

Councillor Kevin Rodgers
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21st September, 2017

Mayor Ros Jones
Doncaster Council
Floor 4
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Dear Ros,

Finance and Performance Improvement Report: 2017-18 Quarter 1

Further to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on the 7th September 2017, Members gave consideration to the Finance and Performance Improvement Report: 2017-18 Quarter 1. During the discussion a number of areas were highlighted as follows;

1. **Absenteeism Rates** – Members expressed concern that the measures for absenteeism rates were adrift from local targets which included schools persistent absenteeism at 13% for primary and 18.3% for secondary levels. Members recognised that a significant amount of work had been undertaken and that there were a number of challenges to making improvements. The Committee was pleased to hear that a review was being undertaken as part of the Children and Young People Plan. They also heard about measures put in place to tackle such issues including a dashboard, notifying schools of concern, a series of challenge meetings and discussions taking place with Senior Leaders. Members of the Committee look forward to hearing further about such proposals in place at a future meeting. In addition, they would be interested in learning more about the underlying issues of absenteeism, what are the particular areas of focus, cohorts affected and the impact of absenteeism on the educational attainment of those children involved.
2. **Support for our Armed Forces Community** - Members recognised the Councils commitment to supporting Doncaster's military service personnel and veterans as an MOD Employer Recognition Gold Award employer, through Executive Mayor Ros Jones' pledge and our Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Paul Wray.

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During the meeting, it was questioned whether a piece of work could be commissioned to allow annual monitoring of the delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant given the cross-cutting nature of the work. It was felt that this issue had progressed well and Members would like to ensure that this standard is maintained.

A recommendation was therefore made for a one-page assessment to be included within the quarterly performance report provided on an annual basis. It was felt that this would enable the Committee to have an oversight of performance and find out more about what had been delivered over the previous year.

3. The Committee also raised concerns about certain **corporate plan performance indicators under the Adult Health and Wellbeing section**. In particular; Directorate Service Measures 25, 38 and 40 and while not highlighted as a particular problem under the Red Amber and Green rating, do give Members concern about underlying issues that could undermine the Adult Health and Wellbeing agreement.
4. Finally, the Committee would be grateful for a response explaining the current status of **Internal Audit Recommendations** and why all directorates (apart from Regeneration and Environment) have a 0% value against a 100% target. The Panel in particular, raised concern about certain Directorates not completing audits on time and would like to know more about this.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who attended, for outlining in detail the information contained in the Finance and Performance Improvement Report: 2017-18 Quarter 1. I would be grateful for a response by no later than the 21st October 2017.

Kind regards,



Councillor Kevin Rodgers
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

cc: Jo Miller, Chief Executive
Cabinet Members
OSMC
Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment
Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health
Damian Allen, Learning and Opportunities
Lee Tillman, Assistant Director Strategy and Performance
Louise Parker, Head of Service Strategy & Performance Unit Manager