
	1st April, 2025	8th April, 2025	15th April, 2025	22nd April, 2025
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee			12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	2nd April, 2025	9th April, 2025	16th April, 2025	23rd April, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	
	3rd April, 2025	10th April, 2025	17th April, 2025	24th April, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee			10.00 am Audit Committee
	4th April, 2025	11th April, 2025	18th April, 2025	25th April, 2025
F R I D A Y		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	BANK HOLIDAY	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th May, 2025	12th May, 2025	19th May, 2025	26th May, 2025
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting AGM (Parts 1 & 2)		BANK HOLIDAY
	6th May, 2025	13th May, 2025	20th May, 2025	27th May, 2025
T U E S D A Y				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	7th May, 2025	14th May, 2025	21st May, 2025	28th May, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y				10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	1st May, 2025	8th May, 2025	15th May, 2025	22nd May, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	CITY OF DONCASTER, MAYORAL & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS			10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Work Planning)
	2nd May, 2025	9th May, 2025	16th May, 2025	23rd May, 2025
F R I D A Y		10.00 am Group Meetings 11.30 am Annual Council Meeting (To Reconvene @ 2.00pm, Civic Office)	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd June, 2025	9th June, 2025	16th June, 2025	23rd June, 2025	30th June, 2025
M O N D A Y					
	3rd June, 2025	10th June, 2025	17th June, 2025	24th June, 2025	
T U E S D A Y				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	4th June, 2025	11th June, 2025	18th June, 2025	25th June, 2025	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Licensing Committee	10.00 am Cabinet	
	5th June, 2025	12th June, 2025	19th June, 2025	26th June, 2025	
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	
	6th June, 2025	13th June, 2025	20th June, 2025	27th June, 2025	
F R I D A Y			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet		

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th July, 2025	14th July, 2025	21st July, 2025	28th July, 2025
M O N D A Y	5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting			
	1st July, 2025	8th July 2025	15th July, 2025	22nd July, 2025
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council		10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	2nd July, 2025	9th July 2025	16th July, 2025	23rd July, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	3rd July, 2025	10th July, 2025	17th July, 2025	24th July, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Audit Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel
	4th July, 2025	11th July, 2025	18th July, 2025	25th July, 2025
F R I D A Y			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

		4th August, 2025	11th August, 2025	18th August, 2025	25th August, 2025
M O N D A Y					BANK HOLIDAY
		5th August, 2025	12th August, 2025	19th August, 2025	26th August, 2025
T U E S D A Y				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
		6th August, 2025	13th August, 2025	20th August, 2025	27th August, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet		
		7th August, 2025	14th August, 2025	21st August, 2025	28th August, 2025
T H U R S D A Y		1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee			
	1st August, 2025	8th August, 2025	15th August, 2025	22nd August, 2025	29th August, 2025
P A G E 1 0 8 D A Y		5.00 Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st September, 2025	8th September, 2025	15th September, 2025	22nd September, 2025	29th September, 2025
M O N D A Y			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
	2nd September, 2025	9th September, 2025	16th September, 2025	23rd September, 2025	30th September, 2025
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee 12 Noon Deadline for questions & motions to Council	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		
	3rd September, 2025	10th September, 2025	17th September, 2025	24th September, 2025	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		10.00 am Licensing Committee	
	4th September, 2025	11th September, 2025	18th September, 2025	25th September, 2025	
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	5.00 pm Group Meetings 6:00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Audit Committee	
	5th September, 2025	12th September, 2025	19th September, 2025	26th September, 2025	
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet				

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

		6th October, 2025	13th October, 2025	20th October, 2025	27th October, 2025
M O N D A Y					
		7th October, 2025	14th October, 2025	21st October, 2025	28th October, 2025
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		
	1st October, 2025	8th October, 2025	15th October, 2025	22nd October, 2025	29th October, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet			
	2nd October, 2025	9th October, 2025	16th October, 2025	23rd October, 2025	30th October, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel		
	3rd October, 2025	10th October, 2025	17th October, 2025	24th October, 2025	31st October, 2025
P A G E 1 0 D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd November, 2025	10th November, 2025	17th November, 2025	24th November, 2025
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	4th November, 2025	11th November, 2025	18th November, 2025	25th November, 2025
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		
	5th November, 2025	12th November, 2025	19th November, 2025	26th November, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet		5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.00 am Audit Committee
	6th November, 2025	13th November, 2025	20th November, 2025	27th November, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee
	7th November, 2025	14th November, 2025	21st November, 2025	28th November, 2025
F R I D A Y	9.30 Planning Committee Site Visits			

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st December, 2025	8th December, 2025	15th December, 2025	22nd December, 2025	29th December, 2025
M O N D A Y					
	2nd December, 2025	9th December, 2025	16th December, 2025	23rd December, 2025	30th December, 2025
T U E S D A Y		12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee			
	3rd December, 2025	10th December, 2025	17th December, 2025	24th December, 2025	31st December, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet			
	4th December, 2025	11th December, 2025	18th December, 2025	25th December, 2025	
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	BANK HOLIDAY	
	5th December, 2025	12th December, 2025	19th December, 2025	26th December, 2025	
F R I D A Y	9.30 Planning Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet			BANK HOLIDAY	

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th January, 2026	12th January, 2026	19th January, 2026	26th January, 2026
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	6th January, 2026	13th January, 2026	20th January, 2026	27th January, 2026
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	
	7th January, 2026	14th January, 2026	21st January, 2026	28th January, 2026
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	1st January, 2026	8th January, 2026	15th January, 2026	22nd January, 2026
T H U R S D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Audit Committee
	2nd January, 2026	9th January, 2026	16th January, 2026	23rd January, 2026
F R I D A Y	9.30 Planning Site Visits	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd February, 2026	9th February, 2026	16th February, 2026	23rd February, 2026
M O N D A Y				5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting
T U E S D A Y	3rd February, 2026 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10th February, 2026 10.00 Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	17th February, 2026	24th February, 2026 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee
W E D N E S D A Y	4th February, 2026	11th February, 2026 10.00 am Cabinet	18th February, 2026 10.00 am Communities & Environment Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel	25rd February, 2026
T H U R S D A Y	5th February, 2026 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	12th February, 2026 10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	19th February, 2026	26th February, 2026 1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL (Budget Setting & Council Tax)
F R I D A Y	6th February, 2026 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	13th February, 2026	20th February, 2026	27th February, 2026 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd March, 2026	9th March, 2026	16th March, 2026	23rd March, 2026	30th March, 2026
M O N D A Y					
	3rd March, 2026	10th March, 2026	17th March, 2026	24th March, 2026	31st March, 2026
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	4th March, 2026	11th March, 2026	18th March, 2026	25th March, 2026	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		
	5th March, 2026	12th March, 2026	19th March, 2026	26th March, 2026	
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Licensing Committee	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	
	6th March, 2026	13th March, 2026	20th March, 2026	27th March, 2026	
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th April, 2026	13th April, 2026	20th April, 2026	27th April, 2026
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY			
	7th April, 2026	14th April, 2026	21st April, 2026	28th April, 2026
T U E S D A Y				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	1st April, 2026	8th April, 2026	15th April, 2026	22nd April, 2026
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	
	2nd April, 2026	9th April, 2026	16th April, 2026	23rd April, 2026
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel		1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	10.00 am Audit Committee
	3rd April, 2026	10th April, 2026	17th April, 2026	24th April, 2026
F R I D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2024 to 31st May, 2026

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th May, 2026	11th May, 2026	18th May, 2026	25th May, 2026
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	5.30 pm Labour Group		BANK HOLIDAY
	5th May, 2026	12th May, 2026	19th May, 2026	26th May, 2026
T U E S D A Y				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	6th May, 2026	13th May, 2026	20th May, 2026	27th May, 2026
W E D N E S D A Y				10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	7th May, 2026	14th May, 2026	21st May, 2026	28th May, 2026
T H U R S D A Y				
F R I D A Y	1st May, 2026	8th May, 2026	15th May, 2026	22nd May, 2026
			10.00 am Group Meetings 11.30 Annual Council Meeting	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet

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Report

18th January, 2024

To the Chair and All Members of the Council

APPROVAL OF COUNCILLOR ABSENCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report requests that Council note the action taken by the Monitoring Officer (acting under delegated authority) in approving the request from Councillor Andy Pickering for an extension of absence from attendance at meetings due to ill health until 31st May, 2024.

EXEMPT REPORT

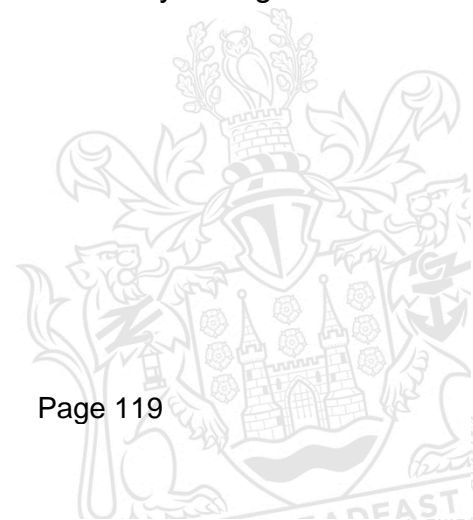
2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATION

3. That Council note the action taken by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, in approving an extension of absence from attendance at meetings due to ill health, for Councillor Andy Pickering until 31st May, 2024.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. This action ensures locally elected Members can continue to represent their constituents following or during periods of ill health or other genuine reasons which may otherwise prevent them from attending meetings of the local authority during a six-month period.



BACKGROUND

5. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, provides that if a Member of a Local Authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority, he/she shall cease to be a Member of the Council, unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period.
6. At its meeting on 27th November, 2014, Council granted the Monitoring Officer delegated authority to approve extended periods of absence for Members, subject to being satisfied that the grounds for the extended absence are reasonable. Any such approvals are to be reported to the next available meeting of Council by the Monitoring Officer, for information.
7. Due to ongoing health issues, Councillor Andy Pickering has been unable to attend meetings.
8. Councillor Pickering's last recorded attendance at a formal meeting was at the Planning Committee held on 27th June, 2023, meaning Councillor Pickering would be required to attend a meeting of the Authority by 27th December, 2023.
9. The Monitoring Officer, under delegated authority, approved an extension of absence from attendance at meetings due to ill health for Councillor Pickering until 31st May, 2024.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10. There were no other options considered.







REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION



11. In the event that the Monitoring Officer did not feel able to approve the request, an Extraordinary Meeting of Council would have to have been called to consider Councillor Pickering's request.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

12. Whilst there is no direct impact on the Council's Key Outcomes, the Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of Governance to allow for the proper discharge of the Council's functions, ensuring openness and transparency.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider –	Neutral or No implications
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			Negative overall	
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
Comments:				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments:				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments:				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
Comments:				

 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive				✓
Comments:				

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: NC Date: 3/1/24]

13. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a Member of a Local Authority fails to attend meetings through a period of six consecutive months, he/she shall cease to be a Member of the Authority unless the failure to attend is due to a reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that six month period.
14. At its meeting on 27th November, 2014, Council granted the Monitoring Officer delegated authority to approve extended periods of absence for Members if satisfied that the grounds for such a request are reasonable. Such approvals are to be reported to the next available meeting of Council by the Monitoring Officer, for information.
15. The authority of the Monitoring Officer to undertake this function is detailed in the Council's Constitution at Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions, 3.8 Full Council Functions – Scheme of Delegations (e).

Financial Implications [Officer Initials: PH | Date: 13/12/2023]

16. There are no specific financial implications relevant to this report.

Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: SH | Date: 13/12/23]

17. There are no specific Human Resource implications relevant to this report.

Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW Date: 13/12/23]

18. There are no specific technology implications relevant to this report.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

19. There are no risks and assumptions relevant to this report.

CONSULTATION

20. Consultation and communication have been ongoing with Councillor Pickering during his ill health to support him in his role.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

21. None

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Name: Jonathan Goodrum, Senior Governance Officer

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Name: Andrew Sercombe, Governance & Member Services Manager

Phone Number: 01302 734354 | Email address: andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk

Scott Fawcus, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services

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Present: Lee Tillman (Chair), Cllr Rachael Blake, Ailsa Leighton, Integrated Care Board, Dave Richmond, St Leger Homes, Heather Boyce, Age UK Doncaster, John Davis, Club Doncaster Foundation, John Rees, DN College Group, Ellie Gillatt, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, Dan Fell, Doncaster Chamber, Dolly Agoro, Inclusion & Fairness and Forum, Michael Hart, Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust, Allan Wiltshire, City of Doncaster Council, Jon Gleek, City of Doncaster Council (Agenda Item: Fair and Wellbeing Commission update)

1. Matters arising:

A verbal update was given on the following items discussed at the June 23 Team Doncaster Executive:

- Members were updated on the arrangements of the **Anti-Racism training** that is being arranged for all to attend
- Details on the **Choose Kindness public launch** was shared with members, which has been aligned to the Doncaster Stories Event and will be taking place at Cusworth Hall on 23rd September 2023. Along with confirmation that Team Doncaster will be sponsoring the **Heart of Doncaster Awards**, which Club Doncaster are organising.
- With regards the **National College for Advanced Transport & Infrastructure (NCATI)** members were informed that this entity as a national college will wind down from the end of October 23. However, the partnership has been doing a lot of work behind the scenes regards the facility future purpose and further details will be shared as and when available.

2. Integrated Care Board:

Members received an update on the following points:

- **Joint Forward Plan** - This plan is being done across South Yorkshire; this is our response to the Integrated Care Partnership Strategy a final version of this will be presented to the ICB general meeting in September 2023. At a more of a local level work is underway to develop a One Doncaster Plan, in conjunction with the Health & Wellbeing Strategy refresh to identify what does the future of Health & Social Care look like.
- **Industrial Action** – Continue to work through and manage the impacts of industrial action. During July there were quite a few industrial action days from various professions. Many of the impacts are less seen on the actual day, as our providers have been amazing in supporting the alternative arrangements, however we are seeing impact on elective procedures cancelled and work continues to manage these impacts.
- **Winter Planning** is underway including distribution of flu and covid vaccinations.
- **Specialised services** are currently commissioned via NHS England; however, these services will be integrated into Integrated Care Boards functions going forward. This will be a gradual phasing from April 24. Work will continue across the region as some services are highly specialised, but we have an opportunity to join up pathways for individual patients.
- There has been some great work being undertaken by providers and health services, which have been given recognition for, including Doncaster Wound Care Alliance being shortlisted in the category of Integrated Care Initiative of the Year and a local nurse has been nominated for the Nurse of the Year award.

3. Sub Regional updates:



Partners were also given an update which covered the following items.

- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority update, which included information about the new Cabinet and Portfolio governance arrangements.
- Developments on the Levelling up Partnership
- Doncaster Sheffield Airport Update

4. Team Doncaster Coordinating Group (TDCG):

Partners received an update on the focus of the TDCG, this included:

- A reminder of the current in focus delivery groups (Environment, Education & Skills, Homelessness and Economy) and the shared briefing highlighted activity that the delivery groups have been focussing on over the two meeting. However, the Environment Group have raised an escalation, which is a timely reminder of the scale and pace of the targets we must achieve. As part of that the group they will be undertaking a short-term review, that will look at how far we've come since the Climate Commission in 2019. Along with reorganising the governance arrangements.
- **Team Doncaster Summit Preparations** - Details of this year's TD Summit was presented to members explaining that this year's event will be held on World Kindness Day (13th November) and we will be aligning the focus with the Choose Kindness movement. A discussion took place around the format of the day, and it was agreed to also incorporate an economic growth element to this year's focus.
- **TD Annual Report** - The Borough Strategy (Doncaster Delivering Together) has a range of activity, that we are going to do over the next 10 years. The annual report will be looking at what progress has been made, what's the impact being made, looking at case studies, and looking at what the future holds.

5. Fair and Wellbeing commission update

- Doncaster's Health and Well-being Board commissioned a Fairness and Well-being Commission to identify changes locally to address inequalities. The Commission has gathered data, evidence, and insight on the experiences of Doncaster residents to make an independent assessment and provide a set of recommendations. Various members of Team Doncaster Executive have been involved in this process. An update was provided to members advising them of the emerging recommendations, next steps and partners were asked to consider the implications and implement the emerging recommendation. It was also agreed to include the socialising of these recommendations as part of this years TD summit.

6. Verbal Updates:

Partners were given a verbal update which covered the following items:

- Developing a Community Prevention Model
- Refresh of Team Doncaster Information Sharing Protocol

