



Agenda

To all Members of the

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

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

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

Date: Tuesday, 31st October, 2023

Time: 4.30 pm

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Damian Allen
Chief Executive

Issued on: Monday, 23 October 2023

Governance Services Officer for this meeting

Christine Rothwell
01302 735682

Items for Discussion:

1. Apologies for absence
2. To consider the extent, if any, to which the public and press are to be excluded from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest, if any.
4. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 16th March, 2023 (*Pages 1 - 12*)
5. Public Statements
(A period not exceeding 20 minutes for statements from up to 5 members of the public on matters within the Panel's remit, proposing action(s) which may be considered or contribute towards the future development of the Panel's work programme).

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

6. Child Poverty in Doncaster (*Pages 13 - 44*)
7. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan and Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions (*Pages 45 - 60*)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair – Councillor Leanne Hempshall

Vice-Chair – Councillor Tim Needham

Councillors Bob Anderson, Laura Bluff, Steve Cox, Susan Durant, Charlie Hogarth, Tracey Moran and Rob Reid

Co-optees*: Antoinette Drinkhill and Bernadette Nesbitt

Invitees: Georgina Lightfoot UNISON

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

Agenda Item 4.

CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2023

A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2023 at 4.30 PM

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Leanne Hempshall

Councillors Tim Needham, Bob Anderson, Laura Bluff, Steve Cox, Susan Durant, David Nevett and Rob Reid

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Officers:

- Leanne Hornsby - Assistant Director, Education, Skills, Culture and Heritage
- Martyn Owen – Head of Service (Inclusion)
- Jane Reed - Head of Service (Education and Skills)
- Damon Stead – Transport Team Manager
- Young Advisers

		<u>ACTION</u>
22.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>	
	Apologies for absence were received from Antoinette Drinkhill and Bernadette Nesbit.	
23.	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	There were no items on the agenda.	
24.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	There were no declarations of interest made.	
25.	<u>MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2022</u>	
	RESOLVED that:- the minutes of the meeting held on the 8 th December, 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	

26.	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	
	<p>A statement was provided by Mrs Olivia North as follows.</p> <p>“I understand SEND from a number of different angles, first and most important is the title I am normally recognised for, I am Kai North’s mum. Next, I am a neurodiverse adult who was home-schooled due to archaic attitudes and failures in the education system. I am also a professional who studies and works in early years development.</p> <p>Discussing my neurodiversity is not something I do often because it can be met with sympathy, pity, and a lack of understanding, something I neither need nor want, occasionally it is even met with patronising undertones. I am a highly educated 40-year-old woman who sees and experiences the world differently.</p> <p>At twelve years old I was diagnosed with an adjustment disorder to everyday life events, a behavioural disorder and school phobia linked with underdeveloped social skills, twenty-eight years ago no one connected the dots. My parents were advised home-schooling was the best option as education wasn’t really for me. I left school and could barely read or write.</p> <p>Eleven years ago, Kai was born, within the first eighteen months, we became aware Kai was not developing typically. Kai was referred for GDA at two with joint support from our GP and community nursery nurse. We were extremely lucky that the waiting list was short at that time and Kai was diagnosed at three years old with ASD, Kai’s ASD report discusses Kai’s prevalence of demand avoidance. Whilst demand avoidance is a contentious term and is often debated, I live with Kai, the anxiety and need are very real. Kai currently attends a SEMH school in Wakefield and will move to a PDA hub in April as his current school has said they cannot meet his needs from September moving into Secondary.</p> <p>It has not been an easy path and we have met various obstacles along the way including all Doncaster schools stating they cannot meet Kai’s needs, and Educational Psychologist asking if I had considered home-schooling and CAMHS stating that Kai’s needs were too complex to be met by CAMHS, and he was diagnosed and we were just left to do our best for Kai on our own. I want to tell you something about Kai, Kai is a wonderfully funny and intelligent child who cannot stand injustice, Kai will always stand for those facing injustice and those who are not as fortunate as he is. Kai wrote a report on why collective punishments don’t work in schools and subsequently changed his school’s behaviour policy and one of my lecturers marked the report as 63! Not bad for a child apparently 3 years behind at school. The schools that turned Kai away are missing out not Kai.</p> <p>When Kai was discharged from CAMHS, after 18 months of school avoidance and a mainstream school who, despite their best efforts</p>	

were not equipped to meet Kai's needs and with no SEND school willing to give us a chance, I decided that Kai would not be another child with unmet needs and slip through the net and had no education so I returned to education. I am extremely privileged, my mum was able and willing to sacrifice her career and take early retirement to support me and provide childcare. Returning to education was life-changing for me, it was here for the first time it was formally suggested that I was autistic, and I was diagnosed earlier this year. I studied hard and gained my Maths foundation qualification and English GCSE, I have four A levels at distinction in social sciences and criminal justice, and I will finish my degree in child development, with a predicted first-class degree in May next year and will start my Masters in SEND in September of the same year.

My husband, Kai and I have battled to get where we are now, I restarted my education to make sure Kai would get all his needs met. Now my dream is bigger, I know not every child with SEND will have a hyper-focused parent who can get a degree to navigate a system stacked against them. I want to make sure that never again is a SEND child told education is not for them, and that school systems will understand those who just need to be focused differently. I would like professionals to acknowledge that an underfunded system is stacked against parents and to think about the use of terms like parental choice. I, my husband, and thousands of other parents did not choose any of this. We would not change Kai for the world, Kai changes every single person he meets for the better, but there must be an acceptance that often the only choice we have is between a rock and a hard place. If I was truly choosing Kai would attend a local school with his friends, with staff trained to understand and teach how he learns, not in a system that tries to force Kai, and thousands of SEND children, into a stereotyped box, to which they will never fit and nor should they have to. Kai would go to breakfast clubs and afterschool clubs he would be accepted and included. Changing schools mid-year or risk not having a school come September, giving up our careers to take our children to out-of-area schools or sending our child off every day with strangers with no SEND training are not parental choices, it is exactly the opposite, we have no choice. The term is used to create an illusion of choice so we shoulder the responsibility if something goes wrong. In my new, bigger, dream parents and let's be honest that is primarily mothers, do not have to put careers on hold, leave education, or negotiate start and finish times with employers because there is no wrap-around care for children with SEND. They will not need to explain numerous phone calls and having to leave work because schools are experiencing distressed behaviours due to unmet needs. The current government says more stay-at-home mothers need to return to work and contribute to the economy, how do the mothers of SEND children realistically return to work when often we spend as much time at school as our children do? Who is picking up our children when our children are being sent home from school, who is providing our specialist after school and holiday childcare? We are not even a consideration, never

	<p>mind a priority, the enormity of what we do is ignored. The first step to change is when we acknowledge the current system and education plan is not working, not for SEND children and not for their families.</p> <p>I am often told how my return to education is inspirational and how proud I should be, but for me, it will always be tainted with disappointment and sadness, no matter how much we are told things have changed, 28 years after an autistic child was told education was not for her, getting a degree, a Masters and a working memory of law and legislation seemed like the only option to ensure her child was never told the same when he was on the path to no education. Governments, funding and legislation models will always change and somewhere along the line we've forgotten that every child matters."</p>	
27.	<p><u>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) STRATEGY UPDATE</u></p>	
	<p>The purpose of this item was to update the Panel on the progress of the refreshed Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet in November 2022. It was reported that consultation with the wider system took place during September to November 2022, with delivery beginning in January 2023.</p> <p>The Chair made reference to a recent meeting that the Panel held with representatives from the SENCos network, and discussed areas such as challenges around training, recruitment and EHCPs. The Chair remarked how informative and interesting the meeting had been.</p> <p>The Chair relayed a comment made by a member of the Panel who had been unable to attend the meeting, that "it had been good news regarding the inclusion of Doncaster on the DfE's 'Delivering Better Value in SEND' financially and the access to wider support/expertise and cooperation".</p> <p>A question was raised on their behalf, around neighbouring local authorities who had had their high needs block funding increased by 10%, and it was asked whether that was the same for Doncaster and how it would affect the SEND plan? The Director of Children, Young People and Families commented that there had been a 10% uplift in Doncaster and this would be used as well as possible.</p> <p>SEND Strategy - It was commented that the issues raised within the public statement were areas that had also been seen nationally and that there was an awareness of them in Doncaster. The Panel was informed that the Government had acknowledged the challenges in ensuring that local areas were able meet the needs of young people and had produced their own action plan around making necessary changes. Reference was made to the work undertaken with children, young people and their families and through the Department of</p>	

Education. It was explained that this work involved looking at the intelligence of the local system that included data and the experiences of young people in their placements. It was explained that the work indicated how we needed to look at prioritising having the right provision at right time and planning the appropriate response to needs and as needs change.

It was showed through work undertaken that certain costs could be avoided if the system was optimised to meet those needs earlier (as part of the strategy's "graduated approach"). Reference was made to academic outcomes where nationally there was not enough young people with SEND accessing good quality education, training and employment, and had resulted in another priority within the strategy. It was added that the strategy also focused on making sure that the day-to-day experiences of children and young people was the right one based upon what their experiences have been living within the current system.

Voice Of Children and Families/Examples - An outline was provided of the amount of interaction undertaken with children, young people and families. This interaction had included 8 workshops, surveys of children and young people, working with young advisors, school youth councils and two groups of young people's voice (informing the direction of travel). It was added that the surveys that had been carried out November 2022, would be repeated again in Summer and Winter 2023 in order to understand any differences identified.

It was explained that there was a Young People's Board in place to hold the Council to account on what progress was being made against the strategy, alongside regular co-production opportunities with parents.

Members were informed that key issues highlighted through children and young people included communication, training and understanding in mainstream schools and there was a need to make sure we have the right provision in place. It was recognised important that schools were equipped with skills and training to ensure that its culture was able to change accordingly.

It was felt that the historic waiting list for autism diagnosis had been too long and Members were assured that this was a priority within the strategy, although there was a lot more to do. In addition, it was stated that efforts were being made to ensure that there was a broader range of things to do Post 16, for example, accessing employment.

Increase in Number of Assessments and EHCPs - The Panel was informed that locally the patterns of identification have reflected the national picture. It was commented that there was no one specific reason for this increase. It was explained that there were challenges for 0-5 years in communication around speech and language and

stated that it was about building a system to meet those needs as those young people get older. Reference was made to how education institutions had been under a great deal of pressure and children had been isolated which had exacerbated the development of young people's skills and created gaps in learning.

SEN and ACSETS Team – Members were informed that, there were no plans to review the SEN and ACSETS teams at this stage. Members were informed that a range of areas had been brought under Equity and Inclusion and there was a need to look at inclusion throughout the whole pathway, at which point it would be made clear whether capacity was right or wrong. It was noted that there were 13 individuals in posts within the SEND team. An outline was provided as to how this was made up with the ACSETS team who were part of the Education Psychology service. It was expressed that there was an opportunity to look this as part of the wider inclusion piece of work.

Members were informed that capacity had been increased over recent months and it was explained that the completion of ECHP plans were also dependent on other parts of system that included health, speech and language coming together in a timely fashion.

The Director of Children, Young People and Families summarised that there were effectively three components involved which included demand, processes and the system.

ECHP Reviews - Concern was raised that the Local Authority was not attending EHCP annual reviews. It was explained that it was the schools responsibility to undertake the annual review. It was stated that from a SEND and inclusion perspective, the Local Authority was looking to undertake a 12-week and a 6-month review, which the SEND team was beginning to undertake. Members were assured that although the Local Authority may not be present at the annual review, they were still engaging with those schools.

In view of children attending an independent provision who employed their own Education Psychologist, it was felt that they needed to work closer together with the Local Authority to ensure the offer was robust. It was explained that the Education Psychologist in the Local Authority provided a classroom assessment of the learning needs of the young person, then the Education Psychologist in the independent provision needed to support that plan and ensure that those needs were met.

In terms of the completion of ECHP reviews, it was acknowledged that there was inconsistency and that the Council's role was to track completion. Members heard that the Council was looking to bring it in closer to the reviews around school improvement. Members were informed that the Local Authority was bringing teams together around children to implement the new ECHP system. It was explained that through delivering the Better Value Fund, there would be an online

system that would automatically send prompts and would help improve this process.

It was considered important that support and challenge meetings were being undertaken with maintained mainstream schools. It was explained that there was a set of indicators around inclusion (part of which were ECHPs reviews) and Members were assured that steps were being taken to address performance. It was explained that it was more difficult with academies and trusts as the Local Authority did not have the same leavers, although steps were being taken to challenge them around inclusion indicators and working with the DFE on that.

Implementation of the Strategy – Members were informed that throughout the process, the Council had worked across the school system and that the vast majority of schools were academies. It was explained that the implementation plan had been developed with schools through the SENCo reference group, and the Headteachers group. It was commented that whilst not all partners had responded immediately, the Local Authority was pleased with the response from the school system. It was noted that although there were differences in terms of accountabilities for academies and schools, they were sharing resources, funding and a set of schools working in particular localities.

Members were informed that the level of accountability was what was difference and that there was a clear plan overseen by the Local Area SEND Partnership Board who in turn reported to the Education and Skills Portfolio Board and then onto Team Doncaster.

The Director of Children’s Services stated that one of the biggest issues was changing the culture.

In terms of outcomes, it was felt that it was about taking from the positive and learning from the negative. It was continued that the market was another issue that was presented significant challenges. It was hoped that the Local Authority would be able to shape and influence the system in Doncaster in line with the plan. As an example, it was explained that the Big Picture Doncaster was difficult to get off the ground but was now working really well.

Members were reminded of the pressure that the system was under, with demand up 18% for EHCPs that needed to be assessed (which increased numbers of those children and young people that needed specialist help). It was explained that there were currently around 300 places and as these were not always considered the most suitable for some children, this had resulted in looking for placements outside of a system already under pressure. Reference was made to how difficult it was to open a specialist school and it was commented that for some children it about having the right school in the right place.

Members were reminded that the strategy and plan had come from

people who had been through the system so the local picture was clear. Members were informed that work had been undertaken with partners from across the country as well as other Local Authorities.

The Panel welcomed receiving a future update on the progress made against the strategy.

Vacancy Management – It was commented that vacancy management extended to schools as well as the Local Authority, Members heard that the Council was looking at the way recruitment was undertaken and how vacancies could be made more accessible. It was commented that in the long term, consideration was being given to how as a Council we use the Apprentice Levy and 'grow our own'.

Reference was made to a recruitment campaign for teaching assistants and it was recognised that there was a need to develop workforce skills across all ages and sectors. Members were informed that schools were saying that there were difficulties finding people with suitable level of training experience to fill those posts. Concern was also raised about why schools were employing through agencies. It was continued that this was about developing a professional framework and encouraging schools to 'grow your own'. Members were informed that this project was being picked up through the Council's Education and Skills Programme and talking to other areas about the initiatives that they have in place.

Identification Of Areas Of Need/improvement - Members were informed how there was a great deal of activity going on with different groups. Members were told that there was the SENCo group (as well as sub groups of the SENCo group) who were either working on areas or scrutinising and reporting back. The Head of Inclusion added that he attends the SENCo network to report on progress against the plan. Reference was also made to the other wider groups involved in the plans delivery.

Priority 6: 'Improving the use of data and information' - In terms of how robust and comparable data was, Members heard that this had been the first time the partnership had such a comprehensive dashboard in place. It was explained that comparative data was used where possible, although some data had not been published nationally. Members were assured that the data dashboard was comprehensive and covered comparator areas including timeliness. Members were also told that work was being undertaken on publishing the first SEND Joint Specific Needs Assessment.

SEN Identification and 0-5 provision – Members raised concern that the report excluded SEN identification and provision for 0-5 years. It was explained that work had been undertaken throughout the age range and involved working with the Early Years team. Members were informed that the objective of the plan was to range throughout the 0-

25 years pathway. It was noted that at present, there was no continuity, which was considered an issue for transitions for young people as well as for settings. Members were assured that there was a clear ambition for a single system to be in place.

Report Content – It was confirmed that various references in the report included “SEND Board”, “Local Area SEND Board” “Special Educational Needs and Disabilities board” and “SEND Group” all referred to the same thing.

Performance Clinics – It was clarified that performance clinics had been established since September 2022 and took place on a quarterly basis. It was explained that the information considered included finance, performance, HR (including sickness and vacancies) and process. It was noted that there was a particular focus on Better Value and the SEND project.

Ability For Schools To Cater For Young People With Different Needs And Conditions - Members were informed that the plan was for all schools to cater for young people with different needs and conditions, and therefore specialist providers needed to become more equipped to do this. It was noted that shared placements was about helping those in mainstream schools accessing support that can only be found in special schools or could be about trialling placements. Members were told how there were no shared placements in Doncaster nor there was a history of undertaking those. There was a brief overview of the benefits that could be gained from shared placements and from working together.

Behaviour Policy in SEND – Concern was raised around the impact of the Behaviour Policy’s on those children with SEND. Members were told that this was included as part of Priority 2 of the strategy, which set out challenges around mental health and particularly the environmental factors. It was explained how there was a commitment around having trauma informed training for all professionals, tracking experiences and data in some schools, having those conversations and reframing the way that things are done.

Stronger Advice and Guidance for Schools – It was explained that this was about guidance for schools in terms of following and strengthening processes and procedures as part of the local system at an early stage. It was added that this was also about supporting local processes and holding schools to account for delivery on such areas as the high needs block.

Children Currently Not in School – It was outlined that through integrating teams there was clearer line of sight of those children and young people that did not sit within more traditional parts of the educational system, for example, those that were home educated. Members were informed that contact was made to ensure that they

were in the most appropriate provision. It was acknowledged that there were situations where young people were moved into the city and there was a requirement to define their needs and look at appropriate placements. Members were assured that the Council acted with urgency in those cases, to ensure that they were receiving the right education at the right time.

It was outlined that the number of Children Missing in Education (CMIE) had been around 300 during the Summer reducing to 75 more recently. In relation to Elective Home Education (EHE) numbers, this had been closer to 700 and was now at 509. Members were assured that those numbers were reducing quickly, there was a good monitoring process in place and communication had improved where children and young people were moving across areas.

Supporting parents of SEND children to remain in their careers – Members heard that there was a need to continue listening to parents and try to support them as best we can. It was recognised that it was difficult to provide wrap around support for those families.

SEND Transport – There was a brief discussion around the potential of bringing school transport for children and young people with SEND in-house. It was explained that there were already challenges in recruiting to certain posts and efforts were being made to attract drivers and escorts. Challenges included the impact of Covid on older people working, earning more in alternative posts such as delivering (which had reduced the pool of potential applicants), and the infrastructure needed on site to park and secure buses overnight.

It was explained that the service had identified a training need and a package was being rolled out in the Autumn term. It was noted that some schools offered training and invited staff. A Member raised concern that training previously provided had not been well attended.

Members also voiced concerns around a lack of consistency in using the same drivers and felt that it was important that drivers had a good understanding and knowledge of children with SEND in order to offer a good service to children and families. Members were informed about what was in place to address this and it was recognised that incidents could have an impact and were investigated. An outline was provided of the scale of work managed by the team with the resources that were available. There was a brief discussion around licensing and issues around signage on cars.

RESOLVED that the Panel note the content of the report and recommend that that consideration is given to;

- i. Training being made compulsory in the future for drivers on school transport routes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); and

	ii. That the Panel to be kept informed of progress made on the implementation of the SEND strategy.	
28.	<u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKPLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS</u>	
	<p>The Senior Governance Officer presented the Scrutiny Work Plan that had recently been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the update be noted.</p>	

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Report

Date: 31st October 2023

To: Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Report Title: Child Poverty in Doncaster

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Cllr Lani-Mae Ball; Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills & Young People	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- As requested by the Chair of the Committee, members were invited to visit our Family Hub and Your Place teams in Adwick and Woodlands. This was part of an in-person investigation around the causes and impact of child poverty and how our prevention and early intervention offer work with and in our communities to mitigate these issues.
- Visit took place on Wednesday 20th September 2023 where members had the opportunity to speak with partners, professionals (under the Family Hub umbrella of services), charities, and families within the area which included:

Parenting and Family Support	Bentley Community Money Advice (Bentley CMA)
Early Help Pathway Lead	Need a Nana volunteer
Early Years Inclusion Team	All Saints Foodbank
Counselling	Woodlands Primary Academy
Early Years Officers	Department of Work and Pensions Advisor
Stronger Communities Officers	Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities Volunteers (EPEC)
Family Group Conferencing (FGC)	Citizens Advice
Midwifery	Lifeline Against the Breadline
Well Doncaster (Public Health)	NHS (Health Colleagues)
Tenants and Residents Association (TARA)	Green Gables (Housing)

- This report will explore the main themes of those conversations, the key queries from members of the Committee, and set out the current offer in Doncaster, local and national policy drivers, and future plans for Doncaster's early help system.

4. Members were very positive in their feedback about what is currently being done in Local and Early Help services to support families around poverty. There were no specific questions from members at the end of the session. Therefore, the report will focus on what the offer is, to ensure members that weren't able to attend, are able to see the offer and then have the opportunity to ask any questions.
5. The report is supported by a presentation that will be the focus of the session. This presentation includes video testimonials from residents, which help tell the story.

EXEMPT REPORT

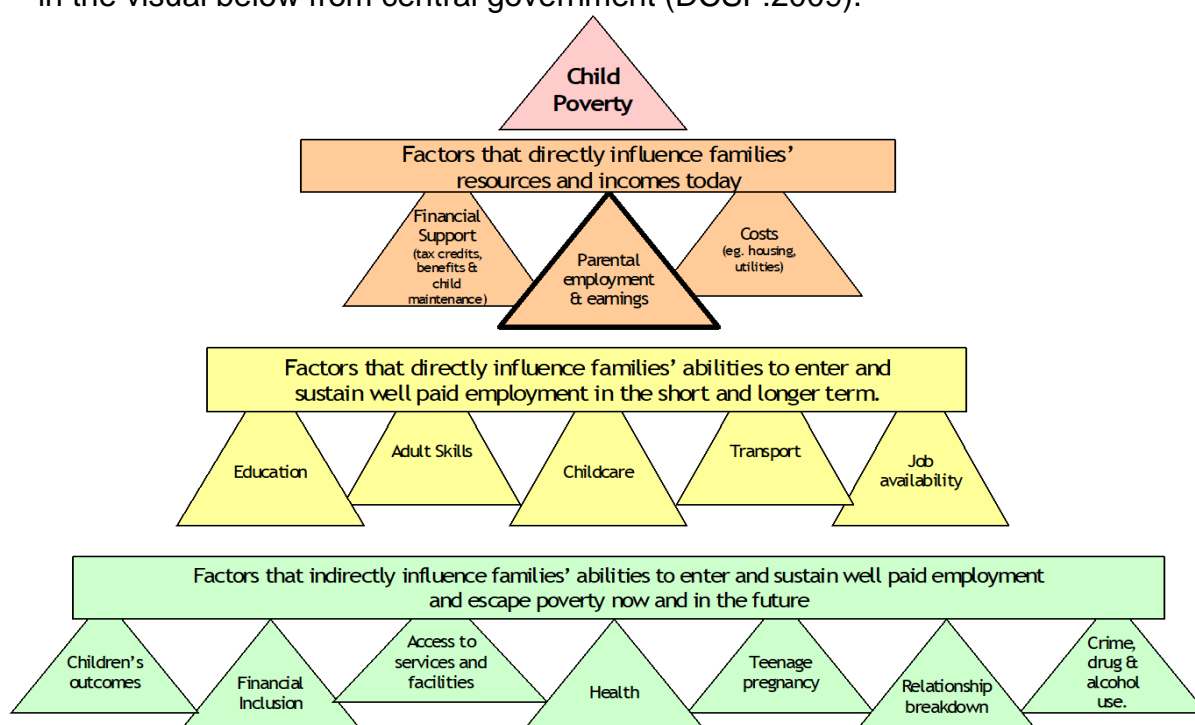
6. There are no exemptions

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. It is recommended that members of the committee.
 - a. Note the content of the report and associated presentation.
 - b. Note that the visit from members was positive, providing lots of opportunities for discussion with residents and practitioners, to help understand the challenges and services provided.
 - c. Champion the work of our Early Help system, Family Hubs, and Your Place teams

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

8. It is well-reported that nationally there is a “cost-of-living crisis” which is having notable socio-economic impacts on communities across the country; Doncaster and its residents are not immune from this. This crisis is both creating and exacerbating pre-existing need and vulnerabilities; the correlation between the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and child poverty is undeniable with more and more families experiencing the effects.
9. Poverty, and particularly for the focus of this report child poverty, needs to be understood as an all-encompassing set of circumstances and pressures that impact all aspects of families lives. This is proven academically and can be seen in the visual below from central government (DCSF:2009).



10. Doncaster's early help system means that residents have access to support aimed at mitigating or addressing these issues. This is accessible via our Family Hubs and Your Place teams where families can walk in and request support or discuss additional worries or needs during universal service provision like our stay and play sessions.
11. Furthermore, should our residents have a higher level of need and consent to further support, our early help pathway is designed to offer holistic support to families with staff from across the partnership with different skills and experiences able to contribute to that support.
12. Given the current circumstances and the direction of national and local policy on this matter, residents of Doncaster should be assured that we are committed to this way of working and will continue to strive to offer early intervention and prevention services across the City.

BACKGROUND

13. Early help is, as set out by the Supporting Families Unit, "the total support that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse". As such, our early help offer is designed to ensure that citizens of Doncaster have access to high quality supportive services that are designed to improve resilience and support them to overcome challenges before they reach crisis point or require statutory intervention.
14. How we define our approach to providing this type of support is something that we are constantly refining and looking to expand so it incorporates all elements of family life as holistically as possible. Currently the main delivery vehicles within the Council are the Family Hubs, the Your Place Teams, and the Early Help Pathway incorporating our Parenting & Family Support Service. All of these elements work cohesively to provide everything from preventative information, advice, and guidance through to targeted one on one interventions with families.
15. Our impact is effectively monitored through evidenced based measurement tools, capturing, capturing lived experiences, and in short, is a key part of our approach to ensuring children and families thrive. Whenever we engage with children, young people, and families, this is what they tell us they want; the support to meet their potential and thrive, as evidenced in the accompanying video.
16. Furthermore, through the effective delivery of the strategy, our residents should notice and experience various improvements. There are commitments within the strategy to embed relationship-based practice across the partnership, which means staff and residents will build stronger, more trusting relationships which will lead to better support being provided and better outcomes being achieved.
17. As a partnership, we have taken great strides in recent times to give communities greater voice and to seek input on a host of different issues and initiatives; this can be evidenced in the excellent work that has been completed by the Well Doncaster Team. The Early Help Strategy contains similar commitments that build on this partnership wide drive to involve families and communities in decision making and to truly understand the borough that we serve.

18. We put lived experience at the heart of our decision making and evaluations. This can come in a variety of forms, from questionnaires through to case studies and testimonials, and was demonstrated during the visit to Adwick on 20th September 2023 by families themselves who attended.
19. There are strengths to our offer and approach in Doncaster and there are opportunities for further development. All of this is self-evident when working through the implementation plan for our Early Help Strategy.
20. We know that, alongside a strong core of Family Hubs and Your Place Teams, our system is becoming more defined and coherent. We have built joint approaches to practice, workforce development, quality assurance, and performance management to ensure consistency across the partnership. We have also built robust professional networks and communities of practice that coalesce around both practice specialisms and geographies so that people and places are exposed to consistent approaches of support by those with high levels of knowledge.
21. Ofsted and the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities provide external scrutiny to validate our offer in Doncaster. Feedback from Ofsted in this years inspection around the Early Help offer was positive and a recent visit from the Supporting Families team supported this. In addition The recent submission of the Early Help System Guide and subsequent feedback has validated our progression, our areas of strength and development.
22. In terms of developments, we know that we need to build on those strengths, build capacity in the system, and build a better relationship centred on co-production with professionals and communities. Capacity will come from a simpler system and a higher number of lead practitioners and, in turn, mean more and more families will receive early help at the right time.
23. Furthermore, we will deliver a more robust model of co-production as we progress with our work. Our case closures and case audits will continue to capture the voice of families, our Parent & Carer Panels will shape the Family Hub offer, and we will continue to build relationships with the voluntary sector and communities to build resilience and gain crucial understanding.
24. We know this is the right direction for Doncaster for three reasons. Firstly, it will improve outcomes by supporting people earlier and, in turn, alleviate pressure on statutory services. Secondly, it puts families and communities at the heart of decision making. Thirdly, we are in line with, and to a certain degree ahead of the curve when it comes to government policy on this.
25. There are three main documents that currently govern expectations the provision of Early Help. *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018* sets out the statutory obligation to deliver early intervention and prevention services (Early Help) to improve outcomes and contribute to keeping children safe from harm. The *Early Help System Guide* produced by the national supporting families unit sets out the 5 constituent parts of a local early help system;

- a. Family Voice & Experience
- b. Workforce
- c. Communities
- d. Leaders
- e. Data

26. Finally, the *National Family Hub & Start for Life Programme documentation*, in particular Annex E and Annex F, state unequivocally that Family Hubs, relational practice, and full integrated community centred delivery of early intervention and prevention are the foundational elements of a strong early help system.

27. In short, when looking at our Early Help Strategy, the Community Prevention Model being utilised in our Regenerative Neighbourhoods Programme, and national policy drivers like the Supporting Families Programme and Family Hub & Start for Life Programme, there is a natural convergence of thinking.

28. This provides reassurance that our local approaches to early intervention and prevention are both built on solid foundations and evolving in the right way. It also demonstrates that opportunities for further developments and innovations in the short and medium term.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED



29. This section is not applicable.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

30. This section is not applicable.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES


31.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments: This section is not applicable.				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work	✓			
Comments: Our Early Help offer contributes to this outcome in two notable ways. Firstly, effective early help can support attendance at school, improving attainment and				


skills in our young people. Secondly, parents can be supported into adult learning services should they want or need that support.

 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
--	--	--	--	---


Comments:
This section is not applicable.

 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all	✓			
---	---	--	--	--

Comments:
The early help system is set up to bring multiple services together, including health-based services, to support families; this can incorporate physical and mental health needs. Furthermore, Family Hubs and Public Health services play an important role in supporting healthy eating and activity across all age ranges.


 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs	✓			
---	---	--	--	--


Comments:
The early help system incorporates two elements that contribute to this outcome. The first is that there are commitments to work with voluntary and community groups to support young people and grow opportunities in our communities. Secondly, the offer incorporates support for children and young people ranging from diversionary activity to supporting work around community safety.

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

Comments:
Throughout the early help system, every effort is made to work with families and allow their voices and experiences to shape our offer and, more importantly, the support provided to them.

Furthermore, we are keen to use, share, and understand lived experience of our resident.

 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
--	--	--	--	---

Comments: This section is not applicable.				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments: This section is not applicable.				
Fair & Inclusive	✓			
Comments: Our aim, as a Council, is to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives, visits or works in Doncaster, through promoting inclusion and diversity, tackling inequalities and removing barriers which may prevent people from fulfilling their true potential. Early Help plays a vital role in this by supporting vulnerable families and communities address need effectively. Improved outcomes in all phases will ensure that all children' and their family's needs are met; this will increase and strengthen the Early Help Offer and support our obligations under the Equality Act 2010. The Council's responsibility to ensure accessible, good quality Early Help as set out in Working Together 2018 and is central to our current and future approaches to delivering support. Our partnership ensures fair access to Early Help for all Doncaster children, young people and their families.				

Legal Implications

32.No implications have been sought for this report.

Financial Implications

33.No implications have been sought for this report.

Human Resources Implications

34.No implications have been sought for this report.

Technology Implications

35.No implications have been sought for this report.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

36.**Risk One:** Nationally, there is an increase in need and vulnerability, and this is reflected in Doncaster. This is adding pressure on services that has the dual potential of overwhelming early help support or drawing focus and resources towards statutory, high need, social care interventions.

37. **Mitigation One:** This is being mitigated in three ways. The first is that work continues to further integrate early help approaches into our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub so that pressure and cost is eased on acute services. Secondly, steps are being taken to manage waiting lists proactively with universal support like the Your Families Teams wrapping around families so that need does not escalate whilst they wait for targeted interventions. Thirdly, through the national Family Hub & Start for Life Programme, we have invested heavily in capacity at the universal level, to increase early identification of need, and more targeted support to ensure increased capacity in the formal early help system.
38. **Risk Two:** The current financial pressures on the Council and wider partnership mean that capacity and resource is becoming more difficult to build into the system, reducing the impact of our early intervention and prevention approach
39. **Mitigation Two:** Alongside maximising the impact of external funding sources like the Supporting Families Programme and the Family Hub & Start for Life Programme, we are taking collaborative approaches across the partnership to maximise the reach and impact of current resources.
40. **Risk Three:** The number of Lead Practitioners in the system is currently struggling to return to pre-pandemic levels. Continued failure to grow case-holding capacity in the system will lead to more families either being placed on waiting lists or being left unsupported until they meet thresholds for acute, high-cost interventions.
41. **Mitigation Three:** The partnership will be focusing a series of activities on our Lead Practitioner model to grow numbers, capacity, and efficacy within the system. This will be taking place alongside the activity within Mitigation Two to fully maximise our intervention in the system. We have also directly recruited 4 additional lead practitioner staff within the Family Hubs and 2 pathway leads to maximise case-holding capacity within our model.

CONSULTATION

42. The Early Help strategy was widely consulted on with partners and families being given opportunities to shape its content. Throughout the implementation of the strategy this engagement has continued. Frontline staff work with families to shape interventions, services consult on their offer, and practitioners are regularly engaged with.
43. Moving forward, we will be working within the regional and national policies that are coalescing around a more integrated, holistic approach to consultation and engagement with residents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

44. The presentation which is being delivered during the meeting is attached as Appendix 1 of this document.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

45. This section is not applicable.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Callum Helman, Family Hub/Start for Life Transformation Manager

01302 736962 | Callum.helman@doncaster.gov.uk

Alison Tomes, Head of Service: Early Intervention & Prevention

01302 735395 | alison.tomes@doncaster.gov.uk

Riana Nelson, Director: Children, Young People, & Families

01302 737800 | riana.nelson@doncaster.gov.uk

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Overview of Doncaster's Early Help Offer & Future Developments

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel

31st October 2023



- The Chair and Members of the CYPF Overview & Scrutiny Committee were invited to visit our Family Hub and Your Place teams within the Adwick and Woodlands locality area as part of an in-person investigation around the causes and impact of child poverty and how our prevention and early intervention offer work with and within our communities to mitigate these issues.
- Visit took place on Wed 20th Sept 23 where members had the opportunity to speak with partners, professionals (under the Family Hub umbrella of services), charities, and families within the area which included:
 - Parenting and Family Support
 - Early Help Pathway Lead
 - Early Years Inclusion Team
 - Counselling
 - Early Years Officers
 - Stronger Communities Officers
 - Family Group Conferencing (FGC)
 - Midwifery
 - Well Doncaster (Public Health)
 - Tenants and Residents Association (TARA)
 - Bentley Community Money Advice (Bentley CMA)
 - Need a Nana volunteer
 - All Saints Foodbank
 - Woodlands Primary Academy
 - Department of Work and Pensions Advisor
 - Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities Volunteers (EPEC)
 - Citizens Advice
 - Lifeline Against the Breadline
 - NHS (Health Colleagues)
 - Green Gables (Housing)
- Members were very positive in their feedback about what is currently being done in Local and Early Help services to support families around poverty. There were no specific questions from members at the end of the session.
- Therefore the report and presentation will focus on what the offer is, to ensure members that weren't able to attend, are able to see the offer and then have the opportunity to ask any questions.

Family Voice & the value of conversations

- Listening to lived experiences of residents and the challenges families face each day with the current cost of living crisis
- Building trusting relationship and empowering children, young people and families to feel safe to have sometimes difficult conversations

Belonging to the place

- Situated in local communities; services reaching out
- Knowledge of services and who can help to mitigate factors of child poverty

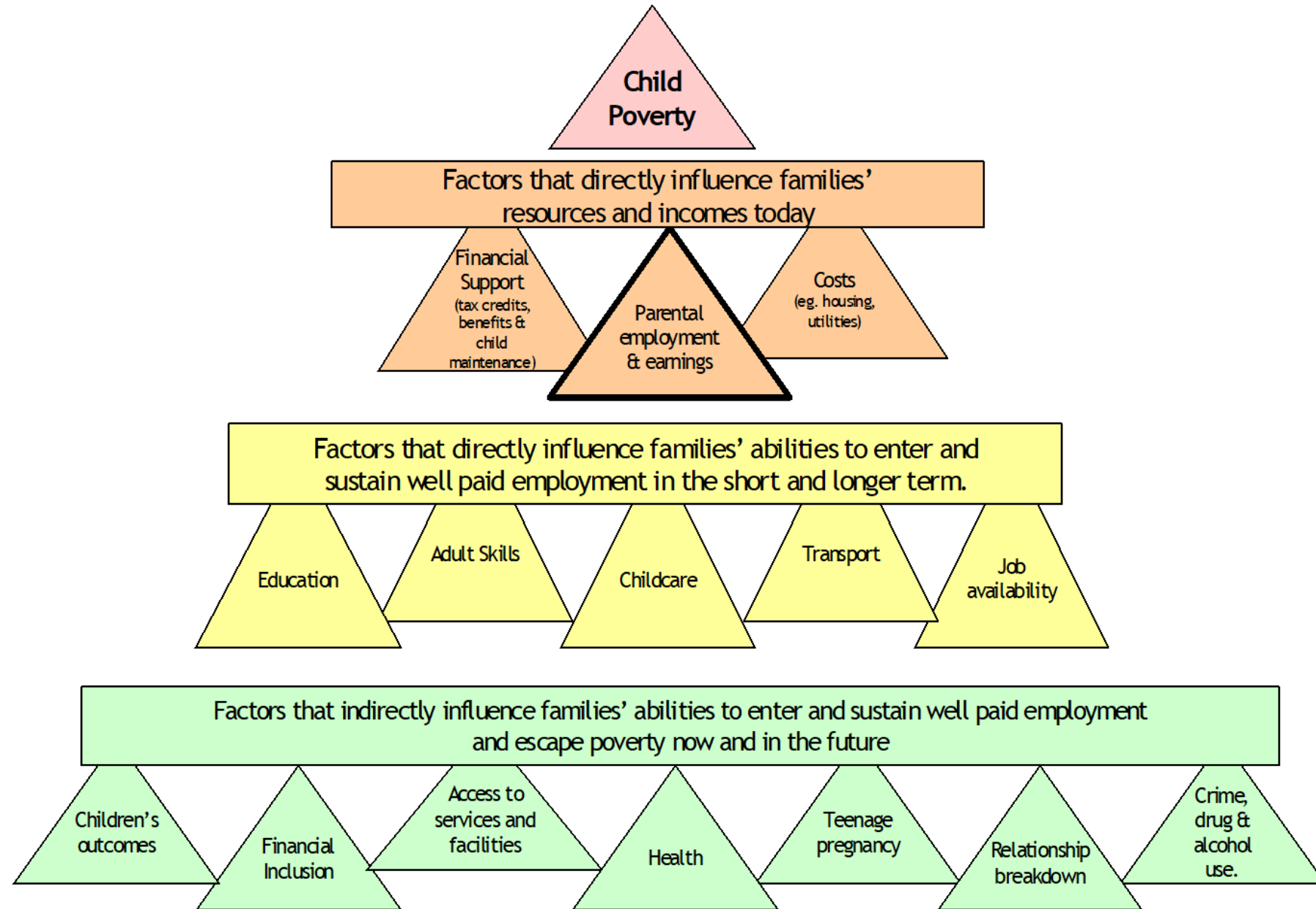
Wrap around multi-agency approach

- One factor not seen in isolation
- Range of help from across the partnership to mitigate the factors of child poverty
- Emotional well-being support and mental health support

Impact and so what.....

- Families telling their story and what difference this help has made them to them.
- Listening to multi-disciplinary practitioners and the commitment to help and support

Factors influencing Child Poverty (source: DCSF (2009) The Child Poverty Basket in the National Indicator Set).





Families

- ensuring that families are willing and able to engage in the support available to them and have a positive experience when they do.

Communities

- ensuring communities have access to local support from public and third sector organisations that collaborate to ensure resilience and sustainability in the early help system.

Leaders

- ensuring there is shared leadership and accountability across the early help system, led by an ambitious shared strategy, with effectively integrated services and support.

Workforce

- ensuring practitioners have the tools they need to deliver effective and collaborative early intervention and prevention within a shared understanding of local circumstances and strong case management oversight.

Family Hubs – Community Based Early Intervention & Prevention Delivery Model

Family Hub Framework

Access

Connection

Relationships

Strands of Delivery

Health & Development

Employment Support & Childcare

Relationship Support for Family Stability

Supporting Families with Complex Needs

Cross-Cutting Issues

Service Expectations

- Parenting
- Parent-Infant Relationships & Perinatal Mental Health
- 0-5 Activities
- Birth Registration
- Debt & Welfare Advice
- Domestic Abuse Support
- Early Child Education & Care
- Health Visiting 0-5
- Housing
- Intensive Targeted Support
- Local Authority Public Health 0-19
- Mental Health Services
- Infant Feeding
- Home Learning Environment
- Parent & Carer Panel
- Midwifery
- Nutrition & Weight Management
- Oral Health
- Reducing Parental Conflict
- SEND
- Stop Smoking
- Substance Misuse
- Support for Separated Parents
- Youth Services
- Youth Justice

Family Voice & Experience

- Families inform, shape, and highly rate the support they receive individually and at a system level

Workforce

- There is a highly skilled, cohesive, and integrated partnership workforce that works in a holistic, whole family way

Communities

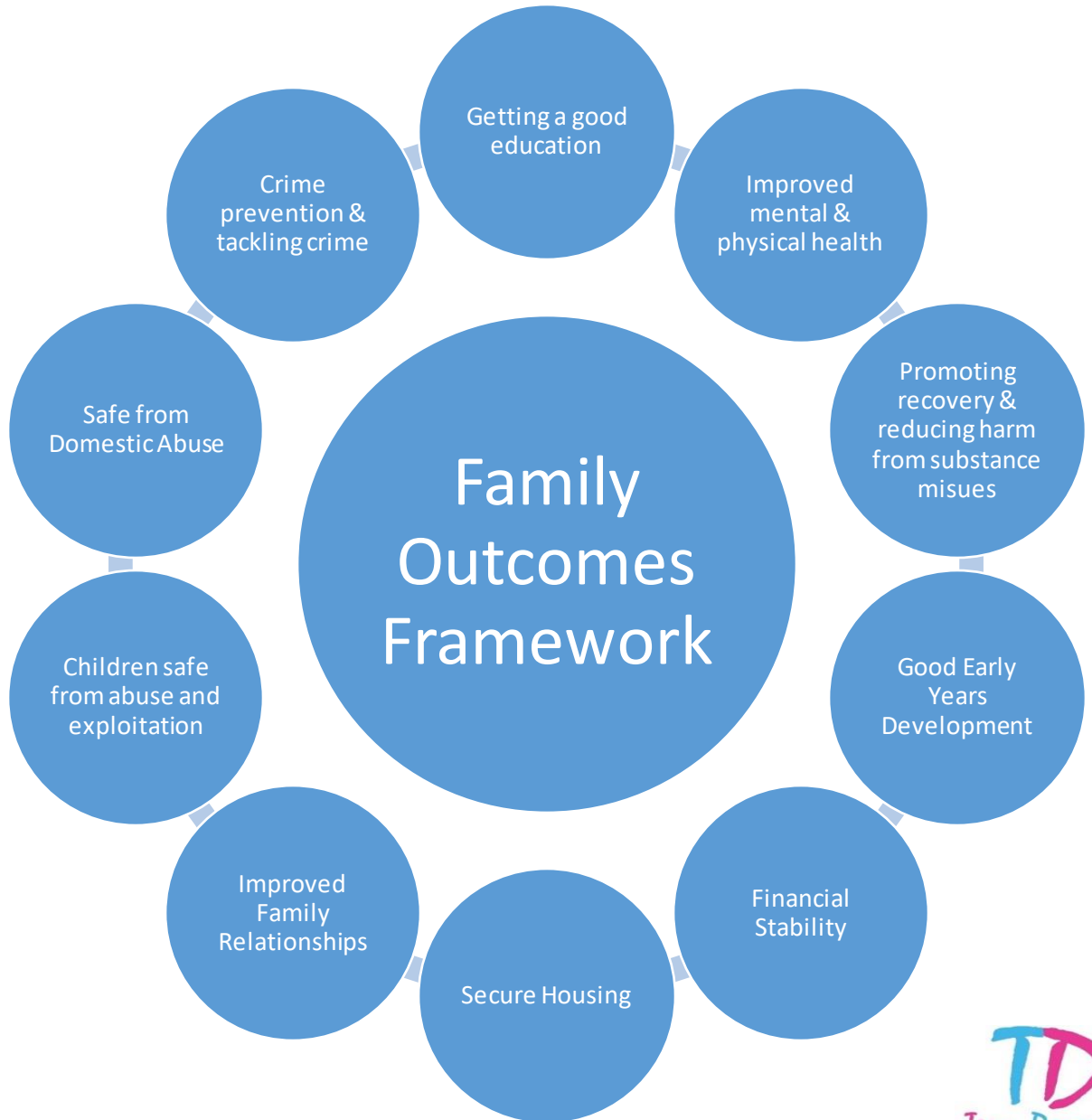
- Our system works with the third sector, delegates decision making appropriately to communities, and builds capacity

Leaders

- There is strong oversight from leaders within the partnership that is built on an evaluative and supportive culture

Data

- There are strong mechanisms in place that allow data to inform decisions around service planning, provision, and delivery at a system and individual level



Local Help

(Prevention)



- Local help is available for families and residents to access when everyday issues become difficult but do not require ongoing or long term support

Early Help

(Early Intervention)



- Early help is a way of getting extra help and support when your family needs it, but getting it as soon as difficulties start, rather than waiting until things get worse

Top Presenting Needs linked with factors influence child poverty

Financial Support

Housing

Education/Adult learning

Childcare/employment

Place based issues

Parenting

Whole family support

Mental Wellbeing

Physical Wellbeing

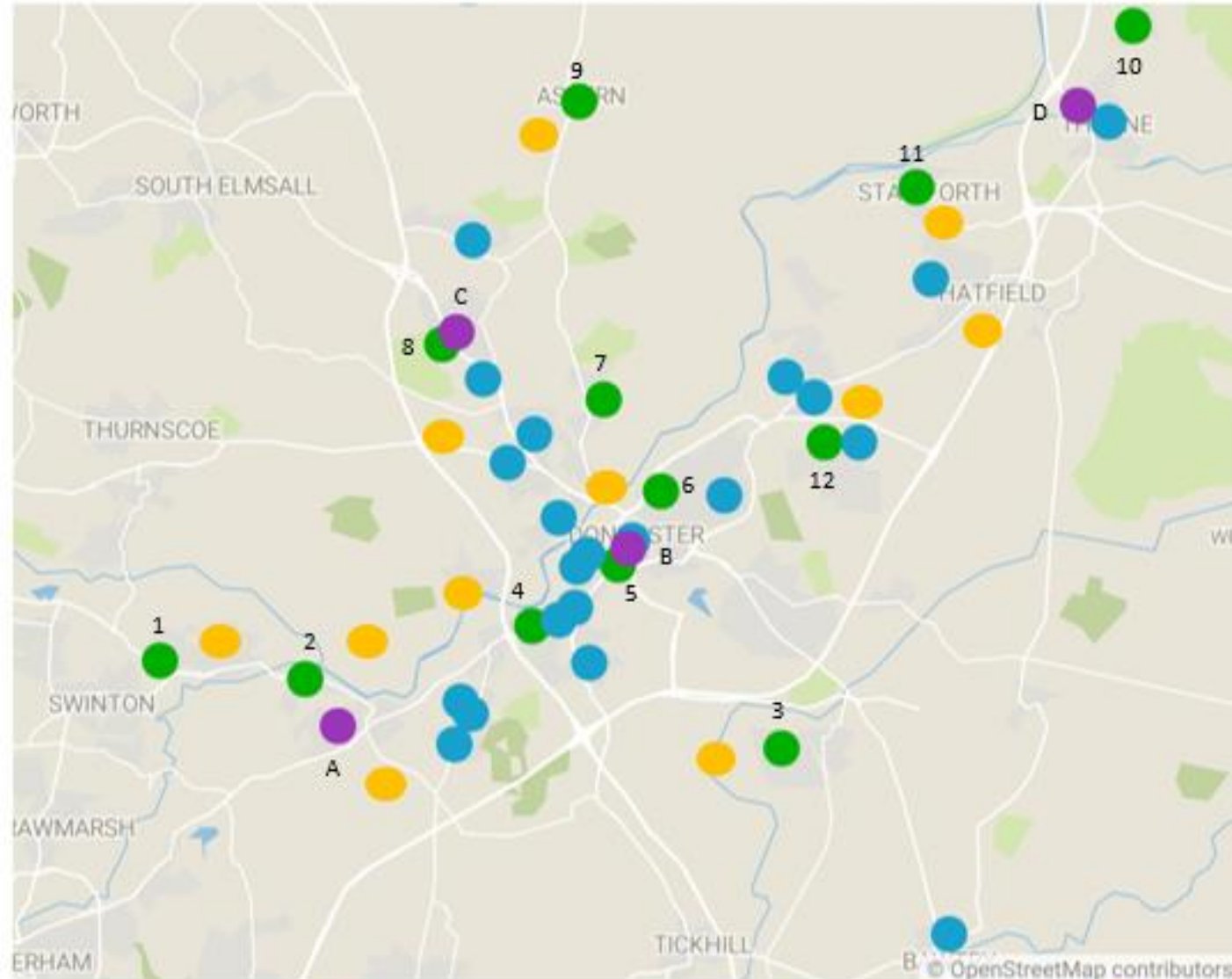
Behaviour

Family Hubs

- 1 – Mexborough
- 2 – Denaby & Conisbrough
- 3 – Rossington
- 4 – Balby
- 5 – Central
- 6 – Wheatley
- 7 – Bentley
- 8 – Adwick
- 9 – Askern
- 10 – Moorends
- 11 – Stainforth
- 12 – Armthorpe

Your Place Your Family

- A – Conisbrough Community Library
- B – Civic Office
- C – Woodlands Library
- D – The Vermuyden Centre



- Family Hubs
- Family Hub Outreach
- Your Place Your Family
- Your Place Outreach

Reverend Stephen Gardener

Vicar – All Saints Church



All Saints Food Bank

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..."

aspire
live life better



Family and Residents Video (to be uploaded here)



Systemic Challenges



Increased Need & Vulnerability

Cost of living crisis
Health Inequalities
Intergenerational socio-economic issues



Pressure on Capacity

Services across the partnership are struggling to provide capacity
Recruitment and retention is difficult
High demand on statutory services



Local Profile & National Instability

Early Intervention & Prevention needs a higher profile locally to ensure appropriate consideration and prioritisation
National instability is impacting our ability to provide long term plans



Pressure on Funding

Acute need is monopolising funding
National funding arrangements are insufficient and temporary

Early Intervention & Prevention in Communities

Early Help Policy & Strategy

Families

- Putting families at the heart of our offer and our planning

Communities

- Delivering services as locally as possible and adapting to local need

Leadership

- Creating consistency around partnership working and accountability.

Workforce

- ensuring practitioners have the tools they need to deliver effective and collaborative early intervention and prevention

Aligned with Locality Working

Scaling

- The approach must be flexible enough to be delivered across multiple communities whilst responding to the varying need “hyper-local” delivery requires

Involving

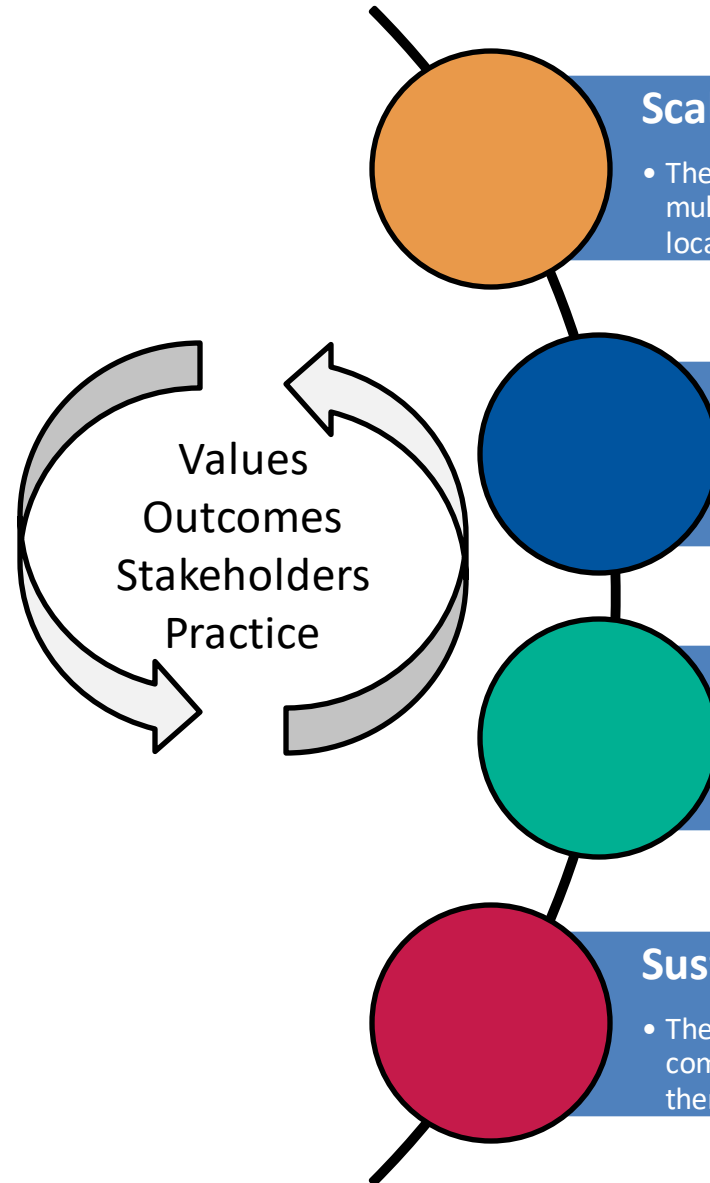
- The approach must integrate wide-reaching participation mechanisms that shape outcomes, priorities, and delivery

Strengthening

- The approach must build on core VCF and workforce capacities and embed early intervention and prevention as an all-encompassing culture

Sustaining

- The approach must be a long term plan with an equally long term commitment from key partners, agencies, and the communities themselves



Any Questions?

Thank you

 YouthCouncil@doncaster.gov.uk

 [Doncaster Youth Council](#)

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 [@DonYouthCouncil](#)

 [@DoncasterYC](#)



Doncaster Youth Council

Your Future, Your Say



City of
Doncaster
Council



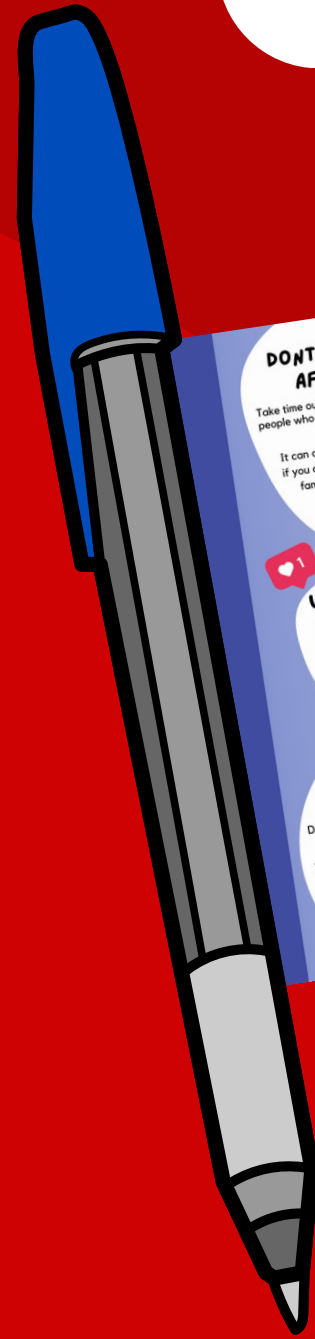


- Done a lot of collaboration working with our Primary Ambassadors attending meetings and working projects throughout the summer.
- Collaborated with Learn Sheffield on their 'Sexual Harassment in South Yorkshire Schools Report' recording experiences and recommendations for schools toolkit for South Yorkshire. Schools & Youth Councils in Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham have taken part (We know that 3 schools in Doncaster have taken part) We can share when final draft is sent to us.
- In line with recommendations in the Children & Young Peoples Plan and our current campaigns our Youth Council have received Kooth Awareness training in case we need it or to share with others how to use it.
- We have been to two Youth Conventions meeting with Youth People from across Yorkshire & Humber attending workshops on how to better our campaigns, sharing what we have all been doing as well as meeting South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard about transport.
- Our Members of Youth Parliament attended Annual Conference debating what should be on the Bill to take to the House of Commons in November.
- Collaborating with Young Advisors on our Celebrate the Directorate Film interviewing Heads of Service and teams about what their service does and why they are important.



Eating Disorders Awareness Campaign

#EDit Views



What can I do to help?

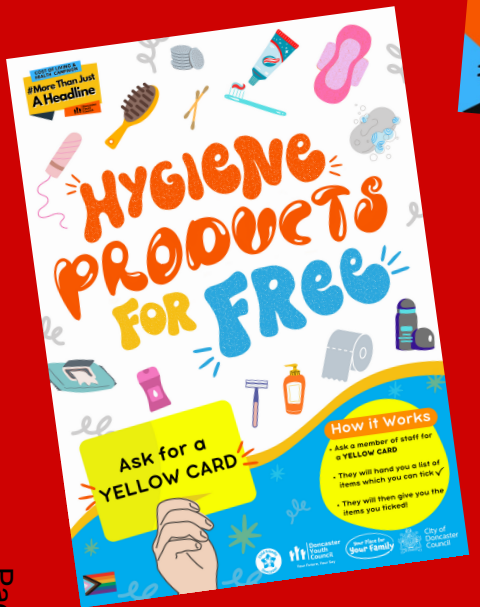
- DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AFTER YOURSELF!**
Take time out: Chill, relax and spend time with the people who are kind and truly care and respect you.
It can also take a toll on you too if you are supporting a friend or family member if they are struggling.
Look after yourself!
- EDUCATE YOURSELF**
Take time to educate yourself and learn about signs & symptoms and the services available to help not just yourself but others if they are struggling.
- FORGIVE YOURSELF FOR NOT BEING 'PERFECT'**
It can be easier said than done but complaining about your body shape won't make you healthier, skinnier or happier.
Sometimes talking out loud about 'needing' to go on a diet or loose weight could make others around you feel bad about themselves too.
Don't give the thoughts the power to make you feel bad.
- UNFOLLOW PROFILES**
Unfollow profiles & people on social media that make you feel bad about yourself.
- DON'T COMMENT ON EATING HABBITS**
Don't comment on somebody's eating habits such as how much somebody is eating/has not eaten.
You may think its harmless but it could trigger and upset someone.
Avoid saying things like:
"Are you going to eat all that?"
"Is that all your having?"
"Where do you put it all?"
"Come on eat some more"
- STOP THE BODY TALK**
Try not to comment on peoples fixed appearance such as looks or weight and don't assume calling somebody 'skinny' or 'thin' is a compliment.
Avoid saying things like:
"Have you lost weight?" "What's your secret?" or just "You look nice today"
Comment on specific features such as:
You look nice because...(New hair cut, nice clothing)
Try the 10 Second Rule:
If something can't be fixed in 10 sec don't mention it.
- ASK TWICE (ARE YOU OK?)**
Studies show that asking twice is more likely to result in an honest answer because people feel that you care and willing to listen.
- Need Support?**
REACHING OUT FOR SUPPORT OR HELP IS THE MOST BRAVEST THING YOU CAN DO
- CAMHS**
Rotherham Doncaster South Humber Eating Disorders Service
Support children & young people with advice, support & treatment. You can contact them for yourself or if you are worried about somebody else.
@camhs_rdash.hk.uk/eating-disorders
01302 566980
- koeth**
FREE online mental health and emotional wellbeing support service for young people 11-25 at your fingertips.
@KOETH.CO.UK
- Beat**
Eating disorders
FREE support, information and resources to people of all ages about eating disorders. Helplines are free to call from all phones in the UK.
@LUJL.BEATEATINGDISORDERS.ORG.UK
UK - 08008010477
- SAMARITANS**
Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
@LUJL.SAMARITANS.ORG
01123
If you are in need of urgent help or medical advice for yourself or someone else please contact 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger.
If you are looking for medical advice contact your GP or 111.



- **Mental Health & Wellbeing came up top in Doncaster for Make Your Mark - In which we wanted to focus on Eating Disorders.**
 - **Working with Nurse from RDASH Camhs Eating Disorders Service to make sure we are sending the right messages and we visited the Clinic rooms in Conisbrough.**
 - **Working on a power point for Eating Disorders Service to use within their training, adding into our Youth Team Youth Work Curriculum catalogue to show in Youth Clubs and schools.**
 - **Creating banner pens to give out to not just young people but to anyone! Spreading messages about what we can all do to help ourselves, others and helplines to support with eating disorders and mental health and wellbeing.**
- We wanted to make the pens as a way to send out information acting as a constant reminder for us all as well as benefiting those who may not be on social media and we all love a pen!**

COST OF LIVING & HEALTH CAMPAIGN

#More Than Just A Headline



- We have developed the 'Yellow Box Project' which has FREE emergency personal hygiene products in. They are currently in all the 'Your Place Hubs', 'Bentley My Place, Tom Hill Youth Hub' and New College Doncaster. With future hopes of being in as many locations as possible.
 - Made a survey to gather voice of young people on their views in regards to heath and cost of living. This has been sent to all the schools and many forum groups in Doncaster. The Partnership & Engagement Team have also been doing verbal consultations with young people in Bentley & Tom Hill Youth Club.
 - Making a report that includes all of our findings from the survey and research we have done to get a clearer picture of what it is like for young people in Doncaster.
 - Met with Citizens Advice and went through their Cost of Living & Uniform Report which we will be feeding back so they can share with their teams in Doncaster to help with their campaign and to share with Citizens Advices' across the country to do the same.
 - The report will also be shared with the Youth Select Committee, British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament who are writing a bill to take to parliament.
 - We have representation on the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission board, collaborating and coming up with recommendations. We will also be sharing the report with the commission as evidence.
- Alex and Gracie attended and shared a presentation about some of our findings and what's important to young people currently. Courtney attends in our place if we cannot attend.

COST OF LIVING &
HEALTH CAMPAIGN

#More Than Just
A Headline

Doncaster
Youth
Council

For our More Than Just A Headline Campaign we wanted to focus on the following topics



1 Personal Hygiene Products

The importance of everyday personal hygiene products and the impact of not just period poverty but all hygiene products which can be so expensive.



3 Food

Quality, quantity and the cost of food is a concern amongst young people. Also the time young people have on their breaks.



2 Uniform

Uniform has taken a priority over learning and being used as a way of discipline as young people are then punished for not following strict uniform policies such as going into isolation. Issues with cost and buying from specific shops.



4 Isolation

We wanted to highlight isolation rooms as an issue which contributes badly to our mental health and wellbeing when it is supposed to do the opposite.



Here are some of our findings from the survey, we have 16 questions in total:

? Does your free dinner allowance allow you to have a drink, main meal & dessert?

We found out that for many young people the free dinner allowance **does not cover to get all three - meal, desert and drink** they have to pick between having a dessert or a drink.

55.5% No **44.5% Yes**



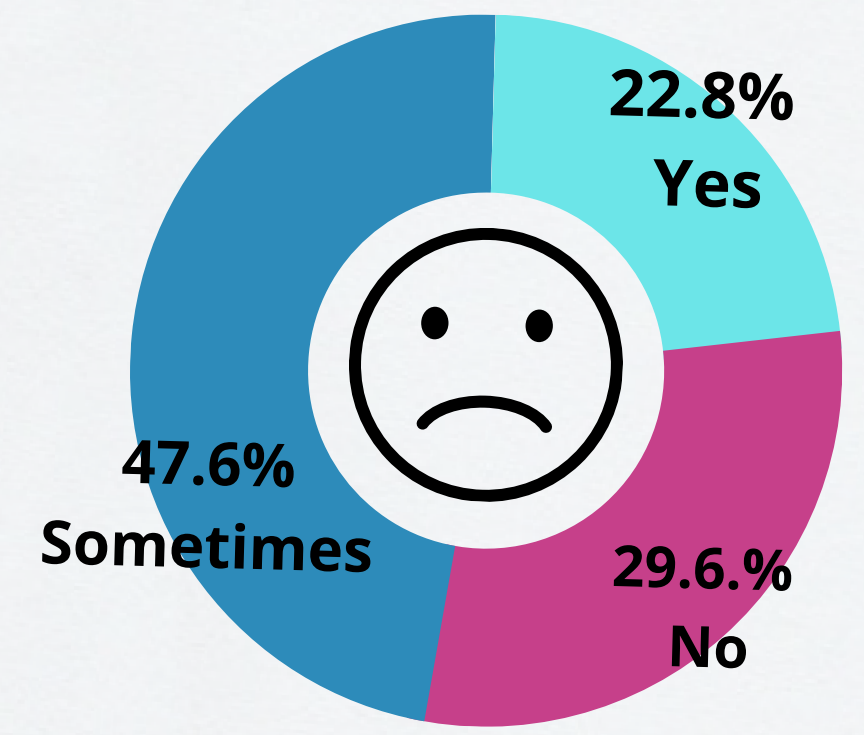
? Are you full after eating your lunch?



We are really worried about these findings as we already know that there could be many reasons why young people are still hungry even after eating their lunch.

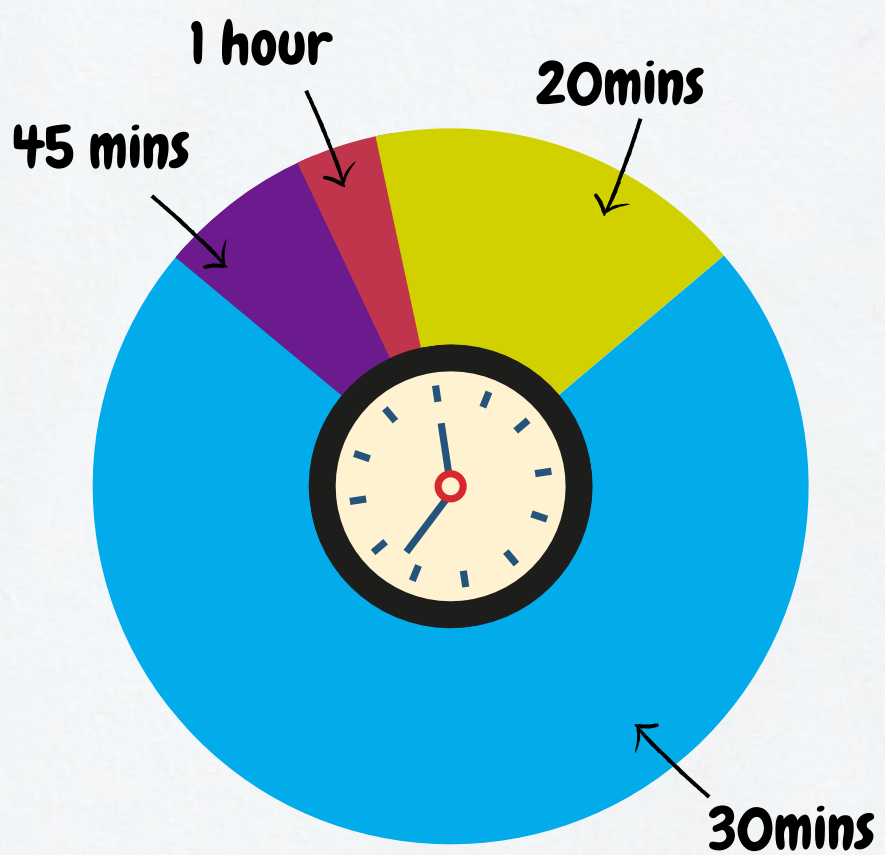
Which could be because:

- There is not enough food left at dinner time
- Not enough food in packed lunch
- Can't afford enough food
- The free school meal allowance
- Not enough in a portion



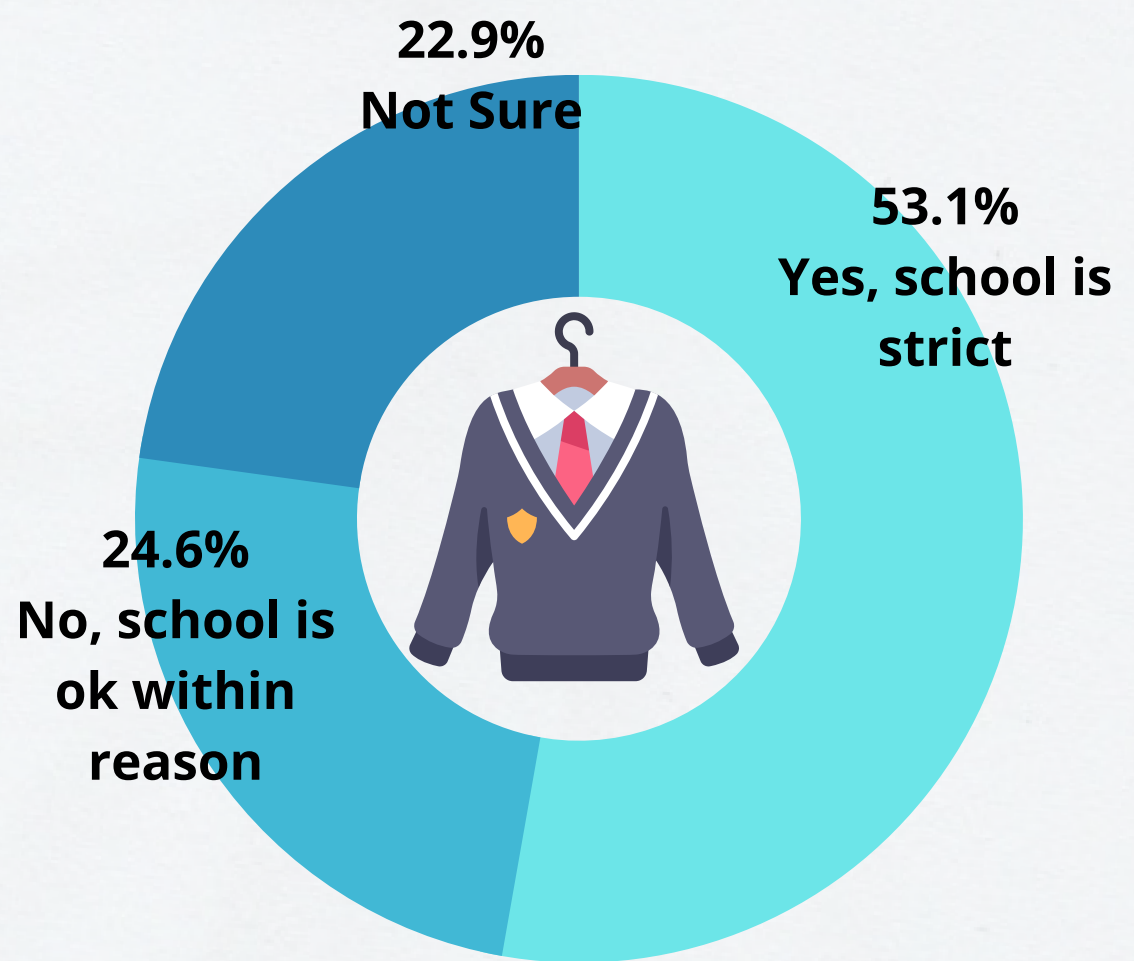
? How much time do you have for dinner?

Would you say that 20-30 mins is enough time to line up, get your food, eat it, socialise, talk to teachers, fill up water bottle and go to the toilet? This is the average time young people have in Doncaster.



? If you don't have the correct uniform on do you get sent home/excluded or put in isolation?

From the comments and the data we have so far it is evident that **uniform is being used as a way of discipline**. Many Young people are punished often sent to isolation which is not fair in regards to everyone having the same level of teaching as everyone else being labelled as 'bad'.



"A lot of students are having to run to the lunch hall to ensure they get a full lunch coz food runs out!"

"I think it is bad for pupils to be put in the isolation booths because they will not want to go to school anymore."

"I think so it is a really good idea because once you go into isolation you won't want to go in a again.

At our school you don't go out, don't see your friends and you can be in there for ages. You are treated as a small child."

"If you didnt finish your dinner on time you just get kicked out the dinner hall and food thrown in the bin or you rush in down"

"My free school dinner allowance doesn't cover me I have to pick between getting a cookie or a drink"

"We are a cashless school so if you don't have your lanyard or money on your card you cannot buy any food."

"I think the schedule is tight at lunch time we don't have enough time to eat. And when u have other things to do such as going to the toilet, filling up water bottle, socialising or speaking to a teacher. "

"I think it's bad because most teachers usually catch the wrong student resulting in some pupils ending up in detention and sent to the isolation room when they have not done anything wrong!"

"I don't understand why this school thought they had the right to send us to isolation or exclude us/give us detention for simply being ourselves"

"At our school they put us in isolation just for wearing too many earrings or wearing trainers and silly things like that that doesn't affect our work - they should be putting pupils in isolation for things like disturbing others in class!"

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PLAN 2023/24

	OSMC	H&ASC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S	C&E O&S
April	Monday 17th April at 1pm Informal briefing session MS Teams		Wednesday 19th April at 4pm Informal Briefing Session MS Teams	Monday 24th April 2023 10am MS Teams Members briefing (CR)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doncaster Delivering Together (DDT) Investment Plan (c) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition of Children Social Care (c) Update briefing on Government response Stable homes built on love 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving Council housing stock and How St Leger Homes ensure VFM and work standards on improvement programmes; (c) Repairs Excellence ph 2 (c) 	
			Thursday 20th April 2023, 2pm, Informal Briefing Joint Meeting with C&E		Thursday 20th April 2023, 2pm, Informal Briefing Joint Meeting with CYP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Parks Strategy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Parks Strategy
			Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 12pm, Informal Briefing session, MS Teams – CANCELLED		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referrals – school experience update Social Care Front Door – meeting with headteachers Update on overview of social care theme pressure points 		
			Thursday 27th April 2023 at 4.30pm MS Teams or Council Chamber TBC		

Agenda Item 7.

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	OSMC	H&ASC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S	C&E O&S
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Council Priorities (and for information Children and Young Peoples Plan).(c) Youth Offer (c) 		
			Thursday 27th April 2023 at 10am MS Teams Briefing Session		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND inspection framework and Government response to Green Paper 		
May		Thursday 11th May 2023 at 10am Council Chamber (CR)		Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 1.30pm Briefing Session MS Teams (CM)	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bentley and Rossington Primary Care estate developments ICB Public Health Protection Update 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Lettings Policy Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Allocation Policy 	
		Thursday 25th May 2023 at 10am, MS Team			
		Work Planning			
June	Thursday 1st June 2023 at 10am Council Chamber		Thursday 15th June 2023 at 4pm, MS Teams	Thursday 6th June 2023 at 2pm, MS Teams	Thursday 1st June 2023 at 2pm, MS Teams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Planning 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Planning

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	OSMC	H&ASC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S	C&E O&S
	Thursday 1st June 2023 at 11am, Council Chamber (CM)			Friday 30th June 2023 at 10.30am Briefing Session MS Teams (CM)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Justice Plan 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport (invite to SYMCA) (c) 	
	Thursday 29th June 2023 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM/AT)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and Performance (invite to Cabinet Members Cole and Houlbrook) (c) Agree Scrutiny Work Plan 				
July	Thursday 20th July 2023 at 10am, MS Teams (CM)	Thursday 6th July 2023 at 10am, Members Briefing, Council Chamber (CR)	Thursday 27th July 2023 at 4.30pm, MS Teams (CM)	Monday 17th July 2023 at 1.30pm, Council Chamber (CR)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Leger Homes future priorities and services (R&H O&S to be invited) (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Strategic Needs Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of specific areas of data What's new/ performance deterioration (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Lettings Policy Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Allocation Policy (c) 	
Aug					Thursday 3rd August 2023 at 10am Briefing Session MS Teams (CM)
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Assets – Mary Woollet Centre Update on recommendations from the Corporate Assets Policy Review Local Flood Risk Management Strategy –

FP – Forward Plan Decision

CR or CM– Officer Responsible

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	OSMC	H&ASC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S	C&E O&S
					outline pre 5 th October meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSPO – Town Centre – pre cabinet decision
		Wednesday, 23rd August 2023, 10am Sheffield Council (CR)			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JHOSC (Chair only to attend) 			
Sept	Thursday 7th September 2023 at 10am, Council Chamber (CR)	Thursday 28th September 2023 at 2pm, Council Chamber (CM)	Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 9.30am Site Visit (CR)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Compliments and Complaints (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health aged 18 to 25 Invite PFG (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit to Adwick Family Hub (c) 		
	Thursday 7th September 2023 at 10am, Council Chamber (CR)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairness and Wellbeing Commission (c) 				
			Monday 9th October 2023, 12:30pm, MS Teams (CM)		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referrals – school experience update Social Care Front Door – meeting with headteachers (c) 		
Oct	Thursday 12th October 2023 at 10am, Council Chamber (CR)	Thursday 26th October 2023 at 10am, MS Teams	Tuesday 31st October 2023 at 4.30pm Council Chamber (CR)	Thursday 19th October 2023 at 10am, Council Chamber (CR)	Thursday 5th October 2023 at 10am Council Chamber (CM)

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	OSMC	H&ASC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S	C&E O&S
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and Performance (invite to Cabinet Member Blackham) (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JHOSC – Chair only as appointed Member on Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Poverty report on discussions from site visit Youth Council to attend (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing - New regulatory regime for social housing Housing biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Doncaster Partnership (c) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from February position focus on Retail Crime Flood Risk Management Strategy Pre-Cabinet decision (c)
Nov	<p>Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 10am, MS Teams/Council Chamber TBC (CR)</p>	<p>Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 2pm, Sheffield CC or MS Teams (CM)</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer Experience Strategy (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JHOSC – Chair only as appointed Member on Committee 			
	<p>Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 2pm, MS Teams (CR)</p>	<p>Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 10am Council Chamber (CM)</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Localities Community Prevention Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Trust and. Areas for consideration to be agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A&E position Waiting lists Staff Recruitment and Retention Winter planning (c) 			
		<p>Monday 27th November 2023 at 2pm MS Teams (CM)</p>			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Well-being Strategy initial consultation 		

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	OSMC	H&ASC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S	C&E O&S
Dec	Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 9am, Council Chamber (CM)	Thursday 7th December 2023 at 2pm, Sheffield CC or MS Teams (TBC)	Thursday 7th December 2023 at 4.30pm, Council Chamber (CM or CR)		Thursday 7th December 2023 at 10am, MS Teams or Formal TBC (CM or CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and Performance (invite to Cabinet Members Blake and L Ball) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JHOSC – Chair only as appointed Member on Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND Strategy (c) educational Outcomes (c) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Parks Scheme (c) Street Scene (c)
Jan	Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 10am Briefing Session MS Teams/Council Chamber (CM/CR)	Thursday 18th January 2024 at 10am, Sheffield CC or MS Teams (TBC)			Monday 22nd January 2024 at 10am Council Chamber Briefing session TBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Corporate 	JHOSC – Chair only as appointed Member on Committee			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling to include current/future contract and changes to regulations/impact on future green agenda
Feb	Thursday 1st February 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM/CR)	8th February 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM/CR TBC)			Thursday 15th February 2024 at 10am Crime & Disorder Committee, Council Chamber (CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Corporate Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dementia – possible visit to local groups re: access for people who suffer with dementia; Integrated Care Board – invite 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Doncaster Partnership
	Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber	Thursday 15th February 2024 at 10am, Sheffield CC or MS Teams (TBC)			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JHOSC – Chair only as appointed Member on Committee 			

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	OSMC	H&ASC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S	C&E O&S
March	Thursday 28th March 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM)	Thursday 21st March 2024 at 2pm, Council Chamber (CM)	Thursday 14th March 2024 at 4.30pm, Council Chamber	Thursday 7th March 2024 at 2pm, Council Chamber	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and Performance (invite to Cabinet Members N Ball and G Jones) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Protection Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Neglect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plan update 	

POSSIBLE ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OR TO BE SCHEDULED

Quarterly performance 18 th July 2024 (Invite to Cllrs Smith and Nightingale)	Joint Regional Health (JHOSC) – as required Chair only to attend	Inclusion Update – Elective Home Education (December 2023 or later/possible extra Member Briefing Session)	Market and Corn Exchange update – possible invite to MAM	
SYAC (South Yorkshire Airport City)	<p>Integrated Care Board – Date to be confirmed – specific approach from one of the following, to be agreed:</p> <p>Primary Care Access recovery plan for Doncaster area</p> <p>Pharmacy access, demands and national position</p> <p>Oral health to include Dentistry access, demands and national position</p>	Universal Services - how it is being impacted by cost of living and post pandemic school language and school ready – looked at this last year	Transport	
SLH Complaints appeal policy – with R and H briefing session new year 2024	<p>Consultations from Directorates as required</p> <p>- Adult social care peer review outcome</p>	EPIC	Biodiversity Net Gain	
Fairness and well-being commission update prior to final document requested at 12 th October OSMC	Age Friendly City – early input, plans and practicalities – how can the Authority drive this?		1. Housing crisis – aging population – are we satisfied that the Local Authority and partners are doing everything possible to increase availability	

FP – Forward Plan Decision

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				(including supported living accommodation)	
		Invite to Aspire – Substance misuse – 2024/25		2. Regeneration and Economy: Connectivity – new technology availability, impact of working from home and town centre footfall	
		Maternity care – possibly for the future		SLH Complaints appeal policy – with OSMC briefing session new year 2024	
		Children and Young People – raft of issues on state of health – possibly joint with CYP Panel – Await Director input			
		Learning Disability and Autism Strategy review late 2023/24 work plan programme			
		Health and Well-being Strategy late 2023 / early 2024			
BRIEFING NOTES/FOR CIRCULATION					
			Youth offer/Hubs – integrated offer – briefing note	Housing Stock – no deposit for first time buyers impact on rights to buy and council housing stock? Overall impact on private setor availability	
				Outcomes from the OT medical assessment how it impacts on housing waiting lists (health panel undertook dedicated meeting in 2022/23)	

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

KEY

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

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

Prepared on: Friday, 29th September, 2023 and superseding all previous Forward Plans with effect from the period identified above.

Damian Allen
Chief Executive

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member For:

Mayor - Ros Jones
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball
Councillor Nigel Ball
Councillor Joe Blackham
Councillor Rachael Blake
Councillor Phil Cole
Councillor Mark Houlbrook
Councillor Jane Nightingale
Councillor Sarah Smith

- Budget and Policy
- Housing and Business
- Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People
- Public Health, Communities, Leisure and Culture
- Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement
- Children's Social Care and Equalities
- Finance, Traded Services and Planning
- Sustainability and Waste
- Corporate Resources.
- Adult Social Care

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

Members of the Full Council are:-

Councillors Nick Allen, Bob Anderson, Duncan Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, Nigel Cannings Glenn Bluff, Laura Bluff, Bev Chapman, James Church, Gemma Cobby, Phil Cole, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, Amiee Dickson, Susan Durant, Yetunde Elebuibon, Sue Farmer, Sean Gibbons, Julie Grace, Martin Greenhalgh, John Healy, Leanne Hempshall, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Debbie Hutchinson, Barry Johnson, Glyn Jones, R. Allan Jones, Ros Jones, Jake Kearsley Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Sue Knowles, Sophie Liu, Tracey Moran, John Mounsey, Emma Muddiman-Rawlins Tim Needham, David Nevett, Jane Nightingale, Thomas Noon, Ian Pearson, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Rob Reid, Andrea Robinson, Dave Shaw, Glynis Smith, Sarah Smith, Gary Stapleton, and Austen White

WHEN DECISION IS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN	KEY DECISION TO BE TAKEN	RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER	DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY	CONTACT OFFICER(S)	DOCUMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY DECISION MAKER	REASON FOR EXEMPTION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SCHEDULE 12A
1 Nov 2023	Allocation of 2023-24 Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund; approval of the Market Position Statement; approval of the Workforce Strategy.	Councillor Sarah Smith, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Kathryn Anderson-Bratt, Head of Service - Commissioning and Contracts Tel: 01302 737013 Kathryn.Anderson-Bratt@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
2 Nov 2023	Acceptance of Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) Funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.	Mayor Ros Jones	Mayor Ros Jones	Mark Wakefield Mark.Wakefield@doncaster.gov.uk		Part exempt
6 Nov 2023	To give the Council's consent to the making of an order to provide for the Mayor of South Yorkshire to exercise functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in relation to South Yorkshire	Mayor Ros Jones	Mayor Ros Jones	Scott Fawcus, Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic Services scott.fawcus@doncaster.gov.uk, Andrew Sercombe, Governance Manager andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk	Transfer of Police & Crime Commissioner Functions to the Mayoral Combined Authority	Open

8 Nov 2023	Equity and Inclusive Access to Learning for All: SEND and alternative Provision Model and Approach.	Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Portfolio Holder for Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People	Cabinet	Martyn Owen martyn.owen@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
6 Dec 2023	Quarter 2 2023-24 Finance and Performance Report.	Mayor Ros Jones	Cabinet	Matthew, Smith, Head of Financial Management Tel: 01302-737663 matthew.smith@doncaster.gov.uk, Sennette Wroot, Senior Strategy & Performance Manager Tel: 01302 862533 Sennette.Wroot@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
6 Dec 2023	St Leger Homes Performance Report 2022/23 Quarter 2.	Councillor Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business.	Cabinet	Julie Crook Tel: 01302 862705		Open
17 Jan 2024	To approve the following admission arrangements for the 2025/26 Academic Year:-	Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Portfolio	Cabinet	Neil McAllister, School Organisation Manager	School Admission Arrangements	Open

	Community School Admission Arrangements; Community School Nursery Admission Arrangements; Primary Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements; Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Ar	Holder for Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People		neil.mcallister@doncaster.gov.uk	2024/25 - Cabinet Report 1 February 2023	
17 Jan 2024	Approval of the Council Tax Base for 2024/25.	Mayor Ros Jones	Cabinet	Alan Stoves, Head of Revenues and Benefits Tel: 01302 735585 Alan.stoves@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
17 Jan 2024	To sign off the 'Your Care and Support': Doncaster Adult Social Care Local Account 2024.	Councillor Sarah Smith, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Cabinet	Bryony Shannon, Strategic Lead, Directors Office, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Bryony.Shannon@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
26 Feb 2024	To approve the Revenue Budget 2024/25 - 2026/27	Mayor Ros Jones	Council, Cabinet	Faye Tyas, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance faye.tyas@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
26 Feb 2024	To approve the Capital Strategy & Capital Budget 2024/25 - 2027/28	Mayor Ros Jones	Council, Cabinet	Faye Tyas, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance		Open

				faye.tyas@doncaster.gov.uk		
26 Feb 2024	To approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024/25	Mayor Ros Jones	Council, Cabinet	Faye Tyas, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance faye.tyas@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
26 Feb 2024	To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25- 2027/28	Mayor Ros Jones	Council, Cabinet	Faye Tyas, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance faye.tyas@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
26 Feb 2024	To approve the Council's Corporate Plan 2024/25	Mayor Ros Jones	Council, Cabinet	Lee Tillman, Assistant Director, Chief Executives Tel: 01302 734552 lee.tillman@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
26 Feb 2024	To approve the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2024/2025.	Mayor Ros Jones	Council	Rebecca Hardwick, Head of Service, Human Resources Tel: 01302 736278 RebeRebecca.Hardwick@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
26 Feb 2024	To approve the level of the Council Tax for 2024/25 and to pass appropriate statutory	Mayor Ros Jones	Council	Alan Stoves, Head of Revenues and Benefits Tel: 01302		Open

	resolutions including the Council Tax requirement for 2024/25.		735585 Alan.stoves@doncaster.gov.uk		
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