

Councillor Jane Kidd  
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Doncaster Council  
Floor 4  
Civic Office  
Waterdale  
Doncaster  
DN13BU

Dear Ros

### **Youth Justice Plan**

At its meeting on 27th June 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considered the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20. I have detailed below the key outcomes of the Committee's consideration and would be grateful if you could take account of this feedback when the Plan is considered by Cabinet on 9th July and presented to Council on 25th July 2019.

**Recommendation 1: That the Committee support the report and the excellent progress made in a number of areas, including reducing the number of First Time Entrants (FTE's) into the Youth Justice system.**

As well as acknowledging the improvements detailed in the report, Members were particularly supportive of the important assessment work undertaken by the Triage Panel and the creative intervention activities offered by the EPIC (Encouraging Potential Inspiring Change) Team in supporting an effective Youth Offending Service.

**Recommendation 2: That further work be undertaken to improve early identification of speech, and language issues across the Borough.**

In reviewing information on the issues and vulnerabilities of those young people who had been assessed by the Youth Offending Service over the past year, concern was raised over the number of children in the criminal justice system who had speech and language issues.

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The Committee recognised the importance of early identification of these issues to positively assist and support young people in attending school and avoiding negative activities such as disruptive behaviour, non-attendance, exclusions and potentially becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

In reviewing the 2018-19 Quarter 4 Finance and Performance Improvement Report and 'Delivering for Doncaster' Booklet, which was also on the agenda for this meeting, the Committee considered the measures in place to improve attendance within Doncaster Schools. The Committee has requested further information on how schools are screening children to identify those with speech and language issues such as dyslexia and other learning difficulties.

**Recommendation 3 That the Youth Offending Team continue to identify and review best practice across other Local authorities.**

The Committee noted comparisons made with statistical neighbours in terms of reporting issues such as Binary re-offending rates and sought assurances that the YOS would continue to make comparisons with other authorities and in particular continue to identify areas of best practice that may be relevant for Doncaster.

On behalf of the Committee, I would wish to reaffirm support for the Youth Justice Plan and to thank Andy Hood for presenting the Plan and responding to the issues raised by Members of the Committee.

Kind regards,



Councillor Jane Kidd  
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

cc: Damian Allen, Chief Executive  
Cabinet Members  
OSMC  
Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources  
Riana Nelson, Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills  
Andy Hood, Senior Head of Service (Youth Offending Service) - Doncaster  
Children's Services Trust  
Paul Moffat, Chief Executive of Doncaster Children's Services Trust