



Doncaster
Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

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Foreword

This year's Annual Report contains the highlights from Overview & Scrutiny over the previous Municipal Year, and some of the areas which will be considered this year.

Much of the work of the Panels has arisen from the new Mayoral and Council term and the wider strategic objectives of **Doncaster Growing Together** which was agreed in September 2017. The challenges facing the Authority and its Partners require a greater degree of partnership working through **Team Doncaster**, and Scrutiny plans to play its part in improving and refining the work of the Council on behalf of its citizens.

Over the past Municipal Year we have looked at work including **Equalities & Diversity** and the **Housing Allocation Policy** which has a major impact on the well-being of the Borough's residents. Looking outward, the Management Committee heard from **Doncaster College** regarding the proposed merger with **North Lindsey College** in North Lincolnshire to form the **DN Colleges Group**.

One of the major concerns that the Management Committee has looked at is the over spend by **Doncaster Children's Trust** who discharge the Authority's Children's Social Care Duties. The safeguarding of our young people is of paramount importance to the Authority, and we are pleased to see that the Executive and Senior Officers have reacted quickly to bring proper and proportionate challenge to the Trust on this matter.

Finally, a piece of work driven by the Management Committee has been the **review of Overview and Scrutiny** resulting in changes in how the Panels and Management committee will refocus their work. I would ask Members, Partners, and the Borough's citizens to consider how they can bring the experience to participate in Scrutiny to add a richer picture to the Authority's policy development.



Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2017/2018

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS 2017/18



Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny Management
Committee



Councillor John Healy

Vice Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny Management
Committee



Councillor Neil Gethin

Chair of Children and
Young People



Councillor John Mounsey

Vice Chair of Children and
Young People



Councillor Jane Kidd

Chair of Community and
Environment



Councillor Jane Cox

Vice Chair of Community
and Environment



Councillor Andrea
Robinson

Chair of Health and
Adults Social Care



Councillor Cynthia Ransome

Vice Chair of Health and
Adults Social Care



Councillor Paul Wray

Chair of Regeneration
and Housing



Councillor David Nevett

Vice Chair of Regeneration
and Housing

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP 2017/18

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Chair – Councillor Kevin Rodgers	Vice-Chair - Councillor John Healy
Councillor Andrea Robinson	Councillor Bev Chapman
Councillor Paul Wray	Councillor Neil Gethin
Councillor Richard A Jones	Councillor Jane Kidd
Invitee – Paul O'Brien GMB	

Health and Adults Social Care Panel

Chair – Councillor Andrea Robinson	Vice – Chair Councillor Cynthia Ransome
Councillor Linda Curran	Councillor George Derx
Councillor Martin Greenhalgh	Councillor Sean Gibbons
Councillor Pat Haith	Councillor John Gilliver
Councillor Derek Smith	Invitee – Lorna Foster UNISON

Communities and Environment Crime and Disorder Panel

Chair – Councillor Jane Kidd	Vice-Chair –Councillor Jane Cox
Councillor Lani-Mae Ball	Councillor Mark Houlbrook
Councillor Nigel Cannings	Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Rachel Hodson	Councillor Ian Pearson
Councillor Charlie Hogarth	Invitee - Tom Fent UNISON

Children and Young People Panel

Chair – Councillor Neil Gethin	Vice Chair – Councillor John Mounsey
Councillor Nick Allen	Councillor Nikki McDonald
Councillor Mick Cooper	Councillor Sue McGuinness
Councillor Jane Cox	Councillor Tina Reid
Councillor Sean Gibbons	
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

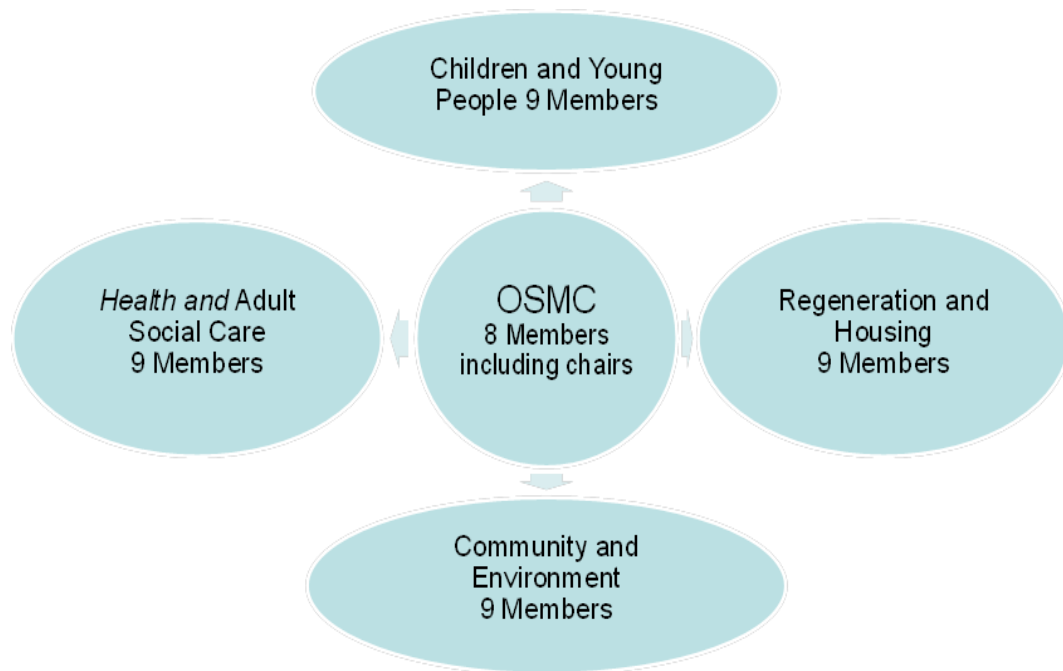
Chair – Councillor Paul Wray	Vice-Chair – Councillor David Nevett
Councillor Duncan Anderson	Councillor Eva Hughes
Councillor Iris Beech	Councillor Ken Keegan
Councillor John Cooke	
Councillor Steve Cox	Invitee – Mark Whitehouse Unite

Overview and Scrutiny Structure

2017/18

Overview and Scrutiny continues to provide a strategic overview through the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the four Panels. It has continued to review issues through spotlight and in-depth meetings. By reporting their findings and recommendations this seeks to support the delivery of Council 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.

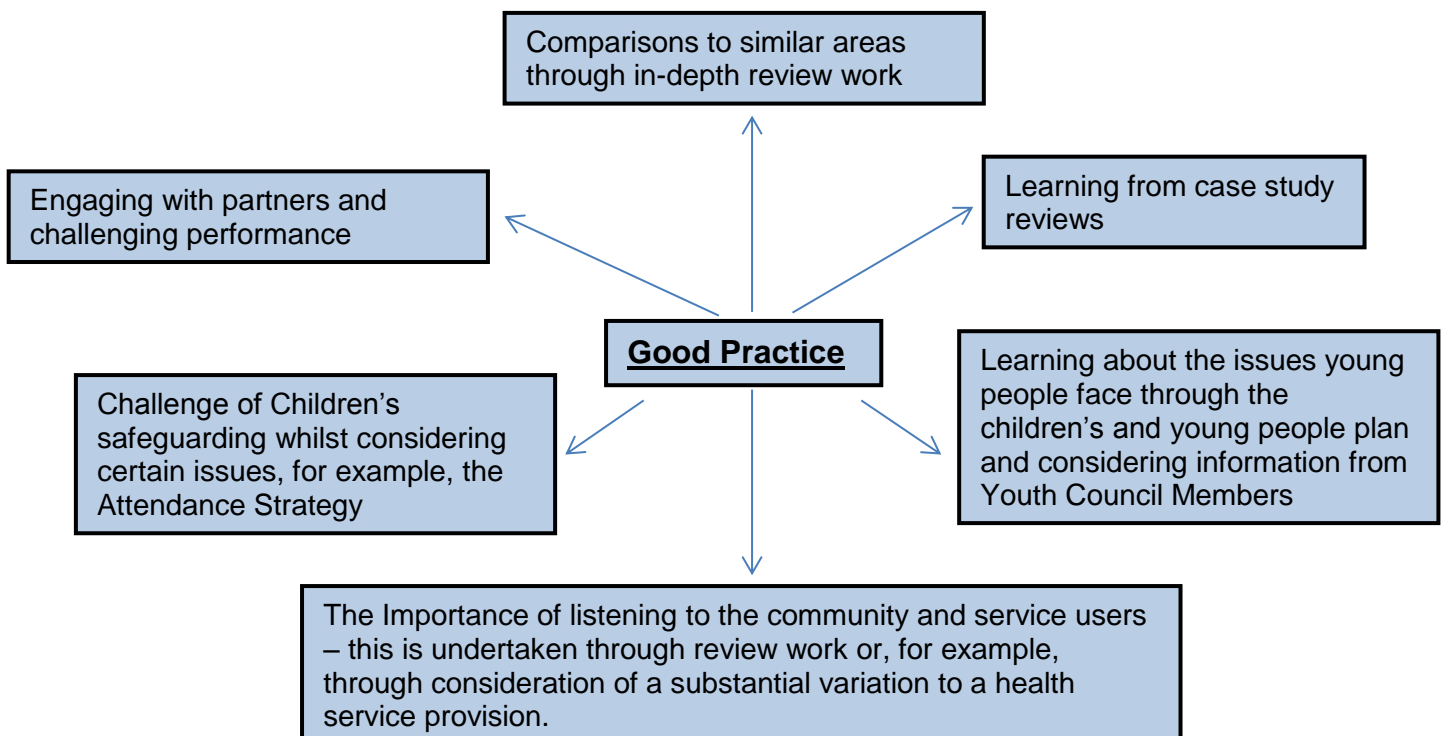
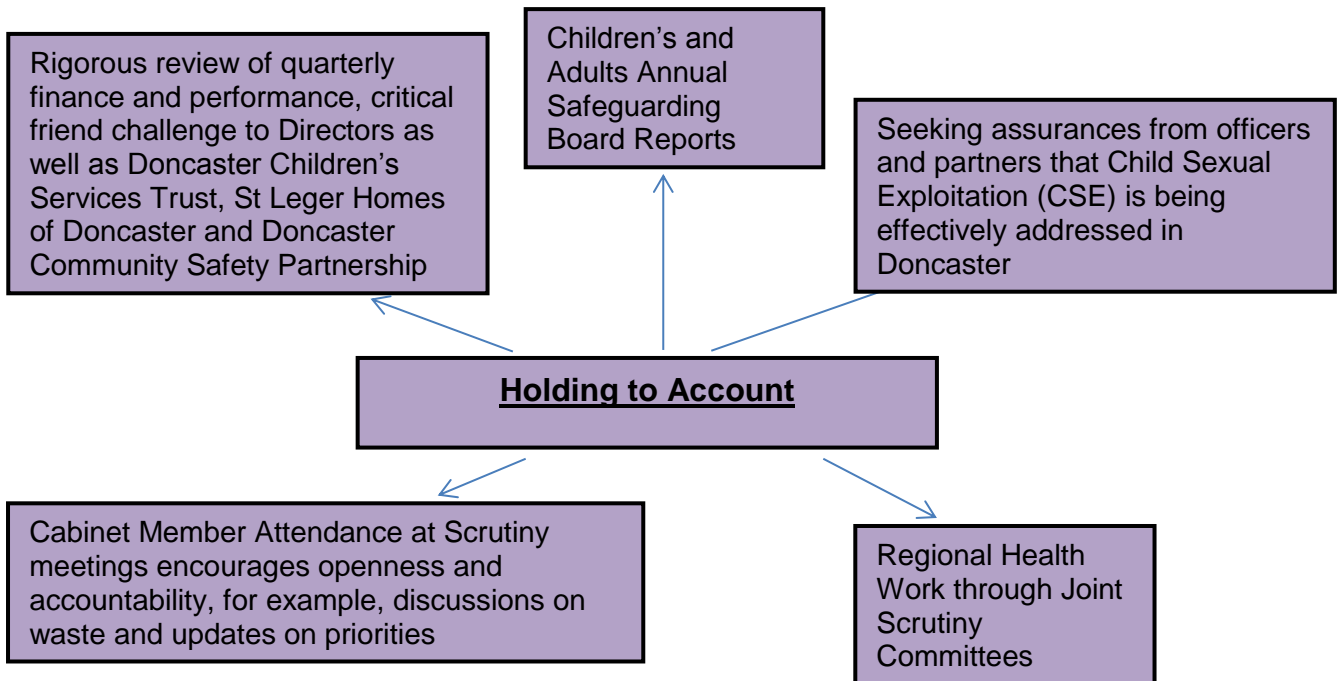


The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee operates as the business committee for the Overview and Scrutiny function covering all aspects of the Council and partnership activity (except Health). Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairs have been included within the membership of OSMC and have held a key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

Impacts and Good Practice

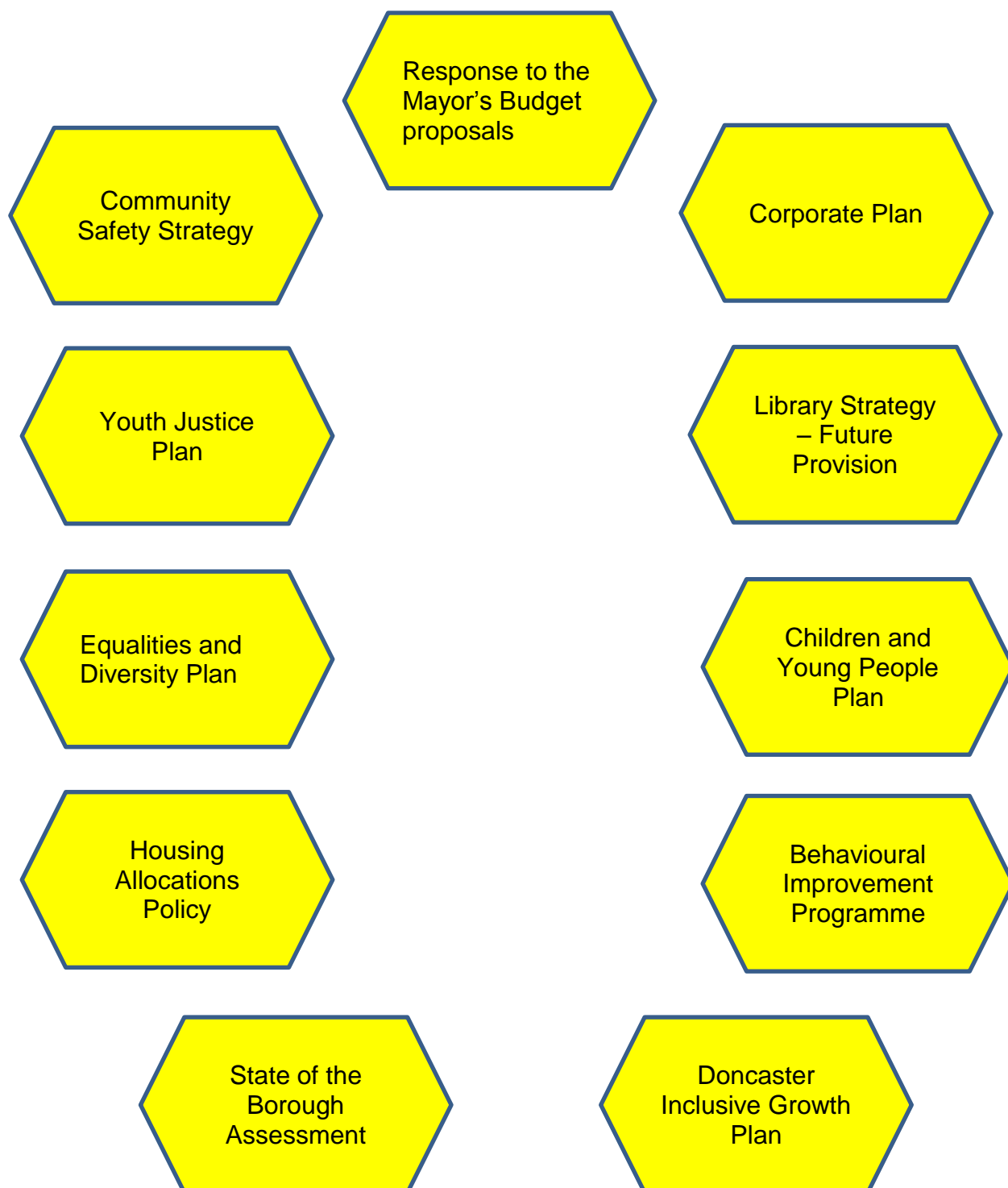
2017/18

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:

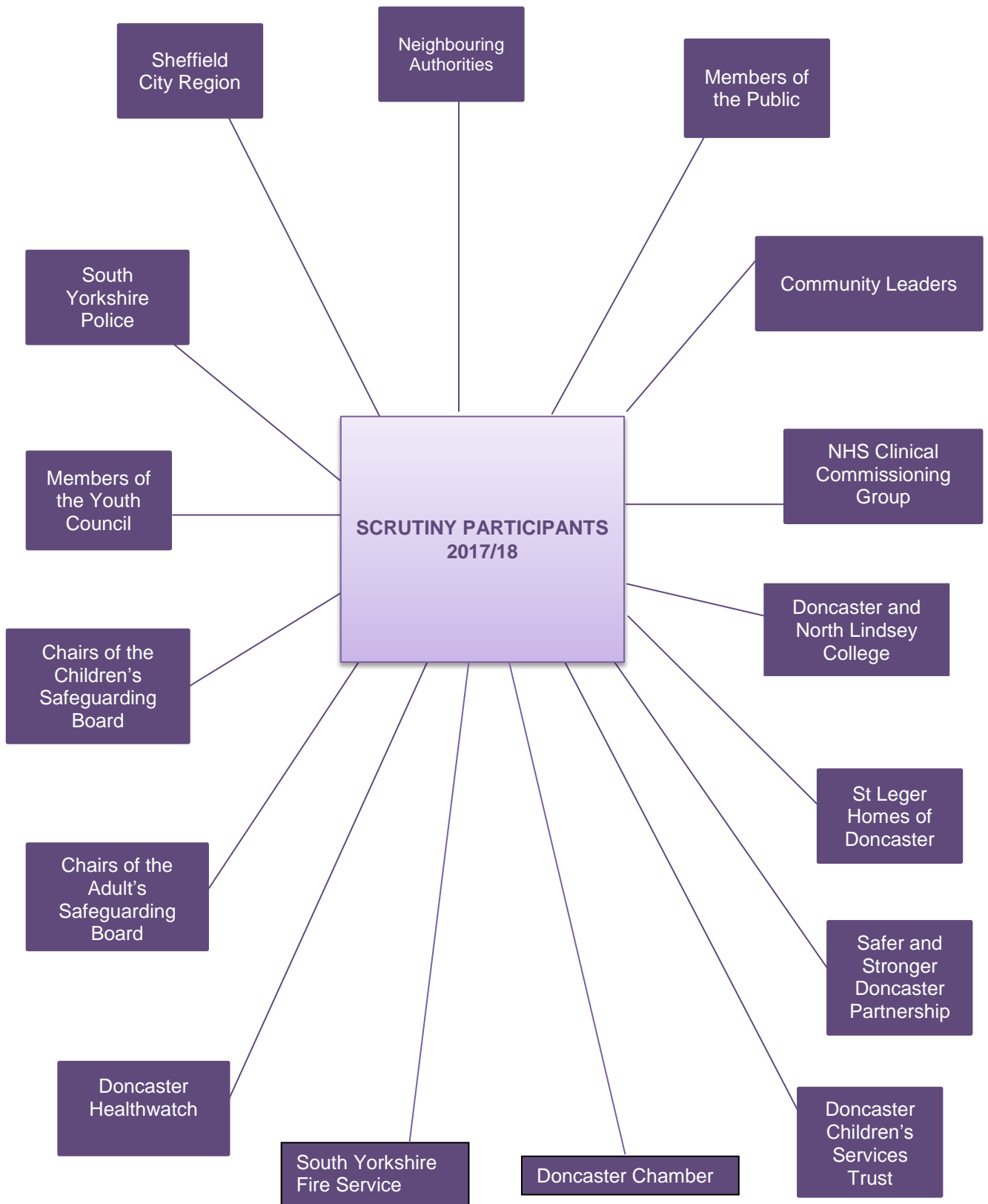


Pre-decision Scrutiny 2017/18

This provides an opportunity for Scrutiny to feed its comments to the Executive to support future decision making, with some of the issues including:



Public and Partnership Engagement 2017/18



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held 16 meetings last year. As well as setting its own work plan the Committee monitored and reviewed the Panel work plans, received regular updates from the Panel Chairs and undertook a review of the Scrutiny function.

Policy Framework - The Committee considered and contributed to a number of important policy documents including the Corporate Plan (refresh), Local Plan and Youth Justice Plan.

Finance and Performance – Detailed consideration was given to the quarterly Finance and Performance reports. To support transparency, public accountability and understand how the Council seeks to improve service delivery and value for money, the Committee focused on how key areas of overspend and underperformance were being addressed. Question planning sessions were used prior to these meetings to ensure an effective approach to identifying and focusing on key areas of concern. Where appropriate, Directors have been invited to respond to the Committee's questions. Some of the key areas discussed are detailed below:

- Addressing pressures on services, for example, examining budgets within the Regeneration and Housing budget.
- School absenteeism rates - Members were concerned that figures were adrift from local targets and acknowledged that there were a number of challenges that still needed to be addressed to deliver improvements. It was agreed that future monitoring would continue and progress assessed;
- Internal Audit recommendations – where Directorates showed a 0% value against a 100% target Officers were questioned why they were not completing audits on time. The Committee was assured that out of 4 major recommendations at the time of consideration that 3 were longstanding cases.
- When considering information presented on the performance of St Leger Homes Doncaster (SLHD), the Committee has kept a watchful eye on void rent loss, the number of households in temporary accommodation, local expenditure and analysis of complaints. Having looked at these areas year on year it was

now reported that improvements were being made with complaints reducing in number in line with delivering the standard of service that tenants deserve to receive.

Mayor's Budget Proposals – following its earlier consideration of the medium term financial forecast, the Committee began its review of the Mayor's budget in December, 2017 making its final response in January, 2018. OSMC added value by providing a commentary on the proposals in their wider context ensuring they were evidence based, supported corporate and Borough wide priorities, as well as reviewing the capacity and risks around deliverability and implementation. As part of the Committee's evidence gathering some of the issues considered included:

- the position with South Yorkshire Pensions now being in surplus and understanding the protections in place to ensure no further deficit;
- understanding how the potential additional cost resulting from the local government pay offer would be managed from a mixture of New Homes bonus and a range of additional funding;
- how investment in local services would assist in retaining quality front line services;
- the continued overspend by Doncaster Children Services Trust; and
- the possible impact of Brexit.

Pre-decision Scrutiny – Prior to consideration by Cabinet, the Committee provide the following input

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) - Members stressed that the EDI should be embedded within all planning and work undertaken within the Council;
- Core Annual 'Define and Deliver Cycle' - Members supported the proposed annual report on the State of the Borough and considered how the Council could improve service planning, management of strategic risks and how these fit with key priorities and budget setting. Members considered how Scrutiny's work programme would be informed by the process and could help focus on identifying and reducing gaps in the Council's knowledge; and

- Behaviour Improvement Programme – the proposals were supported but the Committee challenged how schools would take more responsibility over attendance and how they would be supported by the Local Authority.

Holding To Account – To gain a greater understanding of the effectiveness of Council and multi-agency co-ordinated activities, the Committee considered:

- Doncaster Children's Services Trust – Financial and Operational Strategy. Areas discussed included staff turnover, care ladder/opportunities going forward, gaps/challenges and governance and financial arrangements of the Trust. The Committee requested a further report and monitoring should the same financial variance appear at Quarter 3 in 2018/19.
- Doncaster and North Lindsey College Merger - The Committee supported the merger and during the discussion a number of areas were highlighted relating particularly to the impact on skills and Doncaster's economy, strengthening partnerships and impact across Doncaster, retaining local provision, serving it's regions and reviewing governance arrangements. The recommendations were accepted and the College agreed to keep Members informed of Governance arrangements once they had been agreed.

Overview and Scrutiny Structure Review 2017/18 - The review sought to evaluate whether the Council is providing an effective Overview and Scrutiny function following the structural and process changes implemented in 2014 and whether any further improvements could be identified. Following the review, Council agreed that OSMC and the Panels align their work plans to the Doncaster Growing Together themes but retain their current names. This would ensure contribution to corporate priorities and ensure equitable workloads across the Panels. The Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Panels would continue to substitute for Panel Chairs at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2017/2018

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel holds scheduled meetings to ensure that it effectively discharges the Council's statutory Health Scrutiny role, and is able to focus on the Doncaster Caring DGT theme.

Holding to Account - The Panel has reviewed the Public Health Annual Report on Health Protection Assurance and considered substantial variations to NHS services informed by the Clinical Commissioning Group both locally and regionally through the Joint Overview and Scrutiny regional committees.

Regional Joint Health Scrutiny – The Chair is a member of the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Wakefield Joint Scrutiny Committee, and as part of the consultation process considered the business cases relating to a substantial variation to hyper acute stroke services across South Yorkshire and non-specialised children's surgery and anaesthesia.

Substantial Variations to NHS services – this year has seen consideration of two changes to services at GP practices with Members raising concerns over the impact on elderly and other patient groups, particularly with regard to transport and GP recruitment. The Panel concluded that it was satisfied that consultation in relation to the proposed changes at the GP's surgeries had been adequate.

Overview element – the Panel received updates on the following issues:

- Doncaster's Strategic Health and Social Care Plans – progress made on the Council's Adults, Health and Wellbeing Transformation Programme alongside Quarterly performance information. Members accepted the programme would enable people to live independently through providing a very different and more personalised offer in partnership with health and community colleagues.
- Inspection and Regulation – this was a new standard element for the Panel to give consideration to and ask the following questions:
 - What was happening with regard to providers?

- The role of the Council; and
- Recent government announcements around improved Better Care Fund (iBCF).
- Intermediate Care – Doncaster NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) provided an update including proposed changes currently being tested, how the model was being refined and staff preparation for transition, prior to new arrangements for joint commissioning being implemented. In relation to this issue, Members challenged rapid response activity, work with mental health services and the need to reduce the number of people entering residential care.
- The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System Memorandum of Understanding - Members and the public in attendance were given an opportunity to discuss and comment on this document.
- End of Life Care – Members received information that improvements and service development had been implemented in the following areas:-
 - Woodfield 24 Care Services;
 - Community Nursing;
 - Specialist palliative care;
 - Community equipment; and
 - Access to medicine.

In addition, it was reported that within education and training Doncaster NHS CCG had funded, through GP practices, a gold standard framework with Doncaster Royal Infirmary/RDaSH undertaking training of all relevant staff.

- Doncaster Suicide Prevention Plan – provided information on the Council's local suicide prevention plans and local suicide data. Members examined veterans who may be at risk, social isolation, data and information as well as raising awareness of this issue for children and young people at risk. Recommendations made included the widening of SAFETALK training currently available for both School Governors and Members and consideration of what further work could be undertaken to explore what could be achieved across partnerships.

Councillor Andrea Robinson

Chair of the Health and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Panel 2017/2018

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Panel focused its busy work programme on the following areas:

Holding to account –The Panel considers the performance of the **Doncaster Children's Services Trust** on a quarterly basis. It has also reviewed complaints received by the Trust, focusing on customer experiences with the Service provided and were assured of and recognised improvements that had been made in this area. To improve the Panel's knowledge Councillors were invited to the Trust to meet with the Initial Referral Team including Managers and frontline staff to gain a better understanding about their day-to-day working.

Young People - Youth Councillors provided the Panel with an excellent and informative update on the Child Voice Pathways which has been used to help develop the Children and Young Peoples Plan. From consultation, they reported in detail to the Panel their two priorities, which were to address transport and emotional health. Members were given the opportunity to learn about the issues young people face and also hear about the positive images and activities they were involved in across Doncaster.

Overview – Key issues considered by the Panel during 2017/18 included:

Academies – After seeing the conversion of 13 schools to academies (which was the largest number in any one year to date), assurances were provided that good relationships were being forged with schools and support was being offered particularly for the procurement of services. The Panel was pleased that the Director of People and Assistant Director Commissioning and Business Development met regularly with the Regional Schools Commissioner to address such issues.

- Fostering - The Fostering Service Annual report is a regulatory requirement and informed elected Members, senior managers and decision makers about key outcomes in service provision. The Panel learned about the alternative fostering method, "Mocking Bird Family Model" that brings together up to ten foster families to form a satellite foster family, offering respite, social activities and advice.

- School Performance Tables - Members considered performance across a range of educational indicators which either formed part of, or contributed to the performance tables published by the Department of Education. Members paid particular attention to attainment and achievement, attendance, Ofsted judgements and exclusions. Members supported the transformed school improvement functions and its relationship with the Teaching Schools Alliance.
- Education and Skills Commission and Social Mobility Opportunity Area (SMOA) – an update was provided on the recommendations from the One Doncaster report, how it aligned with the structure and intent of the SMOA in the borough. This will be considered further during 2018/19.
- Learning Provision and Organisation – Members sought assurances in respect of arrangements for ensuring effective delivery of a high quality learning provision in response to local demographic pressures alongside a demand for learning places.
- Attendance Strategy/Children's Safeguarding – through quarterly monitoring reports, school attendance has been regularly considered together with OSMC considering the Behavioural Improvement Programme. Whilst reviewing attendance and persistent absence, Members highlighted that children not attending school were at a much greater risk of harm and presented a genuine safeguarding risk. The Panel was pleased to see how the Council was therefore undertaking a proactive approach. Members challenged Elective Home Education and steps that were being taken to build awareness of those children in the system and ensuring they were being educated in the right environment.

Councillor Neil Gethin

Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel 2017/2018

Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Overview – This Panel lends itself towards the overview element of the Scrutiny process and this year held a number of meetings focusing mainly on the regeneration aspect of its remit. A number of issues were considered in detail including:

- Doncaster Culture and Learning Centre – this exciting development was presented to the Panel, with Members learning how the transformation of the old Girls School would be undertaken and what opportunities would be made available to showcase Doncaster's history and future including rail and engineering. Members were looking forward to seeing progress in the near future.
- Railway Station Forecourt – It was highlighted that Doncaster has such a strong location on the rail network, therefore the importance of the welcome on the station and forecourt improvements were imperative. Members appreciated the plans to develop a natural flow towards the town centre, with an eye catching street scene. The importance of linking the Market area with the transport links was reported to the Executive as a concern, recommending that strategically placed bus stops be provided to create increased footfall in areas of need. Continuing from these discussions later in the year, **Town Centre Connectivity** was considered. Members were made aware of proposed alternative future routes across the town centre addressing demands, relieving more congested areas and reaching others that both older and young currently found it difficult to access.
- Wool Market – To complement proposed development of other town centre areas, again, the importance of enhancing this key gateway to the town centre and facilitating the waterfront connections were emphasised. Areas considered included an improved environment, car parking, stall leases, entertainment offer and trader engagement. To ensure strong buy-in Members recommended that traders be informed of proposals and given opportunities to share their ideas and comments.
- Doncaster Inclusive Growth Plan – Members addressed the ambition and scope of this plan and supported the work that was being undertaken. Due to

the importance and high profile of the issue, Members expressed their wish that a Councillor be appointed as an ambassador who, alongside the Mayor would ensure Doncaster was promoted at all times. Concerns were highlighted with regard to the long term impact of Brexit on businesses, the economy and employment of labour that was not local. Other areas discussed, included:

- Pay equality and higher earning potential in the Borough;
- “Growing our own” specialised higher level skilled workforce; and
- Business growth – Members were made aware that Doncaster had performed much better than core cities and supported the importance of the hard work undertaken to continue attracting international investors to the borough.

Housing - is always a key element for the Panel’s consideration and this year was no exception, giving consideration to:

- Overall Housing Need – bearing in mind the level of housing need was determined by natural population and economic growth the Panel looked at the level of ambition and ability to meet the borough’s required housing. The categories Members sought reassurances on included affordable housing need, gypsy and traveller sites, future barriers to delivery options and work being undertaken with private developers.
- Universal Credit – This is an issue that has been causing concern to Members for some time and was raised across many discussions. An overview and detailed discussion that included St Leger Homes of Doncaster and the Local Authority, addressed the impact on tenants and the organisation and support provided to claimants. Reassurances were provided particularly for people living with complex lives to ensure appropriate support was in place to address the challenges they faced. Members were pleased to learn about support also being provided by the Council’s Benefits team, and through the Job Centre, to assist individuals in supporting themselves with budgeting skills and to increase the use of online services. The Panel was reassured that impacts on both claimants and the organisation were continually being monitored.

Councillor Paul Wray

Chair of the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel 2017/2018

Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Panel has a wide remit and this year agreed to focus the majority of its work around crime and disorder, providing strong evidence based information for consideration when looking at the Safer Doncaster Partnerships performance.

In-depth review - Members applied a case study area from within the Borough to consider all the crime and disorder issues associated with the area. Most of these issues were common across the Borough. To aid the Panel, it held two full day evidence gathering sessions where they heard from members of the local community, South Yorkshire Police, St Leger Homes, South Yorkshire Fire Service and the Neighbourhood Response Teams. A session with officers from a neighbouring authority was also held, considering area comparisons and best practice. It was commented by the visiting Local Authority how useful it was to work with our Members and that they would not hesitate to attend any future Scrutiny sessions.

The interventions that were working well through Team Doncaster were highlighted, as were challenges facing all partners. These included detailed discussions on:

- anti-social behaviour;
- organised crime;
- selective licensing;
- off road motorcycle project;
- dedicated neighbourhood police officers;
- CCTV;
- seizing alcohol; and
- Public Space Protection Orders.

Recommendations developed through evidence gathered, covered neighbourhood policing, the use of proceeds from crime, resources for youth and off-road motor cycle programme, tools available to combat all crime and disorder and partnership working.

Other areas of the Panel's work programme included:

Community Engagement Framework – to help inform the Community Engagement Strategy and toolkit the Panel held a workshop style session to gather ideas and views on their own experiences of community engagement.

Waste – the Panel received an overview on the Joint Waste Strategy 2017 to 2021 focusing on consultation methods and events, responses to consultation and working with neighbouring authorities. This is an issue that will be considered further by the Panel over the next 12 months.

Councillor Jane Kidd

Chair of the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel **2017/2018**

Overview and Scrutiny Priorities for 2018/19

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 2019/20 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.

Children and Young People will:

- Receive updates from Doncaster Children's Services Trust;
- Consider Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report;
- Review education and school improvement information, including Key Stage and GCSE results;
- Consider Doncaster Children's Trust annual complaints report; and
- Consider School the Attendance and Behaviour Transformation Programme.

Regeneration and Housing will:

- Consider the Local Plan;
- Consider the Rail Link to the Airport;
- Consider the Doncaster Inclusive Growth Plan;
- Consider future plans for the Wool Market; and
- Receive updates on Homelessness.

Community and Environment will:

- Review the activities and effectiveness of the Safer and Doncaster Strategic Partnership;
- Undertake a review of flood risk and management across the Borough;
- Consider issues around Complex Lives;
- Consider Waste Collection; and
- Receive updates on Domestic Abuse Review recommendations.

Health and Adult Social Care will:

- Contribute to work of the regional Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee considering items such as the Hospital Services review;
- Consider Mental Health;
- Receive Doncaster's Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report;
- Consider Your Life Doncaster
- Review the Carers Charter; and
- Consider issues around Suicide Prevention

Contacting Overview and Scrutiny

For further information about this Annual Report or any aspect of Overview and Scrutiny work in Doncaster, please contact any of the following:-

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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.