



Doncaster
Council

Councillor Andrea Robinson
Chair
Health and Adult Social Care
Overview & Scrutiny Panel

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Dear Andrea

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel 4th July, 2019

Thank you for your letter dated 31st July 2019, and for providing the Panel's recommendations following the meeting on 4th July 2019. My comments are as follows:

1. **In the response to Recommendation 1a:** *That consideration be given to data being sought from the immediate areas around schools, relating to the physical environment, with a view to it being shared with partners and ultimately the Department of Health.*

Physical environment around schools

The Public Health Team has worked with the Planning Team to develop a set of health policies as part of the Local Plan, and is working closely with planning colleagues to influence spatial planning.

Chapter 13 of the draft Local Plan is dedicated to Health, Wellbeing and our Communities. The introduction below sets out the important role good spatial planning has on health and wellbeing:

Introduction

13.1. Doncaster's Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out priorities for improving health in Doncaster. It identifies that health and wellbeing is improving but not as fast as in the rest of the country. The Borough's most deprived wards have particular concentrations of poor general and mental health and lower life expectancy.

13.2. Improving our health and wellbeing requires more than improving access to medical treatment and services. A healthy community is a good place to grow up and old in; it should be one which supports healthy behaviours and supports reductions in health inequalities. By guiding the use of land, planning decisions influence the link between the physical and social environment and help create opportunities for improving both physical and mental health, in the ways we live, work and play.

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13.3. This chapter contributes towards the promotion of improvements that can positively improve the health and wellbeing of the local community. Other policies guiding the quality and design of homes, buildings, public spaces, neighbourhoods and transport have a direct impact on factors, such as noise and air pollution, which can harm health.

The Public Health team has also worked closely to develop a policy in relation to Hot Food Takeaways Policy 25: Food and Drink Uses, which states:

“Subject to meeting the above criteria, hot-food-takeaways and fast food outlets which are located within 400 metres of a school, sixth form college, community centre or playground will not be supported unless the opening hours are restricted until after 1700 during weekdays and there are no over the counter sales before that time.”

The guidance in relation to the policy also states:

“Childhood obesity is a growing threat to children’s health, and Doncaster’s proportion of children identified at risk of obesity is a cause for concern. Planning permission will not be supported for A5 use in Wards where there is more than 10% of the year 6 pupils classified as obese. Unhealthy weight gradually increases throughout people’s lives, and almost three quarters (74.8%) of Doncaster’s adult population have an unhealthy weight, which is the second highest in England. This policy seeks to manage and control the provision of hot-food-takeaways and fast food outlets particularly within specific areas (i.e. within a 400 metre walking distance of a school, college or playground)”.

Unfortunately there is no mechanism available to restrict corner shops which are located near to schools or what they sell.

In terms of the area around schools where there are new developments, there are mechanisms in place to look at how that development will impact on the health and wellbeing of the population. This is by way of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), which is a tool that can be used to estimate and assess the possible health and wellbeing implications, both intended and unintended, of development and planning proposals, and explore potential actions that could be taken to maximise positive, and minimise negative, impacts. A HIA helps to ensure that health and wellbeing is properly considered when preparing, evaluating and determining development proposals.

The Doncaster Active Travel Alliance works with colleagues from across the Council to assess how the transport network can be improved to encourage active travel. Examples of the work that has taken place is temporary road closures outside schools to restrict traffic, and adult and child cycle training to build skills and confidence. Through the Local Development Plan and Get Doncaster Moving we have also employed a dedicated Cycle and Walking Officer whose role it is to carry out community street audits and promote active travel in communities, that could be to school, work or local shopping.

Impact of levy on high sugar drinks

It is still too early to tell the impact of levy on high sugar drinks. The decline in childhood obesity rate remains a key indicator, and this will continue to be monitored. It is likely that a combination of many different interventions is required to address the problem of childhood obesity in the long-term. It will be difficult to attribute any changes wholly to intervention related to levy on high sugar drinks.

Inclusive growth

Doncaster's Inclusive Growth Strategy emphasises that a whole system integrated approach is required to improve quality of life (e.g. health outcomes). For example, one of the key issues affecting residents' ability to contribute and benefit from economic growth is their health. The health of a population is not just a product of a successful economy, but also one of the key determinants of inclusive economic development. In general, adults who can maintain good health are more productive, and provide positive role models for their children. Children with good health do better at school.

A key driver for inclusive growth is ensuring more Doncaster work is good work, for example, jobs that offer flexibility, equality, autonomy and access to in-work training. There is evidence to suggest that the ways that job roles are designed and factors in the workplace environment can have an impact on obesity (source: Institute for Employment Studies). Delivering inclusive growth strategy is therefore important for health/social outcomes as well as economic outcomes.

- 2. In the response to Recommendation 1b:** *That the Executive investigate the possibilities of developing an Information Sharing Agreement similar to that established in other authorities within the region.*

A new data sharing agreement between DMBC, RDASH and DBTH has just been signed which will enable data to be analysed to understand the flow of people between hospital services and care services. Due to new technology developments, the Council and its partners, for the first time, are now able to manage these data flows without a reliance on external third party tools. Once this work is complete, and the project becomes 'business as usual', this will be an ideal opportunity for organisations across the health and care partnership, including Primary Care, to consider what additional areas of focus they would like to develop data sharing arrangements for. Stakeholders understand the potential that additional data sharing agreements would bring to understanding needs of the Doncaster population and their experience of services.

- 3. In the response to Recommendation 1c:** *That the Executive consider if the data and supporting information gathered through the JNSA be shared with schools, particularly in relation to LGBTQ bullying and childhood obesity.*

Childhood obesity data and information

All schools receive a copy of the Pupil Lifestyle Survey Doncaster results, regardless of the participation in the survey. If a school has taken part in the survey, they will receive an individual report specific to their school. Primary schools will also receive individualised National Child Measurement programme (NCMP) data each year. Public Health have been working in conjunction with the Strategy and Performance Unit (SPU) to produce individual school profiles, which collates and summarises local health and wellbeing data for each school. The development of the school profiles are ongoing.

LGBT bullying

From September 2020, all primary schools in England will be required to teach Relationships Education, and all secondary schools in England will be required to teach Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). The guidance states that all primary schools should teach about different families, which can include LGBT parents. At secondary level, the guidance states that 'sexual orientation and gender identity should be explored at a timely point' and that 'there should be an equal opportunity to explore the features of stable and healthy same-sex relationships' which 'should be integrated appropriately into the RSE programme, rather than addressed separately or in only one lesson'. Teaching about LGBT people will help all pupils to grow up developing inclusive and respectful attitudes towards LGBT people, helping to proactively tackle the prejudice-based bullying that remains common in many of our schools. Public Health, in partnership with colleagues from Learning, Opportunities and Skills, are working to ensure Doncaster schools and educational settings are well prepared for the implementation of statutory relationship and sex education through a training offer, support with curriculum development, and guidance.

- 4 In the response to recommendation 2:** *The Executive be asked to investigate whether providers could promote health and social care careers with the opportunity to undertake voluntary and paid sessional work through 6th Form education establishments and report back to a future meeting of the Panel.*

In respect of External Provision

We have recently met with Doncaster College to establish where student placements for health and Social Care level 1-3 can be provided across Adults, Children and Young Peoples Services. Doncaster College is working with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered providers where student placements are offered external to the Council. Although this work is currently in its infancy, the intention is to offer support and begin to work with other sixth forms within schools as development progresses.

Work has been completed to establish career pathways across Social Care. This has also now been jointly commissioned with South Yorkshire Region Excellence Centre to look at career pathways across Health and Social Care across South Yorkshire.

The career pathways work is in the early stages of being developed further into a Prospectus for Health and Social Care, and being available through "Start Point", a platform to explore opportunities and jobs available in the sector.

The Council, Health, RDaSH and Colleges have established links with Hall Cross School, which is a health and social care academy. Recently a health and social care careers fair was run for year 8 students, prior to them choosing their GCSE subjects. Another Careers fair is currently being planned.

We are aware that the YMCA have a fast track to employment programme offer for young people aged 16-19 in Doncaster. The YMCA fast track offer comprises:-

- A government bursary
- Level 1 or Level 2 qualification
- Classroom based learning supported by work experience
- Support to achieving GCSE standard in maths and English
- Small group classroom environments
- Dedicated centres have IT zones

In respect of In-House Provision

In house provision SMILE (Supported Multi-ability Intergenerational Life Experiences) were keen to give students experience in a variety of settings in the community, with adults who have various disabilities and frailties, alongside activities with children aged 0 to 9 years, their parents/carers and teachers. Amersall Court and PSU are offering experience in residential and re-enablement settings.

SMILE contacted Doncaster College to offer placements and develop a student placement programme. The programme with Doncaster College students went live on 5th January 2019. In total, 26 students took part in the programme between January and July. The feedback from students, their educators, and people receiving services, was extremely positive, with students discussing their future career options, and some students staying on as volunteers during the summer holidays.

SMILE offers apprenticeships when vacancies arise. We are keen to grow volunteering in services.

SMILE services will continue the placement programme with Doncaster College. However, we do not have the staff capacity to offer support for the PSU unit or volunteer management. Attached is a document that explains the SMILE programme's aims and objectives. Monitoring documentation, including student, educators and service users feedback forms, are also available to share.

Starting Early

SMILE intergenerational work has been most successful with 8 and 9 year olds. We have witnessed real meaningful connections between older people and children. The development of empathy and shared learning between the ages has been aspirational. Embracing and embedding intergenerational activity earlier in life could support better opportunities for our youth.

SMILE working in partnership with Littlemoore and Hawthorne schools.

5. **In the response to recommendation 3:** *That the Executive be asked to investigate whether a more generic advertising culture across South Yorkshire could be undertaken ensuring every opportunity for collaboration with partners.*

The work involved in addressing this query has a number of different aspects.

The service in question was the Your Life Doncaster (YLD) website, which is designed to signpost people to information, advice and guidance about health and social care in Doncaster. There have been a number of communications campaigns to promote the website, and a further campaign is planned for Q3 of this year. Scrutiny recognised that these campaigns must be specifically targeted at the people of Doncaster because they are signposting people to a resource that is specific to Doncaster. However, the platform upon which the website is built is part of a regional collaborative piece of work, and we are working with colleagues across Yorkshire and the Humber to co-produce an upgrade to this platform. This may highlight opportunities to communicate on a regional level, and we are actively exploring this.

With regard to the Panel's request that we consider whether we could share resources regionally to communicate common key messages, (e.g. 'helping people stay in their own homes' or 'promoting health, wellbeing and independence'), we are also exploring a number of avenues to identify opportunities to do this. These include:

- Discussion with portfolio leader on 16th July, where Councillor Blake suggested that her network of Safeguarding Chairs might be able to identify opportunities and she will feed back on this;
- Meeting with DASS Phil Holmes, who will be discussing this at his regional Directors meetings to explore any opportunities and feedback;
- We have been ensuring that the YLD branding and key messages are being reinforced through our local promotion of national campaigns, including those for Armed Forces Week, Carers Week, Mental Health Awareness Week and Dementia Awareness Week; and
- Discussion with Director of Public Health, Rupert Suckling, where he encouraged us to further tie in with regional and national public health campaigns like those above.

I trust the above is helpful and thank you once again for providing me with the Panel's recommendations.

Yours sincerely



Ros Jones
Mayor of Doncaster