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## DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

TUESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 2018

A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, DONCASTER on TUESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 2018 at 5.30 PM

#### PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Neil Gethin

Councillors Lani-Mae Ball, Nick Allen, Jane Cox, Sean Gibbons, Nikki McDonald, Frank Tyas and Sue Wilkinson

Co-optees – John Hoare (Diocese of Sheffield Church of England) and Bernadette Nesbit (Diocese of Hallam Roman Catholic Church)

Invitee: -

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Other Councillors

- Councillor Andrea Robinson
- Councillor David Nevett

DMBC Officers

- Deborah Burton – Engagement Manager
- Rebecca Mason - Head of Engagement and Partnerships
- Callum Helman - Project Development Officer

Youth Council Representatives;

- Zara Mir – Local Offer Presenter
- Alannah White – Change for Life Presenter
- Aimee Crossland
- Connor Burleigh
- Bailey Holland
- Artiola Hekuri

		<u>ACTION</u>
88.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>	
	There were no apologies received.	

89.	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	None	
90.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	There were no declarations of interest made.	
91.	<u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2018</u>	
	RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 were agreed as a true record.	
92.	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	
	There were no public statements made.	
93.	<u>DONCASTER YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE</u>	
	<p>The purpose of this report was for Members to give consideration to information and presentation's provided by Doncaster Youth Council that updated the Panel on their priorities and campaigns. The meeting also sought to identify opportunities to work more closely with the Youth Council. This meeting formed part of the Take Over Challenge programme 2018 offered to children and young people across Doncaster. As part of this meeting the Youth Council job shadowed Panel Members during the course of the meeting and raised questions in relation to the agenda items.</p> <p><u>Local Offer Review</u></p> <p>Members were informed how in April 2016, Doncaster Council needed to identify a new way of providing a local offer to children and young people as it could no longer provide the resources and staffing. It was explained that children and young people within clubs and youth centres took part in a consultation exercise to identify what a good local offer could look like. The findings from the consultation would then be used to inform the essential principles of a good local offer for the future.</p> <p>A presentation was provided that included feedback from children and young people;</p> <p>Some of the key areas highlighted from the consultation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links with low level activity directed at females.</li> <li>• Lack of consistency in terms of provision.</li> <li>• Lack of access to Wi-Fi/music (considered as quite a significant issue for young people).</li> </ul>	

- Poor awareness of services available for young people in the local area.
- Lack of basic provision of items such as pens.
- Some positive comments were provided, highlighting the supporting volunteers in youth services.
- Meaningful awards/certificates - it was suggested that young people could get more involved in obtaining funding as a group which would also act as a positive addition to their applications/CVs as well providing an opportunity to obtain funds.

In respect of what might happen next, it was shared that there needed to be funding that targeted local issues, for example, it was recognised that in Mexborough there was a high level of anti-social behaviour. Members were reminded that providers had already secured a significant amount of funding through the opportunity area programme.

In respect of voluntary sector groups, Panel and Youth Council representatives heard how Expect Youth intended to bring together existing organisations to improve the Youth offer across the Borough. It was explained that a grant would be made available with a set of principles in place. It was recognised that a number of staff and volunteers were being trained to work with young people as well as being enabled to support them.

It was explained that Leanne Hornsby, the Assistant Director, Commissioning and Business Development met regularly with Expect Youth. It was recognised that the use of social media was an important mechanism to inform others of progress in addition to other channels of communication such as through advertising or schools.

Members were informed that the main barriers faced by the Youth Council included effective communication and making progress. In terms of working with the Council, it was stated that Youth Council members had to continuously ask for actions to be undertaken. It was also recognised how challenging it was to get support from schools.

Finally, it was felt that there should be more youth surgeries, including those to be held with residents and more opportunities to meet and work with Ward Councillors.

#### Curriculum for Life

A snapshot overview was provided on the Curriculum for Life offer for young people across Doncaster schools in order to be provided with support and be able to develop life skills. It was recognised that this was a priority locally as well as nationally.

A Councillor supported the importance of Personal Social and Health Education (PHSE) and spoke about the positive work happening in Mexborough Ward involving schools and businesses.

	<p>It was recognised that there hadn't been as much focus previously and that a great deal of variation occurred, with some schools just covering the minimum. It was suggested that an audit could be undertaken around PHSE to identify what was actually being covered across the Borough, when, and how much time was spent on it. It was added that this could be raised through the Secondary Heads meeting taking place later on that week.</p> <p>In terms of funding, Members were informed that work was being undertaken with the Department of Education to utilise some of the Opportunity Area funding. It was explained that any support obtained through funding would be most welcomed by young people to ensure that a full investigation could be conducted. It was commented that there could be potential for the Opportunity Board to make a case. It was felt that the profile of this issue could be raised and to review standards and expectations.</p> <p>It was stated that Curriculum for Life had remained within the top five priorities during the last seven years. Young people had confirmed that they felt that they had a voice but stressed that they wanted to make sure that this applied to everyone else.</p> <p>It was supported that the Youth Council should be brought back to a future overview and scrutiny meeting to be held in the evening. It was also suggested that representatives from the ladder group to be invited to the same meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Panel note the information presented for both Curriculum for Life and the Local Offer Review.</li> <li>ii. Requested that the following three areas be considered at a future meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel along with representatives from the Youth Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Update on Curriculum for Life (including outcome of Personal, Social, And Health Education (PHSE) audit)</li> <li>b) Feedback on Youth Surgeries</li> <li>c) Expect Youth – Response/Monitoring exercise (considering where are they locating activity/where can young people go?)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
94.	<p><u>OVERVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN</u>  <u>FIRST ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT</u></p>	
	<p>The purpose of this report was for Members to give consideration to the Councils current approach to assess what work was being done across the borough to fulfil the priorities and ambitions contained within the Children and Young People's Plan. The report explained that the</p>	

Plan was a fundamental part of the Council and with its partners and strategic vision, a commitment was made to assess progress against stated goals on an annual basis.

It was explained that the completed report would help inform work and the focus for the following year by highlighting particular areas and commitments made within the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). These included that;

- A commitment was made to regularly review the performance of the CYPP.
- The Impact Report would also act as a tool to promote the Plan and its achievements with the wider partnership as well as the people of Doncaster.
- That key partnership organisations alongside children and young people were consulted with and that contributions were taken into consideration (in relation to Key Performance Indicators).

Members were informed that work outlined in the plan had been well received, a consensus had been built and specific work undertaken which had been widely endorsed. Members were assured that leadership at the top was behind it.

The following key points were highlighted;

- That the plan was not as visible as it should be.
- The delivery of services across Doncaster was too inconsistent and sectors were becoming more fragmented
- That work needed greater prioritisation to improve its efficacy.
- That young people wanted more of a focus on Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) and Parental issues

The following key points were raised through the following overarching themes: "Safe, Happy and Healthy, Achieve and Equality". It was reported that this feedback had taken a lead role in shaping the content and structure of the report as well as informing the statements made about the efficacy of work happening within each theme. Key points included the following;

1. "Safe" – That young people did not feel safe within the Town Centre and at the Interchange.
2. "Happy and Healthy" – Look at improving the local offer and how young people could access services more easily.
3. "Achieve" - Devise and deliver a core life skills programme that is accessible to all.

	<p>4. “Equality” – Feedback of positive findings through Expect Youth indicating that there was a desire to engage more with young people.</p> <p>It was stated that young people were keen to celebrate all things positive including outside more typical areas of academic or sporting achievements.</p> <p>Members were informed that at a strategic level, the Council should ensure that agencies were involved in working to shape how they engaged with the plan and maintained a focus on it. It was explained that a cycle of engagement with young people and other partners needed to be built in to the monitoring process.</p> <p>It was stated that attendance of decision makers had improved over two summits and the importance of maintaining the momentum of this was recognised.</p> <p>In terms of communication, Members were informed that there will be a yearly plan produced. It was explained that once the plan had been finalised, it would be made accessible through the use of plain language infographics and be available through social media.</p> <p>Councillor Robinson commented that there wasn’t a 10-hour offer in place within her ward of Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall, although there was a determination that everything would be done that was key to the plan.</p> <p>It was advised that the Local Offer was there to develop Youth Strategies for young people to develop an understanding through the analysis and by identifying what gaps existed and what worked with partners. It was expressed that there needed to be a strategic set of expectations and baselines in place</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel note the report.</p>	
95.	<p><u>A YOUTH-LED COMMISSION ON CHILD POVERTY IN DONCASTER</u></p>	
	<p>The purpose of the report presented was for Members to give consideration to an outline of the Child Poverty Commission and a summary of findings prior to the final report being published and launched. Members received an overview of the methodology applied throughout the Commission, the key themes identified and the subsequent recommendations.</p> <p>It was reported that the Young Commissioner’s identified four themes that they felt were the most important to focus on, these included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Debt and benefits.</li> <li>2. Jobs, work and skills.</li> </ol>	

3. Mental health.
4. Moves and changes in young people's lives (life transitions).

It was reported that over 30% of children in Doncaster were living in poverty.

It was explained that the consultation process involved 10 young people initially and different methods of evidence gathering (that included data analysis and interviews with key stakeholders and seven evidence sessions). It was added that this process was carried out by seven young commissioners over a number of months and reported that the Commission made 19 recommendations in total across the four themes

Concern was raised regarding the development and monitoring of policy and issues that needed to be addressed such as bullying and not being able to pay dinner money.

Members spoke about the Children and Families Forum and Elected Members on those areas to be implemented as well as a collective responsibility being undertaken. Members were informed that a response document and Action Plan would be built into the Children and Young People Plan for the next cycle, building in comments from Team Doncaster. Members were informed that St Ledger Homes Doncaster was a key partner and that this work also aligned with the Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Members were informed that encouraging connections and opportunities with employer encounters was a priority within the Doncaster Opportunity Area. It was felt that young people needed access to better information and more meaningful experiences. Reference was also made to the Post 16 Review. Members were also reminded that the Chamber had access to the business community, reinforcing a demand led approach at an earlier age.

It was shared that it was vital for there to be wide engagement and the plan would be made available through the Councils website and other appropriate avenues.

RESOLVED that the Panel note the report.

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