

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

DONCASTER METROPLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Due Regard Statement

How to show due regard to the equality duty in how we develop our work and in our decision making.

Due Regard Statement

A **Due Regard Statement** (DRS) is the tool for capturing the evidence to demonstrate that due regard has been shown when the council plans and delivers its functions. A Due Regard Statement must be completed for all programmes, projects and changes to service delivery.

- A DRS should be initiated at the beginning of the programme, project or change to inform project planning
- The DRS runs adjacent to the programme, project or change and is reviewed and completed at the relevant points
- Any reports produced needs to reference “Due Regard” in the main body of the report and the DRS should be attached as an appendix
- The DRS cannot be fully completed until the programme, project or change is delivered.

1	Name of the 'policy' and briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes. This will help to determine how relevant the 'policy' is to equality.	<p>The purpose of the Doncaster Children and Young People's Offer report is to outline the approach taken to refresh the Youth Strategy. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide sufficient positive activities for children and young people up to the age of 19 and 25 with SEND. The Doncaster Offer details our ambition to deliver beyond these statutory functions, to offer a range of opportunities for younger children and those with special educational needs, supporting their social and personal development, raising aspiration and building resilience. All of which is set in the context of Doncaster's ambition to be the most child friendly borough in the country. The strategy will now cover the 0 to 25 years age range.</p>
2	Service area responsible for completing this statement.	<p>Engagement and Partnerships Learning & Opportunities: Children & Young People</p>
3	Summary of the information considered across the protected groups. Service users/residents Doncaster Workforce	<p>The Doncaster Offer, is a borough wide piece of work which will ensure we have a co-ordinated approach to delivering a range of positive activities as well as opportunities for social action and enterprise for all children and young people aged 0-25.</p> <p>A key element is that for those children and young people who need a more targeted or bespoke offer this will be available for them. As part of this it will be ensured that those with protected characteristics are considered and the offer tailored where appropriate.</p> <p>This will be in regard to those accessing the Doncaster Offer as well as the workforce and volunteers supporting the delivery of it.</p> <p>A mapping exercise of the provision ordinarily available is underway, as part of this we are ensuring that the provision available is inclusive and that any new activity commissioned adheres to the Child Friendly Principles one of which sets out the need to be inclusive but also consider the individual needs of protected groups.</p>

4	<p>Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</p>	<p>The Doncaster Offer is a young person led piece of work. A Youth Advisory Board was established in order to ensure officers and young people were working together to develop the Doncaster Offer, for this the young people led the development, advising Officers. Therefore the principles which underpin the Doncaster Offer have been developed by young people. for young people.</p> <p>The Youth Advisory Board is made up of a range of representative groups of young people, in addition those on the board are also responsible for feeding back and feeding in from a wider range of children and young people to ensure we are engaging with a range of children and young people.</p> <p>A cycle of consultation has been developed with children and young people, not just on the development of the offer but going forward in terms of how they want the principles to be delivered. This will also be replicated across the partnership, with providers such as EXPECT Youth but also the wide range of voluntary, community and faith organisations which lead and support the delivery of a whole host of “youth” provision.</p> <p>In addition, young people and the VCF organisations, as well as EXPCT Youth will be involved in the development of the Quality Assurance Mark/ Assessment to ensure that providers are delivering what children and young people want. Whilst also working with the providers to ensure that any assessment process is not over bureaucratic and does not over burden, in particular very small providers.</p> <p>The establishment of Local Youth Forums will also ensure that the Offer is monitored at a local level, the views of children and young people are gathered and that the provision can be sourced to match needs of the area and/or users.</p>
5	<p>Real Consideration:</p> <p>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</p>	<p>As detailed above some consultation with youth partners and providers has already been undertaken, however over the coming months this will be expanded and much more detailed consultation will take place. Through the consultation undertaken to date with providers and EXPECT Youth there is general consensus that there was a need to have an overarching offer and a set of principles which all providers could work too. in addition it was clear additional support should be provided to voluntary, community and faith organisations, and in the coming months this will be more important than ever as services start to commence delivery.</p>

		<p>As this was a “young person led” piece of work their views had a direct influence on the Doncaster Offer. This resulted in a set of 8 principles children and young people wanted to see, this has now been made into a poster that can be shared across the borough and used to promote the offer. In addition young people made a video to demonstrate what was available already across Doncaster in terms youth provision, again this will be used as a promotional tool for the Doncaster Offer. This will be developed further, to ensure we continue to capture the views of children and young people but also demonstrate how the implementation of the Doncaster Offer is having a positive impact on what is available and the lives of our children and families.</p>
6	Decision Making	<p>Due Regard Statement will accompany the agenda item at Cabinet meeting on 13 October 2020.</p> <p>The cabinet report provides greater detail around the consultation process and how consideration of protected characteristics / due regard has been an ongoing concern throughout the strategy process. Regular updates on due regard and the overall process have been provided to the decision maker throughout.</p>
7	Monitoring and Review	<p>New governance arrangements have been established to ensure there is accountability of the Doncaster Offer. The Youth Advisory Board will have oversight of the work and each of the work strands will have a implementation group that will report to the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>In addition, local youth forums will ensure the offer for children and young people is monitored at a local level.</p> <p>A quarterly report will be provided for the Cabinet Member and the Director of Learning Opportunity, Skills and Culture in addition a report will be provided to Executive Board on an annual basis.</p>
8	Sign off and approval for publication	<p>Rebecca Mason, Head of Partnerships & Engagement</p>