

12 September 2017

**To the Chair and Members of the
SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

Education & Skills Commission and Social Mobility Opportunity Area (SMOA)

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report has been presented to update O&S on progress on the Education & Skills Commission and Social Mobility Opportunity Area (SMOA).
2. In January 2017, Mayor Ros Jones announced the formal response to the independent One Doncaster Report. In the same month, Doncaster was awarded SMOA status by the Department for Education. This report sets out the progress made to date in terms of implementing the recommendations of the One Doncaster report, and also how this aligns with the structure and intent of SMOA in the borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. It is recommended that O&S note the progress to date and endorse the direction of travel for the development of the two programmes of work.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The Education & Skills Commission and SMOA seek to improve educational attainment in the borough, to increase social and cultural capital of children and young people, ensure that the skills that young people develop are well placed to meet the needs of the job market, and to make sure that schools in Doncaster can thrive.

BACKGROUND

5. In December 2015, Team Doncaster agreed to set up a small group of independent national experts to assess what could be done to ensure that Doncaster's education and skills system was able to equip its residents and businesses for changing times, from childhood and through adulthood. The Commission formed in late February 2016 and was asked to submit its report in the autumn. The report, called 'One Doncaster' was published on the 21st October, 2016.

6. Following extensive consultation Mayor Ros Jones gave the Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership response to the One Doncaster report in January 2017. The response collated the recommendations under 3 broad headings: Whole Person, Whole Life; Skills for Growth; The Professor Sir Tim Brighouse Challenge.
7. In the same month, the government announced Doncaster as 1 of the second wave of 6 Opportunity Areas in January 2017, alongside Bradford, Fenland & East Cambridgeshire, Hastings, Ipswich and Stoke-on-Trent. This expanded upon the original 6 Opportunity Areas announced in October 2016 (Blackpool, Derby, Norwich, Oldham, Scarborough and West Somerset).
8. Opportunity Areas embody a major policy driver for the government and the Department for Education to improve social mobility and ensure that the life chances of young people are not restricted by their background or where they live and grow up. Each Opportunity Area was selected by the DfE based on the social mobility 'cold spots' identified by the Social Mobility Commission.
9. To ensure effective leadership and oversight of the two programmes, programmes boards have been established to set the strategic direction for the programmes and to take key decisions about direction and implementation. The Education & Skills Programme Board is jointly chaired by Prof. Chris Husbands and Nigel Brewster, with Prof. Husbands also chairing the SMOA Board. The boards meet monthly, and do so in two consecutive one hour slots, due to the distinct cross-over in membership. This is a reflection of the common goals of the two programmes.
10. To build a business case for SMOA, local partners have worked closely with the Department for Education (DfE) to produce a pre-diagnostic assessment of Social Mobility across the 6 perceived barriers: Early Years; Schooling; Home Learning Environment; Careers Information, Advice and Guidance; Post 16 education; and Post 19 education. This pre-diagnostic analysis was shared with Board members in early August, and will form the basis of the subsequent Delivery Plan which will provide the mechanism for releasing funding.
11. The co-chairs of the Education & Skills Programme Board opted to change the language of the three areas of focus to: Improving Childhood, Strengthening Schools, and Strengthening Routes to Work. Alongside this, there is also a scoping exercise for the development of Doncaster as a University City, and the intention to conduct a review of post-16 education in the borough. These broad areas of work will focus, in the first instance, on:
 - a. The development of 100 things to do before you're 11, which is a programme of educational and cultural enrichment for all children in Doncaster that seeks to raise aspiration and increase cultural capital
 - b. The development of new means of improving teacher recruitment and retention, including the development of a bespoke micro-site to showcase opportunities
 - c. The extension of the Doncaster Skills Academy, which offers a variety of interventions such as giving students real life work experiences and support from local businesses through a variety of means such as mentoring, business visits and internships, as well as providing them with up to date information on the skill needs of local businesses and the variety of career opportunities available to them within the area.

12. For the post 16 review, we intend to commission an independent expert with a track record in further and / or higher education to conduct the post-16 review on behalf of the Council. We want them to conduct an in-depth assessment of the current leadership within the system in Doncaster, how the different options available meet the needs of the children and young people in the borough, and what impact the choices available has on their subsequent destination, such as university, employment or an apprenticeship. This builds on the recommendation from the One Doncaster report, which recommended that there be a systematic review of Doncaster College, each sixth form's or each private training provider's offer. This was based on the feeling that a wider range of subjects and options available through clusters of excellence or federations would give more meaningful and useful choices to young people - and would better serve the economic needs of growing and incoming businesses. The Review will also link in to forthcoming developments, including the creation of a digital library and the refreshed learning provision strategy.
13. There is an appreciation that in order to successfully deliver on the ambition of these programmes, there needs to be deep and meaningful stakeholder engagement. To this end, there have been two stakeholder events co-hosted with the DfE to set out the vision and intent of the programmes and to make clear how they will work together going forward. These events have also incorporated workshops sessions to generate insight and ideas for how we can develop some of the proposed changes for the Education & Skills Commission.
14. To drive the delivery of these two key programmes of work, we have established a programme delivery team which draws on DMBC staff and partners to create a delivery plan, utilising the same format and style of the SMOA delivery plan. This will set out the rationale for the interventions, how they will be funded, what the governance of the programme is, and the timescales for different activity

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

15. There is strong correlation between the vision and ambition of the Education & Skills Commission and SMOA, and the council's key outcomes. The implications for these are set out below.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Young people are equipped to access education, employment or training</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Children and young people enjoy improved social mobility</p> <p>Diminish the difference between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children and young people</p>
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>The distributed leadership across the Education & Skills Commission between DMBC, Partners and Learning and Doncaster Chamber will ensure strong leadership and governance.</p>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. SMOA brings with it £6m. of funding, which will be distributed over the 3 years of the programme, and released against the priorities which are established for in the Delivery Plan.

CONSULTATION

17. The pre-diagnostic assessment of the strengths and challenges for social mobility in the borough will be consulted on with stakeholders at an event on the 25th September. This feedback will then be incorporated into the delivery plan that is published at the end of October.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [One Doncaster report](#)
- [Social Mobility Commission 'State of The Nation'](#)
- [Children & Young People's Plan 2017-2020](#)

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