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16th June, 2016

Mayor Ros Jones
Doncaster Council
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Dear Ros,

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee that took place earlier today, Members gave detailed consideration to the Youth Offending Service Plan for 2017/18 prior to deliberation by Cabinet and Full Council. Although the meeting was not able to take place formally, I have provided an outline of the discussion that took place below.

I am pleased to advise you that Members were supportive of the Plan. Members listened to the positive impacts that have been made within the service for children and young people of Doncaster as well as the strong and improving performance that can be seen through the report. Members were also interested to hear issues around resourcing, partnership arrangements, and challenges to future provision as well as risks to future delivery for the service.

Members heard about the ongoing and positive impact of EPIC which was supported by a Member in attendance who had seen and experienced the positive aspects that the work had had in their own ward area whilst tackling issues such as anti-social behaviour. Members raised concern about the sustainability of such programmes and acknowledged that steps had been taken through seed funding of lower impact third sector activity to continue that effect where possible. It was also explained that there were exit strategies in place after the six month EPIC intervention through the third sector providers to continue such work.

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Concern was raised regarding the challenges presented through complex cases, which will likely be resource intensive, and it was outlined to Members the broad ranges of issues that affect young people who are being engaged with. Discussions took place around triage arrangements to divert First Time Entrants (FTE) from the Youth Justice System, and Members were pleased to hear that there have been a movement towards the creation of a Triage Panel. Members felt that it was important that there should be sufficient interfaces with the Stronger Families programme. Members also recognised that there might be challenges through the availability of key services that partnerships have to offer such as CAMHS and the provision of Mental Health services.

Finally, Members were pleased to hear how the Young People's Justice Plan had been identified by the Youth Justice Board as a national example of good practice.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. T. Rodgers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Kevin Rodgers
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

cc: Jo Miller, Chief Executive
Cabinet Members
OSMC
Andy Hood, Service Manager, Youth Offending Service
Damian Allen, Director Learning and Opportunities
Paul Moffatt, Chief Executive Doncaster Children's Trust