



**Doncaster**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor Kevin Rodgers  
Chair  
Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee  
Floor 2  
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**Councillor Glyn Jones**  
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Date: 9th November 2017

Dear Kevin

**Finance and Performance Improvement Report: 2017-18 Quarter 1**

Thank you for your letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, to Mayor Jones, and for OSMC's consideration of the Finance and Performance Improvement Report: 2017/18, Quarter 1. I am responding on the Mayor's behalf as she is currently away from the office.

I will deal with each of the points raised in your letter in turn.

**Absenteeism Rates**

To specifically address the issues we face around persistent absence, we have co-produced a new Attendance Strategy. The Strategy seeks to develop collective responsibility for driving improvements in attendance, whilst delivering greater accountability for Doncaster schools around absence and persistent absence.

In the first instance, we have:

- Written to all schools at the start of autumn term 2017 informing them about the Doncaster focus on reducing persistent absence and increasing attendance across all schools. All schools with persistent absence above national figures (with some regard to proportionality) become 'focus schools'.
- Provided training for school governors regarding attendance and persistent absence. Chairs of Governors to receive notification of falling into the category of focus school and what they can do to ensure their school improves. Training available for governors with attendance role.

**Support for our Armed Forces Community**

The Council has established a Veterans Board, which reports into the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Board, which is chaired by Councillor Glyn Jones. The Veterans Board provides regular updates to the EDI Board which will also inform the Council's Annual Report. As part of our Due Regard process, we have also added two further protected characteristics; Anti-Poverty and Veterans, in order to raise the profile of our support for Armed Forces.

## **AHWB Performance Indicators**

### **Measure 25 (AH&W) The proportion of people who use services and carers who find it easy to find information about services – service users only**

The 2016/17 survey return has only just been submitted therefore the outturn at this point is provisional. The provisional figure for 2017 is 72.1%, which is a slight reduction from 75% two years ago, but similar to last year's figure of 72.6%. To get a more accurate picture of what the figures are telling us, we need to compare Doncaster to other councils, however, at this point, the benchmarking data is not available. The benchmarking data will be reported to the committee as soon as it is available. It is clear though that the figures for this indicator have been relatively stable for the past three years, and they are not flagging up a significant issue at this stage.

### **Measure 38 (AH&W) Proportion of repeat safeguarding referrals**

Repeat safeguarding referrals at 10.6% has remained fairly static over the previous quarters, and is only slightly behind the target level of 10%, which is an improvement on the same period last year when it was 11.11%. A safeguarding task and finish group has been investigating the themes and trends relating to repeat referrals. The group concluded that there did not seem to be any significant pattern to the repeat referrals, but agreed to continue the work during 2017. If the task and finish group highlights any area of concern, then this will be reported to the committee.

### **Measure 40 (AH&W) PHOF2.22iii Cumulative percentage of eligible population aged 40-74 who received an NHS Health Check**

At this stage, this indicator is performing very close to target levels. Any dip in performance or concerns about NHS health checks will be highlighted to the committee during the Quarter 2 performance reporting cycle.

NHS Health Checks are a nationally mandated service that Doncaster Council is responsible for commissioning or providing. Currently the service is provided by Hallcross Medical Services Ltd (HMSL) through a contract with the Council. The contract specifies that they are required to cover 66% of the eligible NHS Health Check Population over a rolling 5 year period.

The programme combines an opportunistic community outreach approach together with primary care delivery by 37 GP practices.

Over the last 5 years, 58,048 (almost 65%) of the eligible population were offered a health check, and 32,099 people (nearly 36%) received a health check.

The most recent figures, although below target, will see an improvement in the number of people offered and receiving a health check.

The service model is being reviewed as well as the financial model, as the current approach may not be affordable, given the reductions in the public health grant, yet there are no reductions in national targets.

**Internal Audit Recommendations**

I understand that Colin Earl has responded directly on this item.

I trust the above is helpful, and thank you once again for your Committee's consideration of this report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glyn Jones', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Councillor Glyn Jones**  
**Deputy Mayor**  
**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Equalities**

