



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: Thursday, 7th December, 2023

Time: 4.30 pm

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Damian Allen
Chief Executive

Issued on: Wednesday, 29 November 2023

Governance Services Officer for this meeting

Christine Rothwell
Senior Governance Officer

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 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on 31st October 2023 (*Pages 1 - 8*)
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. Education Achievement Outcomes for all Key Stages 2023 (*Pages 9 - 22*)
7. Equitable and Inclusive Access to Education for All (*Pages 23 - 42*)
8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan and Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions (*Pages 43 - 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

TUESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2023

A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, DONCASTER on TUESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2023 at 4.30 PM

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Leanne Hempshall

Councillors Tim Needham, Bob Anderson, Steve Cox, Susan Durant and Charlie Hogarth

Co-optees – Antoinette Drinkhill, Church of England

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Riana Nelson, Director

Rebecca Mason, Head of Service Partnerships and Families

Alison Tomes, Head of Service Intervention and Prevention

Callum Helman, Transformation Manager

Karen Seaman, Public Health Co-ordinator Be Well Doncaster

Tara Jones, Family Hub Team Manager

Jane Pearson EPEC Co-ordinator

John Raine, Project Officer Locality Delivery and Early Help

Courtney Helsby, Children Young People and Families

Young Advisors x 3

Youth Councillors x 3

Reverend Stephen Gardner All Saiints Church

Nicole Emmonds, Member of the public

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Laura Bluff and Tracey Moran

		<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	There were no items on the agenda.	
2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	

	No declarations were made.	
3	<u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2023</u>	
	RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 th March 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
4	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	
	There were no public statements made.	
5	<u>CHILD POVERTY IN DONCASTER</u>	
	<p>Prior to the report being presented to the Panel relating to Child Poverty across Doncaster City, the Chair stated that some Members of the Panel had recently undertaken a visit to the Adwick Family Hub and Your Place Teams in Adwick and Woodlands. She explained that the purpose of the visit was to give Members an insight into issues some families were facing and had the opportunity to discuss this with partners, professionals and people who used Council Services. The Panel highlighted the visit was excellent and thanked everyone for giving up their time to meet.</p> <p>Additional to the report, the following information was provided to the Panel by way of presentation:</p> <p>A. City of Doncaster Council Overview of Doncaster’s Early Help Offer and Future Developments – covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the Site visit undertaken by Members as detailed above; • Key themes highlighted through the visit conversations; • Factors influencing Child Poverty; • Doncaster’s Early Help Strategy; • Family Hubs – Community Based Early Intervention and Prevention Delivery Model; • Supporting Families – Early Help System Guide; • Local Need and factors that influenced child poverty; • Support service delivery; • Systematic challenges; and • Early Intervention and Prevention in Communities; <p>B. Reverend Gardner - All Saints Food Bank</p> <p>An outline of the food bank launched in May 2020 during Covid lockdown was outlined to the Panel. The service</p>	

was run by volunteers and operated on a referral basis only and continued to provide support to many families, as follows:

- Areas covered included Adwick, Woodlands, Highfields, Carcroft and Skellow;
- Supported by City of Doncaster Council and other grant providers;
- £5k per annum has been received from individual donors;
- May 2020 to September 2021 approximately 1,500 boxes of food were supplied to families, with monitoring systems in place;
- Since September 2021 support was provided to:
148 Households – 88 with children;
212 Adults, 231 Children;
Provided help between 2 and 30 weeks – average was 12 weeks;
5 long term referrals
- Reasons for help included benefit issues/disputes/utility debt, debt, reduced working housing, fleeing domestic abuse and forced to move home;
- The Food Bank's key relationships with referrers;

It was explained that the next step was to provide a fully licensed and regulated centre to address debt, benefits, housing advice and advocacy and it was hoped this would be up and running by Easter 2024.

To conclude the Reverend explained that more volunteers were required to help with such projects across the City of Doncaster. He concluded by leaving the Panel with the thought of joy on parents faces when they were handed baby wipes, sanitary products and toothbrushes for their children.

C. Doncaster Youth Council provided a presentation on “Your Future, Your say”, including the following areas:

- Whilst working through their projects Youth Councillors undertook collaboration with Primary Ambassadors, for example, with Learn Sheffield on its Sexual Harassment in South Yorkshire Schools Report;
- In line with recommendations in the Children and Young People Plan the Youth Council had received Kooth Awareness training;
- Mental Health and Wellbeing focusing on eating disorders was the top issue for consideration following the “Make Your Mark” consultation with schools;

- Cost of Living and health Campaign – Amongst a number of activities, the Yellow Box Project was developed including free emergency personal hygiene products and were currently available from Youth Place Hubs, Bentley My Place, Tom Hill Youth Hub and New College Doncaster. The following four areas were given particular attention:
 - Personal Hygiene Products;
 - Uniform;
 - Food; and
 - Isolation rooms in schools.

The Youth Councillors expressed concern that their findings identified many reasons why young people were hungry and stressed that food intake had an impact on their ability to learn and other areas of their lives.

The Chair thanked everyone for their presentations and for taking time to attend the meeting. The following areas were addressed during subsequent discussion:

Safeguarding and protection of children in schools – it was explained to the Panel that with regard to any reported issues or findings relating to schools, they would be investigated and addressed by the Local Authority.

A Member outlined that historically a meeting with Academies, the Local Authority and community partners, including Councillors, used to meet regularly and questioned if there was an opportunity for this to be re-established. It was confirmed that this proposal would be investigated.

Isolation rooms in schools – a description of school isolation rooms was provided to the Panel by the Youth Councillors and reasons why they were used.

School uniform – the Youth Councillors reported that students wished to see the use of school emblem iron-on badges for uniforms to ensure affordable clothing could be purchased by everyone, rather than having to buy uniforms through specific outlets, which could be very expensive.

Children and young people going without food – In response to a question it was reported that the Local Authority was not aware of the exact number of children going without food, across the City. However, there was data on the number of schools reaching out to family hubs, food and uniform banks with assistance provided through Your Life Doncaster.

The Panel noted that children and young people were being

auto enrolled onto free school meals because individual take-up was low. Automatic enrolment was activated if families were on certain benefits and the family had to take the initiative to opt out rather than present themselves for help.

In response to a Member's question the Youth Councillors explained that if a student required assistance with queuing for a school lunch, Pastoral support would provide support and for example if a student had an injury that prevented them from queuing with everyone else, a 5 minute early queue system was provided. In some schools there were also separate areas where students' food was delivered, if there was the need.

The Director reported that there were some excellent schools across the City of Doncaster and stressed that all schools had the interest of children at the heart of delivery.

The Bread and Butter Thing – this initiative provided affordable food to Communities within the City of Doncaster, highlighting the increased need across all areas. There were currently 4 hubs with allocation for a 5th outlet and people who put themselves forward for help were assessed, registered and monitored. There was a sliding scale charge for the food people were able to choose. It was noted that a lot of voluntary organisations were assisting and recognised the initiative needed to do more work with schools ensuring more help reached families.

Families in poverty – in response to a question relating to impact of universal credit, mental health in parents and impact on their children, it was explained that more research on the data and impact was required. It was outlined to the Panel that support services were delivered on the 'whole family' approach for example, from early years to concerns relating to anti-social behaviour.

The Director outlined the unbelievable and complex world of a child in poverty and to support the move from deprivation required a number of positive actions including:

- Education – achieving a good educational background provided the opportunity to secure sound employment;
- Supporting parents into employment to create opportunities. The importance of the Education and Skills Strategy from cradle to career, was noted;
- High paid employment was accessible in Doncaster therefore local people needed to be educated to secure these positions; and
- Ensuring communities were inclusive eg. there could be language barriers leading to a lack of understanding and

there was the need to overcome nervousness when accessing help.

A Member stated that it was reassuring that the Local Authority had established family hubs to support people who needed the help being offered. It was acknowledged that when someone received positive assistance and a good experience, the ripple effect in communities really helped spread the word about the support available.

Visit to Family Hub – The Chair referred to the video in the presentation as very powerful and thanked everyone who took part. The Panel thanked officers for the opportunity to make the visit and meet people from the Community. The following points were highlighted:

- The Hub was for all ages in the community not just pre-school children;
- Referrals to the food bank were excellent and hoped that the template was being replicated in other areas;
- The family Hub was not a building but a service to go out into communities. This could be undertaken through pop up services ensuring access in all communities, particularly in areas where there were no physical buildings;
- Partners and the community were committed to ensuring service provision was successful;
- All families were encouraged to access early years funding to enhance support and the child / parent relationship;
- Opening hours were currently 8.30am to 5pm, with some being open longer with the weekend offer currently being investigated to meet the needs of communities. The number of staff and volunteers (including gardeners, handy people and ladies who knit children's clothing) across the service were provided. It was noted that staff were very flexible with their working hours whether it be full time or part time employees. The part time working was a recent change and a working offer some staff had requested. The many roles, opportunities and shift patterns available to staff, were noted.

Further to an example of support provided the video presented, a Member questioned if there was capacity to visit every person at home who requested this support. It was explained that there was a partnership approach to all the services provided and would support in this way as much as possible.

Message that help is out there - A member of the community who used the Family Hub thanked Council staff and partners for their support. She also thanked Councillors for the invite to this meeting and for letting her speak openly about the support she

had received. She wished to use the opportunity to promote and highlight to all parents and families that help was out there and not to be afraid to find and use it.

Volunteer work – in response to a Member’s question it was explained that a number of Council staff undertake volunteer work in many areas, including supporting food banks and the response to flooding incidents, but the number that used their volunteer hours could not be provided at this meeting. It was acknowledged that more work could be undertaken to promote the volunteer scheme to members of staff.

Early Years and Early Days workers – It was explained to the Panel that:

- Early Years deliver sessions including story groups and support finding funded places at outreach groups; and
- Early Days delivery support from conception to 18 months. This capacity was added to assist the Early Years workers.

Evidence Based Tools – It was confirmed that the following were amongst the validated tools used to support service provisions:

- Online parenting programmes – this was highlighted by a member of the community during the video presentation earlier in the meeting. There were many courses open for anyone to complete;
- Face to face questionnaires;
- Systems that measure impact;
- Triangle outcome stars evidence based programme used by parents to map their position.

Services specific to Doncaster – a Panel Member stated that the service being provided was simple and undertaken really well and questioned the practice set out in paragraph 22 of the report. It was explained that support needed to be accessible when families requested help and that it was important that services were tailored to the specific community’s needs and developed over time.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking the officers for providing additional information including data by wards and requested that the updated slides be circulated following the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

1. The completed “More than Just a Headline” Youth Council, report be circulated to the Panel;
2. The content of the report and presentations, be noted;
3. The Family Hub visit undertaken by the Panel, be noted;



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 7th December 2023

To: Chair and Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Panel

Report Title: Education Achievement Outcomes for all Key Stages 2023.

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Cllr. Lani-Mae Ball Cabinet Member, Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides a summary of the action taken, changes made to learning improvement and an update in relation to the data, achievement and improvement across the following education phases:
 - Early Years Foundation Stage
 - Key Stage 1
 - Key Stage 2
 - Key Stage 4 (GCSE)
 - Key Stage 5 (Level 3 - A Level, T Levels and Applied General)
2. The data contained in this report remains provisional and may therefore be subject to change once the final validated data is available. This report is based on the latest provisional data released by the Department for Education (DfE) up to November 2023.
3. Please note re data summaries, where actual cohort numbers are available, these are provided but for some data sets this is not available. Ward level data

is not available for the city-wide figures mentioned. Cohort numbers for Children Looked After (CLA) are not shown for protective reasons.

4. The population numbers for the 2023 results are:

EYFS – 3,522
Y1 Phonics – 3,640
KS1 – 3,714
KS2 – 3,792
KS4 – 3,260
KS5 – 2,458

EXEMPT REPORT

5. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. It is recommended that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Panel reviews and notes:
- All data included in this report has been published on a provisional basis, and is subject to further checking and validation, which could lead to small changes in some figures when the final results are subsequently published.
 - The achievement outcomes for all key stages for Doncaster Children and Young People, alongside areas for continued development.
 - That this is the second year of formal assessments since 2019. The outcomes data in this report continues to be compared to that academic year's outcomes for consistency; given that results in 2022 was the first year of formal assessments following the pandemic and included mitigations at Key Stage 4 and Post-16 and so are not directly comparable for these phases.
 - The consistent outcomes at Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 (KS1) and improved outcomes specifically for Key Stage 4 (KS4), Children and Young People Looked After (CLA), the gap between boys and girls and for those for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

7. The outcomes identified in this report demonstrate both clear areas of improvement and those where further development is required. These outcomes are compared to national where known. The impact on outcomes for children and young people in schools should also be noted, including and against the

Education and Skills 2030 strategy and its five key priorities, Best Start, Accelerating Achievement, Post 16 Education, New Skills and Pathways to Fulfilling Life and Work and Equitable and Inclusive Learning.

8. The comparators to national make an interesting point of reference and we will continue to support schools across the wider network. It is important that we are not complacent and that the system collectively continues to drive performance in line with key strategies and programmes. Including the Priority Investment Area and aspirations clearly articulated in the Education and Skills Strategy 2030 longer term.

BACKGROUND

9. In 2023 achievement in the majority of schools across all phases compared with 2019 data shows achievement as either sustained or surpassed. This achievement is even more significant for those schools situated in localities where there are high levels of deprivation; the evidence-base is clear that children and young people from disadvantaged households were disproportionately affected by impact of the pandemic including in terms of lost learning. In this context the positive impact of the catch-up curriculum on achievement in these Doncaster schools is clearly evident.
10. This report highlights the overall outcomes for Doncaster, recognising the improvements, areas for development and comparators against national where known.
 - Outcomes at EYFS and KS1 are consistently in line with the national average over time.
 - KS2 combined data demonstrates Doncaster's trajectory of improvement and the focus of our schools closing the gap compared to National, now 3% below compared to 4% in the previous 2 years.

2023 Doncaster 56% ↑ (2022 55%, 2019 61%)

2023 National 59% → (2022 59%, 2019 65%)

- Outcomes at KS4, have improved overall, and in many schools including those that had performed least well in previous years. We have seen a smaller drop from last year than average, and are results are closer to national than they have been in previous years. In particular, Progress 8 is now in line with the national average.
- Outcomes for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are generally at least in line with the national average over time across all key stages.

- Outcomes for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support are consistently below the national average over time across all key stages.
 - Outcomes for pupils at KS4 with EAL mirror the national picture. In all cases, we consider the gap between EAL pupils and other pupils in the school to be the relevant metric; EAL pupils may still achieve below EAL pupils nationally if the same is true for all pupils. The indicative Level 3 outcomes show an overall increase across all areas, with a 5% increase in uptake in Applied General and T level qualifications aligned to the wider offer and vision of our Education and Skills Strategy.
11. Results for Key Stage 5 (Level 3) included in this report are indicative and should be treated with caution; published data will be available in mid-November and an update will follow regarding this. Provisional figures reported by the schools and colleges suggest that results will be better than in 2019, which we expect will show an improved picture compared to the national average.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

12. Doncaster Good Levels of Development (GLD) is currently showing at 67%, which is in line with the national average, and continues the pattern shown in previous years. In both cases, this is an increase of 2 percentage points from last year.

Year 1 Phonics

13. The published data set for phonics shows an achievement of 80%, representing an increase of 4 percentage points from last year, and which is above the national average of 79%.
14. Data also suggests that the focus on early reading and phonics has impacted positively on this outcome in schools across Doncaster. This has been supported by networks, early reading review prioritisation and partnership with the English Hub. Intensive officer support is showing impact in targeted support. A number of schools have benefited from significant support in addressing phonetically decodable texts to support early reading.

Key Stage 1

15. Published data for Key Stage 1, is broadly positive in national comparator terms. We continue to focus on strategies to close gaps in achievement for our children.
16. Reading shows an increase from 65% in 2022 to 66% this year, with the gap to the national of 68% unchanged at 2 percentage points.
17. Writing shows an increase from 58% in 2022 to 59% this year, while the national average has increased at a greater rate from 58% to 60%.
18. Maths shows an increase from 68% to 71%, which represents exactly the change in the national average.

Key Stage 2

19. Key Stage 2 data in this report is estimated, as there are three schools whose data is not included in the published data due to technical issues in the summer term return; we have taken the figures reported to us by the schools into account, and as such the figures for Doncaster will differ from those published by DfE at this stage.
20. Reading, Writing & Maths (RWM) combined shows a slight improvement at 56%, while the national figure has remained at 59%, meaning that the gap to national is now 3 percentage points and is closing.
21. Reading outcomes have dropped from 70% to 68%, while the national average dropped from 75% to 73%, meaning that the gap of 2 percentage points is unchanged from last year.
22. This is likely to be a reflection of the challenge of the KS2 reading test this year which required children to have both pace and stamina to access the test. For some children, this lack of pace and stamina meant they weren't able to complete the test or did not have sufficient time to read and respond deeply to the whole test. The focus on developing this, outlined in the reading section above, will support children to access the greater challenge seen in the KS2 tests.
23. More work needs to be done on the reading curriculum and assessment. There is a need to address the fluency and comprehension side of reading together a clear focus on those children who only narrowly meet the threshold, especially those schools with high numbers of children only just reaching the threshold.
24. Writing outcomes are estimated to have improved from 68% to 69%, while the national average has increased from 69% to 71%, meaning that the gap has widened to 2 percentage points.

Maths outcomes have improved from 68% to 71%, while the national average has improved from 71% to 73%, meaning that the gap has narrowed to 2 percentage points.

Key Stage 4 - GCSE

25. At Key Stage 4, our Attainment 8 score improved by 2.6 points relative to the national average, although at 44.4 it remains below the average of 46.3. Our Progress 8 score has improved and at 0.0 (previously -0.1) it is now exactly in line with the national average.
26. Outcomes across the board dropped this year as part of a planned move by DfE to return to levels of attainment similar to 2019 following the higher results during Covid. Attainment in Doncaster remains below average, but the gap has narrowed compared with previous years and we have moved up to the third quartile, which puts us in line with regional and statistical neighbour benchmarks. Additionally, our gender gap is narrower than average, with boys achieving relatively better than girls.

27. Disadvantaged pupils have achieved well. Attainment has actually improved from last year's results against a falling trend, and is now in line with national and above benchmark Local Authorities (LAs). Pupils with SEN Support have likewise seen improved attainment, although this was from an extremely low base and so they are still below average but are now in line with benchmark LAs. By contrast, pupils with an EHCP, who had previously achieved well, saw their attainment fall to below average and below similar LAs. Pupils with EAL extended their lead over pupils whose first language is English slightly, and the same has happened nationally to an even greater extent.

Attainment 8	Disadvantaged		Special educational needs			First language	
	Yes	No	EHCP	Support	No SEN	EAL	English
Doncaster	34.6	48.5	12.5	29.8	47.1	45.6	44.2
National	35.1	50.3	14.0	33.2	50.1	49.3	45.8
Regional	33.5	49.0	13.7	30.3	48.4	44.5	44.9
Stat neighbours	33.3	48.1	14.3	30.8	47.5	46.3	43.8
National rank [151]	62 (136)	99 (128)	101 (52)	121 (148)	117 (140)	129 (137)	100 (128)
Regional rank [15]	3 (15)	9 (11)	11 (7)	9 (14)	12 (14)	10 (11)	10 (12)
S.N. rank [11]	1 (11)	4 (9)	9 (6)	8 (10)	6 (11)	7 (9)	5 (10)

(Figures in brackets show last year's rank)

Children Looked After (CLA)

28. Outcomes for Children Looked After in Early Years, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 showed a significant improvement from last year, while they declined at Key Stage 1. National data for 2023 is not yet available.
29. Within this population of Children Looked After the achievement outcomes have been underpinned by an aspiration for success. There has been a continual focus on progress and achievement, preparation for adulthood and strong and effective transitions into positive destinations (further education, employment or training).

Early Years	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
% GLD				
CLA	56%	28%		41%
CLA SEND	17%	n/a		14%

KS1 % EXS+ RW&M	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
CLA	26%	41%		29%
CLA SEND	8%	25%		12%

Key Stage 2 % Exp+ RW&M	Doncaster		National	
	2023 (est.)	2022	2023	2022
CLA	37%	23%		24%
CLA SEND	10%	14%		14%

- NB – CLA 2023 figures for KS4 are not comparable with 2022, as they use a different dataset and only include pupils in state-funded schools. Nevertheless, we are confident that the final figures show an improvement on last year. National figures are currently not available.

Attainment 8	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
CLA	32	18		19
CLA SEND	24	15		15

Progress 8	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
CLA	-0.8	-1.2		-1.5
CLA SEND	-0.9	-1.3		-1.6

% 5+ Eng & Ma	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
CLA	23%	13%		11%
CLA SEND	11%	9%		5%

Key Stage 5

30. Qualifications at this level include A Levels, General Applied (BTEC etc) and the new Tech Levels. As these qualifications are all calculated in slightly different ways, it is hard to represent as a percentage, therefore to show this in a meaningful way and demonstrate their significance and equivalent status, the detail below shows them as an Average Point Score (APS) and the equivalent A level grade.
31. Overall achievements as an Average Point Score (APS), including all student entries for level 3 qualifications were 33.8 APS (C+), which is lower than in 2022 but higher than the last comparable data from 2019. Broken down into the three types of qualifications this looks like this:
- A levels are on 34.1 APS (C+) of which 14% of entrants achieved AAB or better, compared to 8% in 2019.
 - Applied General, 36.3 APS (Distinction/B-), which is up on 2019 from 34 APS (Distinction).
 - Tech level: 32.4 (Distinction-/C). No 2019 comparator.
32. A breakdown by demographic groups is not yet available from DfE data.

Children Looked After (CLA)

Early Years

% GLD	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
All pupils	67%	65%	67%	65%
SEN Support	19%	17%	25%	23%
EHCP	8%	4%	4%	4%
EAL	60%	58%	60%	59%
CLA	56%	28%		41%
CLA SEND	17%	n/a		14%

Key Stage 1

% EXS+ RW&M	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
All pupils	56%	54%	56%	53%
SEN Support	15%	17%	19%	17%
EHCP	7%	3%	7%	6%
EAL	49%	49%	55%	53%
CLA	26%	41%		29%
CLA SEND	8%	25%		12%

Key Stage 2

% Exp+ RW&M	Doncaster		National	
	2023 (est.)	2022	2023	2022
All pupils	56%	56%	60%	59%
SEN Support	19%	15%	24%	21%
EHCP	10%	2%	8%	7%
EAL	47%	53%	60%	62%
CLA	37%	23%		24%
CLA SEND	10%	14%		14%

Key Stage 4

NB. CLA 2023 figures are not comparable with 2022, as they use a different dataset and only include pupils in state-funded schools. Nevertheless, we are confident that the final figures show an improvement on last year.

Attainment 8	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
All pupils	44	45	46	49
SEN Support	30	29	33	35
EHCP	13	16	14	14
EAL	46	46	49	51

CLA	32	18		19
CLA SEND	24	15 (15

Progress 8	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
All pupils	+0.0	-0.1	-0.0	-0.0
SEN Support	-0.6	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5
EHCP	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.3
EAL	+0.7	+0.9	+0.5	+0.6
CLA	-0.8	-1.2		-1.5
CLA SEND	-0.9	-1.3		-1.6

% 5+ Eng & Ma	Doncaster		National	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
All pupils	41%	45%	45%	50%
SEN Support	16%	12%	21%	23%
EHCP	5%	7%	7%	7%
EAL	43%	47%	50%	53%
CLA	23%	13%		11%
CLA SEND	11%	9%		5%

OPTIONS CONSIDERED






33. This section is not applicable




REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

34. This section is not applicable

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

35.

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: All settings continue to work with children, young people and their families to support learning outcomes. This is further supported by the Priority Investment Area programme and is underpinned by the Educational and Skills strategy 2030.				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments: relevant				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all	✓			
Comments: All young people should have the chance to develop the skills they need for adult life. Continuing in learning will give young people as much chance as possible to get the qualifications, the knowledge and the practical skills they need to help them succeed.				
 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: <p>Ensuring that our support 'offer' is impartial, varied, fair and inclusive, means that we can meet the different needs and aspirations of our young people, helping them to overcome barriers to learning. It is also crucial that we continue to develop our understanding of the circumstances and needs of different groups of young people and the barriers that result in under achievement or reduced access to learning opportunities.</p> <p>Increasing participation in education, employment and training is key to advancing equality of opportunity.</p>				

Legal Implications

36. No Legal Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

Financial Implications

37. No Financial Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

Human Resources Implications

38. No Human Resources Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

Technology Implications

39. No Technology Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

40. It is imperative that we continue to strive to ensure equity of access to learning for all young people, working with and across the system to mitigate the impact of the Covid Pandemic where possible, enabling young people, wherever their starting point to achieve their full potential.

CONSULTATION

41. Consultation and engagement is undertaken regularly with key partners as part of the collective support across settings, through the development of the Education and Skills strategy implementation plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

42. Not applicable

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

43.

GLD Good level of development (the expected standard in Early Years)

SEN Special educational needs

EHCP Education, health and care plan

EAL English as an additional language

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Jane Reed, Head of Education & Skills, Children, Young People and Families

Email: jane.reed@[doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:jane.reed@doncaster.gov.uk)

Stephen Downe, Policy & Insight Officer, Policy, Insight & Change

Email: stephen.downe@doncaster.gov.uk

Leanne Hornsby, Assistant Director (Education & Skills), Children, Young People and Families

Email: Leanne.hornsby@doncaster.gov.uk

Riana Nelson
Director, Children, Young People and Families



Doncaster Council

Equitable and Inclusive Access to Education for All

Date: 7th December 2023

To the Chair and Members of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Report Title: Equitable and Inclusive Access to Education for All

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Lani-Mae Ball	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to set out an update on the approach, and model that has been developed to support our overall vision for equitable and inclusive education in Doncaster and build on the work already underway through the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy (see hyperlink below) to support children and young people to thrive, wherever their starting point. This report provides the Panel with the information provided to Cabinet when it considered this issue at its meeting of 7th November 2023 and an opportunity to comment on the overall approach.
2. Since the start of the pandemic Doncaster has seen a significant rise in the overall number of young people identified as having special educational needs or disabilities. This increase includes the number of young people with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) and those with SEND support needs. The rise in demand, alongside increasing financial pressures, has also placed challenges on the wider workforce connected to those with special educational needs including those in the health, care, and school sectors.
3. Our analysis of the Doncaster system through the 'Delivering Better Value' in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) programme has sharpened our understanding of our next steps, supporting the need for a more clearly aligned future model of support and provision.

4. Since November 2022, much has changed in the local landscape as we have shaped our approach and began to deliver changes. Significant partnership engagement has led to the development of collaborative approach to the delivery of the implementation plan.
5. We have already acted on our intent to bring about a more cohesive local system, founded on the principles of equity and fairness. We have strengthened decision making processes through enhanced quality assurance, supported mainstream schools to do more to maintain local school places for those with higher levels of need, without the need for an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) and have, where appropriate for the young person, brought some back from out of area placements to be educated in their locality community.
6. We have set out a new approach to improving equitable and inclusive education in Doncaster. The key components are
 - Developing a place based local Inclusion Charter.
 - Locality planning, delivery and building relational practice.
 - Delivering capability within the system.
 - Effective transition and assessment at each phase.
7. The delivery of a seamless pathway for assessment within localities is a joint commissioning priority for the partnership. The proposals in this report identify some changes to the Doncaster education landscape to support the delivery of this new way of working, ultimately enabling children to access placements closer to home, retaining a local community connection.

EXEMPT REPORT

8. There is no exempt information detailed within this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. To note and comment on the changes implemented to date and the impact.
10. To note the future overall approach detailed in the report, including both the strategic intent and new provision extension identified in para 22 and financial implications, including the impact on future savings and cost avoidance.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

11. The proposals in this report brings cohesion and additional support to the education system to better meet the needs of children and young people locally.

BACKGROUND

Please note re data summaries- where actual cohort numbers are available, we have supplied them, but for some data sets this is not available. Ward level data is not available for the boroughwide figures mentioned.

National context:

12. There is significant concern regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and inclusion provision nationally. The Government Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Review, which was launched in 2019, concluded in March 2022, with the publication of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 'Green Paper'. This paper acknowledged the current pressures around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) nationally. The paper concluded that:

- Outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or in alternative provision are poor.
- Navigating the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people, and their families
- The system is not delivering value for money for children, young people, and families.

Local drivers for change:

13. Children, young people, and family voice, self-evaluation and 'Delivering Better Value' project findings have all helped to shape the underlying drivers for change which include:

- Rates of identification for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support (13.1%/ 48,931 children and young people) now being in line with national (13%/ 1,183,384 children and young people) and regional averages (13.5%/ 118,894 children and young people) after being much lower than both in 2017-2018 (by 2.5%)
- Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) has increased from 1898 in 2019 to 2489 currently, a 31% increase.
- There has been an increase in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) overall and in more complex needs since 2019. This has led to an increase in the number of young people educated outside of the borough from 70 in 2019 to 161 in 2023.
- Timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has been impacted, dropping in 2022, now improving quickly (49% in Quarter 2 2023, against national of 51%).
- The High Needs Block funding in Doncaster is predicted to overspend by £5,800,000 during 2023-24, an overall overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant of £25,800,000 by the 31st of March 2024.

- Academic outcomes are variable for those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and those with send support needs and whilst Attainment 8 has improved in recent years, outcomes remain inconsistent.
- The overall number of children not in full time provision, which increased through the pandemic, following a targeted approach has dropped by 53% since March 2022. (245 in March 22 to 115 Feb 23).
- Overall absence has increased and is just above National Averages (by 1%) and, for Persistent Absence is 3% higher at primary and 5% higher for secondary.
- Absence at special schools has improved and is now better than the national average and permanent exclusions continue to decline from 110 to 47 in 2021-2022.
- Suspensions remain an area of significant challenge. Suspension rates at secondary have reduced significantly overall from 46.3 per 100 pupils in 2019 to 29.8 in 2022, and for primary from 3.0 to 1.1 and are now in line with national.

Proposed Pathway Changes

14. This pathway will differ from the current model by supporting earlier, with more accurate identification, assessment, and provision to support needs. The broad differences are shown below:

Current model	Future model
When a child moves into mainstream school, from early years provision, the funding stops. An Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) may be necessary.	The funding pathway continues. Any change in need is assessed so more funding is allocated. Settings and schools work together on planning to meet need. The Local Authority oversees this and monitor's transition.
If a child's needs increase, the school will look to put an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) in place to meet need.	Any change in need is assessed so more funding is allocated. The school is supported to improve its provision so that the child makes increased progress. If alternative provision will support re-integration or access to therapeutic support, this is put in place via the new Element 3 mainstream 'top up' funding to schools process.
Where an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) is in place, but the school is still struggling to meet need, a specialist placement is sought.	An increased funding request can allow schools and settings to access 'specialist' levels of funding but can be delivered, with support, within the mainstream school.

	<p>If a child or young person is still at risk of a specialist placement, they attend a multi-agency assessment hub in order to determine an effective plan and cross- agency professional advice. This may lead to a continued mainstream placement with multi-disciplinary support or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and a specialist placement, depending on need.</p>
<p>If there are no available specialist places, the child or young person may be placed at a school outside Doncaster.</p>	<p>The child or young person may attend a local specialist placement part-time or for a limited period, which is funded through commissioned local specialist school places. They may also access a local hub for support with social, emotional or speech and communication needs. An Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) may be appropriate at this stage.</p>

Progress to Date

15. Over the last year, the council has worked with all stakeholders and multi-agency partners, including children, young people, parents and schools to develop our local strategy and implementation plan. Since the approval of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy by Cabinet in November 2022, there has been much progress in the delivery of this work. In summary:

- A number of stakeholder groups have been set up to deliver the strategy, including groups of parents and carers, children and young people, school professionals and leaders and across wider services. These have all reported into the local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) board. The iteration of priorities and objectives in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy implementation plan has been done in partnership with these local interests and also in dialogue with the Department for Education (DfE).
- Partners have developed a local appraisal of services within Doncaster, through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25, which has informed the development of priorities for the Doncaster Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) joint commissioning strategy. A wider evaluation has been developed through a partnership Self Evaluation document.

- Partners have developed a local handbook and toolkit for practitioners, aimed at ensuring a more consistent approach to identification, assessment, and intervention. This includes a new description of what should be ordinarily available in schools and the design of a new funding model which will allow a consistency of resourcing against specific levels of need within schools.
- 40 new specialist placements for children and young people with social, emotional and Mental Health needs have been developed within the borough, which will be delivered by January 2024. A broader study of local sufficiency has taken place, much of which is described below.
- A Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) employability plan has been developed which has seen the emergence of the new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Employers forum and the creation of dedicated posts within the council aimed at increasing the number of employment opportunities for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- A new General Development Pathway has supported earlier intervention for children and young people who have the potential for diagnosis of autism or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), which has supported practitioners to develop stronger initial responses to need.
- We have strengthened quality assurance of all high needs spending to ensure that all decisions are scrutinised and tested so that wherever possible young people can be supported within appropriate provisions without escalation to more expensive provision, and without the need for an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP), where appropriate. Wherever possible the panel will seek to find a mainstream funding solution, providing a package of support to a mainstream school provided that this is consistent with needs and aspirations. We expect to achieve a 20% reduction on out of area placement spending through the actions we are taking by 2026-27. We are targeting transitions in order to ensure that children have the required support to be successful at the next stage.
- We have created several school specific preventative projects, where high levels of need are likely to create pressure on the high needs block. These have been developed in a range of localities in order to offer children support at an early point, before needs escalate. For example, we have created a project at a primary school in the East, which has high mobility, deprivation, social care involvement and high Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Support numbers. We have created a specialist class within this setting, made up of children that may have become out of area placements. This is projected to cost £386,002 for 3 years but also mitigate further higher costs placements being made, whilst also keeping children within their community.
- We have already widened the specialist offer within Doncaster. A new Post 16 provision at Stonehill School will grow to 36 places within three years. This provision will prevent escalating costs within the private post 16 sector,

saving a likely £30,000 per place, building to £1,000,898 per year by year 3.

- The provision of a new class at Coppice School will support a further 24 places for children with more complex needs, including a small number who are returning from out of city placements. This is likely to bring about cost prevention of £1,800,000 per year.
- Wherever possible we are aiming for children and young people to be placed closer to home, where appropriate and when it is right for them. So far, we have supported the return of 10 young people back into Doncaster schools in order to improve outcomes, which has yielded a saving of at least £250,000.
- Our new Social, Emotional and Mental Health units, located within Doncaster schools will ensure provision that would have previously only been available out of the city. All 40 Social Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) hub places will be filled by January 2024. These places average £17,500 per year as opposed to a conservative average of £75,000 per year for out of area places. This will create a cost avoidance of £2,300,000 per year totaling £6,900,000 over 3 years. All four provisions have been commissioned on the basis that children and young people will be able to access mainstream provisions at the next key stage This will enable significant further savings, reducing the number of young people who are placed at the biggest high needs growth points (Years 7 and 12).

Proposals for Alternative Provision

16. The proposals below have been identified to extend existing provision to enable:
 - Support employability options pre-16 and increase access to employment and training at Post 16 by commissioning increased employability provision for 14–16-year-olds.
 - Extending the number of children and young people with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs who are supported into mainstream placements, and also extending the reach to support primary and secondary transitions through alternative provision.
17. Existing support is currently delivered through the Big Picture Invest contract (Big Picture Doncaster and Vega College). This contract will expire in August 2024, and the services will then be commissioned in a different way through the Doncaster Specialist Education framework, enabling a sustained offer going forward, commissioned directly for and by the Council.
18. As part of the Doncaster Growing Together Strategy 2017, an application was submitted to the Life Chances Fund for a Social Impact Bond to introduce Big Picture Learning to Doncaster. Big Picture Learning had the potential to offer a transformational new model of alternative provision into the education system in Doncaster. It is a model of learning that focuses on one student at a time, with

small class sizes and a curriculum taught in a way that is centred on the passions and interests of children and young people.

19. Learning from the first year led to a revised delivery model and a series of significant changes agreed through the Social Impact Bond Contract which gave freedom to:
 - Engage a range of delivery partners to further a new model of KS4 provision.
 - Develop a blended offer of delivery, with some learning taking place online.
 - Increase the range and scope of the cohort in order to support those who are out of education or require support at key transition phases.
 - Agree a new financial model to reflect the changes to the delivery model and cohort volumes, ultimately producing a higher quality delivery at a lower cost than previously planned.
20. To date, over 400 children and young people have accessed provision through the Big Picture Invest contract with all achieving at least one of the Payment by Result outcomes. An independent external evaluation will soon commence which will report on the successes of the Social Impact Bond contract, including impact on improved outcomes, overall levels of social mobility within the Borough and contribution to value for money savings or cost avoidance.
21. During the remainder of the Big Picture Invest contract, we will maximise all available opportunities across both provisions, with the addition of a further 10 places for KS4 in Vega College, taking the total to 35. We are further aiming to increase the numbers of young people across Key Stages 2 and 3 over the next 8 months to reach a potential of 100 places by September 2024 within the Big Picture Learning provision. This will include outreach transition support within Doncaster primary schools.
22. Funding from a Life Chances Fund (LCF) Transition Grant will enable us to design and complete a scoping project ensure current delivery partners are able to transition seamlessly out of the existing contractual arrangements. This extended project and learning from current arrangements will enable the Council to better shape and define future need across primary and secondary phases, identifying demand and establishing a sustainable Alternative Provision (AP) model thus avoiding escalating costs and ensuring that children and young people are placed in provision that better meets their needs. The aim is to ensure sustainability and continued effectiveness, embedding Big Picture and Vega College within the Doncaster education system and identify further opportunities for added value and improved outcomes for children and young people.

Capital Investment

23. Approval has already been approved for delegated decision from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Grant. The investment to support the above changes include:

- Alternative Provision £507, 212 to refurbish Hillside Academy site to support increased volume of places within the Alternative Provision sector and re-integration and engagement.
- Specialist Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital: £1,129,741 to develop Post 16 provision and £390,000 to build extra capacity within local specialist provision for those with complex need.
- Development of increased enhanced resource provision, based upon our analysis of emerging need, which is likely to be for Autistic spectrum disorder and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs. £1,200,000 of capital spend is earmarked for this purpose.
- Mainstream school Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital: £1,200,000 to support increased Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) capacity at mainstream sites, wherever possible linked to the development of innovative projects aimed to strengthen children's ability to sustain mainstream placements.

24. Impact

- We believe that the actions already introduced will enable the council to reduce placement costs by around 20% by 2026-27, thereby creating smaller in year variances over the course of the next 4 years, which will, in turn constrain high needs growth despite growing demand. We are conscious that wider system reform and shared accountability are key to further cost prevention. Our plan for this has been developed with key partners such as schools and the Department for Education and is set out within our vision and approach below. The Department holds us to account for delivery of this work through quarterly reporting and conversations with our regional Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) leads.
- We have worked with partners in schools in order to develop a set of needs indicators which will be the foundation for a fairer system, whereby there is a consistent standard of identification and assessment in all schools. This will, in turn, support the delivery of a transparent system which will make visible the level of need in each setting.
- It is expected that the proposals identified in the SEND Strategy and outlined in the analysis from the Delivering Better Value fund and action plan will stabilise high needs funding projections.

- We have estimated the savings created from the revised model of provision as approach as set out in the report is shown below:

<u>High Needs Block Funding</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2025/26</u>	<u>2026/27</u>
Key Stage 3 Early Intervention placements	606,004	1,463,345	1,489,504	1,534,189
Key Stage 3 and 4 Alternative Provision	1,709,683	1,804,865	1,879,826	2,226,452
Key Stage 2 Re-engagement and preventative and early intervention places	1,893,035	802,539	826,615	851,414
Specialist autism and hospital education	1,368,965	1,617,682	1,666,213	1,716,199
Additional Post 16 placements	245,667	464,040	813,960	871,604
Additional specialist placements for complex needs	120,040	482,987	497,477	512,401
Out of Area savings from Alternative Provision	0	-350,000	-950,000	-1,550,000
Out of area savings Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision	0	-600,000	-600,000	-600,000
Out of Area Complex specialist provision	-69,112	-250,868	-250,868	-250,868
Post 16 savings	0	-712,215	-1,068,322	-1,240,632
TOTAL	5,874,282	4,722,374	4,304,404	4,070,757
Previous total costs (at quarter 1)	5,609,963	4,741,789	5,803,182	6,201,296
Savings per year from changes	264,320	-19,415	-1,498,777	-2,130,539

25. A further £2,000,000 of savings has been estimated from September 2025, as the impact of the 'Delivering Better Value' programme is realised reducing demand due to more effective universal services. The overall impacts of this work is modelled in the financial implications below.



OPTIONS CONSIDERED

26. To approve the new approach and model - recommended option.
27. To continue with existing landscape of provision, which is not financially sustainable and does not currently meet the range of needs in Doncaster.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION


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

29. IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change	X			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Improving the range of local provision will ensure that less young people will have to travel out of borough for school. This will, in turn, limit the amount of transport that is provided by the council, thereby limiting ecological impacts.</p>				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work	X			


Comments:

This work will ensure that educational provision is more effective in developing the skills of our children and young people. It will also create a new landscape of employment and training opportunities for young people when they leave school.

 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs	X			
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Comments:

As part of this strategy, we will work with training providers and employers to ensure that young people with special needs or disabilities are able to access meaningful and successful employment in later life.

 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all	X			
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Comments:

The partnership will improve joint planning and commissioning arrangements in order to ensure that health provision is timely and appropriate for children and young people.

 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				X
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Comments:

Ensuring a stronger system of local provision will limit transport to out of city settings.


 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough	X			
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Comments:

This principle is key to our work in supporting schools to deliver improved practices to work with families to meet the needs of young people at an earlier point. This strategy will build relational practice across the borough.

 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				X
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Comments:
Not directly relevant

 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				X
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Comments:
Not directly relevant

Fair & Inclusive	X			
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Comments:
Fairness and inclusivity underpin the core principles of this strategy. Young people have a right to a high-quality education and to employment, regardless of their needs. This strategy aims to build the skills and awareness across Doncaster that will deliver enhanced inclusion so that young people with special needs or disabilities can access education, close to home, with their peers.

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: HP | Date: 11/10/2023]

30. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may generally do. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to purchase goods and services. The Council must comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 when implementing the amendments to the contractual arrangements set out at paragraph 20.
31. A local authority has a number of specific statutory duties to children and young people. S17 of the Children Act 1989 provides that it shall be the general duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their

area who are in need; and so far, as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs. Under the Education Act 1996 the Council as an education authority has a duty to promote high standards of education and fair access to education. It also has a general duty to secure sufficient school in their area, and to consider the need to secure provision for children with special educational needs. The Authority has a number of legal duties regarding children with special educational needs. It has a duty to identify and assess the special educational needs of children and young people for whom they are responsible. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, the Authority must consider how the child or young person can be supported to facilitate their development and to help them achieve their educational and other outcomes. The statutory guidance 'SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years' provides further details on the duties. There is also specific statutory guidance on Alternative Provision that should be followed.

32. The decision maker must also be aware of the Council's obligations under the public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It requires public authorities when exercising their functions to have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not. The relevant protected characteristics under the Equality Act are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. This has particular relevance to children and young people who have a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
33. Any recommendations expressed by the Panel regarding this matter would require further advice and consideration before implementation.

34. Financial Implications [Officer Initials: SB | Date: 09/10/2023]

Revenue Implications

Changes resulting from details identified in this cabinet report are projected to cost £0.26m in 23/24 and then save -£0.02m in 24/25, -£1.50m in 25/26 & -£2.13m in 26/27. This amounts to a total reduction in the current projected high needs block Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) overall deficit by the end of 26/27 of -£3.38m. This is set out in the table shown within paragraph 23 above. Table A below shows the associated expected impact on place numbers.

Table A – gross changes to place numbers in settings expected to arise from recommendations of cabinet report:

<u>High Needs Block Funding</u>	2023/24 April 23	2023/24 Sept 23	2024/25 April 24	2024/25 Sept 24	2025/26 April 25	2025/26 Sept 25	2026/27 April 26	2026/27 - Sept 26
Key Stage 3 Early Intervention placements	25	25	100 (maximum from Jan 24)	100	100	100	100	100
Key Stage 3 and 4 Alternative Provision	73	73	83	86	86	99	99	124
Key Stage 2 Preventative Places	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
Specialist autism and Hospital Education	57	57	67	67	67	67	67	67
Additional Post 16 placements	0	0	0	27	27	54	54	66
Additional specialist placements for complex needs	0	0	24	24	24	24	24	24
Out Of Area Savings from Alternative Provision	0	0	0	-10	-10	-20	-20	-30
Out Of Area Savings Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Provision	0	0	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10
Out Oof Area Complex specialist provision	0	0	0	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3
Post 16 savings	0	0	0	-12	-12	-24	-24	-24
TOTAL	187	187	296	301	301	319	319	346

Longer Term placements excluding Key Stage 3 Early Intervention placements	162	162	196	225	201	243	243	270
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35. As part of the review of the High needs block Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) the assumption regarding savings as a result of the 'Delivering Better Value' work, with indicative savings of c.£2m identified by Newtons/CIPFA, has been amended to start from Sept 2025 (with the impact of the work with schools to embed into practice and reduce costs, generally around high cost out of authority placements expected to be felt from that point). This offsets the above savings of -£3.38m by £2.83m, when compared to the quarter 1 of 23/24 position.
36. The revised overall High Needs Block dedicated schools grant, in year and cumulative balances, are shown in the summary Table B below, with an overall change to the cumulative deficit by March 2027 of -£0.72m.
37. The impact of the changes from this report are greatest by 26/27 at which point the in-year deficit is projected to have reduced to £2.8m, from the previously reported position at quarter 1 of £5.1m.
38. Whilst this report uses figures as reported to cabinet at quarter 1 of 2023/24 as the base point to which changes arising from this report are then summarised (in table B) the overall high needs block DSG position will be updated quarterly and further reported to cabinet in the quarterly finance monitoring report with the next update being for quarter 2 due at Cabinet on the 6th December.
39. A number of key assumptions have been made with the service, when looking at the High Needs Block future predictions, which are summarised below.
 - The new provision extensions set out in the recommendations, identified in paragraph 20, for Key stage 2, 3 and 4 Alternative Provision (AP) numbers are due to increase overall to 100 with provision moving onto the Specialist Education (SE) framework from September 24 when current expectation is for it to be commissioned directly at that point. The places at Big Picture from January 24 to August 24 are expected to increase up to 100, including transition support, with estimated payments to be based on outcomes in line with current contract. An estimate of 60 places (40 inreach and 20 outreach) to be provided from Jan 24 and 100 places (40 inreach and 60 outreach) places from April 24, with the report setting out up to 100 places maximum attracting outcomes payments). These additional places and outreach support to pupils are expected to mitigate any further Special Educational Needs (SEN) Out of Area net growth. Earlier intervention and assessment expected to identify and provide young people with additional support to be able to remain within mainstream school, however there is

also an assumption that current Alternative Provision (AP) places will still be required to support mainstream school earlier in the system.

- Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) top up funding for mainstream schools is expected to be fully devolved from September 2024 with baseline funding expected to be set at current 23/24 level (£6.7m) plus inflation.
- Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) funding for tuition, alternative provision (AP) or other provision for Special Educational Needs (SEN) children assumed to continue at 23/24 levels plus inflation.
- Special school funding (pre-16) and additional top up (for needs above regular top-up funding amounts) are not projected to increase in future years i.e. continue at 23/24 levels plus inflation.
- Key Stage 2 preventative places currently being funded are to reduce from 24/25 following transitional funding period to March 24.
- Specialist autism and hospital funding to remain the same with no growth in places except up to 10 additional places identified within the report from April 24.
- Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) Hub's funding agreed for 40 places at 4 schools following 23/24 academic year opening, with savings already included against Special Educational Needs (SEN) out of authority placements from reducing net growth through avoidance of placements through use of placements in these Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) provisions.
- Additional post 16 provision of 36 places which would make a direct savings against post 16 Specialist Post-16 Institution (SPI).
- Entering into any contracts for additional provisions mentioned within the report are still subject to separate decision records in line with Councils Financial Procedure rules, linking also to any associated capital investment required. Additional placements in existing provisions or through the existing alternative provision framework will be considered as part of individual children's' placement panel decisions.
- Internal staff teams funded through the high needs block Designated Schools Grant (DSG) funding are currently expected to remain at current staffing levels with any reductions arising through partners in Doncaster developing an alternative model as mentioned in the report would need to be costed separately when known, or reviews that may arise through 'Delivering Better Value' (DBV) work to offset £2m 'Delivering Better Value' (DBV) saving included above.
- It is assumed that the High Needs block funding from government will only increase by 3% in future years as per Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

The capital budget setting report mentioned within this report

Table B – revised position on High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant

Description	2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's
Designated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block grant (after deductions)	41,173	47,761	49,672	51,389	53,158
High Needs Block expenditure	48,613	53,743	54,956	55,091	56,038
In year High Needs Block variance (less other Designated Schools Grant (DSG) underspends)	6,186	5,981	5,285	3,702	2,880
Overall DSG Balance	20,003	26,046	31,331	35,033	37,914

Capital Implications

40. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy cabinet report approved by cabinet on the 16th November 2022 agreed to delegate decisions around how to allocate the balance of capital funding within the terms and conditions of the grant, alongside other associated revenue decisions to the Director Children, Young People and Families and the Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Young People.
41. Any capital decisions detailed within this report will require approval of a separate Officer Decision record in conjunction with the approval given within the above cabinet decision.
42. Doncaster City Council has received a High Needs Capital Grant of £8,140,934 over the period 2021-22 to 2023-24 to be spent on High Needs Capital Projects, which will cover the proposed estimated capital investment of £4.4m, detailed within paragraph 22 of this report, summarised in table below:

Proposed capital investment costs (subject to approval)	£
To refurbish Hillside Academy.	507,212
To develop Post 16 provision and build extra capacity within local specialist provision for those with complex need.	1,519,741

Development of increased enhanced resource provision (Autistic spectrum disorder and SEMH).	1,200,000
To support increased SEND capacity at mainstream sites.	1,200,000
	4,426,953

Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: JC | Date: 10/10/2023]

43. There are no direct HR implications associated with this report

Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW | Date: 11/10/2023]

44. Digital and ICT have been working with the third-party supplier to implement the EHCP online portal. There are no other specific technology implications relating to this report. However, Digital and ICT must be consulted where there are any arising technology implications to support the future vision, approach and model for developing equitable and inclusive education.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

45. **Risk:** Actions within this strategy will not be delivered on time and this will exacerbate existing pressures.

Mitigation: Our implementation plan sets out clear milestones and outcomes which are monitored by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Learning Provision and Organisation Boards. Where there is doubt regarding delivery of buildings, mitigations will be built into plans to ensure that cohorts are not without provision if a lag occurs.

CONSULTATION

46. Consultation has taken place formally through Autumn 22 and Spring 23 with all key stakeholders. We have continued to do this via our head teachers' groups, partnership meetings and sessions with parents, carers and young people. We will also work with key strategic groups such as Schools Forum in order to further gain views on these developments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

47. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy Cabinet Report March 2023 -

<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s39633/CYP%20OS%20SEND%20Final%20Update%20160323.pdf>

November 2022: Cabinet report. Doncaster SEND Strategy:

48. GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Social emotional and mental health (SEMH)
- Multi-academy trust (MAT),
- Department for Education (DFE)
- Alternative Provision (AP)
- Specialist Education (SE)
- Doncaster Delivering Together (DDT)
- Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)
- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
- Mental Health Support Teams (MHST)
- General Developmental Assessment (GDA)
- Further Education (FE)
- Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

49. REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Martyn Owen, Head of Service SEND Transformation

Martyn.owen@doncaster.gov.uk

Jane Reed, Head of Education and Skills

Jane.cresswell@doncaster.gov.uk

Leanne Hornsby, Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Leanne.hornsby@doncaster.gov.uk

Riana Nelson
Director, Children, Young People and Families

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 8.

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 –

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 • 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer Experience Strategy (c) 	<p>Cancelled Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 2pm, Sheffield</p>			
	<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"> 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) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Localities Community Prevention Model 				
	<p>Monday 27th November 2023 at 3pm MS Teams (CM)</p>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairness and Wellbeing Commission 				
	<p>Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 9am, Council Chamber (CM)</p>	<p>Thursday 7th December 2023 at 2pm, Sheffield (CM)</p>	<p>Thursday 7th December 2023 at 4.30pm, Council Chamber (CR)</p>		<p>Thursday 7th December 2023 at 10am, MS Teams (CR)</p>

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
	<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"> Street Scene and Enforcement (c)
Jan	<p>Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 10am Briefing Session MS Teams/Council Chamber (CM/CR)</p>	<p>Thursday 18th January 2024 at 10am, Sheffield CC or MS Teams (TBC)</p>			<p>Monday 22nd January 2024 at 10am Council Chamber Briefing session TBC</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Corporate Plan (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Heatwave Update TBC Future Parks Scheme (c)
Feb	<p>Thursday 1st February 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM/CR)</p>	<p>8th February 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM/CR TBC)</p>			<p>Thursday 15th February 2024 at 10am Crime & Disorder Committee, Council Chamber (CR)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Corporate Plan (c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Care Board – invite Primary Care Access recovery plan for Doncaster area Pharmacy access, demands and national position Oral health to include Dentistry access, demands and national position 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Doncaster Partnership
	<p>Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber</p>	<p>Thursday 15th February 2024 at 10am, Sheffield CC or MS Teams (TBC)</p>			
		<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	<p>Thursday 28th March 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and Performance (invite to Cabinet Members N Ball and G Jones) <p>Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan update – informal session following the above meeting.</p>	<p>Thursday 21st March 2024 at 2pm, Council Chamber (CM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Protection Annual Report 	<p>Thursday 14th March 2024 at 4.30pm, Council Chamber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social care demand management and child neglect 	<p>Thursday 7th March 2024 at 2pm, Council Chamber</p> <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)	Dementia – possible visit to local groups re: access for people who suffer with dementia;	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	Consultations from Directorates as required - Adult social care peer review outcome	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?	Work Experience, NEET, work opportunities for SEND – include visit to cafe	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
CR or CM– Officer Responsible

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

				(including supported living accommodation)	
	Update on Community Prevention Model requested at 7 th November meeting	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		Investment in apprenticeships re: retro-fitting and new heat pump systems (raised at Panel on 19 th october 2023)	
		Learning Disability and Autism Strategy review late 2023/24 work plan programme			
		Health and Well-being Strategy late 2023 / early 2024			
		RDaSH – Strategy moving forward – possible invite to address outcomes and difference being made for future delivery			
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	

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

				Outcomes from the OT medical assessment how it impacts on housing waiting lists (health panel undertook dedicated meeting in 2022/23)	
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DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1ST DECEMBER, 2023 TO 31ST MARCH, 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: XXXXXX 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 Dec 2023	Additional Funding for the Specialist Safeguarding Investigation	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care and Equalities	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care and Equalities	Riana Nelson, Director of Children, Young People and Families (DCS) riana.nelson@doncaster.gov.uk		Part exempt
6 Dec 2023	To designate key sites in Doncaster as part of the South Yorkshire Investment Zone, including a Business Rate Retention opportunity. (RULE 15 DECISION)	Mayor Ros Jones	Cabinet	Jonathan Bucknall, Head of Strategic Investment and External Funding jonathan.bucknall@doncaster.gov.uk	South Yorkshire Investment Zone Designation and Business Rate Retention Opportunity Covering Report	Open
6 Dec 2023	To support the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order for the alleyways across the Borough.	Councillor Joe Blackham, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement	Portfolio holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement	Nancy Byrne, Community Safety Officer Nancy.byrne@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
6 Dec 2023	Acceptance of the funding award of £2.7m from the South	Councillor Glyn Jones,	Cabinet	Richard J Smith, Head of		Open

	Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Gainshare.	Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business.		Sustainability richardj.smith@doncaster.gov.uk		
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	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 authorise the Carers' local account (entitled Local Carers' Journey, 2023/2024) which describes what we achieved in 2022 - 2023 and priorities agreed with Doncaster people for the year ahead.	Councillor Sarah Smith, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Cabinet	Bal Mohammad, Contracts Officer, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Tel: 01302736577 Bal.Mohammed@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
17 Jan 2024	To approve the following admission arrangements for the 2025/26 Academic Year:- Community School Admission Arrangements; Community School Nursery Admission Arrangements; Primary Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements; Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Ar	Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Portfolio Holder for Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People	Cabinet	Neil McAllister, School Organisation Manager neil.mcallister@doncaster.gov.uk	School Admission Arrangements 2024/25 - Cabinet Report 1 February 2023	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 faye.tyas@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
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 Rebecca.Hardwick@doncaster.gov.uk		Open

26 Feb 2024	To approve the level of the Council Tax for 2024/25 and to pass appropriate statutory resolutions including the Council Tax requirement for 2024/25.	Mayor Ros Jones	Council	Alan Stoves, Head of Revenues and Benefits Tel: 01302 735585 Alan.stoves@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
13 Mar 2024	Quarter 3 2023-24 Finance and Performance Report.	Councillor Phil Cole, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Traded Services and Planning, Mayor Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy	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
13 Mar 2024	St. Leger Homes Performance Report 2022/23 Quarter 3.	Councillor Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business.	Cabinet	Julie Crook Tel: 01302 862705		Open

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