

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 17

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Foreword

This year's Annual Report contains information on key scrutiny activity over the last year and information about some of the areas that will be considered over the next 12 months.

The Council and its partners continue to face the challenge of delivering services to Doncaster residents with reduced resources and help support accountability through a range of different management models and sectors e.g. Doncaster Children's Trust, St Leger Homes Doncaster, Health providers and proposed devolution model. Overview and Scrutiny Members regularly analyse plans and proposals and put forward suggestions for improvement and provide constructive critical friend challenge. There are a range of services that are being delivered differently and will have long term impacts on the citizens of Doncaster and Overview and Scrutiny are able to help shape these changes. For example, the Children and Young People, scrutiny panel had the opportunity to consider the Council's response to the Education and Skills Commission and supported the Statement of Implementation and recommendations. In respect of health scrutiny, Panel Members have been involved in looking at a number of NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS CCG) policies including the Sustainable Transformation Plan, Intermediate Health and Social Care Services and developing a Local Place Plan for Doncaster. All of these are areas of significant importance to residents and will continue to be monitored and reviewed in future years.

If you would like to know more about Overview and Scrutiny at Doncaster Council or wish to suggest an issue for consideration then please feel free to get in touch using the contact details at the end of the report.



Councillor John Mounsey

**Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
2016/2017**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRS
AND VICE CHAIRS 2016/17**



Councillor John Mounsey

Overview and Scrutiny
Management Committee
Chair



Councillor Charlie Hogarth

Overview and Scrutiny
Management Committee
Vice Chair



Councillor Neil Gethin

Children and Young
People Chair



Councillor Nigel Ball

Children and Young People
Vice Chair



Councillor Jane Kidd

Community and
Environment Chair



Councillor Jane Cox

Community and
Environment Vice Chair



Councillor Rachael Blake

Health and Adults Social
Care Chair



Councillor Cynthia Ransome

Health and Adults Social
Care Vice Chair



Councillor Paul Wray

Regeneration and
Housing Chair



Councillor Majid Khan

Regeneration and Housing
Vice Chair

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP 2016/17

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Chair – Councillor John Mounsey	Vice-Chair - Councillor Charlie Hogarth
Councillor John Cooke	Councillor Rachael Blake
Councillor Paul Wray	Councillor Neil Gethin
Councillor Richard A Jones	Councillor Jane Kidd
Invitee – Paul Smillie UNISON (- Dec 2016) then Mark Whitehouse of Unite (Dec 2016 - May 2016)	

Health and Adults Social Care Panel

Chair – Councillor Rachael Blake	Vice – Chair Councillor Cynthia Ransome
Councillor Elsie Butler	Councillor George Derx
Councillor Sue Knowles	Councillor Sean Gibbons
Councillor Jessie Credland	Councillor Pat Haith
Councillor Linda Curran	Invitee – Lorna Foster UNISON

Communities and Environment Crime and Disorder Panel

Chair – Councillor Jane Kidd	Vice-Chair –Councillor Jane Cox
Councillor Iris Beech	Councillor Majid Khan
Councillor Susan Durant	Councillor Cynthia Ransome
Councillor	Councillor Clive Stone
Councillor Kenneth Keegan	Invitee - Tom Fent UNISON

Children and Young People Panel

Chair – Councillor Rachel Hodson	Vice Chair – Councillor Neil Gethin
Councillor Nick Allen	Councillor Andrea Robinson
Councillor Nigel Ball	Councillor Sue McGuinness
Councillor Jessie Credland	Councillor Sue Wilkinson
Councillor James Hart	Councillor Mark Houlbrook

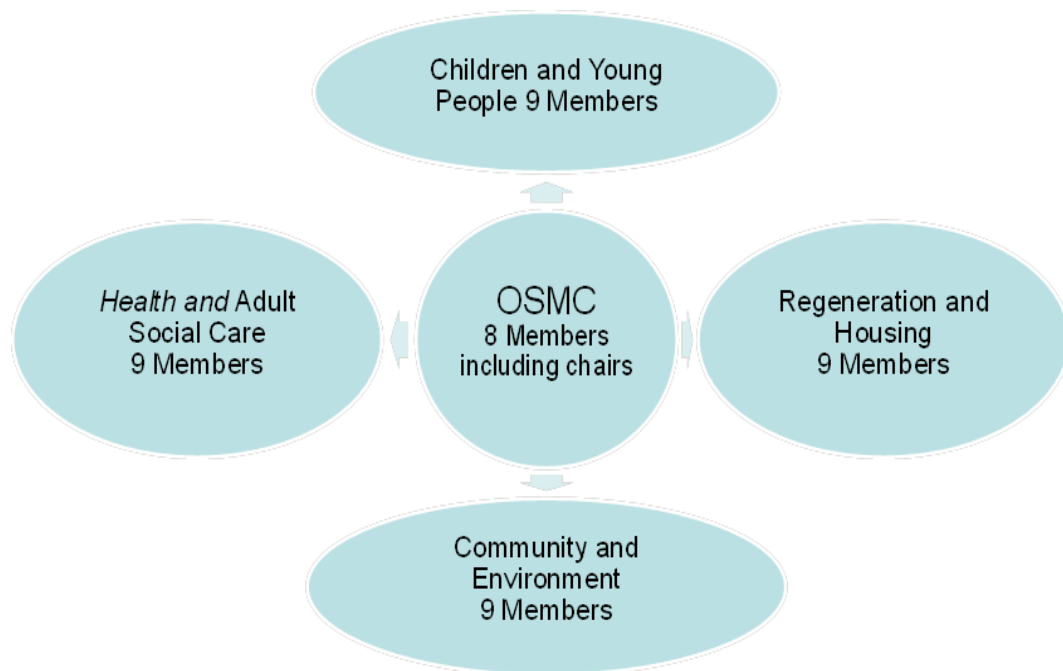
Education Co-optees: Bernadette Nesbitt and John Hoare – invited to attend the meeting and vote on any Education functions which are the responsibility of the Authority's Executive. They may also participate in but not vote on other issues relating to Children and Young People. Invitee - Jim Board UNISON

Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Councillor Paul Wray	Vice-Chair – Councillor Majid Khan
Councillor Sandra Holland	Councillor Alan Smith
Councillor Susan Knowles	Councillor Clive Stone
Councillor Eva Hughes	Councillor John Healy
Councillor James Hart	Invitee - Paul O'Brien GMB

Overview and Scrutiny Structure

Overview and Scrutiny continues to provide a strategic overview through the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the four Panels. Overview and Scrutiny has endeavoured to review issues in-depth seeking to support the delivery of priorities by holding to account and putting forward evidence based suggestions for improvement. The structure ultimately aims to achieve improved service delivery for the residents of Doncaster.



The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee operates as the business committee for the Overview and Scrutiny function covering all aspects of the Council and partnership activity (except Health). Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairs have been included within the membership of OSMC and have held a key role in co-ordinating the overarching Overview and Scrutiny work programme.

The Scrutiny Panels have held a number of spotlight and in-depth review meetings, reporting their findings and recommendations to the Management Committee.

Impacts and Achievements

Examples of where Scrutiny has added value to the Council's decision making and governance arrangements are detailed below. Further information is provided within each of the individual Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or Panel sections:

- **Cabinet Member attendance** at Scrutiny meetings has helped encourage openness and accountability. Cabinet Members attended meetings to respond to questions from Members on a number of issues including Homelessness and Domestic Abuse reviews, the budget, delivery of priorities and performance monitoring. This face to face discussion has enabled Members to express their views directly to the Executive for example, when the Panel undertook the Homelessness review, the Cabinet Member for Housing attended the meetings providing detail on how she had taken part in the Borough's rough sleeping count and what services people required to provide them with support to provide a safe lifestyle. The Cabinet Member also kept Councillors up to date with actions taken to address the temporary "Tent City" that had been sited in Doncaster town centre in the run up to the Christmas period.

Holding to Account – The Children and Young People Panel have met annually to provide challenge to the Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board by allowing Members of the Panel to question and comment on the work undertaken by the DCSB during the previous year and the position of safeguarding in Doncaster. Last year, Members were presented with a report that outlined three aspects of the work of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board which included;

- a. The arrangements for its consideration of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report which provided an update on the progress of the board and an overview of the effectiveness of each partner agency arrangements.
- b. An annual update on an agreed set of ten key Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) assurance questions.

- c. An outline of the functions of the Performance Accountability Board, a new partnership board that met on a quarterly basis focusing on key issues for the partnership.

In respect of child protection, reassurances were sought as the report identified an increased number of children who were subject to a child protection plan. Members were informed that this was due to a review of children known to social care when the Doncaster Children's Services Trust came into existence which resulted in a more robust approach being taken. Members were pleased to hear that positive progress had been made as quality standards had improved and children were now being identified as being at risk at an earlier stage. Members were also told that this was regularly monitored and assurances could be provided that children were in the right placement with the right support and were being protected.

The Panel has been presented with quarterly reports outlining the performance challenge of the Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST) through a 'split screen' approach. By this arrangement there would be a two phased approach. In the first phase, the Council would be held to account for its monitoring of the Trust against the service delivery contract. The second stage of this split screen would be that the Trust would be invited to respond to the Council's report and the specific performance issues which this has raised. This provides a further opportunity to increase transparency and public accountability on how the Trust undertakes its functions on behalf of the Council.

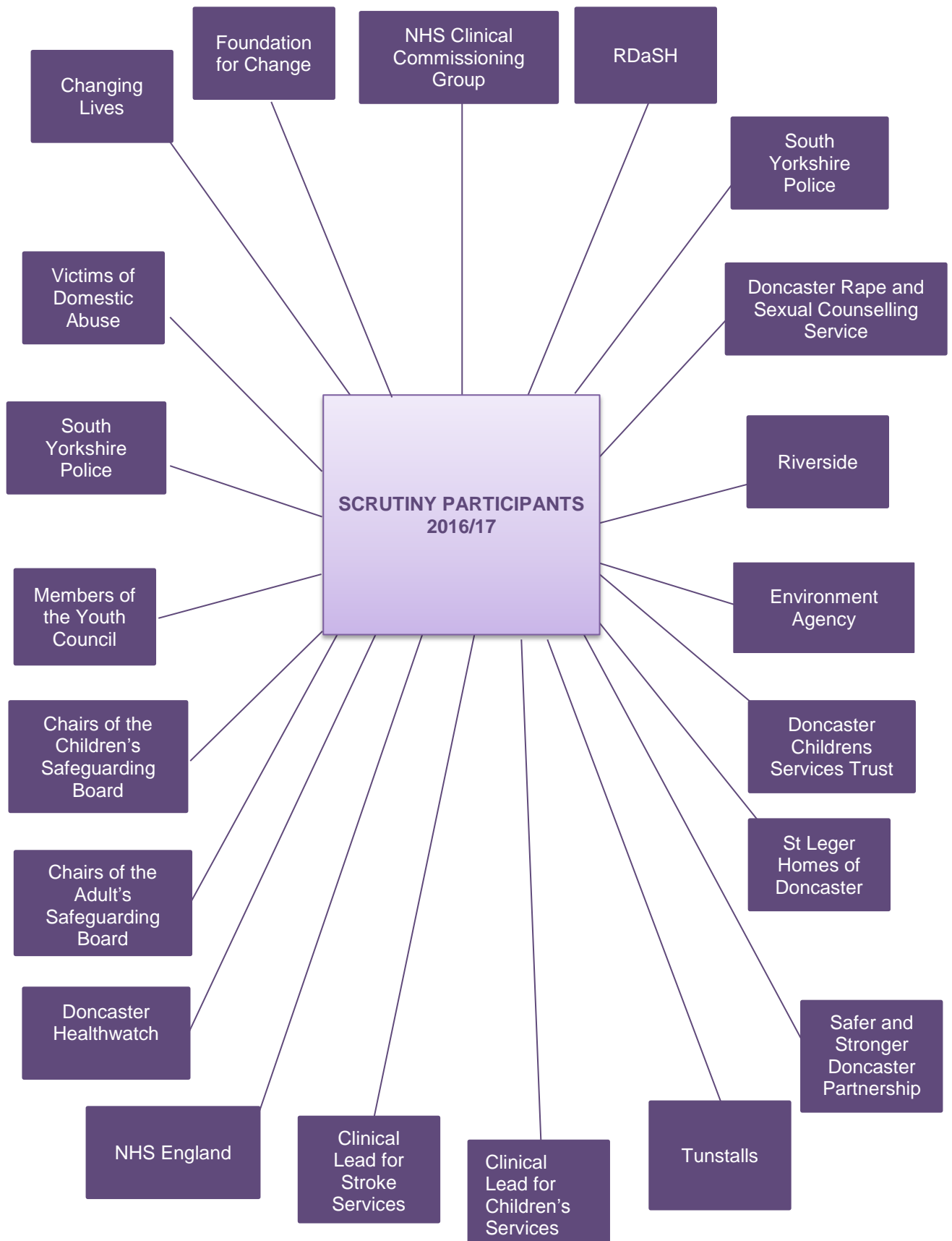
- **Contribution to key policy development** – Scrutiny, has been involved in looking at a number of NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS CCG) policies including the Sustainable Transformation Plan, Intermediate Health and Social Care Services and developing a Local Place Plan for Doncaster. The Panel was interested to hear about these significant pieces of work which will provide a real opportunity for a new model of provision. Opportunities have been provided for Members to have an in-depth discussion with key representatives from the NHS CCG and the Council to enable them to form a

better understanding before being considered by Council. Other policies that Scrutiny has considered and supported have included the Corporate Plan which all Members had the opportunity to review and a number of comments and suggestions were put forward which were taken into account into setting the direction for the next year. The other was the Youth Justice Plan where although the Committee heard that improvements were being made, there would be potential challenges to resourcing such as further reductions in the staffing profile that may have a significant impact on the service.

- **Pre-decision Scrutiny** – OSMC and the Panels have given consideration to a number of issues prior to decisions being made by Cabinet or Full Council. Prior to consideration by Full Council, the Committee considered a report outlining an improved core annual define and deliver cycle which links key annual Council processes. The objective of the proposed process was to ensure that the efforts of the Council were focused on delivery and supporting improvement that matter most to residents and to the long term success of Doncaster. Members welcomed the proposals, particularly opportunities for Overview and Scrutiny to be involved, including reviewing thematic areas where there were gaps in the Council's knowledge and providing a chance to probe into areas that were not fully understood.
- **Performance Monitoring** – OSMC continues to rigorously review quarterly finance and performance to ensure that the arrangements remain robust and services continue to be delivered effectively. Directors and Cabinet Members have attended meetings to answer questions particularly about how they are addressing under performance or projected overspends, and this has enhanced transparency and accountability of service delivery. The public challenge provided by Overview and Scrutiny is an important element of our Performance Management arrangements. Particular areas of concern identified during these reviews are highlighted within the OSMC section of this report.

- **Public and partnership engagement** – Engaging the public in Overview and Scrutiny can be particularly challenging, however, throughout the year there have been some good examples.
 - One example is the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel's in-depth review of Domestic Abuse which engaged with ten different partnership organisations and meetings with two victims of domestic abuse and listening to their individual stories. This enabled Members to have a greater understanding of the issues and develop informed recommendations which included themes around the commissioning of services, referral process, sharing information, changes to policy and follow-on support services.
 - The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel held a meeting that was attended by representatives of the Youth Council who presented information relating to the Youth Council Election 2017 and was informed of ways of promoting future youth engagement including the Director of Children's Services raising it at the Head Teachers Forum, promotional emails, posters and a DVD to be shown in all schools and created a Google Application Form and Web page. Members of the Youth Council will be returning to a future panel meeting as part of the 2017/2018 workplan to update members on 'Children's Voice Pathway'.
 - Finally, the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel held an information session with Doncaster Healthwatch to gain a better understanding about, their purpose and their role and relationship with scrutiny as well as allowing Members the opportunity to ask questions to the Chair. This improved knowledge has assisted the Panel in its ongoing engagement with Healthwatch.

External Organisations Who Have Contributed To The Scrutiny Process in 2016/17



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held 16 meetings last year and continued to manage the scrutiny panels by monitoring as well as reviewing their work plans and receiving regular updates from the Panel Chairs. The Committee also undertook its own programme of work focusing on reviewing finance and performance.

Finance and Performance - The Committee has continued to consider the quarterly Finance and Performance reports focusing on how key areas of overspend and underperformance are being addressed. Question planning sessions are used prior to these meetings to ensure there is a more systematic approach to identifying and focusing on key areas of concern. Directors are also invited to respond to questions relating to their own service areas. Some of the areas considered by the Committee have included the Adult Transformation Programme and seven key major immediate business improvement projects to drive service improvement. This included reviewing, the proportion of people who access direct payments, days lost to sickness (within individual directorates) in particular, the reasons for absence and actions being taken to address high sickness levels. When considering information presented on the performance of St Leger Homes Doncaster (SLHD), the Committee has kept a watchful eye on Void Rent Loss and what effect changes to Universal Credit are having on its tenants as this puts further pressure on vulnerable tenants or those who may be struggling to manage on benefits.

This process demonstrates transparency and supports public accountability and understanding of how the Council seeks to improve service delivery and value for money.

Pre-decision Scrutiny – This provides an opportunity for Scrutiny to feed its comments to the Executive to support future decision making. For example, the Committee considered the Adults Health and Well-being Transformation Commissioning Care and Support at Home scheme prior to it being considered by Cabinet. The Committee supported the recommendations and stressed that changes were required to the current system. Members questioned areas relating to

consultation, and providers of future care and community support. The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel will review the progress and impact of this decision as the service changes are implemented.

- Core Annual 'Define and Deliver Cycle' – Members supported the proposed annual report on the State of the Borough being presented to Full Council by the end of August each year. The Committee also welcomed the opportunity to support this cycle by ensuring its work programme could be informed by the process and help focus on identifying and reducing gaps in the Council's knowledge.

Policy Framework - The Committee has given consideration to and forwarded recommendations to the Executive on a number of policy framework documents such as the Youth Justice Plan and the Corporate Plan.

- Corporate Plan - The Corporate Plan explains what the Council will achieve by setting the direction for the Council over the next year. When considering the refresh for Corporate Plan 16-17 and 17-18, the Committee supported the outcomes and objectives set out and forwarded a number of comments for the Cabinet to consider the plans priority themes which include Doncaster Living, Doncaster Learning, Doncaster Working and Doncaster Caring. Issues were raised such as housing policies, access to learning for all ages and the need for private and public sectors to work more closely together with key partners in how they address care in the community.
- Budget - OSMC takes a holistic view of the proposals with a view to providing a commentary on the extent to which the proposals are evidence based and support corporate and Borough wide priorities, as well as the capacity and risks around deliverability and implementation. The Committee used three lines of enquiry to help develop its response, these included questioning whether: -
 1. The proposals conflict with the Borough Strategy priorities in any way?
 2. Money was being put into the areas that were originally proposed?

3. What consultation has been undertaken and are proposals deliverable?

The Committee began its review of the Mayor's Budget Proposals in December with a view to making its final response on the 19th January, 2017 when Directors and the Executive were invited to respond to questions asked as part of the Committee's evidence gathering. By taking account of the above three themes, the Committee provided a commentary on the proposals in their wider context to the Executive. These included maximising opportunities for growth within the borough arising from Capital investment particularly promoting job opportunities, upskilling and addressing low wages. It was outlined that key risks to the delivery of the budget continue to be identified and effectively managed, in particular within Adult Social Care, to make sure they do not adversely impact on the Council's ability to meet its savings target. Finally, in respect of the proposal to include a further increase to Council Tax through the new 2% Social Care levy, it requested consideration be given to a review being undertaken to identify what benefits will be passed on to Doncaster residents as a result of the monies raised.

Holding To Account – To gain a greater understanding of the effectiveness of Council and multi-agency co-ordinated activities, the Committee received its annual update on the Stronger Programme by way of a report and presentation. A specific area of consideration included actions that had been put in place to support children attaining excellent attendance at school;

Members also considered the position statement addressing achievements and areas for completion towards becoming a Digital Council, including transforming the remaining appropriate services on-line and further reducing the Council's operating budget by at least 1.9 million a year through further streamlining and automating business processes. The Committee supported the importance of operating as a modern digital authority and the need for commitment from each of the Directorates to ensure full compliance.

Finally, a report and presentation was provided to OSMC which provided an update on the financial and operational strategy of the Doncaster Children's Services Trust.

Areas discussed included staff turnover, care ladder/opportunities going forward, gaps/challenges, and governance and financial arrangements of the trust. Members welcomed the information that had been provided and felt that they now had a greater understanding. OSMC requested that an updated report from the Trust alongside the Council's own action plan to be brought back to the Council in 6 months as part of the 2017/18 workplan.

Call-In - The Call-In process is one of the methods in which Scrutiny Members can publicly hold decision makers to account seeking responses and explanation on areas where they believe there has been a deficiency in the decision making process.

The following decision was called in at an extraordinary meeting of OSMC:

- The Disposal of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Land at Goodison Boulevard, Cantley, and the Acquisition of Gattison House and Plantation View.

OSMC gave consideration to the reasons for calling-in the decision and received evidence from officers and the Executive. On this occasion, the Committee agreed to take no action in respect of the called in decision but recommended that:

- All Ward Members receive updates regarding section 106 money for their ward area on an annual basis and are provided with clarification of the specification it was originally designed for; and
- All relevant Ward Members be consulted on the developments relating to this specific decision.

The decision made by Cabinet was implemented with recommendations that were accepted by the Executive.

Councillor John Mounsey

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2016/2017

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel holds scheduled meetings to ensure that it effectively discharges the Council's Health Scrutiny role. During 2016/2017 there has been a focus on some of the major health issues and programmes taking place locally and regionally. There has been ongoing consideration on the Council's Transformation Programme, health inequalities and changes to the current service for Intermediate Care. Much of this work is ongoing and will be carried over as part of the 2017/2018 workplan.

Representatives from NHS Clinical Commissioning Group have attended the Panel on a number of occasions to present on the following areas, respond to questions and receive feedback on the proposals outlined. Members held a detailed debate to gain a good understanding of issues that will have an effect on their communities to ensure that the correct support can be provided to people most in need. The Panel has requested further reports to ensure progress can be monitored and those responsible for implementation be held to account.

Sustainability and Transformation Plan – The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) is the local approach to delivering the national plan called the Five Year Forward View. Published in 2014, it sets out a vision of a better NHS, the steps to get there, and how everyone involved needs to work together. The Panel has fed into this process through its consideration of this issue.

Place Plan - The Doncaster Health and Social Care Community has a long history of working together in partnership to achieve positive change for local people. There is a strong view that in order to achieve excellent, sustainable services in Doncaster, there now requires one shared vision and plan for the whole of Doncaster. Key leaders across health and social care in Doncaster have therefore come together to develop the Doncaster Place Plan. The Place Plan is also set in the context of the wider South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). The Place Plan, the STP and other local plans will in totality address the challenges that we face as a health and social care community.

Intermediate Care – Changes to current service – Doncaster NHS CCG and the Council have been working together to improve care and support services in Doncaster. Local Intermediate Care services have evolved over time with funding from a number of sources. Although individual services and providers have reported good outcomes, no single organisation has had a comprehensive overview of how the care system works together as a whole. To better understand this, the Intermediate Care Review was initiated in June 2014, led by the Intermediate Care Team based within the CCG. Intermediate Care describes short-term services that support older people or those with long term-conditions to stay at home safely when they are unwell, or need help to regain their independence after a stay in hospital. Following extensive research work will be undertaken with providers to design a new Intermediate Care service model for Doncaster.

The Panel made recommendations firstly, that the whole of Team Doncaster embraces health inequalities as a priority and secondly, that consideration be given to ensuring that engagement strands across health and Team Doncaster are effectively pulled together. Both recommendations were accepted and Members were assured that further work would be undertaken to ensure a consistent and joined up approach to delivery using a range of methods.

Holding to Account – the Chair of the Adults Safeguarding Board attended the Panel to present the Adults Safeguarding Annual Report detailing what the Safeguarding Adult Board has accomplished during the year to achieve its main objective and implement the strategy. The Panel was pleased to hear about the positive work and feedback that had been undertaken since the last update and acknowledged that some actions required a longer term approach with some areas needing further assurances.

The Panel has continued to undertake its holding to account role by considering the Public Health Annual Report on Health Protection Assurance for the year 2016/17 looking at how Public Health Protection was performing and what was next for health protection. The information presented addressed 12 scrutiny questions which had been adapted from guidance developed by the Centre for Public Scrutiny and previously agreed by Officers and Members. This continues an approach

successfully undertaken over previous years ensuring continuity and appropriate challenge. In addition to supporting a range of recommendations made within the report, the Panel made additional suggestions regarding how air quality issues are being addressed in Doncaster wards particularly outside school premises, the licensing of e-cigarette shops within Doncaster and widening the reporting and monitoring of the uptake of flu vaccinations. These recommendations were accepted and will be followed up and reported on at next year's Panel meeting.

Regional Health Scrutiny Working – New joint health scrutiny working arrangements with other local authorities included the formation of the Commissioning Working Together (CWT) Joint Regional Scrutiny. This is a collaborative of eight clinical commissioning groups and the NHS England across South and Mid Yorkshire, North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire to consider key health service changes, such as consultation for Children's Surgery and anaesthesia and Hyper Acute Stroke Services, under a Working Together Programme which commenced in May 2016.

There have been three meetings and Doncaster hosted and chaired one of those meetings. At this meeting, the Joint Regional Scrutiny Committee recommended that the consultation period be extended to 20th January, 2017 to ensure that people had the opportunity to comment after the Christmas period. Concern was expressed that the consultation could be overlooked during December. This recommendation was accepted by the CCG.

This work is ongoing and following a joint response to be made by the regional health scrutiny group, a decision on the CWT proposals will be made at a Joint Committee meeting of CCGs in June 2017.

Engagement with the Health and Well-Being Board – The Board continues to undertake its work programme, with the Chair and Cabinet Member extending invites to the Scrutiny Panel to attend Board meetings and workshops to increase shared understanding of local and national issues, for example, BME Health Needs Assessment, Health Inequalities, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Loneliness

workshops. The issue of Health Inequalities was also raised at a Panel meeting for Members input, demonstrating the positive working relationship between the Panel and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Further information on this is detailed below.

Health Inequalities - The Panel received a report and presentation which provided Members with an overview of Health Inequalities and the work that was currently taking place within Doncaster. This included the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy led by DMBC and Doncaster NHS CCG that aimed to reduce health inequalities. The Panel sought to provide input taking into consideration the following three questions;

1. What are the inequalities you perceive in your communities?
2. What do you think could be done to address inequalities?
3. What would you like to see in a Health Inequalities action plan?

As part of the discussion and response, Panel Members raised a number of key areas for consideration including veterans, transport, homelessness/housing, obesity and food/fuel poverty. The Panel supported the development of a Health Inequalities Action Plan for Doncaster, the establishment of a Health Inequalities Working Group (to develop the action plan and have responsibility for taking the work forward) and finally the completion of a Black and Minority Ethnic Group Health Needs Assessment.

The Chair and Vice Chairs of both the Board and Panel also regularly meets with the Directors of Adults, Health and Wellbeing and Public Health to discuss the Panels work plans to ensure there is a joint understanding of key priorities with the Health and Well-being Board.

Councillor Rachael Blake

Chair of the Health and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Panel 2016/2017

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Panel did not undertake a review this year but instead has focused its work on a range of issues including the Inspections Framework for Special Educational Needs and School Results through a number of meetings. Members also considered implications of the Education White Paper enabling Members to develop their knowledge and understanding for when they consider future education items.

Holding to Account – The Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board presented the Board's Annual report and responded to key assurance questions that sought to understand the progress, impact, robustness of governance arrangements. The Chair also provided an update on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), ensuring that this is being effectively addressed in Doncaster. An update on the Performance Account Board (PAB) was also provided to the Panel. The impact of this was to provide assurances that safeguarding the Borough's children and young people was a priority and effective mechanisms and processes were in place.

The Doncaster's Children's Trust has continued to regularly update the Panel on its performance in accordance with the Trust's Agreement with the Local Authority. During the year, it was agreed that a split screen approach report in two phases be provided to meetings on a quarterly basis. The first phase would hold the Council to account for its monitoring of the Trust against the service delivery contract and the second phase would provide an invite to the Trust to respond to the specific performance issues which the Council report had raised. Clarity was sought on care leavers in employment education or training figures, as the report seemed to be under reporting the true performance. The discussion highlighted that figures were actually in a more positive position and it was established that the figures had been incorrectly counting children who were not care leavers. The Panel also took into consideration the process and substance of the Trust's Annual Contract Review and a report on the Trust's annual complaints. This highlighted complaints relating to a social worker's behaviour and manner, which were investigated. It was confirmed that staff were receiving support and training on how best to interact with clients, but it was recognised that social workers could regularly find themselves in very emotional situations and sometimes there were difficult messages to deliver.

The Panel has sought assurances from the Director of Learning and Opportunities Children and Young People on how poor exam results and schools causing concern were being addressed. Members were pleased to learn that measures put in place included establishing a senior Local Authority lead to oversee assessment in early years Key Stage 1 and 2 and teacher assessment and support to ensure that good secure assessments were being made to prepare children for tests.

Overview – The Panel was provided with an overview of outcomes from a recent external evaluation including an LGA Peer Review (Ofsted Monitoring Visit) and the recent Review of Early Help (DfE Achieving for Children).

The Panel continued to review standards within Doncaster's education provision and considered areas such as the outcome of the Local Authority Inspection of School Improvement Arrangements, updates on the Educational Attainment in-depth review and Academy Growth and Development Strategy. Members recognise the challenges that are in place and have agreed to maintain an overview of progress to improve Educational Attainment through the Panel's work plan.

The Panel continued to learn about work to support schools and early years' providers to assist disadvantaged children (from age 3–4 up to Year 11) receiving pupil premium funding. This additional funding was for publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and close the gaps between them and their peers, noting that the funding allocation for 2016/17 was based on January 2016 school census data, as follows:

- £1,320 for pupils in reception to year 6
- £935 for pupils in year 7 to 11

Doncaster Exam and Assessment Results 2016 – the Panel received a full detailed second report on the final exam and assessments results for 2018 and acknowledged the pleasing performance for early years foundation stage and BME communities, the latter of which do very well and generally above their cohorts.

Council's response to the Education and Skills Commission – The Panel supported the Statement of Implementation and recommendations and look forward to being provided with up-to-date information in the future.

The Youth Council recently held an election in 2017 and was delighted with the opportunity to present the information to the Scrutiny Panel. It was highlighted that over the last 5 years Doncaster had seen an increase in youth participation seeing a 19.49% turnout compared to a national turnout of 16.60%. The Youth Councillors' research was not fully complete and requested to return to the Panel in summer 2017.

Members of the Panel were also invited to a Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny meeting looking at Children's Mental Health services. The Panel found that Panel addressed the new model of provision which sought intervention that would provide earlier and correct access to support services. The Panel also learnt that to address self-harming in young people a Paediatric nurse was now based in the A and E department, to help young people who were entering the department, particularly on Friday evenings.

Councillor Neil Gethin

Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel **2016/2017**

Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Review – The Panel held a small number of reviews over the year focusing on the economic plan refresh and homelessness.

Economic Plan Refresh – Consideration was given to this item, particularly the potential impact pre and post Brexit. Due to the current national landscape which has an impact on the local region, the Panel will consider the Plan further once there is a clearer direction and understanding of the wider implications. It was acknowledged that work on improving the future of the local economy would not cease following Brexit. Further work will be undertaken on this in 2017/18

Homelessness –A review was undertaken to consider actions being taken to address homelessness in Doncaster through a series of meetings and evidence gathering. This considered:

- the legal framework;
- duties placed on the Local Authority;
- the Doncaster Context;
- reasons for homelessness and what the priorities were for need.
- Homelessness Support Partnership

It was found that one of the current challenges is collating information on the numbers of homeless people across the Borough and the percentage of take up on offers of accommodation. Support was given to partners who work with homeless people and it was noted that some individuals who sleep rough will only seek accommodation when temperatures go below freezing. It was recognised that this was a good time for partners to work with people that they may never have the opportunity to engage with or help. It was reported that Doncaster provides a range of services for those sleeping rough and homeless individuals from other areas may seek to relocate to Doncaster to access these, as they may not be available in their own area.

The Panel was also given a full position statement in respect of the Council and its partners support and response to people who had located on the former Civic Theatre Site known as “Tent City”.

Councillors were of the opinion that their role was to address homelessness at a strategic level to ensure strategy is directed to the correct place. Members learnt that there was nationally a significant increase in the number of homeless people and Doncaster was no different. It was identified that there was also an increasing number of people with complex needs for example, with drug and alcohol abuse, who find it incredibly difficult to work with support services and vice versa. After learning of the difficulties associated with addressing people who were homeless with chaotic lifestyles then the Housing First model, if found by the Local Authority to be the most strategic, effective and have positive outcomes, be supported.

Members were delighted that a successful funding bid from Central Government had been secured and welcomed an update in the autumn of 2017 on how this was being used. The Authority has a valid Strategy in place until 2018/19, but revisions would not be undertaken until there is more clarity from the Homeless Reduction Bill, which would address, for example, an extension of the period during which an authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days. On this basis, the Panel recommended that the Homelessness Strategy be added to the Panel’s work plan in 2017/18 along with an update on the successful funding bid from Central Government and Principle of Housing First which have been both supported by the Executive.

The Panel also received updates on recommendations made following the Housing review and the Place Marketing review previously undertaken during 2015/16. It was reported that recommendations from the Place Marketing review were accepted. These included ensuring Estate Agents were taken on the Borough Tour. The impact from this has been very positive and proved successful in helping businesses understanding of the wider opportunities and advantages that exist within the borough. Ultimately it is hoped this change in perception will help encourage future inward investment.

Councillor Paul Wray

Chair of the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel 2016/2017

Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

During 2016/17, the Panel decided to focus its efforts on one in-depth review over the year and undertook its statutory role to consider Crime and Disorder at a meeting.

Domestic Abuse – As its main focus, the Panel undertook an in-depth review of Domestic Abuse. The purpose was to assess if there had been any impacts on the service following its previous review in 2014. The Panel has held a number of review meetings, including one which took place over a full day and presented the Panel with the opportunity to contribute to the Domestic Abuse Strategy. This was attended by Officers from the Council and partners. A further session involved a meeting with two victims of Domestic Abuse listening to their stories and finding out more about their experiences of the process and the impact this has had on them. In addition to this there was also a site visit to a refuge and attendance at a national Domestic Abuse seminar. The recommendations forwarded to the Executive have been viewed as a separate source of evidence to support the Domestic Abuse Strategy. For example, in respect of the recommendation of **‘embedding domestic abuse into all aspects of commissioning where possible’**, the Executive responded that commissioning activity, as outlined by the Members, was identified as a need during the development of the Domestic Abuse Strategy and features on the action plan for this strategy in order to embed a whole family response to domestic abuse. It has been agreed that the Safer, Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) will lead on this with support and influence from the Doncaster Children’s Services Trust and work commenced in relation to this on 1st April 2017. It is anticipated that this will be completed by March 2018.

Crime and Disorder Committee - It is a statutory requirement for the Council’s Crime and Disorder committee to hold the Community Safety Partnership to account. The Community and Environment Panel undertake the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee.

Acting in its capacity as the **Crime and Disorder Committee**, the Panel met in February 2017 to consider its performance against key priorities, hate crime figures

pre and post Brexit, anti-social behaviour figures and the effectiveness of the Police none emergency 101 number as a means of gathering intelligence; Community Safety Strategy and fly-tipping (enforcement).

Community Safety Strategy – Pre-Decision Scrutiny

The Panel this year gave consideration to the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in Doncaster with figures based on the previous 12 month period. Members were pleased to note that the Community Safety Strategy would continue to be reviewed with changes made to reflect new trends and challenges faced. The specific areas focused on included the positive impact in the areas where new CCTV had been installed, how off-road motorcycling was being successfully addressed and the commitment of partners, through different strategic partner operations addressing antisocial behaviour, vulnerability and reassurance, which on the last occasion lead to 29 arrests, 5 report on summons, 12 cars seized, 19 other traffic offences, 17 taxi licensing offences and a kilo of cocaine recovered.

Fly-tipping – Enforcement

The Committee therefore considered issues such as;

- What is fly tipping and how it is defined
- Cost to the authority
- Service standards and timeframe
- Fining and issues relating thereto
- Work undertaken with partners
- Hotspots map
- Trade waste – what is available for tradesmen

The criminal act of fly tipping action and enforcement taken was addressed as in the last 12 months the Council had spent nearly £450,000 on removing fly tipping from public land in addition to the costs of waste education, enforcement and cost to private landowners to keep their land clear.

The Panel was delighted to learn that the team had won a Keep Britain Tidy award for work undertaken as part of the Hexthorpe Selective Licensing Scheme and supported continuation of such initiatives, including the “This is My Doncaster” initiative boosting Doncaster as a cleaner and greener place to live, work and visit encouraging the community to take pride in their local environment and taking a zero tolerance policy on offenders.

Isle of Axholme Strategy - The Panel met with Members of the Executive and a number of key partners including representatives from Internal Drainage Boards to consider this issue. The Isle of Axholme Strategy provided details of future water level management and risks across specific areas of the Borough including residential and commercial properties, critical infrastructure and agricultural land. This provided information and raised awareness with Members around the strategy.

Councillor Jane Kidd

Chair of the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel **2016/2017**

Overview and Scrutiny Priorities for 2017/18

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will:

- Co-ordinate and manage the Panel's work programmes;
- Receive and monitor reviews undertaken by Panels and consider their effectiveness and impact;
- Receive quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports;
- Contribute to the Budget Process 2017/18 and beyond;
- Undertake pre-decision scrutiny of key policy issues;
- Consider Statutory and Council Plans prior to their consideration for approval such as Youth Justice Plan and the Corporate Plan; and
- Undertake an Overview and Scrutiny Evaluation.
- Further Review of Doncaster Children Services Trust progress following consideration
- An update on the financial and operational strategy of the Doncaster Children's Services Trust alongside the Council's own action plan.

Children and Young People will:

- Receive updates from the Youth Council, Doncaster Children's Services Trust;
- Consider Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report;
- Consider Children and Young People Plan
- Receive an overview on Education and Skills, Behaviour Inclusion Programme and Academies;
- Review education and school improvement information, including Key Stage and GCSE results;
- Consider Doncaster Children's Trust annual complaints report; and
- Consider an annual update/review of Fostering

Regeneration and Housing will:

- Receive an update of recommendations that were made following the 16/17 spotlight review of the Homelessness Strategy;
- Consider the Economic Plan Refresh

The remainder of the Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny workplan to be determined in due course.

Community and Environment will:

- Review the activities and effectiveness of the Safer and Doncaster Strategic Partnership; through meeting with a range of partners to review areas including Neighbourhood Community Policing, Community Safety Strategy refresh, anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, hate crime and complex lives;
- Consideration of traffic offences, town centre parking, parking on grass verges;
- Look at the Community Engagement Strategy and see how it will fit together i.e. supporting voluntary groups and encouraging people to volunteer, community capacity and supporting neighbours;
- Revisit and update on waste and recycling – following on from past review focusing on new collections arrangements;
- Consideration of proposal that Doncaster is a designated clean air zone.

Health and Adult Social Care will:

- Contribute to regional Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee considering items such as Commissioning Working Together (hyper acute stroke services and children's surgery and anaesthesia services) and Congenital Heart Disease;
- Monitor regular standing items including: -
 - Adult Transformation with an overview and spotlight on specific required areas e.g.: Place Plan and better care fund.
 - Quarterly Performance with regular updates into uptake of direct payments, residential and homecare.
 - Inspection and Regulation;
- Consider a range of other key issues including:-
 - End of Life Care and Intermediate care
 - Review the impact and effectiveness of the Carers Strategy and receive an update on the Health and Well-being Board Strategy update
 - Transition from child to adult services
 - Suicide safeguarding
 - Social Prescribing Review

- Health inequalities – BME Health Needs Assessment;
- Items considered annually including the Adult Safeguarding Board update and Public Health Protection Assurance in particular air quality.

Contacting Overview and Scrutiny

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All reports considered at Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings (unless exempt items) are available to the public. You can see them by visiting Doncaster Council's Website or by requesting a copy from the

The Governance Services Team is happy to respond to any enquiries about the work of Overview and Scrutiny. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more about the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Panels' work programmes for the forthcoming year, or if you have any comments that you would like to make.