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DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2019 at 4.30 PM

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Neil Gethin

Vice Chair - Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Nick Allen, Jane Cox, Susan Durant, Sean Gibbons, Frank Tyas and Sue Wilkinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Dawn Lawrence - Early Help Pathway Manager

Paul Ruane – Head of Education

Lee Golze - Head of Business Transformation and Strategic Commissioning

Leanne Hornsby - Assistant Director, Commissioning and Business Development

Martyn Owen - Head of Service Inclusion

Rebecca Mason, Head of Partnerships and Engagement

Young Advisors

		<u>ACTION</u>
9.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>	
	Apologies for absence were made by Councillors Lani-Mae Ball, and Nikki McDonald, the Panel's co-optee, John Hoare and invitee, Jim Board.	
10.	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	None	
11.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	Declarations of interest were made by Councillor Jane Cox by virtue of working for NHS which involves child protection medicals and adoption and Looked After Children medicals.	
12.	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	
	There were no public statements made.	
13.	<u>DEMAND MANAGEMENT - LOCAL SOLUTIONS</u>	

The Panel received a report on the prototype Local Solutions Model for accessing Early Help in the Community. The report set out the model, functions and partnership approach in addressing needs at the earliest opportunity through a strength-based practice.

It was explained that the prototype was established following findings from the report “Reducing Demand at the Front Door to Social Care by the Innovation Unit, December 2018”, which outlined the need for Early Help to be rooted in place, community-led and strengths based.

Members were provided with a presentation that included;

1. Where are we at – Local Solutions Group
2. The right thing to do/the time is right
3. Impact
4. Case study
5. What is needed to be done

There was a discussion held and the following issues were raised;

Front Door – Comments were made about the lack of understanding as to what support was available. It was explained that staff based at the first point of call were all trained individuals. It was continued that after the initial call, presentation would be made to the Local Solutions group by the family or practitioner on their behalf. Members were advised that solutions for that family was found through undertaking a multi-agency response.

Concern was raised that with each individual place working separately, those in need of support might slip through. It was explained that there were 88 communities across Doncaster and once the prototype was evaluated it would be then considered how it could be rolled across Doncaster. It was stressed that it was about making the approach part of the ‘day job’ rather than creating something new and additional. It was clarified that everyone across the Borough should have the same access to the same opportunities regardless of where they lived.

It was explained that the model had only been in operation since mid-July 2019 with minimal Councillor involvement, however, meetings would soon be taking place with Ward Councillors to explain how the model would operate and be developed from its grass roots.

It was explained that the work focused on two local areas (Denaby and Hexthorpe to develop ideas through working together. It was explained that the reason for selecting Hexthorpe and Denaby was due to the number of social care referrals made in those areas and because the communities were of a similar make-up.

Officers provided assurances that they were aware of the

infrastructures and support organisations in place operating in both Denaby and Hexthorpe such as Well Denaby and Garage 32. Reference was also made to the Denaby Foodbank (satellite of the Mexborough Foodbank) which was being launched in the Community Library later in the year and Food Aware in the Denaby Family Hub.

Members were informed that there was now confidence in the model with no foreseen issues that would create barriers.

The Assistant Director for Commissioning and Business Development, stressed that although facts and figures were important and presented a positive picture, it was as important to recognise what it actually looked like on the ground and this would include looking at the depth of developments taking place across partnership level. It was explained that in order to make this approach part of the “day job”, partners needed to be systematically engaged with in a consistent manner.

Members were informed that time was needed to measure the impact and gather softer information with less focus on the harder data. It was explained that softer information could consider the impact made on families who had accessed the support. Members commented that measuring the impact in this way could prove more difficult in practice. It was recognised that if the approach was more practice driven then more work could be undertaken with a larger number of families in a different way.

In terms of the timeline, it was explained that there would be an evaluation at the end of March 2020 followed by a 6-month period to gather information and outcomes. It was added that the new approach would then be rolled out to all Central and South areas to be tested again before being progressed out to the North and East areas.

Clarification was sort around the cost of staff resources once the new prototype had been fully rolled out. The Panel heard that two staff members had been released for 8 hours a week as part of the work undertaken in Denaby and Hexthorpe. It was added that further work was being undertaken around resources, commitment and capacity. It was recognised that the impact as a result of the work undertaken could be significant in comparison and would be measured where possible.

RESOLVED that the Panel note the information provided and support the following aspirations to drive this approach forward;

- That Councillors, officers and partners, champion the new approach in their organisation and across the system
- That decisions are delegated about the where and what next to the Engine room.
- That efforts are taken to ensure that the approach links into other transformation agendas which are working to achieve the

	<p>same outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That each leader support the release of staff to enable this to happen and evaluate who can help to drive it. 	
14.	<p><u>DONCASTER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT SUMMARY 2019</u></p>	
	<p>The Doncaster Education Attainment Summary 2019 report provided an update for review by the Panel in relation to provisional data and early indications of achievement and improvement across the following education phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years • Year 1 Phonics Screening Check • Key Stage 1 • Key Stage 2 • Key Stage 4 (GCSE) • Key Stage 5 (A Level) <p>It was explained that the data contained in the report was provisional and represented early indications (and was therefore subject to change). It was continued that formal and final validated data would be released by DFE later in the autumn term and will be presented to the Panel at that time.</p> <p>The Head of Education provided the Panel with highlights from the results. Members complimented the results and the significant improvement made and commented that a clearer explanation of the acronyms presented in the report in future would be helpful.</p> <p>Reporting of Results - A Member raised concern about how partial other data sets reported through the media in isolation and out of context could have a negative impact on what is a very positive set of results across all key stages. results when reported through the media. It was felt that positive results should be promoted accordingly in a constructive manner. Officers commented that more positive reports were now being made through the media which was viewed as a step forward.</p> <p>Pupil Premiums – Concern was raised about the differences between those children that were on pupil premiums and those children who were not. it was detailed that for those children in receipt of pupil premium, 48% of pupils achieved the combined measure compared with 50% of pupil premium children nationally indicating that it was a national issue (whereas the figure for non-pupil premium children at KS1 was in line with the national figure at 69%). Members were assured the Council was aware of this and that the achievement and progress of pupil premium children and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups remained a priority in line with the Doncaster Opportunity Area, Priority 1. It was noted that some schools in disadvantaged areas were addressing this issue very well.</p>	

It was clarified that there were more than one data set which formed the criteria for Pupil Premiums (such as Free School Meals, Sports Premiums, Looked After Children and other data sets). Members were reassured that any data that had been released would not have involved fully validated data and a more comprehensive response would be possible once that validated data had been released.

Final Validated Data – The Assistant Director, Commissioning and Business Development explained that a more detailed report would be shared with Members later in the calendar year once the validated data was made available. This report would focus specifically on achievement for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and included those children in receipt of Pupil Premium.

Future Priorities - In terms of future priorities, it was explained that there was a support, development and challenge process within individual schools and that relevant tiers associated would be broken down by;

- overall borough;
- by ward;
- multi-academy trusts; and
- individual schools.

It was outlined that the level of challenge to senior leadership level was equally mirrored down the support system. It was noted that the team within the Council had the responsibility for the case management of schools, by area. In terms of the broader strategic picture, it was explained that the challenge element was part of a much broader footprint than school learning standards and effectiveness, for example, Special Educational Needs Support, Education Psychology and the wider inclusion agenda. It was concluded that it was about having a single point of contact for individual schools for a ward of schools for individual and Multi-Academy Trusts so to be able to tailor that support accordingly.

Reading – It was reported that reading remained a priority and that outcomes at Key Stage 1 were now in line with the national results for the combined measure of Reading, Writing and Maths but remained below in reading. It was noted that reading, particularly early reading development, remained a priority at Y1 and Y2 with support being provided through continued strategic interventions.

It was outlined that Officers were analysing results with the intention to share good practice. It was added there was the aspiration to improve the results through specific training events being held in schools where results had reduced. Members were provided with assurances that key messages (emerging from the new Ofsted framework) were being put forward about the importance of early reading and phonics. It was

Assistant
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<p>acknowledged that Maths had shown a significant improvement.</p> <p>Gradings - Clarification were provided on GCSE grading's presented in the report and it was explained they took account of average attainment point scores and had been compared with the results from 2018. In respect of 'A' Levels, It was reported that information was available which would show what was available through the new and existing processes and what it would look like in terms of previous current grades and points.</p> <p>The Assistant Director, Commissioning and Business Development offered to send out more detailed breakdown of current position for GCSE results/grades for schools showing change to previous years, which would include an explanation and comparison to previous grading systems.</p> <p>A Young Adviser commented how positive the GCSE results were and added that it would be helpful to have sight of what room there was for improvement within in each bullet point. It was noted that this information would be provided within the validated data to be provided later in the year.</p> <p>Schools Performance - In terms of schools performance, it was noted that 12 out of 18 done better, meaning that 6 were static or had not performed as not as well as they could have done. It was questioned what was being done with those schools whether there were any correlation with academies that were not doing so well and could any conclusions be drawn, for example, was there any correlation to persistent absenteeism or exclusions.</p> <p>It was felt that there was some correlation between Doncaster's most inclusive/least excluded schools and the greater leaps with attainment in Key Stage 4 figures. It was supported that the link between persistent absenteeism and outcomes was there, although there was a mixed picture with some schools who had achieved the best outcomes as well as also improvements in attendance</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel note;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The indicative provisional improvements to date where available. • The work of school leaders, teachers and schools and the wider school • improvement system, including: • The review and development of the learning standards and effectiveness provision. • The commissioning of Partners in Learning. • Greater collaboration across the system with and between schools, leading to greater capacity for support across the phases. • The further development of the school improvement system of 	<p>Assistant Director, Commissioning and Business Development</p>
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	support and challenge, enabling specific provision to be targeted at schools requiring further development.	
15.	<u>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKPLAN UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2019</u>	
	<p>The Panel received a report updating Members on the Panels work plan for 2019/20.</p> <p>A copy of the work plan was attached at Appendix A of the report taking account of issues agreed by OSMC at its meeting on the 27th June 2019.</p> <p>There was also a brief discussion around the Forward Plan.</p> <p>Concern was raised regarding the number of items for the 5th December 2019 meeting. It was proposed that consideration would be given to holding an extraordinary meeting between December 2019 and March 2020.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Panel;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Workplan 19/20 - September 2019 update. ii. Include on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Workplan an update on the Demand Management for the end of 19/20 or beginning of 20/21 municipal year. iii. Take consideration of the views of Young Advisers in terms of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Workplan. 	

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