



## Agenda

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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, 14th March, 2024

**Time:** 4.30 pm

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**Damian Allen**  
**Chief Executive**

Issued on: Wednesday, 6 March 2024

**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 meeting held on 7th December 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. Children's Social Care Demand Management and Neglect (*Pages 9 - 24*)
  7. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan and the Councils Forward Plan of Key Decisions (*Pages 25 - 38*)

## **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Chair – Councillor Leanne Hempshall

Vice-Chair – Councillor Tim Needham

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

Co-optees\*: Antoinette Drinkhill and Bernadette Nesbitt

Invitees: Georgina Lightfoot UNISON

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

# Agenda Item 4.

## CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2023

A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2023 at 4.30 PM

#### PRESENT:

Chair – Councillor Tim Needham, Vice-Chair in the Chair

Councillors Bob Anderson, Laura Bluff, Susan Durant, Charlie Hogarth and Tracey Moran

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leanne Hornsby, Assistant Director, Children Young People and Families  
Martyn Owen, Head of Service SEND Transformation  
Jane Reed, Head of Service Education and Skills

#### APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leanne Hempshall and Steve Cox and Antoinette Drinkhill (Church of England Education Representative)

		<u>ACTION</u>
9.	<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 where the public and press were to be excluded from the meeting.	Note
10.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.	Note
11.	<u>MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER 2023</u>	
	<b>RESOLVED:-</b> that the minutes of the meeting dated 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the safeguarding and protection of children in schools paragraph being amended to read as follows:	Note

	<p>“Concerns were raised by a Youth Councillor with regard to accessing drinking water in schools and agreed this would be investigated. 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.”</p>	
12.	<p><u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u></p>	
	<p>There were no public in attendance at the meeting and no public statements.</p>	
13.	<p><u>EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT OUTCOMES FOR ALL KEY STAGES 2023</u></p>	
	<p><u>Achievement across all phases compared with 2019</u> – a Panel Member referred to paragraph 9 of the report where data showed achievement had either been sustained or surpassed and highlighted this was a testament to the hard work of the children and young people who achieved these results. Members continued by questioning if there were any notable surprises in setting/school results and if yes, why?</p> <p>In response it was explained that this cohort was the most impacted by Covid due to there being no mitigation with assessment. Some schools had sustained achievement and there had been a slight decline in others whilst some sustained the same level. The Panel was assured that the Local Authority was supporting schools where education had been lost in populations that were impacted by the pandemic. It was noted that some Doncaster schools had sustained and showed significant improvement with educational outcomes that were serving areas with high levels of deprivation and disadvantage, flipping trends.</p> <p><u>Progress 8 and being in line with the national average</u> – It was explained to the Panel that Progress 8 scores being in line with average outlined that pupils made typical levels of progress through secondary school given their outcomes at Key Stage 2. Members noted it related to starting points, if they were below average at KS2, typical progress meant that pupils remained below average at the end of KS4.</p> <p><u>Outcomes for pupils with EHCPs / SEND</u> – a Member questioned why pupils with SEN support were not in line with national average when those with EHCPs were. It was explained that this was an historical issue and the position was not as positive as had been wished, however, some progress had been made. The Panel was informed that this issue linked to the next report on the agenda, where historically the primary priority was to drive intervention to ensure support was available, however, intervention was required at a very early stage with schools identifying need at the earliest opportunity. To achieve early intervention, through the Strategy, a new infrastructure</p>	<p>A chart detailing regional results be provided to the Panel.</p>

<p>was being developed to provide a strong mechanism within schools, with professional development being provided, a consistent approach being sort and ensuring resources were available for pupils.</p> <p><u>Validated results from KS5</u> – It was noted that there had been a great uptake of more technical qualifications. The Panel acknowledged Doncaster’s validated results in the report but requested that once the figures from other Local Authorities were available that they be forwarded to Members.</p> <p><u>Phonics results</u> – the Panel was pleased to note that Doncaster was 1% above the national average and that the English Hub support had made an impact. In response to a query relating to all schools participating with the hub, it was explained that there were a variety of approaches being applied with schools as part of the Reading, Writing and Maths Strategy. It was noted that RWM Doncaster linked with two of the English Hubs with some schools receiving more intensive support whilst others had a more light touch. It was reported that the Local Authority was also working with the National Literacy Trust.</p> <p><u>Key Stage 1 reading, writing and maths</u> – in response a question relating to schools closing the gap between local and national results, it was explained that schools had employed a variety of measures to address this, with a recent Read Write strategy training event been well attended. Intensive and comprehensive South Yorkshire Talking Together training package in Early Years that was offered at a universal and targeted level. Read Write Maths Doncaster has also delivered word aware in a number of schools to develop children’s vocabulary helping them to access the curriculum more effectively and raising attainment.</p> <p>It was noted that the Local Authority assessment and moderation offer for writing which had primarily focused on the statutory assessment years but would now be expanded to cover all year groups in primary. It was stressed that children need the right intervention at the right time.</p> <p>The Panel noted the great examples in schools where improvement was already happening, with schools supporting each other and when something worked well it was shared no matter the designation.</p> <p><u>Key Stage 2 Reading</u> – In response to a question relating to work being undertaken to support schools in ensuring pupils became secure and developed mastery, it was explained that reading at the end of the KS2 was assessed by a comprehension paper. Every year the marks were allocated to a threshold so the children need to get a certain amount of questions right to meet the threshold. Some children miss this threshold and to support, ongoing work was being undertaken in schools to develop the reading curriculum across every year group. This included the love of reading, decoding, understanding and</p>	<p>Validated results from other local authorities be forwarded to the Panel when available.</p>
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	<p>discussion about text.</p> <p><u>Outcomes for Looked After Children</u> – Members stressed the good news with regard to the significant improvement for children at early years, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. It was noted that strategies in place appeared to be working but it was stressed that cohort numbers could change significantly and sometimes the children at this stage in their lives could be playing catch up, but it was very positive that education outcomes were improving.</p> <p><u>Results when using mock examination programmes</u> – It was noted that most secondary schools had robust mock examination processes in place but the internal data was not available and therefore difficult to evaluate the impact of school results. The Local Authority had the assurance that teacher assessments had been correct during Covid, when assessing outcomes for 2023.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> That the Panel reviewed and noted the educational outcomes and data contained within the report.</p>	<p>When reports were number heavy graphs and charts be provided to accompany the data</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p><u>EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL</u></p>	
	<p><u>Monitoring and supporting the proposed pathway changes</u> – to support the elements detailed within the proposed model, assessments needed to be undertaken therefore work was being carried out within educational settings. This ensured children’s needs were being met, by working in tandem with schools to make sure clear pathways were in place, and if required accessing and pooling intelligence and resources. It was stressed that partners were committed, united with a strong wish to make the collaboration work. It was noted that the project funding was being provided by the Department for Education.</p> <p>With regard to costs associated with out of authority placements, it was acknowledged that provision and costs would be more controllable where provision was available in local authority settings and was an area being addressed within the school sector, to provide and offer high quality placements for children. Unit costs for placements in comparison to out of authority placements were significantly lower.</p> <p>It was stressed that if needs were met at the right time it would provide a significant measure and hopefully avoid future out of authority placements. The panel noted that out of authority placements were a challenge for everyone and the positive news that the different</p>	

approaches would benefit both children but also costs associated with current and future provision, was accepted.

Social, Emotional Mental health hub places – it was explained that one hub had opened and a further 3 were due to open in spring. The Panel accepted that with any project there could be delays and noted, that due to recent weather, additional flood risk surveys had to be undertaken.

The Local Authority was working with families and schools to ensure the right provision was in place, making an impact and enriching opportunities for young people.

With regard to concern that capacity could outreach demand, it was noted that need was being managed and the pressure for placements would remain.

In response to a query relating to whether the hubs were available for children being home educated, it was explained that the child needed to be detailed on a school roll or it would be classed as an unregistered provision. Advice and guidance would be provided by the Attendance Team if this was the case.

Stakeholders and partners delivering the SEND Strategy – It was explained that the following groups developed and deliver on the Strategy:

Local Area SEND Board (including representatives from each key stakeholder group including children, young people, parents, health leads, schools and trusts from all sectors);  
SEND Engine Room (council, parents and health);  
Parents 'Making the Difference' sessions (6 weekly);  
Children and Young People's SEND Board;  
Head Teacher's SEND Strategy Group;  
Head Teachers Briefings;  
SENCO Steering Group;  
Schools Forum;  
Head Teachers SEND Funding group; and  
SENCO Needs Descriptors Group;

The local authority also consulted widely on the development of the strategy, working with the Department for Education and have shared key documents with OFSTED. A parental survey was currently being undertaken prior to an update of the strategy.

High Needs Block Overspend – in response to concern expressed it was explained that some high cost placements were absolutely necessary, but developing facilities within Doncaster would ensure children were closer to home. It was stressed that the key work described in the report would make a difference in the long term, eg.

	<p>fair funding, early investment, a stronger range of preventative measures, improved sufficiency and stronger capability / accountability.</p> <p>The Local Authority had a clear deficit reduction plan and was working with the DfE to ensure it was fair and realistic. It was noted that there was a £3.5 billion shortfall nationally with many local authorities were struggling to reduce the deficit.</p> <p><u>Stonehill’s new Post 16 provision</u> – the Panel acknowledged that this was an amazing programme. It was noted that the work with Stonehill was very exciting and that conversations were regularly held to hear about experiences and what could be improved. The Local Authority was working with Stonehill on a number of projects and reviewing future provision. The specific number of employment training places was unknown at this point but there were a significant number of employers working with the school and keen to engage.</p> <p>There was currently significant work ongoing and in it’s early stages, it was therefore proposed that an update on the issue be provided at a future meeting in 2025.</p> <p><u>Education Act</u> – In response to concern expressed it was explained that the Local Authority had been adhering to the Education Act with regard to promoting high standards and fair access to education. What the report highlighted was the Local Authority going beyond what was the statutory duty and to do more for Doncaster’s young people. It was explained that the Doncaster had made a conscious effort to ensure specialist placements for young people were available and improvements delivered, whilst the Panel noted growth in demand had increased fourfold since 2020. It was stressed that historically better decisions could have been made which would have prepared Doncaster for challenges that had followed the 2014 Code of Practice, the impacts of Covid and school academisation.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the changes implemented to date and impact be noted; and</li> <li>2) the future overall approach detailed within the report, including the impact on future savings and cost avoidance, be noted.</li> </ol>	<p>Work undertaken with Stonehill be considered by the Panel in March 2025</p>
15.	<p><b><u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN AND COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS</u></b></p>	
	<p>The Senior Governance Officer presented the Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan and Council’s Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the Panel’s information.</p> <p>The Vice-Chair proposed that the Panel request an update from an</p>	<p>Note</p>



earlier Panel recommendation relating to training being made compulsory in the future for drivers on school transport routes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).	
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<b><u>RESOLVED:-</u></b> That a request be made for an update to be provided to the Panel, on an earlier Panel recommendation relating to training being made compulsory in the future for drivers on school transport routes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).	
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### Report

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Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

### Report Title: Childrens Social Care Demand Management and Neglect

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
<p>Councillor Lani-Mae Ball Lead Member for Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People</p> <p>Councillor Rachel Blake Lead member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities</p>	All	No

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

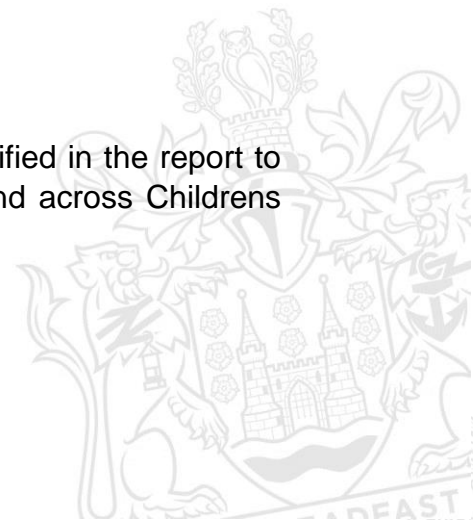
1. The purpose of this report is to consider demand and the impact of neglect on both a national and local level. The report reflects on some the key levers currently impacting on demand at all key stages of a child's journey through the social care system, acknowledging those that can be managed and influenced locally and those which cannot. Key areas of local work and practice which are aimed to safely reduce demand and ensure children and their family's needs are met earlier are also identified.

### EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the content of the report is noted, and the actions identified in the report to safely reduce demand and ensure best value linked to spend across Childrens Social Care are understood.



## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

4. The citizens of Doncaster will be assured that children and families in need of help and protection have their needs met at the right level of support and intervention. That the council and partners understand the drivers of demand for help and intervention and through working closely with partners, ensure this demand is managed and responded to wherever possible at the right level.
5. This will be supported by the Multi agency Neglect strategy and priority focus Neglect under the Doncaster Childrens Safeguarding Partnership. The aim is to have a well-informed multi agency proportionate response to need and especially neglect. This includes ensuring recognition of the casual link between the cost of living challenges, poverty, and an increase in concerning parental factors which can lead to neglect and that services work closely together to respond to need and take action to protect where necessary.

## **BACKGROUND**

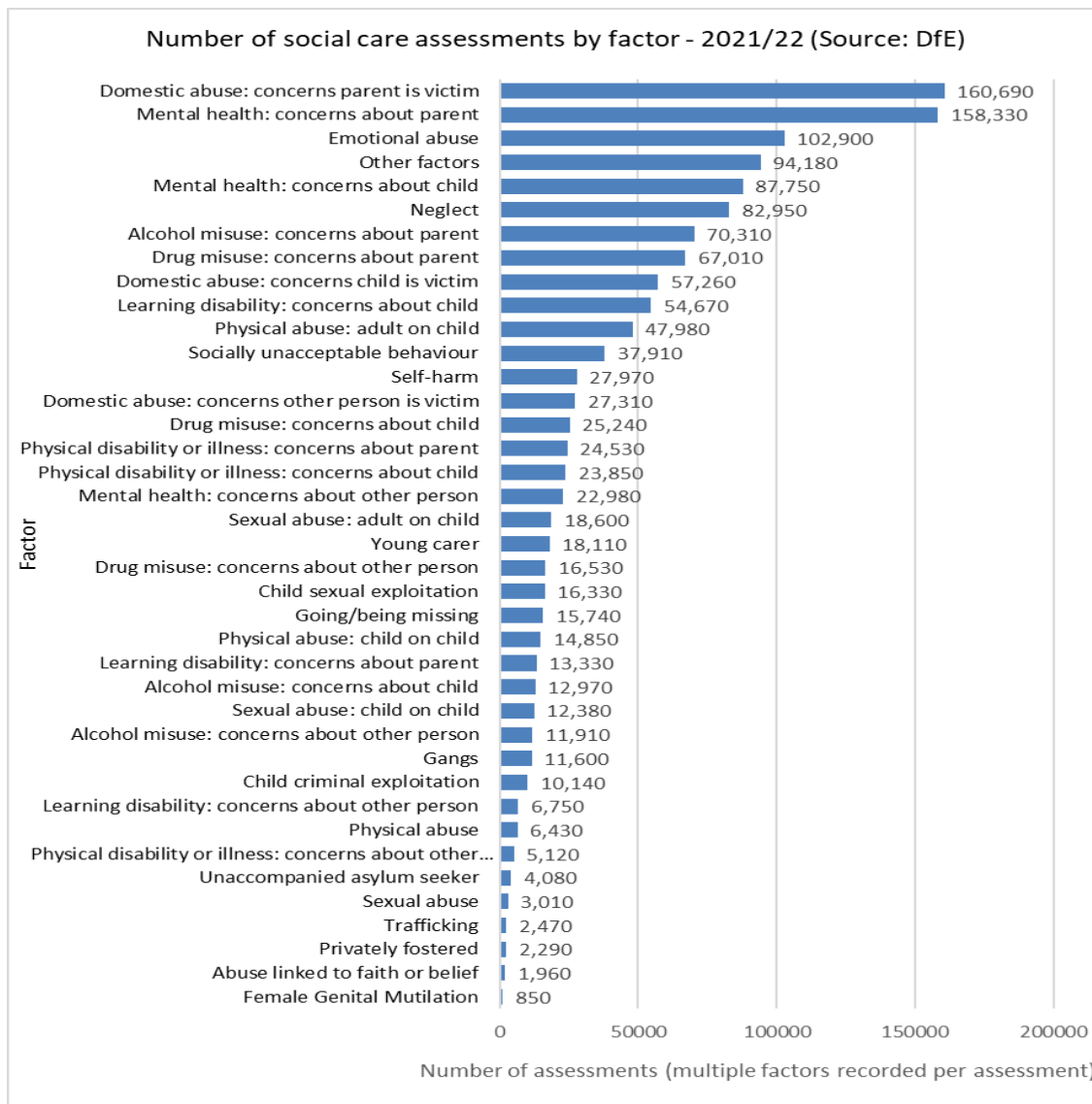
6. National Context – In the past 2 years there have been significant changes in the context children and families are living in at a local and national level. As a result, all Local Authority Councils have had to respond to how they meet need, with increasing changing demand with a reduced and finite resource. This has impacted on the services in operation as Doncaster, like other councils has had to dynamically act to respond. The ADCS pressures report in 2022 highlighted the view that Legislation and policies steered by central government left gaps where action needed to be progressed, which then created pressures and demand that Local Government has needed to manage. These pressures have been further exacerbated by the post covid recovery and the significant changes in cost of living.
7. These gaps have manifested nationally and locally as surges in demand around children social care linked to increased rates of contacts, assessment, initial child protection processes, and subsequently flowed through with higher numbers of children and family needing acute support creating pressures on care placements and increasing instability for some of Doncaster's most vulnerable children. An additional national and local factor has been the challenges recruiting an experienced social work qualified and residential workforce to support us to meet need at the right level and offer care and support local to Doncaster.
8. The newly published Working Together 2023, Practice Framework and Kinship care policy are the biggest policy shifts in years and they will have a national, regional, and local impact. The changes shine a light on what we already know here in Doncaster; that being with family is the best environment for children; that we want to work to develop services that ensure wherever it is safe and possible to do so children remain with their families and where and when we have to care we provide the best care and support as local to home as possible.

## **Poverty and its impact on families**

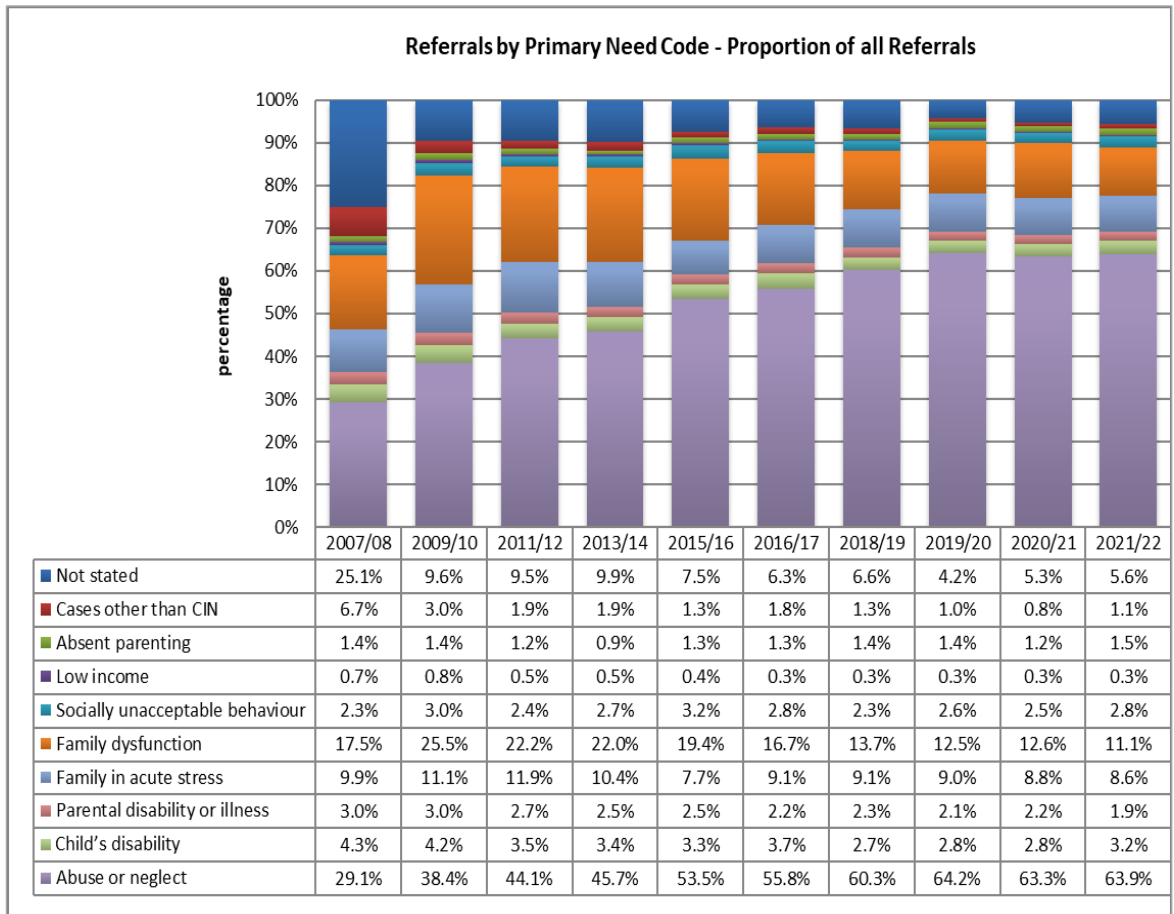
9. As we consider demand and the link with Neglect it is key to understand the impact of poverty. The impact of welfare reforms and the national lack of affordable secure housing are contributing to the increased the numbers of children living in poverty and at risk of adverse childhood experiences. This is a significant determinant of increased demand for early help and social care services. The Indices of Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income-deprived families (MHCLG, 2020). The contributory causal link between deprivation, the need for family support, and statutory children's social care interventions is well established. Doncaster ranks 41 in the ranking for deprivation (2019 IMD).
  
10. The Department for Work and Pensions (2022a) report that more than one in five children are living in poverty. In 2020/21, there were 2.92 million children and young people aged 0-19 living in relative low-income households compared to 2.7 million two years ago. 81% of these are under 16 years old. However geographic variations are significant as the proportion of children living in low-income households in individual LAs varies from 3% to 42%. In May 2022, there were 3.6 million UK households with at least one child in claiming universal credit (DWP, 2022b).

## **A national snapshot on demand through the lens of Neglect**

11. The chart below reflects a national picture through the DfE data set linked to assessment and where the presenting need is recognised as Neglect.



12. As the graph indicates there are varying factors that over the years have changed in their prevalence and this is linked to broader and better understanding of the impact that parental factors impact on children. Before instead of naming neglect these were identified as family dysfunction or mental health, drug, or alcohol use. That neglect is being named more shows professionals understand the impact on the child/ren and this is key in supporting and empowering families to understand why Children Social Care (CSC) have to become involved in working to address parental factors as this limits the negative causal impact of Neglect. In 2022, 77% of LA's responding to the safeguarding pressures survey said parental factors, such as parental, health, domestic abuse and substance or alcohol misuse has a high to moderate impact on demand.
  
13. The graph below shows this shift, with an increase in referrals citing abuse of Neglect as the presenting need. The graph also reflects the shift in CSC focusing services on more acute need, with most Local Authorities ensuring there is a clear application of threshold for CSC support.

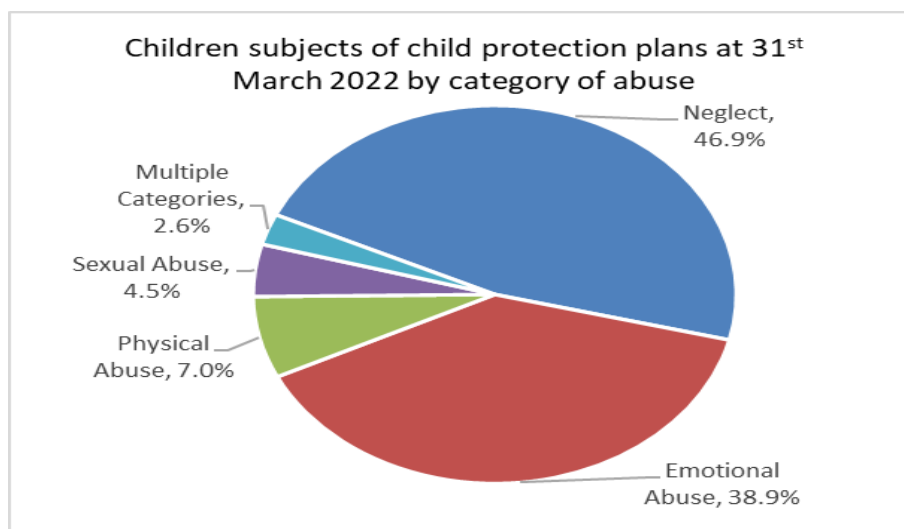


*Referrals by category of need – proportion of all referrals (Source: ADCS Safeguarding Pressures Report Phase 8 2022; respondents, = 117 out of 152 respondents)*

14. The DfE report that the number of Children in need as of 31 March 2023, stood at 403,090 a reduction to 1200 (0.3%) since 2022, however the number of assessments had increased by 1.6%.
15. The DfE report that the Number of children as of 31 March 2023, assessed as being at risk of harm and becoming the subject of a child protection plan stood at 50,780. This was a reduction of 100 (0.3%) since 2022.

## Child Protection plans by category of abuse

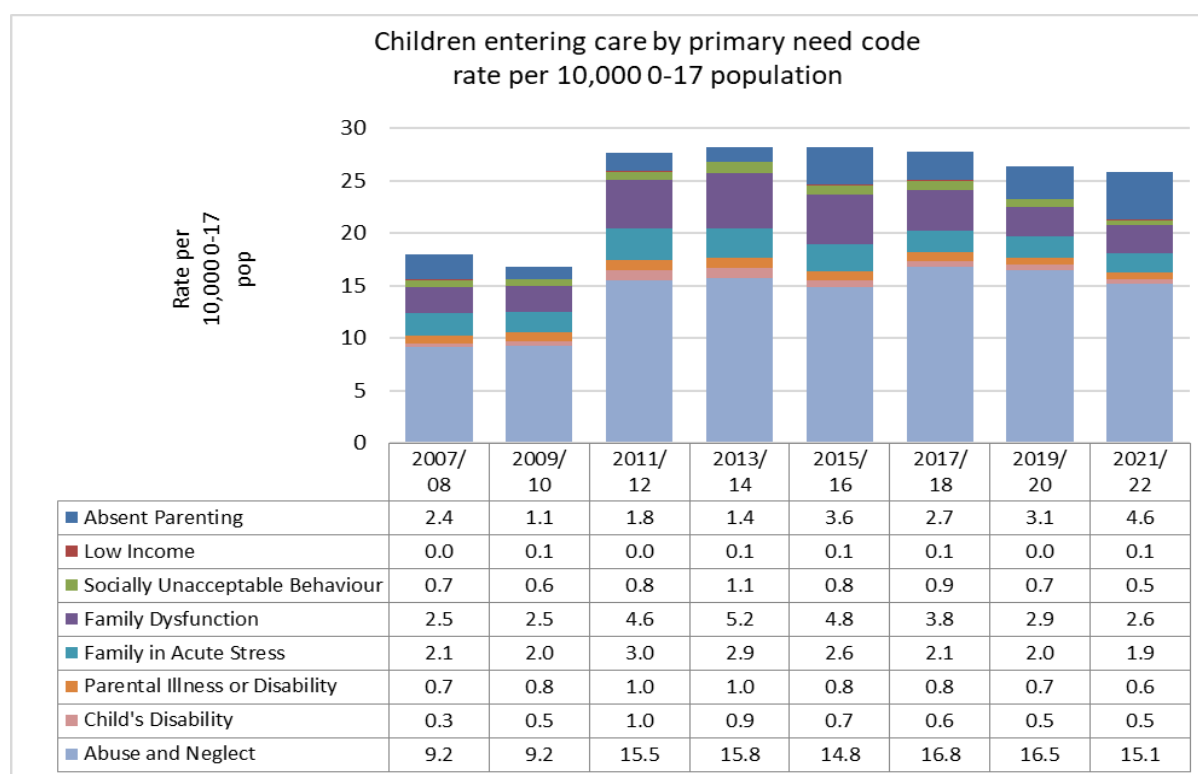
16.



17. The ADCS Safeguarding pressures national report highlighted that from the data shared by a 123 LA's, more children were subject of a child protection plan as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 for neglect (46.9%) than other categories of abuse. Emotional harm predominantly relates to children living in a home where domestic abuse is present and impacting on the emotional needs of these children.

## Category of need for children entering care

18.



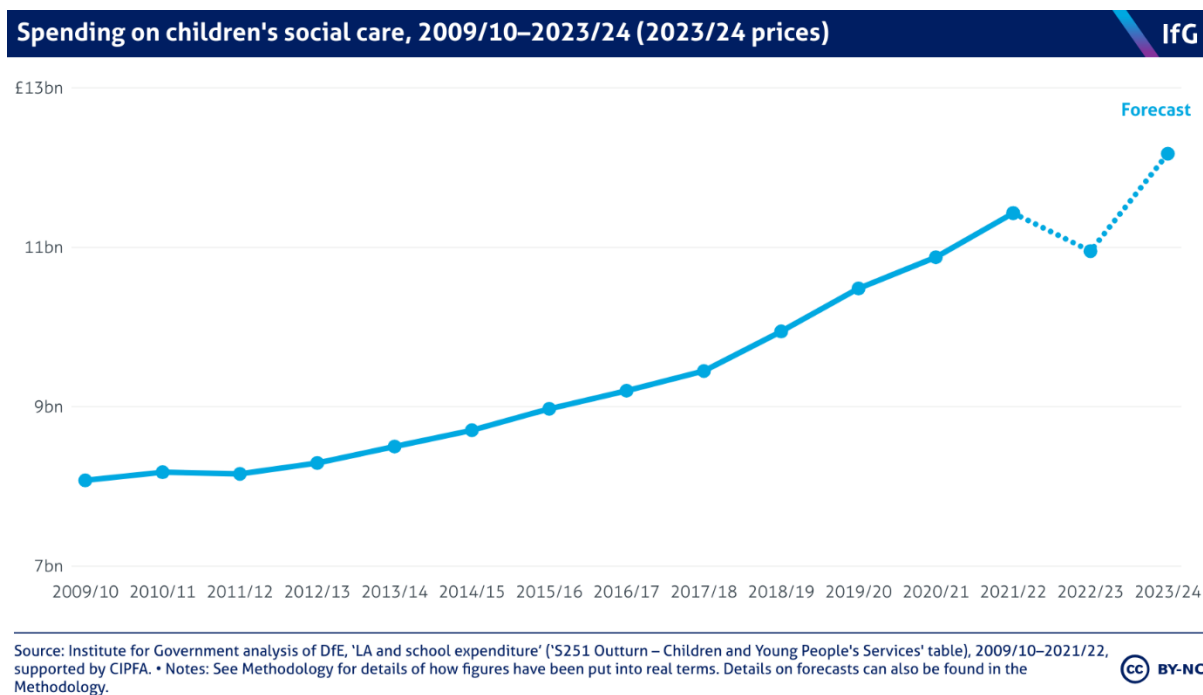
Children entering care by primary need (rate per 10,000 0-17 population)  
(Source: 2021/22 SGP8, 123 respondents)



19. The above reflects the current national picture, themes, and illustrates how demand through the system on a national level. Where there are higher levels of contacts into children social care statutory services, this often leads to greater level of processes including the numbers of assessment, children in need, those subject to child protection, court proceedings and children looked after all then follow.

### National spend on Childrens Social Care 2022/2023

20. The below reflects spending on CSC, with a forecast for 2023/2024 by the Institute for Government.



21. Key to managing demand and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and families in Doncaster, is ensuring the service and partners know the local context well. That there is a shared understanding of what key themes and trends exist locally, how this impacts demand, and how we can use best practice to ensure there is safe decision making, which prevents needs escalating to acute or crisis point.

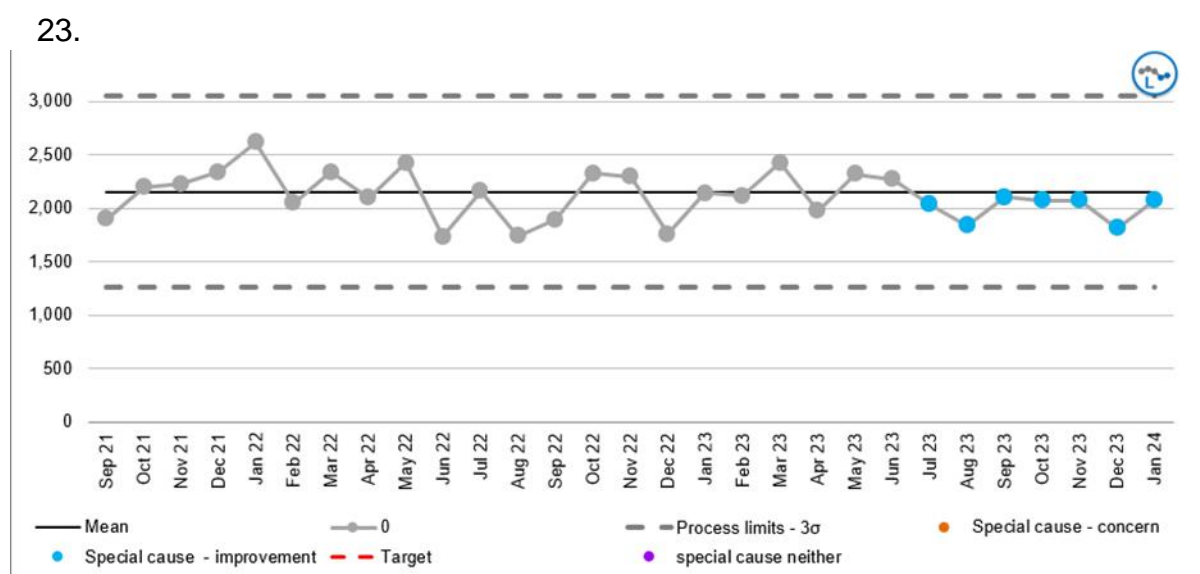
### Local context

22.

- Doncaster's population total is 308,108 and ranks 41 in the ranking for deprivation (2019 IMD).
- 67,070 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Doncaster (2021 Census). This is 21.8% of the total population in the area.
- Approximately 22.1% (2021) of the Local Authority's children aged under 16 years are living in absolute low-income families.
- The proportion of children entitled to free school meals (2021/22):
  - in primary schools is 30.1% (the national average is 25.5%)

- in secondary schools is 31.8% (the national average is 26.9%)
- Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 19.3% of all children living in the area, compared with 36.1% in the country as a whole.
- The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are White Eastern European, including Gypsy/Roma communities (7.9%).
- The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language (2021/22):
  - in primary schools is 13.2% (the national average is 21.2%)
  - in secondary schools is 10.4% (the national average is 17.4%)
- Children In Need (CIN): the total number of open CIN cases is 2,061.
- Doncaster as at the end of quarter 3 had 332 children with a Child Protection Plan, 558 children are in care and there are 237 Care Leavers

### Doncaster front Door contacts



24. Within Doncaster there is a recognition that the number of contacts to the integrated front door remain high. On average 22.5% convert through to a referral, although there can be variance from month to month and over 92% then convert from referral to assessment. Work is ongoing with key partners to launch an appreciative Inquiry Model at the front door where the focus is on conversations to assess the level of need. The aim is to launch this in May 24, to support a reduction in contacts where there is no further action.

### Assessments

25. The timeliness and quality of assessment continues to improve in Doncaster and a key focus has been how we maximise family support, networks, and the lead practitioner roles, which ensure families can be supported and held within the Early help system instead of pressing through to a more acute response in child in need, child protection or children in care. The number of assessments completed across the year mirror the national trend as we have seen a slight increase on our YTD position for 2023/2024.

## **Children in Need**

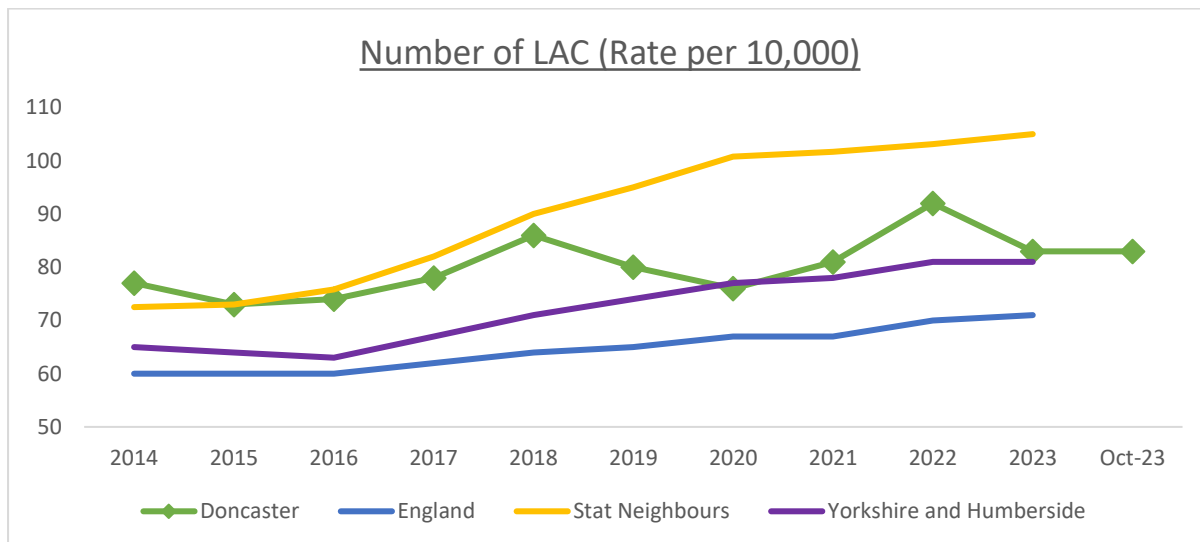
26. The number of children in Need in Doncaster has remained relatively stable over the past year, with most intervention lasting around 6 months. 1% of the CIN work is linked to children with a disability again mirroring the usual trends. The number of re-referrals is an area of increased demand reflecting the families we work with that have complex lives and at times need to return for additional support. It also reflects however the impact of covid on wider partner capacity, with professionals often repeatedly re-referring to CSC to access support, where previously a family lead practitioner would have coordinated support. This is a key area of development for Doncaster as we explore what partner capacity and resources are needed to embed the Family Help model as guided by the new Working Together arrangements to safeguard Children 2023. This work will sit under the DSCP as part of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA).

## **Child protection processes - S47 and Child protection plans**

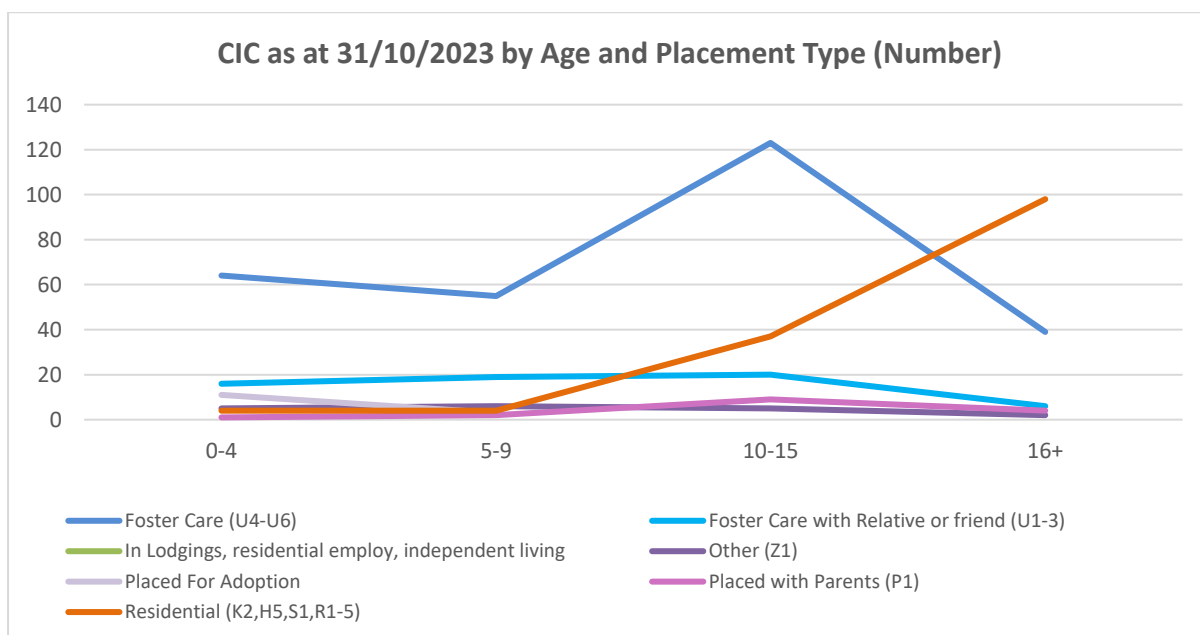
27. Over the past year the number of children subject to early child protection processes such as a strategy discussion or section 47 safeguarding investigation have positively increased. This increase has been linked to a conscious practice change around ensuring that chronic neglect and its significant impact on children and their development is recognised. This in combination with the graded care profile training (a specialist evidence based assessment to identify levels of neglect), ensures that the partnership workforce shares a shared understanding, language, and assessment tool to measure the impact of neglect for children.
28. This means that we remain in line with national and regional figures, which have seen an increase in early CP processes.
29. With regard to children becoming subject to a child protection plan, there is a relatively settled conversion rate from section 47 to a child protection conference. Not all children subject to investigation progress through to a conference, because the whole purpose of the investigation is to measure the level of harm and to work with families and the team around the child to manage risk. Doncaster again sits in line with regional and statistical neighbours. As of January 2024, there were 302 children subject to a CP plan and this was a reduction from last year of 30 children.
30. The trend to note is that the number of children made subject to a plan where the category is neglect. Over the last 6 months 56% of all new plans were under the category of Neglect and out of all children the highest category remains neglect (54%). While it is positive to note that professionals are increasingly recognising and naming neglect, it also highlights the complexity of the harm experienced by children and the services that need to be in place, to safeguard and minimise this harm in the future. In this area of practice, we are focusing in understanding what support networks families have, how we can build these around families to reduce the bounce back into services.

## Children in Care in Doncaster

31. The current national rate of children in care per 10,000 children is 71, an increase from 67 in 2023. When comparing these figures nationally, Blackpool has the highest rate of 191 per 10,000 whilst Merton has the lowest rate at just 26 children per 10,000. The current rate of children in care per 10,000 during the year end to March 2023 in Doncaster was 83 (a decrease from 2022 of 9)



32. Doncaster is performing well in relation to looked after numbers and is coming in line with the region. However nationally and locally, there are some key changes/emerging trends linked to the ages of young people becoming looked after and this means changes to the placement types needed. Given challenges post covid linked to placement availability this means there is a number of children placed in residential and Semi-Independent 16+ setting that would have 3 years ago been placed in a family based/foster caring setting. The below chart reflects the type of placement linked to age.



33. The placement type data shows that foster placements make up the majority of placement for the younger age groups but as the age of the child increases, we see that residential placements take a precedent with 65% of young people age 16+ in residential/semi-independent living placement as of March 2023. In supporting young people through to independence, we are focusing on pathway planning that builds skills and aspiration for the future, ensuring we dynamically assess risk and where safe promote return to family's care.
34. One of the biggest local pressures has been linked to the number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) that Doncaster has seen and supported over the past 3 years. This rise has gone from 6/7 per year in 2020 to a peak of 55 in 2023. The DfE (2022a) states that the number of UASC increased by 1,430 (34%) between 2020/21 and 2021/22 and there were 5,570 UASC in care as 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 10% more than as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Doncaster has the seen this group of young people continue to grow.
35. The Children's commissioner has highlighted on a national level the age profile of children in need continues to shift towards older children. Between 2015 and 2022, the share of children in need who are 16 and over increased from 18% to 25% while the share of children in need who are between ages 1-4 decreased from 20% to 15%. A key factor within this is the impact of contextual safeguarding; the risk of harm that sits outside the family, which for some families is also linked to adolescent neglect.
36. In terms of demand the cost of providing care for those children aged over 11 has increased, as from 11 years upwards and there is a greater challenge finding and sustaining a foster placement. The average cost of an inhouse foster placement is £362 per week vs a weekly average cost of £6,770 for external residential, highlights how demand and the placement market creates significant financial demand.
37. Doncaster has made significant positive progress in reducing high cost external residential placements and has significantly invested in developing inhouse foster carers and Doncaster residential homes. This has meant that we have been able to significantly reduce the overspend, by positively returning children to Doncaster where a number of other LA's are struggling to do so.

## **Workforce**

38. In working to address demand; to get the right intervention and plan for a child and their family at the earliest opportunity is reliant not only having robust systems in place, but having the right work force, supported by a robust and well embedded practice framework.
39. The ongoing investment in Early Help, youth provision and securing of the Family Hubs have been key in meeting the needs of some families earlier, which has reduced demand through to the front door. While there remains further work across the partnership to continue to increase the number of lead practitioners this is an also a positive improving picture.

40. One of the key challenges for Doncaster CSC over the past 3 years has been securing a stable workforce especially across Childrens Social Work and residential care. The below reflects the current CSC recruitment challenge.

	Total	Childrens Social care	Education & Skills	Partnerships & Operations
Staffing No's	1247 (1042.78 FTE)	634 (582.75 FTE)	198 (167.69 FTE)	415 (292.34 FTE)
Vacancies	320	180	47	93

41. For CSC around 40 of the vacancies are children's social workers and there are a further 45 vacancies within residential. Over the past 2 years there has been a heavy reliance on agency staff to ensure caseloads are low and while this addresses the immediate numbers, the quality of work linked to agency has been noted to not always be as consistently good as the permanent workforce. In order to support this, additional training and induction has been agreed for agency staff, alongside significant investment in on boarding social workers in their first year of practice and international recruitment. 14 AYSE have joined the council since September 2023 and in May 24 a further 6 AYSE and 10 experienced international social workers will be starting.
42. The picture linked to recruitment is slowly improving and as a directorate there is an increased focus on embedding Doncaster's Practice framework across the partnership. Through relationships and strengths based practice informed by understanding the lived experience of our families through a trauma based lens, we aim to empower families to care for their children, only intervening to care where we need to.
43. The expectation is that the development for the family help model and practice framework will ensure that thresholds for help and harm are clearly defined and will reduce demand over time.

#### **Budget - Impact of increasing demand and the current picture**

- 44.
- Overall, the Children Services net budget for 2023/24 is £90.4m; projected General Fund overspend this year is £1.34m, mainly relating to Social Care placements and Home to School Transport. This overspend has positively reduced from over £9mil in 2022 as a result of the focus on ensuring care plans and placements are right for the children we care for.
  - Provisional Children Services net budget for 2024/25 is £95.5m, including delivering savings targets of -£3.2m.
  - The Care Ladder projected overspend is £2.73m; includes OOA placements £2.19m, External Accommodation for 16+ Children in Care (Children in care) £1.16m, and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) placements £0.83m, offset by under spends for Fostering -£0.95m, Internal Provision (Residential & Internal Accommodation for 16+ Children in Care) -£1.39m.

45. Over the next 2 months we are expecting to open up 2 sites offering up to 11 semi-independent beds for young people 16+ which will further reduce our reliance on external provision.
46. Acorns a specialist Disability home will open in March 2024 and will be able to care for up to three young people. We also continue to recruit for residential staff.

### OPTIONS CONSIDERED



47. Options are not required for this paper. The request is that the content of the report is noted and the actions identified in the report to safely reduce demand and ensure best value linked to spend across Childrens Social Care are understood.






### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

48. That the content of the report is noted, and the actions identified in the report to safely reduce demand and ensure best value linked to spend across Childrens Social Care are understood.


### IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

49

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 <b>Tackling Climate Change</b>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The activity will predominately take place in families’ homes or care settings. However, the focus on supporting more children to be local to Doncaster will support a reduction in travel and the omissions associated to this.</p>				
 <b>Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work</b>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The aim of intervention through the Early help and Childrens Social Care Pathway is to raise the aspirations and ambitions of adults, children, and young people. This includes linking them with learning, education, and attainment opportunities through their life course.</p>				

 <b>Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs</b>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Young people and parents will be linked with learning, education, and attainment opportunities through their life course.</p>				
 <b>Building opportunities for healthier, happier, and longer lives for all</b>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Children, young people, and their families who access or are referred to Childrens Social Care service have experienced loss and trauma. The aim of the service is to ensure there the right assessment to ensure a bespoke package of support for each individual using a relationship-based trauma informed practice approach.</p>				
 <b>Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs</b>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The aim of the service is to reduce need and harm for children and their families in Doncaster communities. The benefit of this means the presenting need in the local communities reduces and individuals feel enabled to be more positively engaged in their community.</p>				
 <b>Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough</b>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Childrens Social Care works every day to empower families to manage adversity, to connect with services that can reduce need and where needed to ensure that children are protected from harm.</p>				
 <b>Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future</b>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Children Social Care recognise the benefits and challenges that digital connections create for children and their families. Wherever possible the service aims to support families to use digital resources safely and in a way that positively supports daily life and interaction with services.</p>				



 <b>Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities</b>	✓			
Comments: Young people and their families are encouraged to access positive opportunities, recognising the important role this plays in developing their aspirations, ambition, and future citizenship.				
<b>Fair &amp; Inclusive</b>	✓			
Comments: Appropriate adaptations will be made to the delivery of Children Social Care activity relating to any specific needs that children or their families may have in order to promote their participation. Doncaster has also recognised Care Experience as a protected characteristic in recognition of the societal barriers being a child in care can bring, with the aim to ensure there is a Doncaster wider commitment to create an equity of opportunity.				

### Legal Implications

50. No Legal Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided to any issues raised by the Panel.

### Financial Implications

51. No Financial Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided to any issues raised by the Panel.

### Human Resources Implications

52. No Human Resources Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided to any issues raised by the Panel.

### Technology Implications

53. No Technology Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided to any issues raised by the Panel.

### RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

54. The risk factors outlined above reflect an emerging national, regional, and local picture linked to pressures that are well understood around demand for acute services and costs linked to acting in only a reactive space. The report reflects

the specific mitigation put in place at each stage of the child and family journey through services, to ensure we respond to need earlier and more effectively, to overtime reduce the level of higher acute need.

55. The specific link with neglect has been highlighted in this report as this remains a key priority for the DSCP and CFEB, and as illustrated has been a key driver linked to increased demand. The cost of living challenges combined with the local Doncaster context means ongoing investment in locality based multi-agency early intervention support is vital to manage current and future demand.

## **CONSULTATION**

56. Consultation around the paper is an ongoing discussion with key partners and the wider council linked to the current demands and activity and the impact of statutory guidance.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

57. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 - [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115121/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2023-statutory-guidance.pdf)
58. DSCP Neglect Strategy - [DSCP Neglect Strategy 2022-24 FINAL - 24.3.22.pdf](#)

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

59.

ADCS Association of Directors of Children's Services

CDC City of Doncaster Council

CSC Childrens Social Care

CFEB Children & Families Executive Board

DFE Department for Education

DSCP Doncaster Safeguarding Childrens Partnership

MASA Multi Agency Safeguarding arrangements.

UASC Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

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**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PLAN 2023/24**

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

Agenda Item 7.

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

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

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

FP – Forward Plan Decision

CR or CM– Officer Responsible

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

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

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"> <li>Finance and Performance (invite to Cabinet Member Blackham) (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JHOSC – Chair only as appointed Member on Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Poverty report on discussions from site visit Youth Council to attend (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing - New regulatory regime for social housing</li> <li>Housing biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safer Doncaster Partnership (c)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from February position focus on Retail Crime</li> </ul> </li> <li>Flood Risk Management Strategy Pre-Cabinet decision (c)</li> </ul>
Nov	<p><b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 10am, MS Teams/Council Chamber TBC (CR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customer Experience Strategy (c)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cancelled Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 2pm, Sheffield</b></p>			
	<p><b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 2pm, MS Teams (CR)</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 at 10am Council Chamber (CM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Trust and. Areas for consideration to be agreed:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A&amp;E position</li> <li>Waiting lists</li> <li>Staff Recruitment and Retention</li> </ul> </li> <li>Winter planning (c)</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Localities</li> <li>Community Prevention Model</li> </ul>				
	<p><b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 3pm MS Teams (CM)</b></p>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairness and Wellbeing Commission</li> </ul>				
	<p><b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 9am, Council Chamber (CM)</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 2pm, Sheffield (CM)</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 4.30pm, Council Chamber (CR)</b></p>		<p><b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 10am, MS Teams (CR)</b></p>

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"> <li>Finance and Performance (invite to Cabinet Members Blake and L Ball)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JHOSC – Chair only as appointed Member on Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEND Strategy (c)</li> <li>Educational Outcomes (c)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Street Scene and Enforcement (c)</li> </ul>
Jan	<p><b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 10am Briefing Session MS Teams (CM/CR)</b></p>				<p><b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 10am Council Chamber Briefing session (CR)</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget</li> <li>Corporate Plan (c)</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste and Recycling to include current/future contract and changes to regulations/impact on future green agenda (c)</li> <li>Future Parks Scheme (c)</li> <li>Heatwave Update (c)</li> </ul>
Feb	<p><b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 1pm, Council Chamber (CM/CR)</b></p>	<p><b>8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM)</b></p>		<p><b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 11am Briefing Session MS Teams (CR)</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 10am Crime &amp; Disorder Committee, Council Chamber (CR)</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget</li> <li>Corporate Plan (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Care Board – invite (c)</li> </ul> <p>Primary Care Access recovery plan for Doncaster area</p> <p>Pharmacy access, demands and national position</p> <p>Oral health to include Dentistry access, demands and national position (c)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Leger Homes Tenancy Agreement (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safer Doncaster Partnership (c)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Postponed Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (informal not 11<sup>th</sup> March) (CR)</b></p>				



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
	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 1.30pm Briefing Session Council Chamber (CR)</b>	<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 2pm, Council Chamber (CM)</b>	<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 4.30pm, Council Chamber (CR)</b>	<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm, Council Chamber (CR)</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Health Protection Annual Report (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social care demand management and child neglect (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Plan update (C)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 12.30pm Briefing Session MS Teams (CM)</b>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Prevention Model</li> </ul>				
<b>March</b>	<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10am, Council Chamber (CM)</b>	<b>JHOSC (TBC) Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 2024, 4pm Sheffield CC, Town Hall (CM)</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance and Performance (invite to Cabinet Members N Ball and G Jones) (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> </ul>			
	<b>Informal session following the above meeting. (CM)</b>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan update (c)</li> </ul>				

**POSSIBLE ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OR TO BE SCHEDULED**

Quarterly performance 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Invite to Cllrs Smith and Nightingale)	Dementia – 2024/25 TBC	Inclusion Update/Elective Home Education – possibly for the future	Market and Corn Exchange update – possible invite to MAM – Early 2024/25 TBC	
SLH Complaints appeal policy – with R and H briefing session new year 2024 – waiting to hear from SLHD	Consultations from Directorates as required	Universal Services - how it is being impacted by cost of living and post pandemic school language and school ready – addressed 22/23	Biodiversity Net Gain - could be covered of with section in Local Plan report	

FP – Forward Plan Decision

CR or CM– Officer Responsible

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

	Fairness and well-being commission update – waiting to hear (later 2024) TBC		EPIC Learning - May 2024/25 (poss invite to OSMC)	Retro-fitting and new heat pump systems/Investment in apprenticeships (raised at Panel on 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023) – TBC	
	Health and Well-being Strategy late 2023 / early 2024	Age Friendly City – early input, plans and practicalities – how can the Authority drive this? TBC	Work Experience, NEET, work opportunities for SEND – include visit to café – March 2025 (as outlined at the 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec meeting 2023)	1. Housing crisis – aging population /Outcomes from the OT medical assessment (H&ASC O&S undertook dedicated meeting in 2022/23) - possibly for the future	
		Invite to Aspire – Substance misuse – possibly for the future		2. Regeneration and Economy:  Connectivity – new technology availability, impact of working from home and town centre footfall – picked up through Development update and Finance and Performance at OSMC.	
		Maternity care – possibly for the future		SLH Complaints appeal policy – with OSMC briefing session new year 2024 - waiting to hear from SLHD	
		Learning Disability and Autism Strategy review late 2023/24 work plan programme - possibly for the future			
		RDaSH – Strategy moving forward – possible invite to address outcomes and difference being made for future delivery – 2024/25			

Please note dates of meetings/rooms/support may change

		YAS – possibly for the future (on JHOSC workplan as part of regional health scrutiny update)			
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**DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST JULY, 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: Thursday 29 February, 2024 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, Ken Guest, John Healy, Leanne Hempshall, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Debbie Hutchinson, 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
10 Apr 2024	To approve the Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2024	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Kathryn Anderson-Bratt, Head of Service - Commissioning and Contracts Tel: 01302 737013 Kathryn.Anderson-Bratt@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
17 Apr 2024	To approve the Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan 2024/25.	Mayor Ros Jones	Cabinet	Jonathan Bucknall, Head of Strategic Investment and External Funding jonathan.bucknall@doncaster.gov.uk		Open
17 Apr 2024	To accept £6,958,555 of funding for delivery of the Local and Neighbourhood Transport Complementary Programme, through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement via the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.	Councillor Joe Blackham, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement	Cabinet	Neil Firth, Head of Service, Major Projects and Investment neil.firth@doncaster.gov.uk, Kerry Perruzza, Senior Transport Planner Kerry.Perruzza@doncaster.gov.uk		Open

19 Jun 2024	Quarter 4 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
19 Jun 2024	St. Leger Homes Performance Report 2023/24 Quarter 4.	Councillor Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business.	Cabinet	Julie Crook Tel: 01302 862705		Open
17 Jul 2024	<b>New Secure Tenancy Agreement for Council tenants.</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>Jane Davies, Head of Housing Management, St Leger Homes jane.davies@stlegerhomes.co.uk</b>		<b>Open</b>