



Doncaster Council

Report

Agenda Item No. 12
Date: 14 March 2019

**To the Chair and Members of the
HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

ANTI POVERTY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides a summary of the work of the Anti Poverty Strategy Group for 2018. It also includes information in relation to the first update against the annual commitments made by Team Doncaster partner organisations which was formally signed at 5 June 2018 meeting together with case studies to show the benefits of joint working.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board note the successes detailed within the report and the work of the Anti Poverty Group in its strategic approach to alleviating poverty across Doncaster.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The Anti Poverty Strategy Group (APSG) leads to address the impact and cause of poverty through influence and action and supports the promotion of initiatives that tackle the causes of poverty with a wide range of partner organisations to improve the lives of the citizens of Doncaster.

BACKGROUND

5. APSG Successes
The 2018 priority for the APSG was to work to address welfare reform. Key highlights and achievements by the group include:-

- Agreeing the APSG priority for 2018 was to minimise the impact of welfare reform

- Regular updates on Universal Credit and actions to reduce impact eg: the creation of 58 digital access points across the borough.
- Establishing the links between Good Food Alliance, Food Banks and Financial Inclusion Group.
- Action plan to reduce the fear of communities engaging with DWP.
- Reviewed draft outcomes from the Child Poverty Commission and discussed partner actions to address the issues from the 4 themes:-
 - Debt and benefits.
 - Jobs, work and skills.
 - Mental health.
 - Life transitions.
- BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Grant Programme being accessed by partner organisations.
- Working more closely with Credit Union after detailed presentation and raising its profile in our communities and organisations.
- Gambling Impact on Poverty Training Sessions.
- Reviewing APSG Action Plan.
- Reaching agreement with all partner organisations of Team Doncaster to prioritise actions to address the causes of poverty and sign up to 13 commitments.

Attendance at APSG meetings during 2018 remained variable which has led to some frustrations by some members of the group.

The APSG has identified the priority for 2019 to continue to be 'Addressing Welfare Reform'

Team Doncaster Commitment Statement

All the partner members of Team Doncaster signed up to a commitment statement, set out at appendix 1, to address poverty and the causes of poverty. The majority of Team Doncaster partners have provided an end of year update of actions they have taken against the Commitment Statement and this update was presented to last months meeting of the Team Doncaster partnership.

The responses evidence a significant amount of actions being undertaken by partners to address poverty and the cause of poverty which includes the following:-

SYFR

- Making referrals for those experiencing poverty so fuel and benefit checks can be completed.
- Supporting 80 volunteers / work placement, helping young people make career choices.
- Supporting the living wage.
- Established some foodbank collection points across a number of sites.

DONCASTER COLLEGE

- Financial Support policy ensuring students in financial hardship receive funding to access education and training.
- Revolutionary programmes in Traineeships to move into paid employment. Logistics and Construction with 70% success.

- 'Returning to Work' and 'Unemployed' courses are tailored to meet needs of the local communities.
- Credit Union actively implemented within College setting.

Doncaster CCG

- Data sharing enables commissioning decisions to be based on need and helps us target resources effectively.
- Established a Health Inequalities Working Group.
- Purchasing and structuring healthcare services for over 315,000 patients in Doncaster.
- Working more closely with Doncaster College to support our future workforce by promoting NHS Doncaster as a suitable career aspiration, showcasing the 350+ roles within the NHS.
- Promoting the use of social prescribing to help patients and families access appropriate advice.
- Collect for the Patient Focussed Group (PFG) foodbank.

Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teach Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

- Ensure transport subsidies for patients are known and supported through systems for travel claims.
- Expand the availability of apprenticeships and work experience placements across the organisation and enter into partnership with Hall Cross Academy.
- Temporary worker Healthcare Assistants training scheme in conjunction with NHS Professionals.
- Provide access to affordable credit to staff employed by the organisation.

DMBC

- Highlight health inequality implications within Corporate Reports.
- Public Health commission Changing Lives Healthy Living Service to deliver accredited ESOL training for BME women in Doncaster.
- Education, training and employment support and advice provided to Aspire clients.
- Commission 2 year community based adult literacy programme targeting families.
- Targeted fuel poverty work (Affordable Warmth Programme) in areas of highest fuel poverty.
- Target NHS health checks service in areas of deprivation as identified in 2018 inequalities audit.

Department of Work and Pensions

- Sharing information relating to UC rollout and updates for partner organisations to plan for effects.
- Job fairs hosted at JCP and elsewhere.
- 29 work experience placements have been hosted at JCP since April 2018.
- Participating with the local network and cascading information locally within the partnership.
- Have personal budgeting support on site.

Chamber of Commerce

- C1,400 businesses received business support of some description in 2018.
- C7,000 young people supported by Doncaster Skills Academy.
- Enterprise support made available to all communities free of charge.
- Led campaign to open Doncaster University Technical College.
- Getting the green light for Doncaster UTC (which will be 'best in class' for employer links).
- Brilliant work to support the town centre being delivered by partners in response to raising business concerns.
- C£5,000 raised to support Doncaster charities including Real Help town centre cause.
- Health related services (i.e. Westfield) available to Doncaster workers via Chamber membership (paid for by the employer / member).
- Delivering 250 events for the local business community.

Doncaster Children's Trust

- Parents experiencing worklessness are supported to access appropriate education, training or employment.
- Preparation for independence programme created for children in care and Care Leavers (Key to my Future) which teaches young people a range of independent living skills including good personal financial management skills.
- Children and families are supported financially to access all services without exception.
- Has a well-developed apprenticeship scheme which covers business support, social work and participation and advocacy, as well as a graduate volunteer scheme which supports newly graduated young people to gain valuable work experience.

St Leger Homes

- Creation of Tenancy Sustainment Team and 686 tenants supported to help sustain their tenancies.
- Reviewed Income Collection Policy.
- Recruited 14 apprentices.
- Close working with DWP including trialling staff working in the Job Centre.
- 1 tonne of food collected for our customers at Christmas for Doncaster foodbanks.
- Established "Garage 32" furniture recycling scheme in partnership with Public Health.
- Agreed process to address barriers for complex lives who have no ID and cannot access rehousing.

Case Studies

1. Garage 32 Recycling Scheme

A feasibility study was undertaken on whether St Leger Homes could set up a project around waste management which had the potential to not only reduce the number of skips that were being used but also to utilise usable furniture that would benefit tenants with minimal income and assist with sustainable tenancies for both new and existing tenancies.

The pilot started in November 2017 and is currently still running in the South West Neighbourhood area.

The initial scope for the pilot was for the St Leger Homes Caretakers to assess furniture and white goods when they were undertaking void clearances. They were to take any reusable items to a number of garages in Denaby for storage, the first garage used was no 32. Estates Officers involved in the pilot organised the items and distributed them as and when they identified tenants that were in need of support during the viewing and sign-up process, with some existing tenants identified through day to day contact.

White goods recovered from void properties were also stored as well as furniture. However the team were unable to distribute the white goods until the goods had passed a PAT (Portable Appliance Test).

Public Health (Well Doncaster Team) became involved with the project at an early stage by funding repairs, security locks and paying for the training of an estates officer to become a qualified portable appliance tester (PAT), the latter enabling white goods to be distributed.

Colleagues in Public Health (Well Doncaster) are extremely supportive of this initiative, enabling them to deliver against their Healthy Homes strategy and offered a secondment, for 12 months, to one of our pilot project staff to take the scheme borough wide.

Joint metrics and KPIs will be established to monitor success; this will be a joint task for St leger Homes and Public Health. The scheme will include wider links to initiatives such as Stronger families and support re-housing of homeless citizens. So far over 70 tenants have been supported through the scheme.

This scheme will help address one of the two of the most important things we can do to improve a person's health. One is to support them in good employment and the second a healthy home. The physical condition of the home and the living experience has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and our community.

Poor housing conditions increase the risk of severe ill-health or disability by up to 25 per cent during childhood and early adulthood (Shelter, 2006) According to Marmot ('Fair Society, Healthy Lives, 2010) people living in the poorest neighbourhoods in England will on average die seven years earlier than people living in the richest neighbourhoods.

Health inequalities arise from a complex interaction of many factors - housing, income, education, social isolation, disability - all of which are strongly affected by one's economic and social status.

Health inequalities are largely preventable. Not only is there a strong social justice case for addressing health inequalities, there is also a pressing economic case. It is estimated that the annual cost of health inequalities is between £36 billion to £40 billion through lost taxes, welfare payments and costs to the NHS.

By expanding the scheme across the Borough in a 12 month pilot we hope we have helped address some health inequalities in housing and to provide more sustainable homes whilst delivering against SLHDs environmental objectives.

2. The BBC Children in Need Emergency Grants Programme

In November 2018 the APSG received a presentation regarding Children in Need emergency grants fund. The fund aims to provide grant items that meet children and young peoples' most basic needs or are critical to their wellbeing. It supports children and young people who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances.

The fund can deliver or fund critical items such as:

- Gas or electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment
- Children's beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations

The grant is a referrer only programme and the agency administering the grant work with as many organisations as possible in order to reach the families who are eligible for the grant.

Members of the APSG have registered as referrer agencies and grants have been achieved for beds, bedding, white goods and clothing.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. Not applicable.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. Not applicable.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	Doncaster Working: Our vision is for	Work of APSG impacts on

	<p>more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>Council key priorities, with implications on the quality of life for Doncaster' residents and the communities they live in.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>The work contributes to healthy vibrant communities with more people living in affordable, sustainable homes.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>The work helps children helps prepare for school by helping to ensure they have sustainable homes, are fed and reduce inequality.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>The work supports vulnerable people to help them live more sustainable lives.</p>

	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>By working together the group can deliver joint strategies to address poverty and the causes of poverty and support individuals and communities to be independent.</p>
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. There are no specific risks and assumptions for this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications for this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no financial implications for this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no HR implications for this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no IT implications for this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

14 Health inequalities are largely preventable. Not only is there a strong social justice case for addressing health inequalities, there is also a pressing economic case. It is estimated that the annual cost of health inequalities is between £36 billion to £40 billion through lost taxes, welfare payments and costs to the NHS. The work undertaken by the APSG help alleviate some of those inequalities.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no equality implications for this report.

CONSULTATION

16. Consultation has taken place with Public Health and members of the APSG.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.APSG Minutes and action plan and Team Doncaster Commitments Papers and responses.

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Appendix 1 – Team Doncaster Commitment Statement