

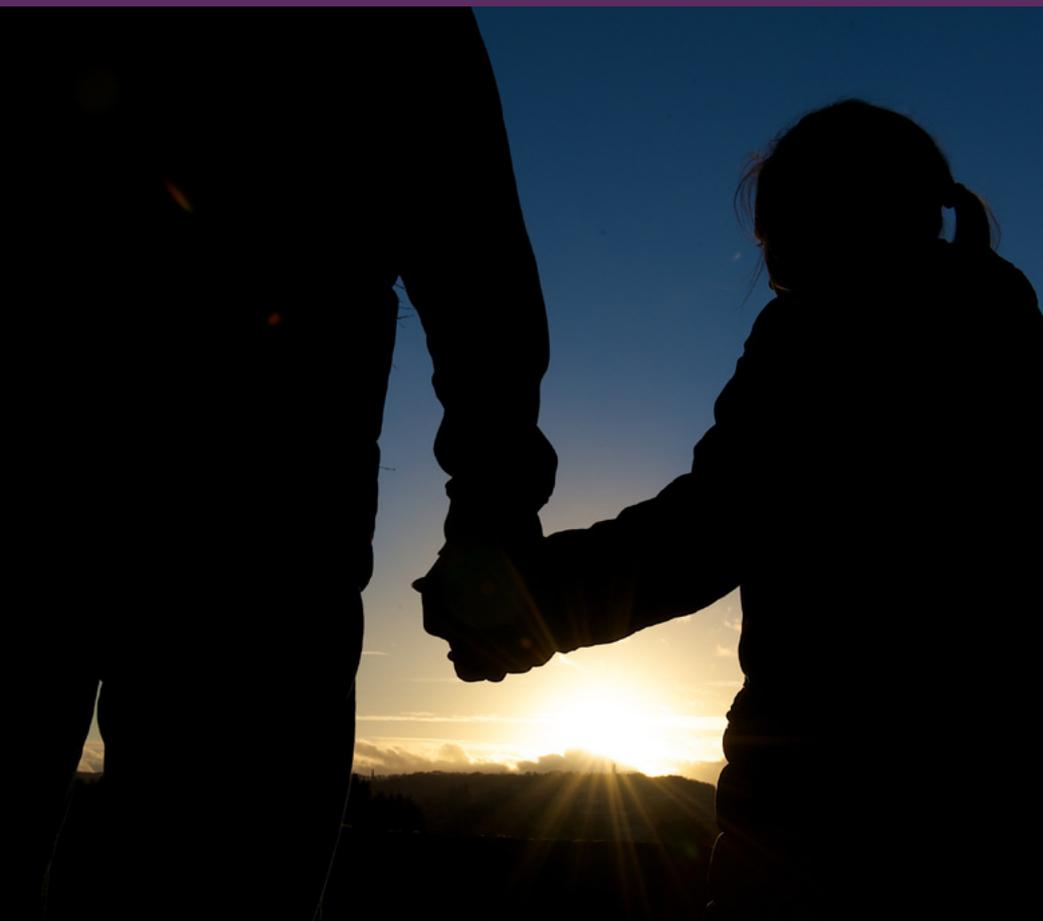
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DONCASTER

Children & Young People's Plan

Impact Report 2019



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Children & Young People's Plan

Impact Report 2019

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We are another year into the delivery of our Children and Young People's Plan.

Our journey began back in 2017 with an outcomes focused drive to improve the lives and experiences of Doncaster's children and young people. Two years on it is great to see the hard work of all the partners in Doncaster paying off and making a real difference to our children and young people.

We are encouraged to see that we are delivering positive outcomes for Doncaster's children and young people.

This not only benefits them directly but will also benefit Doncaster as these children and young people move forward into adulthood.

Our successes have continued to build in the last 12 months with a real focus being on improving the already strong working relationships across the partnership and delivering high quality front line services; this was evident in the outcome of our recent, very successful SEND inspection which highlighted our partnership approach as a real strength in Doncaster.

It is fair to say that we have not rested on our laurels in Doncaster. We have continued to drive forward in delivering the change our borough needs. The Social Mobility Opportunity Area continues to deliver targeted improvements to Doncaster's most disadvantaged schools and communities with expanding essential life skills work, targeted support for schools, and a totally overhauled careers information, advice and guidance offer.

We have continued to expand capacity in alternative and specialist education settings and increase the front line capacity across a host of services within education, health, and social care.



Nuala Fennelly
Cabinet Member for Children,
Young People and Schools



Riana Nelson
Director of Learning,
Opportunities and Skills

It is not just our success that is worth championing this year. Our young people in every age bracket from Key Stage 1 and 2, through to GCSE's and A-Levels, did astonishingly well in their exams this year.

Their results were some of the best Doncaster has ever had and we are incredibly proud of all their hard work and hope they reap their rewards in the years to come.

Measuring and demonstrating the impact of our work is important to understand where change has occurred and created better outcomes for Doncaster's children. Through continuous evaluation we are aware of where and how we need to strive to improve in certain areas, such as educational attainment and access to health and care services. This will ensure no child in Doncaster is left behind and outcomes for all are improved.

In the coming twelve months the Partnership will continue to work together on delivering the Children and Young People's Plan, ensuring its priorities are at the heart of our decision making; and that children and young people hold us to account to ensure we deliver our ambition to make Doncaster the **Most Child Friendly borough**. Our experiences across the last two years and the coming twelve months will then inform our plans for the next iteration of the Children & Young People's Plan.

Introduction

In 2017 we released our Children & Young People's Plan which set out how we in Doncaster were going to improve the outcomes and experiences of all our children and young people through until 2020.

The plan focused on 4 themes;

- Keeping our children and young people **safe**
- Ensuring our children and young people are **happy & healthy**
- Helping our children and young people **achieve** in their education
- Striving for **equality** in everything we do

We are now two years into our delivery against the priorities within that plan and are able to demonstrate some real positive

changes that have been made and the impact those have had on the outcomes and experiences of our children and young people.

Last year's report was set out to guide the direction of work in each of the themes after a dynamic year in which the beginnings of the plan were being implemented. It was felt that this was not required this time around as the plan has been running long enough that initiatives and priorities are very much embedded and delivering results to our children and young people. As such, this year's report has been set out in a different way.

The report will include assessments of each theme individually. Each of the four themes will have a section of infographics that set out some important improvements that have been delivered in the past year.

Safe:

Children and young people feel safer in Doncaster
(Pupil Lifestyle Survey)



Happy & Healthy:

More children and young people than ever before are accessing our mental health consultation and advice service
(CAMHs)



Achieve:

Educational Attainment has improved across all key stages since the release of the Children & Young People's Plan
(DfE)



Equality:

The voice of children and young people with SEND is given high priority in Doncaster
(OFSTED – SEND Inspection)



This will be followed up by a case study that demonstrates how these improvements have led to improvements in young people's experiences of services. Finally, there will be a short assessment of each theme outlining some high level successes and areas of focus for each theme.

Another change is that this year the information that is contained within the report was collected and then selected by our Young Advisors, as they have taken on a more prominent role in holding us all to account for delivery against the commitments within the Children & Young People's Plan.

A final addition when compared to last year's document is the inclusion of an assessment of the Participation & Engagement Strategy and an overview of the findings of the Child Poverty Commission. Both are fundamentally linked to the Children & Young People's Plan so their inclusion adds to the document and its assessment of the past year.

Key Priorities

- ! Children have access to the right services at the earliest opportunity
- ! Domestic abuse practice is transformed across Doncaster
- ! No child suffers significant harm as a result of neglect
- ! Keep teenagers and young people safe



Children & Young People Priorities

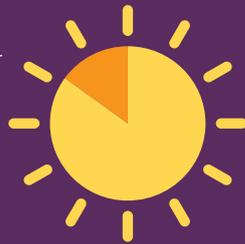
- ✓ Feel safe – knowing they can safely live and thrive in the borough
- ✓ Supported by someone they trust
- ✓ Equipped to handle bullying – more resilient and better able to handle difficult situations



85%

of Primary aged young people feel safe going out during the day

(source: Pupil Lifestyle Survey)



The number of secondary aged young people experiencing violence in the home has nearly

HALVED

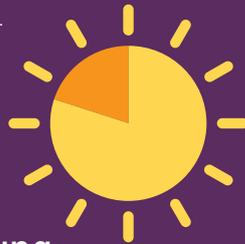
(source: Pupil Lifestyle Survey)



80%

of secondary age young people feel safe going out during the day

(source: Pupil Lifestyle Survey)



12% REDUCTION

in knife crime

(source: South Yorkshire Police)



In the last year, the number of children in care has been **safely reduced by around 10%**

(source: DCST)

Safe Case Study

Our case study for the 'Safe' theme relates to the key priority 'Children have access to the right services at the earliest opportunity'.

It was provided by the team that run Project 3, a drop-in and appointment led clinic that specialises in a range of different early help, sexual health and supportive services. Within those services is Hidden Harm Support which enables family and friends or organisations like schools to refer people who have, or are being impacted by someone with, a drug and alcohol problem.

The names within the case study have been changed to protect the identities of those involved.

Family Hidden Harm Support

A referral was received from school to Project 3 for support for 9 year old Sophie and her 11 year old brother Oscar and their parents for support around Hidden Harm. The school were concerned that the children's attendance in school was poor, there were some behavioural issues and they were often distracted. Sophie and Oscars parents were both known to use substances.

The family were assessed by the Family Moving On Together Team and agreed to attend the 8 week family programme. At the start of the programme the family had not discussed the impact of the parents drug use on their family functioning. Both parents believed they had protected their children from exposure to their drug use, however, both children were angry and demonstrated more of an understanding than their parents had realised.

During the 8 week programme the family engaged in sessions around understanding addiction, communication, family history and self-care. Using games, arts, and discussion, the family began to understand one another and were able to speak openly about how they have experienced living together.

Both parents continue to engage with adult drug and alcohol services and Oscar has continued with one to one support with a specialist worker in Project 3. Sophie did not feel she needed ongoing support from Project 3, but is accessing support sessions via pastoral support in school. Children's Social Care have commented on the parents improved ability to reflect on their own behaviours and the children's attendance and behaviour in school has improved.

Safe Theme Review

In the past year partners from across the borough have continued to build upon successes that we have achieved since 2017 and implement improvements in the areas that have been outlined previously.

A key outcome of this work is that, as seen in responses to our Pupil Lifestyle Survey, our young people feel safer within their communities; this can, in part at least, be directly linked to the reintroduction of community policing in the borough, better partnership working between police and community teams to build positive relationships with communities and deal with issues before they escalate more effectively. This was evident in the joint, targeted approach taken to anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in Doncaster Town Centre.

We are making great strides in safely reducing the number of children in care and improving the use of early help support services to support our young people and families more effectively at an earlier point. Our neglect awareness is improving thanks to an increase in the use and profile of the neglect toolkit; although there is more that can be done to ensure this is fully embedded in the practice of organisations that support children and young people in the borough. Likewise, our approach to tackling domestic abuse with specially trained staff working with families is still delivering excellent results.

There is however, still scope for improving the way that need is identified to ensure that help and support is offered at the earliest opportunity. This will continue to be addressed through continuous service improvements.

Key Priorities

- ! Children have the best start in life
- ! Children and young people are healthy, have a sense of wellbeing, and are resilient
- ! Children and young people's development is underpinned through a healthy lifestyle



Children & Young People Priorities

- ✓ Better knowledge of services – what is available to them in their area
- ✓ Reduced stigma around mental health – timely support and access to services
- ✓ School nurses to be available more around school and offer increased access



39% FEWER

referrals to CAMHs for those in crisis

143
2016/17

87
2018/19

(source: CAMHs)

ALL 47



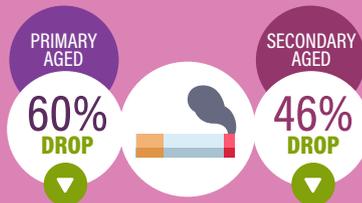
of our school nurses sessions delivered up to January 2019 were deemed to be **informative** and **helpful** by the children and families accessing them.

(source: School Nursing Team)

100%

The number of young people who have ever smoked or tried smoking has

GREATLY REDUCED



Primary aged has reduced **BY OVER HALF** (5%-2%)
Secondary aged has **NEARLY HALVED** (From 13% to 7%)

(source: Pupil Lifestyle Survey)

The number of secondary aged young people drinking alcohol in the week prior to being surveyed has also

REDUCED

(24%-14%)

(source: Pupil Lifestyle Survey)



The number of children and young people engaging with the CAMHs consultation and advice service has **RISEN BY 20%**



(source: CAMHs)

Good Level of Development

(GLD) has risen by 2% to 72.5% and is 0.8% above national average which comes after

4 years of continuous improvement

(source: DfE)



Happy & Healthy Case Study

Our case study for the 'Happy & Healthy' theme relates to the key priority 'Children and young people are healthy, have a sense of wellbeing, and are resilient', and the children and young people priority 'Reduced stigma around mental health – timely support and access to services'.

It was provided by the Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service which provides mental health assessments, therapy and interventions for children, young people up to the age of 18 years and their families or identified carers when the child and young person is experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties.

The names within the case study have been changed to protect the identities of those involved.

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Support

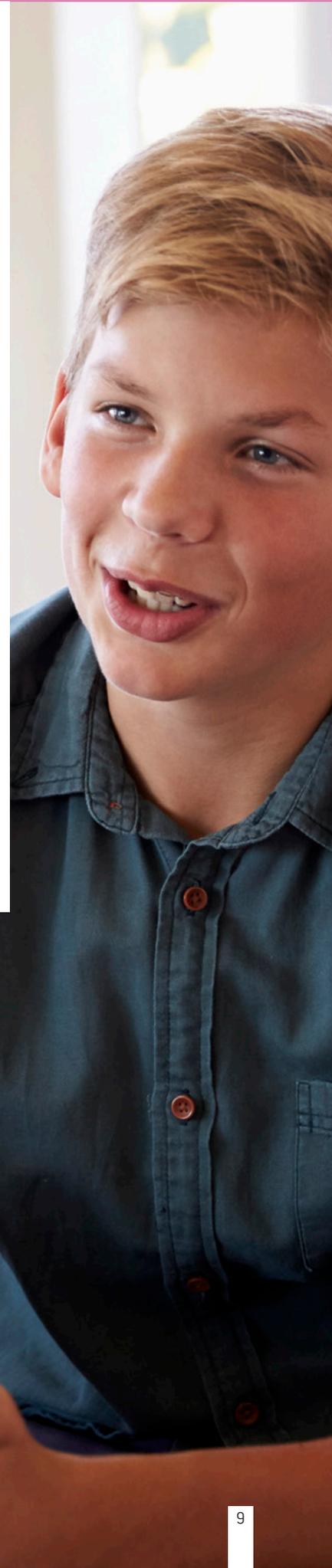
Richard was first referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) by his GP when he was 15 with concerns centring on low mood and anxiety associated with school. The School were unaware of any issues or concerns with Richard and spoke very positively about him in school.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Locality Worker arranged a meeting in school with Richard, his mum, and a member of student support staff from Richard's school. The session allowed him to share his concerns in a safe and supportive environment and in turn, allowed the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Locality Worker to outline the different support available to Richard and how he could access it. Richard said that this session allowed him to engage with the offer of support and feel listened to and supported from the start.

In this instance, Richard chose one to one sessions that were held at school as his preferred support. Richard engaged in the sessions really well and used the time to talk, explore, and consider what his situation was, what his worries were, and what his responsibilities and priorities were. These sessions seem to benefit Richard and his mental wellbeing as they gave him permission to look at his situation and think about how he could take control to change things for himself.

As a result, Richard experienced an improvement in his mood, a greater ability to control and manage his mood, and a stronger sense of self.

Richard fed back that this flexibility of taking the service to him had benefitted him and the way he had been able to engage with and access the required support.



Happy & Healthy Review

Our work within Happy & Healthy is primarily led by the Local Transformation Plan which NHS England has recently recognised as a national example of best practice.

This is a fantastic achievement and most importantly, evident from the improvements made to both services and outcomes within physical and mental health Services.

Within physical health services, there are success stories in our school nursing team and Project 3 clinics. Our school nursing team is more accessible and continues to receive positive feedback from the children, young people, parents and carers that use it. Likewise, Project 3, a drop-in and appointment led clinic that specialises in a range of different early help, sexual health and supportive services is very highly regarded. It is very accessible and delivers a high quality, heavily relied upon service in Doncaster communities and continues to receive excellent feedback from its clients and meet the targets it is set both locally and nationally.



“ Good session with a lovely school nurse ”

“ The service is a good idea, helpful, and friendly ”



“ Excellent! ”

“ Couldn't be better ”

“ brilliant, very detailed and lovely staff ”

“ Very friendly and understanding. No judgement ”



Within mental health, we are improving the availability of mental health support at lower levels of need to support children and young people who do not meet the criteria for formal CAMHs interventions. This led to the creation of the CAMHs consultation & advice service which has seen referrals and usage grow notably, from 2595 to 3129 consultations, since its inception suggesting its provision was needed and it is now a core part of the local offer.

Doncaster is a trailblazer for a school based approach to providing mental health support and reducing waiting times.

The Education Mental Health Practitioners have been recruited and are currently being trained. The pilot will then be rolled out in pilot schools located across all localities within the borough.





Key Priorities

- ! Ensure that all children are school ready
- ! All children attend a good or better setting and aspirations are raised to ensure they reach their full potential
- ! Young people are equipped to access education, employment, or training in a way that supports future social mobility



Children & Young People Priorities

- ✓ Life skills – making sure they are prepared for adulthood
- ✓ Pathways to employment – ensuring that they are moving towards good quality, sustainable work
- ✓ A broad and balanced curriculum equipping them with the life skills needed to be independent and successful as an adult



99%

(source: DfE)

of our Early Years Providers are rated **Good or Outstanding** by Ofsted compared with 95% nationally



88%

(source: SMOA)

of our schools (112/127) are accessing the **£2.75 million** investment in Essential Life Skills extracurricular provision



6.6% increase

(source: DfE)

locally for Key Stage 2 *Three Year Trend* in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to 3.7% nationally



Reading increased by **4.5%** compared to 1.7% nationally



Writing increased by **4.6%** compared to only 2.2% nationally



Maths increased by **7.8%** compared to 3.8% nationally

Key Stage 4

(source: DfE)

Our attainment 8 score shows that our young people have, on average,

increased their grade in one subject

compared to last year.



Key Stage 4

(source: DfE)

The number of young people achieving a 4+ in English and Maths has **RISEN BY 3.5%** compared to a national increase of 0.7%. This has

halved our gap with national average in just 3 years



Achieve Case Study

Our case study for the 'Achieve' theme relates to the key priority 'Ensure that all children are school ready'.

It was provided by the Special Education Needs Team who have responsibility for assessing children and young people with additional needs and then working with colleagues across health and education to ensure that suitable education placements and care arrangements are made for the child in question.

The names within the case study have been changed to protect the identities of those involved.

SEND Placement in Mainstream School

Rosie is a very happy, sociable and intelligent little girl who lives at home with her family. Rosie has spent a considerable amount of time in hospital due to her complex medical needs.

Rosie's communication skills are delayed for a child of her age. She is only able to achieve minimal weak voice due to her condition.

Rosie is currently tube-fed and does not have anything orally; this means she is on continuous 24 hour feeds through her gastrostomy and relies on an adult for her feeding. She also has limited ability to walk unaided and is dependent on a ventilator to support her lungs.

Her family did not feel a special school would be able to meet her needs because Rosie is a bright girl, who learns through imitation and would benefit from being around peers who she can learn from.

The Special Educational Needs Team worked with the education and health and care professionals concerned to ensure a very robust assessment was undertaken. As a result an Education, Health and Care plan was put in place in October 2018. Despite Rosie's very complex health needs, everyone involved ensured that the right support was in place to enable Rosie to both start and then remain in a mainstream education setting. In July 2019 a visit by a portage worker, who specialises in offering support to pre-school children in their homes, noted:

"Rosie is now attending full sessions this week for 4 days and next week for 5 days. The School are very pleased with Rosie's progress and say she is settling in very well. Having the nurse alongside Rosie in class is not causing any problems. Other children have accepted her and she is happy to be amongst the whole class. Her confidence is growing in each session. Rosie explores messy play resources and, in particular, she likes to join in with singing and is learning new songs rapidly."



Achieve Theme Review

In the past year, we have seen elements of our education and skills system develop in strength.

Exam results across all key stages of education, have either improved or are showing improvements. Doncaster's results have either matched the national average or have closed the gap by a substantial margin; our early year's results in particular are now consistently above national averages both in terms of outcomes and the number of settings rated good or outstanding. All of these are remarkable improvements from where results were at the beginning of the Children & Young People's Plan.

Through our work as a Social Mobility Opportunity Area we have also made great strides to improve life skills and access to careers information, advice and guidance which are key elements of ensuring that our children and young people are ready for the transition into adulthood and associated education, employment, or training.

This is evident in the work being done on the new careers advice platform, Start Doncaster, and the £2.75m investment in providing life skills for our young people.

Partners across the sector are working more effectively together to try and tackle systemic issues and improve outcomes. This has brought notable successes this year with the positive outcome of the recent Special Educational Needs Ofsted inspection, highlighting strong collaboration across the sector. These successes have been built upon a host of different work, from school improvement activities like teacher training and standard and effectiveness offers, to improving partnership arrangements with traditional partners in the public sector and also wider partnerships like those being created with businesses as part of the Social Mobility Opportunity Area.

This holistic approach to improving outcomes for young people has been a more effective approach to improvement than a singular focus on specific areas.

Moving forward there needs to be a focus on building upon the successes and improved partnership we have seen within the sector so far and try to deliver excellence more consistently. This focus will help to deliver solutions within Doncaster's education system. Such as, defining career pathways in the post 16 arena, improving the quality of our schools, and reducing the high levels of exclusions, particularly the recorded levels within the secondary system.



Key Priorities

! Diminish the difference between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children and young people

! Fewer children live in poverty



Children & Young People Priorities

✓ Treated respectfully – seen as valuable members of society with something unique to bring to discussions

✓ Listened to – make them feel that their opinion is valued. This should happen in a supportive, nurturing capacity or an informative capacity to enable to explore a variety of career paths

✓ Better incentives – encouraging positive choices and patterns of behaviour

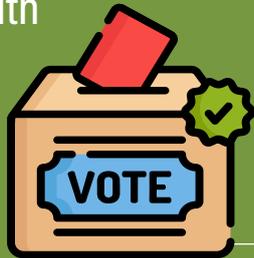


The 'Make Your Mark' ballot gives young people across the country a say on what is to be debated on the green benches of the House of Commons by Members of Youth Parliament. In 2019, Climate Change was voted the biggest issue for young people.

Make Your Mark

Top 3 voted issues (2018)

- 1) Mental Health
- 2) Knife Crime
- 3) Equal Pay



9154 votes in 2017
(32% of youth population)

11635 votes in 2018
(40% of youth population)

(source: UK Youth Parliament)

Doncaster was

1st

in the country to run a Junior Make Your Mark campaign



10 Young Advisors Recruited



8 Young Commissioners Recruited

The Inequality Gap has decreased for the first time in 3 years as the gap regionally and nationally has grown. (source: DfE)

Doncaster ▼

37.2 in 2018

34.9 in 2019

Regional ▲

33.5 in 2018

33.6 in 2019

National ▲

31.8 in 2018

32.4 in 2019



Stonewall recognises Doncaster Council as "one of the leading local authorities in the country on LGBT-inclusion in schools and settings and supporting LGBT children and young people in their local community"

Equality Case Study

Our case study for the 'Equality' theme relates to all the children and young people priorities within the theme.

It was provided by the Participation & Engagement Team who have responsibility for seeking the view of children and young people across the borough, supporting and facilitating any campaigns being run on behalf of young people, and championing their successes.

Appointment of Junior Civic Mayor

As part of our work to become the most child friendly borough in the country, we have recently re-established the Junior Civic Mayor project. The Junior Civic Mayor will; be the voice of local children, champion the things that matter to young people, be an ambassador for the town, and attend events with Doncaster's Civic Mayor. The Junior Civic Mayor has responsibility for a list of events across Doncaster including the Christmas lights switch on, citizenship ceremonies, memorial events, and shop and building openings. These events give the Junior

Civic Mayor the opportunity to share their perspective on issues and gain fantastic life skills and experiences that stand them in good stead for later life.

Applications were open to all children who would be in Year 5 as of October this year and, in September Alfie Turton was chosen to be our Junior Civic Mayor until August 2020. Alfie was chosen by the current Civic Mayor Cllr Linda Curran, and cabinet member for Children, Young People, and Schools, Cllr Nuala Fennelly. Alfie submitted a fantastic video and manifesto of what he would do if he were successful.

After being formally chosen as the Junior Civic Mayor, Alfie said;

“ I wanted to be Junior Civic Mayor because I would like to help children's voices be heard and try to make a difference to people. I am looking forward to going to all the events, especially the Christmas Lights!”



Equality Overview

Great strides have been made with regard to ensuring the voice of children and young people is at the centre of everything that we do. The Youth Council is continuing to play a prominent role in bringing the ideas and concerns of children and young people into the forefront.

They have played a key role in the work currently being done to tackle negative perceptions about knife crime.

We have also recruited 10 Young Advisors and 8 Young Commissioners, to ensure that young people had a voice in the services we provide to them and the process in which we design and choose services. The Young Advisors join a growing network across the country and have colleagues in Doncaster Children's Services Trust.

The Young Commissioners play a vital role in supporting the commissioning function within the council.

Although they have only been in post a short while, our young advisors and young commissioners have led the work to shape and deliver Doncaster's trailblazer. They have held interviews with senior decision makers across the borough and held them to account for their work. They have championed young people in senior meetings. They have ensured our new mental health provision has been tailored to our young people.

A concerted effort has also been made to support those children and young people with protected characteristics and ensure that their needs are met, their voices are heard, and that they feel safe and supported in Doncaster.



Young Carers Council



Doncaster LGBTQ Youth Hub

This has led to Stonewall noting that Doncaster is a leading local authority in the country for supporting children and young people within the LGBTQ community.

There has also been a concerted effort to celebrate the successes of children and young people in the borough. This year we hosted the first ever Civic Mayor Awards which championed the achievements of children and young people, and celebrated those who deserved recognition for their contribution to Doncaster.



Progress has also been made in slowing or narrowing the growing gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children and young people across numerous educational measures.

(source: DfE)

Pupil premium GLD is **2% higher** than national average for pupil premium (58% compared to 56%)



The gap between Attainment 8 average scores for pupil premium and non pupil premium students has **dropped 1.8%** since 2016/17 compared to a national increase of 0.8%

The gap between pupil premium and non-pupil premium Reading, Writing, and Maths scores at Key Stage 2 has **reduced** by 1.8%



The gap between pupil premium and non-pupil premium students getting a 5+ in English and maths **has dropped** by 4.8% since 2016/17 compared to a national increase of 0.2%

Moving forward, the focus needs to be on expanding this high quality engagement with children and young people and ensure it is embedded within the day to day work of all Team Doncaster Organisations.



Participation & Engagement Strategy: Assessment of Progress

When the Children and Young People's Plan was launched in 2017 it was accompanied by our participation & engagement strategy. Two years on we are in a position to demonstrate our progress against the objectives of the strategy and highlight where our focus will be in the coming year.



Successes

Create mechanisms to raise the profile of young people and their voice

- Create Local Office of the Children's Commissioner
- Support campaigns for issues that matter to CYP

The Local Office of the Children's Commissioner has been a leading voice for change and improvements in how we engage with young people. They have led campaigns on issues that local young people care about, as can be seen in the work done on the national Make Your Mark and the first ever Junior Make Your Mark in the country.

Recruit Young People to positions of influence

- Work shadow opportunities
- Recruit young people to develop the Participation Standards
- Recruit Young Advisors & Young Commissioners
- Stakeholder at Children's and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny

We have actively recruited young people to positions of influence across the Council. They have played a leading role in commissioning, policy and strategy delivery, and young people have been given the opportunity to work directly with senior decision makers.

Listen to and support young people

- Ensure that the voice of vulnerable groups is heard
- Increased dialogue with children and young people that allows them to influence policies, provide feedback and hold people to account

We have regular engagement with young people at children & families forum events and we make use of our youth councillors, young advisors, young commissioners and our primary networks to provide constant feedback. This drive extends to vulnerable groups where we engage with specialist groups like LADDER, the young carers' forum, and SEND forums so their voices are heard too.

Organise activities and events for children and young people and their families

- Deliver a robust culture and heritage offer
- 100 things to do before you are 11
- Civic Mayor Awards

In recent times Doncaster has taken great strides to provide more activities, events, and opportunities to experience and engage with a comprehensive heritage and culture offer.

Use all available data to inform decision making and engagement methods

- Make decisions informed by relevant data
- Utilise digital platforms to engage with children and young people

We use data to make informed decisions in all elements of our work, an example of this would be our targeted youth provision and increased use of digital communication methods, like social media, to reach Doncaster's young people.

In Development



Develop Participation Standards

- Participation Principles

A draft set of participation principles have been drawn up as part of our child friendly framework to ensure that young people are involved wherever possible in a meaningful way as we move forward. These will continue to be consulted on and strengthened.

Develop and share evidence-based best practice

- best practice and evidence, and benchmark approaches
- Plan approaches to participation & engagement across the partnership

There are areas of really strong and meaningful engagement with young people across organisations in Doncaster and we will continue to champion those areas and look to replicate their successes in other areas.



Child Poverty Commission: Summary of Conclusions

Overview

In order to better understand the impact of poverty on children and young people and our ability to mitigate against them, we commissioned a young person led investigation into it. A group of young people with experience of poverty were recruited as Young Commissioners to lead the enquiry. After some facilitated discussions it was agreed that the enquiry would be focused on 4 themes;



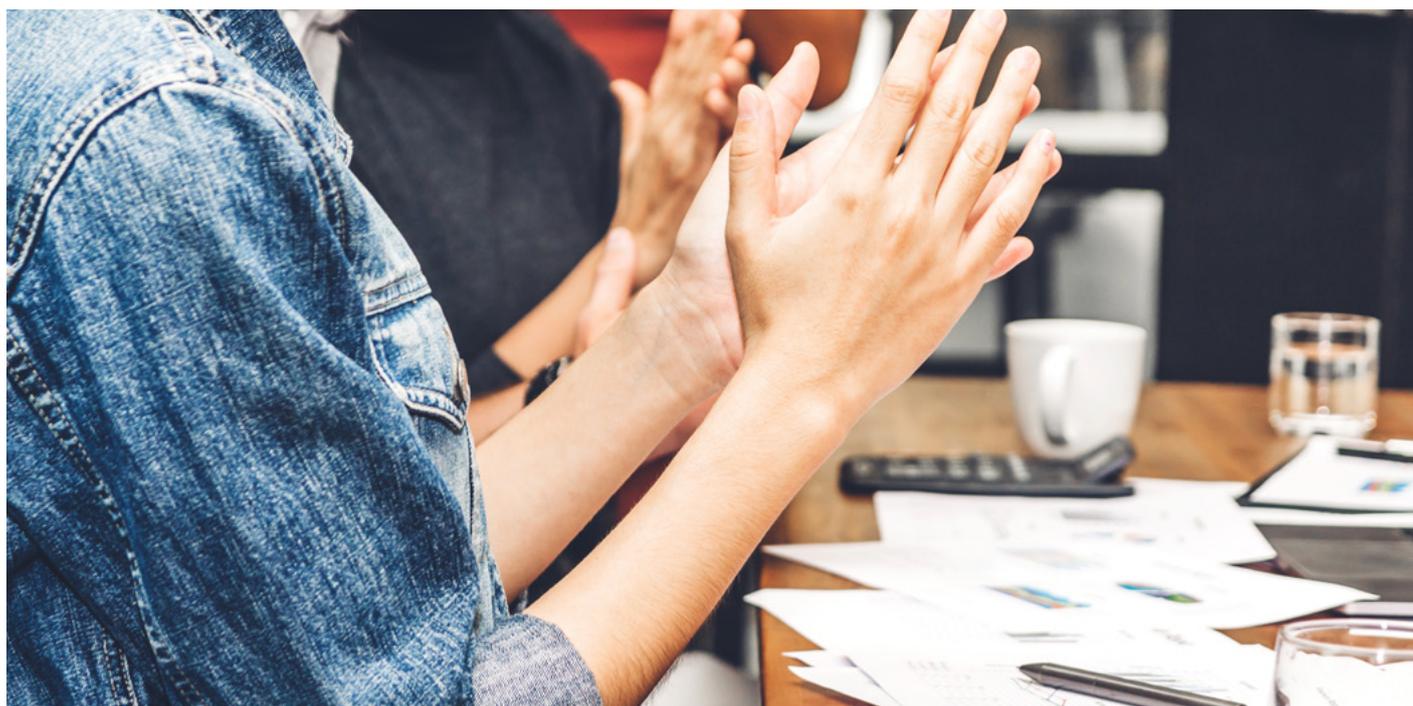
Debt & Benefits

Jobs, Work, & Skills

Mental Health

Life Transitions

The Young Commissioners then hosted 7 sessions with senior leaders from across Doncaster's public, private, and third sector in which they shared their views and experiences and quizzed the senior leaders on their roles in relation to children and young people experiencing poverty. The Young Commissioners then came up with recommendations to help make their services more accessible to children and young people experiencing poverty, alongside 3 recommendations that they felt would support other children and young people experiencing poverty in the borough.



Child Poverty Commission: Recommendations

Debt & Benefits

- Young people claiming benefits should receive free or discounted bus passes.
- Doncaster should do more to support families and young people who get into problem debt.
- To help them avoid problem debt in the first place, families and young people need alternatives to expensive loans.
- There should be good quality financial assistance offering quick support for those facing financial crisis.
- Benefits and money advice providers should regularly visit Doncaster's schools, colleges and youth centres.
- Young people should be able to easily access advice and support in a way that is linked up and helps them with all their issues rather than just one.
- Young people should feel welcome by Jobcentre Plus and trust that it has their best interests at heart.

Jobs, Work, & Skills

- Local apprenticeship plan should make sure that more young people from poor backgrounds can get apprenticeships and afford to stay on them.
- There should be more, and better, careers advice and guidance in Doncaster's schools and colleges.
- Doncaster should have displays of careers and skills support available in some areas, alongside help to access these opportunities.
- Schools and colleges should help young people to experience more about the world of work and career possibilities by letting them meet with a wide range of employers and employees.

Mental Health

- All schools and colleges should ensure that no young person feels punished or bullied as a result of being poor.
- Counselling services should be accessible and visible in all secondary schools and colleges in Doncaster.
- Feedback should always be obtained from young people referred to mental health services, even if they are turned away or miss their appointment.

Life Transitions

- Services and support for young people in poverty facing difficult changes in their lives should be improved, including providing independent advocates to help young people have their voices heard.
- There should be more semi-supported accommodation, like the new development for care leavers in Cantley, to make the move to independent living smoother for young people in poverty or leaving care.



Young Commissioner Recommendations

There should be an independent complaints service for young people, and young people's feedback should be used to help change and improve services.

Doncaster Council and other local organisations should be taking more responsibility for the care and well-being of children and young people in poverty.

There should be named people who are responsible for making sure the changes in this report suggested by the young commissioners happen.

Next Steps: Child Friendly Doncaster

We have been working to build the foundations required to make the borough truly child-friendly. Our next step is to develop a framework that takes our ambition into every aspect of our children and young people's lives.

Our 8 child friendly ambitions set out a broad vision for the future.



Child Friendly Ambitions

1. Connecting Young People & Doncaster

A child friendly borough ensures that children and young people have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about the opportunities and services available to them.

2. Building an Inclusive Doncaster

A child friendly borough is thoroughly inclusive and takes steps to ensure that all children and young people feel like welcome and active members of communities with equal access to opportunities and services, particularly disadvantaged young people.

3. Creating a Happy & Healthy Doncaster

A child friendly borough is one that promotes and facilitates the maintenance of good physical and mental wellbeing and ensures that young people are able to access services supporting those aims effectively.

4. Providing Opportunities for Participation & Engagement

A child friendly borough ensures that children and young people have the opportunity to access activities and events across the spectrum of sports, arts, academic, and community groups regardless of their location.

5. Ensuring a Community Focused Doncaster

A child friendly borough provides as many services as possible within the community and empowers these communities and the children and young people within them to have an active role in shaping their services and their future.

6. Promoting a Strong Education & Skills System

A child friendly borough ensures that the education children and young people receive is effective and supports their development through into adulthood and employment with a focus on skills and aspiration.

7. Delivering a Quality of Place in Doncaster

A child friendly borough promotes sustainability, safety and makes sure that children and young people can be proud of where they come from.

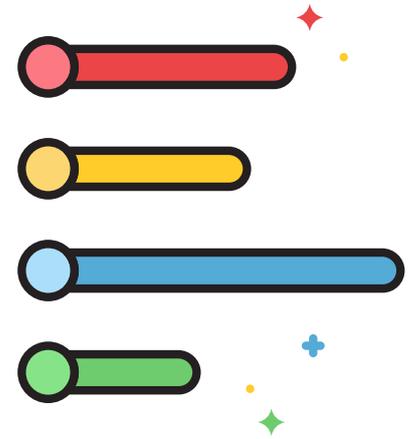
8. Delivering High Quality Services

A child friendly borough ensures that all of the supportive services that young people may need or wish to access are joined up, tailored to their needs, and highly effective.

Participation Principles

To ensure that we deliver those ambitions in a child friendly way we have developed the participation principles. Over the next 12 months we will be refining these concepts in consultation with children and young people and key organisations across Doncaster.

There are 5 principles each with a scale that demonstrates level of effectiveness;



<p>Inform</p> <p>Children & young people are able to make informed decisions with information tailored to them.</p>	<p>In Development</p> <p>There is an aspiration to engage children and young people in a service, initiative or organisation but no clear offer in place</p>			
<p>Involve</p> <p>Children & young people are encouraged to be involved and share their opinions on services.</p>		<p>Informed</p> <p>There is a clear consideration for children and young people in how services, initiatives, or events are communicated</p>		
<p>Include</p> <p>Children & young people from all backgrounds and circumstances are made to feel welcome and included.</p>			<p>Consulted/Involved</p> <p>Children and young people are able to share their opinions on services, initiatives, events, or organisations and be involved</p>	
<p>Inspire</p> <p>Children & young people are given opportunities to develop skills, experience, and to participate.</p>				<p>Young Person Led</p> <p>Children and young people are decision makers in shaping and delivering services, initiatives, or events</p>
<p>Impact</p> <p>Children & young people shape services and initiatives and are told about their impact on them.</p>				



**Doncaster
Youth
Council**
Your Future, Your Say

Youth Council

Working to ensure young people have a say on decisions made in Doncaster.

Young Advisors

Shaping and improving services across Doncaster for children and young people.



**DONCASTER
YOUNG
COMMISSIONERS**

Young Commissioners

Ensuring commissioned services meet the needs of children and young people in Doncaster.

LGBTQ+ Youth

Raising awareness and supporting LGBTQ+ young people across Doncaster.



**PRIMARY
Voice**

Primary Voice

Enabling local children to have their voices heard.

SEND Forum

Ensuring the voices of young people with special needs and disabilities are listened to.

**SEND
Forum**



Junior Civic Mayor

Working to ensure young people have a say on decisions made in Doncaster.

YOUR VOICE DONCASTER

**Making Doncaster the most
child friendly borough in the country.**





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