

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

**DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

**Due Regard Statement
Community Safety Strategy 2018-21**

How to show due regard to the equality duty in how we develop our work and in our decision making.

Due Regard Statement

A **Due Regard Statement** (DRS) is the tool for capturing the evidence to demonstrate that due regard has been shown when the council plans and delivers its functions. A Due Regard Statement must be completed for all programmes, projects and changes to service delivery.

- A DRS should be initiated at the beginning of the programme, project or change to inform project planning
- The DRS runs adjacent to the programme, project or change and is reviewed and completed at the relevant points
- Any reports produced needs to reference “Due Regard” in the main body of the report and the DRS should be attached as an appendix
- The DRS cannot be fully completed until the programme, project or change is delivered.

1	<p>Name of the 'policy' and briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes. This will help to determine how relevant the 'policy' is to equality.</p>	<p>Development of the 2018-21 Community Safety Strategy, which is a statutory plan under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.</p> <p>The strategy shows residents what they can expect from the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership over the next three years. It outlines our priorities and the methods we will use to achieve them.</p> <p>From the development of the strategy this will provide us with a framework to meet the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting Vulnerable People; • Reducing crime, ASB and Re-offending; • Reducing Substance and Alcohol Misuse and the associated effects on crime. <p>Our aim through consultation with all communities is to understand what is important to them and for them to be part of the solution, working with us as an active partner in creating a safer stronger Doncaster through a variety of activities and initiatives.</p>
2	<p>Service area responsible for completing this statement.</p>	<p>Community Safety Team – Adults, Health and Well Being Directorate.</p>
3	<p>Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.</p>	<p>Protected user groups as defined by the Equalities Act 2010 are :</p> <p>Age, Disability, Race, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Belief, Pregnancy and Maternity, Gender Identity, Marriage and Civil Partnership.</p> <p>The review of the Community Safety Strategy begins from the statutory Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which is a comprehensive analysis of crime and community safety data across Doncaster. In addition to this, our Strategy is informed by an understanding of our communities, their demographics, needs and concerns. Overlaid with this is key information from data sources such as the census, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and local crime and anti-social behaviour data.</p> <p>The JSIA and our local community intelligence have identified a number of issues relating to those with protected characteristics. These are summarised as follows:</p>

Anti-Social Behaviour and Vulnerable Victims:

Recently we have seen a decrease in reported anti-social behaviour but by far the most significant concern has been vehicle related anti-social behaviour linked to the use of off road motorcycles and quad bikes. This has particularly been raised as a concern by the elderly who feel intimidated by the behaviour and manner of driving damaging local parks, footpaths and public areas.

In response we have used Partnership funding to purchase three off road motorcycles to be used by a dedicated and specially trained Police team, working alongside other Partners. A number of operations have taken place across the Borough and we have successfully recovered a large number of motorcycles and quad bikes being used illegally. These successes have been publicised, sending a strong message of our approach and importantly providing reassurance to vulnerable members of our communities.

Our Partnership approach to tackling ASB includes the completion of vulnerable victim risk assessments which gathers information across a variety of factors, including the protected groups. This information is then used to tailor an appropriate response to effectively meet the needs of the individual concerned.

In terms of community cohesion, we have improved the links that exist between local area team networks and the Anti-social behaviour theme group, to ensure this group monitors cohesion and community tension across the Borough, reporting to the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) details of action taken and longer term issues or trends.

Hate Crime:

General reporting of hate crime is increasing at a steady pace, which can be interpreted as a good thing in that trust and confidence in reporting is improving. The only pattern that is evident is a rise in figures in the aftermath of recent terror events. This can be seen in the yearly figures 2016-2017. It is also not unusual for reports to rise during periods of warm weather or high profile events where large crowds gather.

We continue to work in a changeable environment where opportunities for collective working are more important than ever before. We have operated within an integrated, partnership-focused structure for many years to effectively address hate crime. The strategic management of hate crime is located within the Anti-Social Behaviour Theme Group of the partnership structure. Whilst this strategy is owned by the SSDP, on behalf of Team Doncaster, it is important that all the strategic partnerships in Doncaster have due regard for and contribute to the delivery of the hate crime strategy.

At an operational level within the SSDP, hate crime cases are managed by the Council's Communities Service, through established multi-agency mechanisms. These processes are robust and are focused around the monthly cycles of Case Investigation Meetings (CIM) and Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meetings across the Borough. Hate Crime support services are fully embedded within these processes and have been for a number of years. As such, the CIM and NAG structures continue to be the key operational drivers for the hate crime agenda. These groups are populated by agencies who manage all actions and interventions relating to victims and offenders, to ensure early intervention for those reported cases and the prevention of any repeat cases, wherever possible.

Every hate crime or incident reported through the partnership receives a multi-agency response to ensure that vulnerable victims are supported and offending behaviour is challenged. We aim to always provide a thorough, co-ordinated, partnership response to reports of hate crimes or incidents which facilitates the development of tailored action plans to address the specific needs of each case.

Hate crime victims are offered a choice of reporting agency and location, with Doncaster Council hosting a number of hate crime reporting locations across the Borough. At these locations, staff have received training to take and process hate crime reports sensitively and confidentially, in line with the victim's wishes. Whilst our Council services are robust and co-ordinated, the majority of hate crime reports continue to be made directly to the Police. As a partnership, we continue to recognise that that reported incidents to the Police as a single agency are only a part of the hate crime story, and that this crime type is historically highly under-reported. As a Council, we also offer further reporting options in the form of a dedicated Hate Crime telephone line and an on-line reporting service for any victim of a hate crime or incident.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse:

An estimated 1.9 million adults aged 16 to 59 years experienced domestic abuse in the last year, according to the year ending March 2017 Crime Survey for England and Wales (1.2 million women, 713,000 men). The majority of victims of domestic homicides recorded between April 2013 and March 2016 were females (70%). Approximately 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped in England and Wales alone every year; that's roughly 11 rapes (of adults alone) every hour. Nearly half a million adults are sexually assaulted in England and Wales each year. 1 in 5 women aged 16 - 59 has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 16. Only around 15% of those who experience sexual violence choose to report to the police. Approximately 90% of those who are raped know the perpetrator prior to the offence.

		<p>At a local level, domestic violence remains a priority for the Borough and whilst we haven't seen significant increases in the number of reports, we are aware that this issue remains largely un-reported.</p> <p>A particular focus this year has been on repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse, particularly the high risk cases which are discussed at MARAC. We have undertaken a full review of the MARAC in Doncaster to ensure that it meets the needs of all victims and deals effectively with repeat cases.</p> <p>In April 2018 we saw the launch of the Countywide 'Inspire to Change' Domestic Abuse Programme, which receives referrals from Perpetrators to change their behaviour. Doncaster has been pivotal in developing this programme, modelled on our own successful approach. The programme is managed by Doncaster on behalf of all four local authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The programme accepts referrals from male and female perpetrators and is viewed as key to reducing and preventing Domestic Abuse, which directly impacts predominantly on females and children.</p>
4	<p>Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</p>	<p>In addition to utilising those data sources described above, the following engagement has taken place in order to gather the responses and opinions of varying communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face engagement with a variety of groups representing protected characteristics, including Doncaster Deaf College, Live Inclusive, the Conversation Club, the Keeping Safe Forum, St Leger Homes BME TARA, Changing Lives, Hate Crime Reporting Centres and many more detailed within the consultation plan; • General engagement within Doncaster College, the Civic Office One Stop Shop, DMBC staff, Victim Support, Elected Members, the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership and Executive Board and many more detailed within the consultation plan; • On-line engagement via Survey Monkey, advertised through local media, the DMBC website, information screens and publicised on social media.
5	<p>Real Consideration:</p> <p>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</p>	<p>The Community Safety Consultation:</p> <p>The review of the community safety strategy begins from the statutory Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which is a comprehensive analysis of crime and community safety data across Doncaster. In addition to this our Strategy is informed by an understanding of our communities, their demographics, needs and concerns.</p> <p>Overlaid upon this is key information from data sources such as census, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and local crime and anti-social behaviour data.</p>

The Community Safety Consultation identified a number of prominent issues.

What the Evidence Shows:

- 69% of survey respondents stated that they felt safe living in Doncaster either 'always' (13.68%) or 'most of the time' (55.32%).
- Of those respondents who said they felt unsafe, the majority stated that this was when they were out of the house in Doncaster town centre.
- It is unsurprising to note that of these respondents, the most common time of feeling unsafe was during the evening and overnight.
- The main reasons for feeling unsafe included: anti-social behaviour; large groups gathering and drug activity.
- The vast majority of survey respondents stated that agencies were effective (6/10 or higher) at tackling crime and disorder.
- Of those who felt agencies were ineffective, the most common reasons were: slow responses to reported incidents, lack of visibility / low number of officers on the street and no changes being implemented. The lack of resources was a common theme across many survey respondents.
- When asked about which priorities were of most concern, respondents stated that anti-social behaviour was of most concern, followed closely by crime. Substance misuse was identified as the third highest priority of most concern.

Who Responded:

The questionnaire circulated included details of respondent's age, gender, gender reassignment, ethnicity, disability, religion, marital status, sexuality and area of residence. This enabled us to monitor how representative the responses were. This information was valuable when developing local delivery plans, assessing existing service provision and exploring potential new services. In brief, the consultation, which attracted 332 responses showed:

- The majority of respondents were aged 17-24 years. The second highest respondents were aged 45-54 years and the third highest were aged 55-64 years.
- The gender split was relatively even with 58.95% of females completing the survey compared to 38.27% of males. 2.78% of respondents preferred not to answer this question.
- The significant majority of respondents were of White British background. Whilst considerable targeted engagement was undertaken with other minority groups across a range of factors, the majority of respondents were White British.

- The majority of those who responded stated that they did not have a disability (81.76%). Of those who did indicate a disability, the highest reason given was around mobility difficulties. The second highest reason was mental health.
- The majority of respondents stated that they were of Christian faith. The second highest response was from those who stated they had no religion.
- The percentage of respondents who were married was relatively even compared to those respondents who were single. These 2 categories account for the vast majority of respondents within this category.

Full analysis of the survey monkey questionnaire is displayed as an appendices within the Community Safety Strategy document.

How have we used the evidence:

Nearly 69% of survey respondents stated that they felt safe living in Doncaster either 'always' (13.68%) or 'most of the time' (55.32%), but the survey highlighted that residents felt most unsafe in the Town Centre, highlighting anti-social behaviour as a key concern.

During 2017 and 2018 a significant investment of additional resources has been made in the town centre, with the introduction of the complex dependencies team and an increase in Policing resources. The complex dependencies team have focused on individuals with a range of needs, which may relate to substance misuse, lack of accommodation and access to key services. Focusing on this cohort has enabled individuals to gain accommodation and access to support and services. It is recognised that maintaining stability is a continuing challenge to the team, but alongside the introduction of the PSPO this has led to a fall in the number of ASB complaints.

The Amber project, supporting female sex workers, has now received continued funding as the project was recognised as being very successful in engaging with this hard to reach group. This service is now offered as part of a range of other services through the Doncaster Changing Lives Project. Although mainly aimed at females the service is also open to male sex workers.

The consultation has identified that hate crime remains an important issue, with the JSIA highlighting racially aggravated hate crime as being the highest category and mostly occurring within the town centre. In order to reflect the prevalence of hate crimes and incidents reported within the town centre, the highest concentration of third party reporting centres are established within the central area. This now includes a recent addition of the Conversation Club, which operates as a drop-in support service for Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

The public consultation results indicated that these groups preferred to report at a location where trust and relationships were already established. The Partnership has worked with the Conversation Club to allow them to receive hate crime reports and to feed them in to the existing multi-agency processes. We have also produced publicity material in a range of languages to promote this service, which is displayed in all asylum seeker managed properties. Every hate crime or incident reported through the partnership receives a multi-agency response to ensure that vulnerable victims are supported and offending behaviour is challenged. We aim to always provide a thorough, co-ordinated, partnership response to reports of hate crimes or incidents which facilitates the development of tailored action plans to address the specific needs of each case.

We will be undertaking a review of Hate crime reporting centres and we are seeking to use other buildings such as health centres to ensure wider availability of local reporting. We are aware that many potential victims with protected characteristics may use these services, increasing the ability to report hate crime.

Doncaster has for a number of years welcomed asylum seekers into our communities and we have developed strong links with housing providers who operate the national housing contract. Approval mechanisms exist to ensure that any new accommodation is located in areas with good access to local services and there are no recognised issues with anti-social behaviour and the housing meets approved standards with regular inspections. We also hold quarterly meetings with housing providers and local voluntary groups (the conversation club) to ensure ongoing issues are dealt with and we share information. On an annual basis the conversation club take a large group of new asylum seekers to the Crucial Crew Lifewise Centre at Hellaby, to receive inputs around home safety and how to report crimes. This has led to very positive feedback and has broken down a number of misconceptions about the role of the Police and Fire Service. Through our asylum seeker support meeting we have also secured the engagement of the Department of Work and Pensions and there is now much better support available to asylum seekers in terms of advice around benefits.

Domestic Violence remains a priority for the Borough and whilst we haven't seen significant increases in the number of reports, we are aware that this issue remains largely un-reported.

A particular focus this year has been on repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse, particularly the high risk cases which are discussed at MARAC. We have undertaken a full review of the MARAC in Doncaster to ensure that it meets the needs of victims and deals effectively with repeat cases.

In April 2018 we saw the launch of the Countywide 'Inspire to Change' Domestic Abuse Programme, which receives referrals from Perpetrators to change their behaviour.

		<p>Doncaster has been pivotal in developing this programme, modelled on our own successful approach. The programme is managed by Doncaster on behalf of all four local authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The programme accepts referrals from male and female perpetrators and is viewed as key to reducing and preventing Domestic Abuse, which directly impacts predominantly on females and children.</p> <p>Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is a new and emerging agenda for the Partnership, but is an issue affecting individuals from the protected user group. In conjunction with the Safeguarding Adults and Children's Board, we have provided training to front line staff and key partners to recognise the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking and we are represented on the Countywide modern slavery and human trafficking Partnership Board, giving us access to the latest intelligence and emerging issues.</p> <p>We will continue to develop our intelligence network around this issue to ensure we have a clear understanding and we will ensure full awareness amongst front line workers and professionals, to enable them to report concerns and offer support.</p>
6	Decision Making	<p>It is important that the Mayor and Cabinet understand the obligation demonstrating due regard from the review of this strategy and any changes to priorities are presented with a clear rationale and evidence base.</p> <p>The Mayor and portfolio holder will be made aware of due regard considerations through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular briefing updates reporting upon progress of the Community Safety Strategy; • As the Strategy progresses through the Councils Governance structures the Mayor and Cabinet will be able to comment upon the content and provide feedback as to due regard considerations.
7	Monitoring and Review	<p>The Community Safety Strategy will be monitored through various mechanisms which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSDP Executive Board meetings, reports and presentations, including utilising performance management models; • The consideration of equality standards and impact will continue to be a required theme of action plans and new policies. • Action plans developed from the strategy will be monitored through the Partnership theme group structure; • An annual review of the Strategy will take place and will be informed by on-going consultations with communities through various methods.

8	Sign off and approval for publication	The JSIA and community consultation has examined a full range of evidence across all protected groups and has used the information as a basis to show due regard to the aims of the general duty. This has enlightened the development of the strategy, based upon the changing nature, needs and concerns of our communities.
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