

**Doncaster MBC**

**Overview & Scrutiny  
Annual Report  
2019/2020**

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# Introduction

I am delighted to present this report on the work of Overview and Scrutiny for 2019/20. The report covers the period up to March 2020 when our way of working changed so quickly due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The importance of an Overview and Scrutiny function lies in its ability to hold decision makers to account and contribute to the improvement of services. Every quarter the Management Committee reviews and supports the performance of the Council, Children's Service's Trust and St Leger Homes by exploring how effectively services are being delivered within budget, what plans are in place to address areas that are not working so well and highlighting areas of good practice.

We are not decision makers but reflect the views of our communities and those that may not have a strong voice, in helping to review and identify improvements to services. We look at policy areas in detail and work collaboratively with the Mayor, Cabinet and partners as well as holding them to account for the decisions they take.

Over recent months Overview and Scrutiny has shown it is adaptable to changing circumstances and now holds meetings remotely. This has enabled us to represent and support our communities at this crucial time and ensure that as elected Members we are better informed of the challenges we face moving forward.

I would like to thank all elected Members, partners and public who contribute to Overview and Scrutiny and the officers that attend our meetings and support us so brilliantly.

Councillor Jane Kidd  
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.



**Councillor Jane Kidd**  
**Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny**  
**Management Committee 2019/2020**



**Councillor John Healy**  
**Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny**  
**Management Committee 2019/2020**

# Purpose & Structure of Overview and Scrutiny

**Purpose** - The activities of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the standing Panels include holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance arrangements, policy review and external scrutiny. Work plans are agreed early in the municipal year and reviewed at each meeting to track progress and ensure they take account of emerging issues and decisions. Overview and Scrutiny activities seek to support the delivery of Council priorities and objectives detailed in the Corporate Plan and Doncaster Growing Together (DGT).

**Structure** - The structure and remit of OSMC and the Panels are detailed below:

**Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC)** - The membership of OSMC includes Chairs of standing Panels to ensure greater co-ordination of Overview and Scrutiny activity and alignment to the DGT themes. The Committee meets approximately once a month to consider performance, pre-decision scrutiny, reviews undertaken by the panels and areas of strategic importance.

- Key DGT areas include Connected Council and issues that cut across all Panels and DGT themes.

**Health and Adult Social Panel (H&ASC O&S)** – considers issues that fall within the remit of Public Health, adult social care and health services. The Chair also represents the Authority on Regional Health Scrutiny bodies.

- Key DGT areas include Doncaster Caring

**Children and Young People’s Panel (CYP O&S)** – considers issues relating to improved outcomes for Children and Young People including Learning and Opportunities, services provided by Doncaster Children’s Services Trust and other relevant partners.

- Key DGT areas include Doncaster Caring and Doncaster Learning

**Regeneration and Housing Panel (R&H O&S)** – considers issues relating to regeneration, economic development, strategic transport and housing.

- Key DGT areas include Doncaster Living and Doncaster Working

**Communities and Environment Panel (C&E O&S)** – considers neighbourhood issues, street scene and highways, community safety as well as environmental issues.

- Key DGT areas include Doncaster Caring and Doncaster Living

The Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meet regularly with the Mayor and respective Cabinet Members to ensure regular communication on portfolio and Overview and Scrutiny work plan issues takes place.

# Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs 2019/20



Councillor Jane Kidd  
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee



Councillor John Healy  
Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee



Councillor Neil Gethin  
Chair of Children and Young People



Councillor Lani-Mae Ball  
Vice Chair of Children and Young People



Councillor Mark Houlbrook  
Chair of Community and Environment



Councillor Jane Cox  
Vice Chair of Community and Environment



Councillor Andrea Robinson  
Chair of Health and Adult Social Care



Councillor Cynthia Ransome  
Vice Chair of Health and Adult Social Care



Councillor Majid Khan  
Chair of Regeneration and Housing



Councillor David Nevett  
Vice Chair of Regeneration and Housing

# Overview and Scrutiny Membership 2019/20

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Chair – Councillor Jane Kidd	Vice-Chair - Councillor John Healy
Councillor Andrea Robinson	Councillor Bev Chapman
Councillor Majid Khan	Councillor Neil Gethin
Councillor Richard A Jones	Councillor Mark Houlbrook
Invitee – Paul O’Brien (GMB)	

## Health and Adults Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Councillor Andrea Robinson	Vice – Chair Councillor Cynthia Ransome
Councillor George Derx	Councillor Sean Gibbons
Councillor John Gilliver	Councillor Martin Greenhalgh
Councillor Pat Haith	Councillor Rachel Hodson
Councillor Derek Smith	Jim Board (UNISON)

## Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Councillor Neil Gethin	Vice Chair – Councillor Lani Mae-Ball
Councillor Nick Allen	Councillor Jane Cox
Councillor George Derx	Councillor Susan Durant
Councillor Tina Reid	Councillor Frank Tyas
Councillor Sue Wilkinson	Jim Board (UNISON)

## Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Councillor Majid Khan	Vice-Chair – Councillor David Nevett
Councillor Duncan Anderson	Councillor Iris Beech
Councillor John Cooke	Councillor Steve Cox
Councillor Charlie Hogarth	Councillor Eva Hughes
Councillor John Mounsey	Mark Whitehouse (Unite)

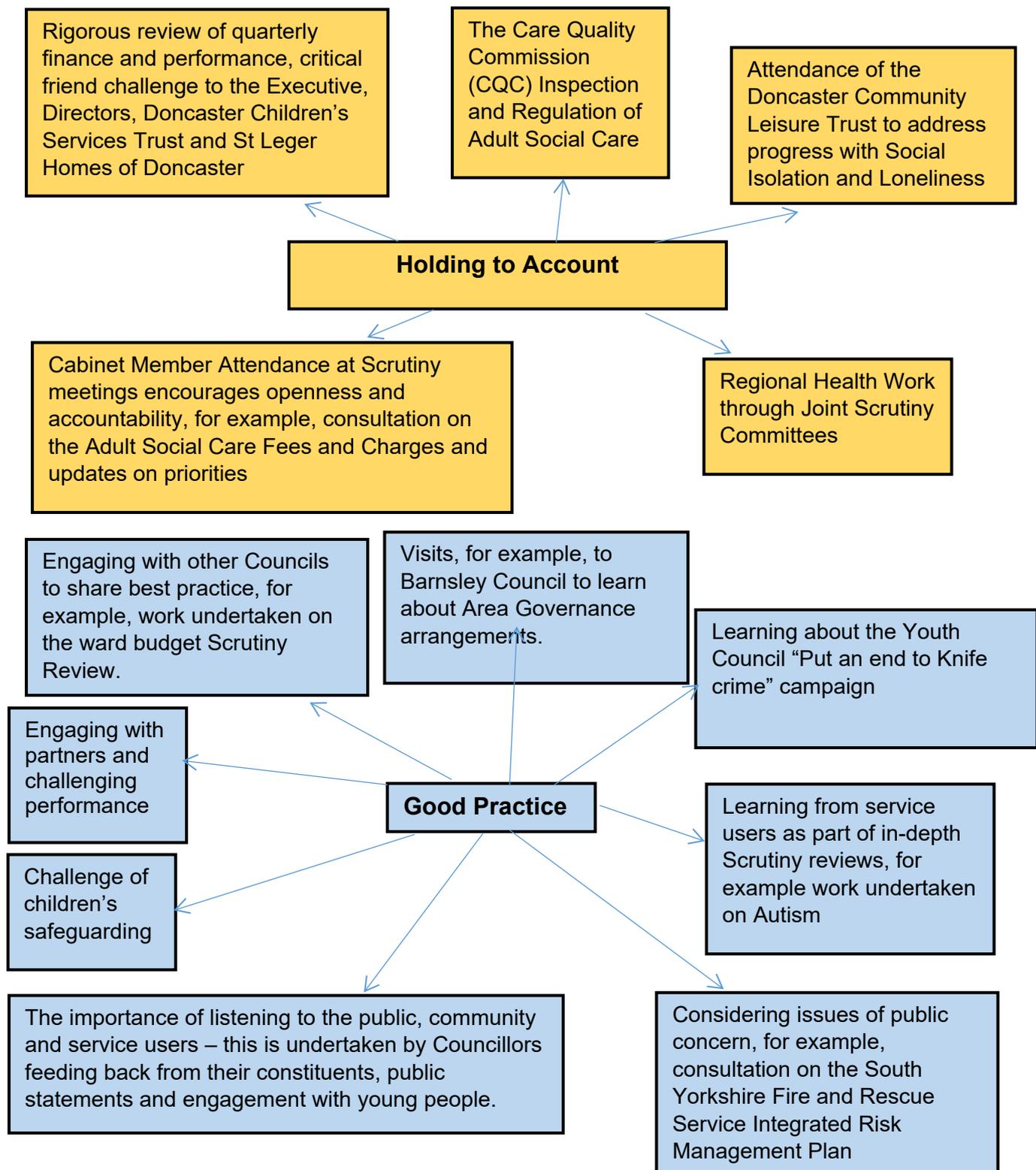
## Communities and Environment (Crime and Disorder) Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Vice-Chair – Councillor Jane Cox
Councillor Nigel Cannings	Councillor Mick Cooper
Councillor David Hughes	Councillor Tosh McDonald
Councillor Ian Pearson	Councillor Kevin Rodgers
Councillor Sue Wilkinson	Robert Ellis (UNISON)

Education Co-optees: Bernadette Nesbitt (Diocese of Hallam Roman Catholic Church) and John Hoare (Diocese of Sheffield Church of England) are entitled to attend meetings of OSMC and CYP O&S and vote on any education matters, which are the responsibility of the Authority’s Executive. They may also participate in panel discussions (although not able to vote on other issues).

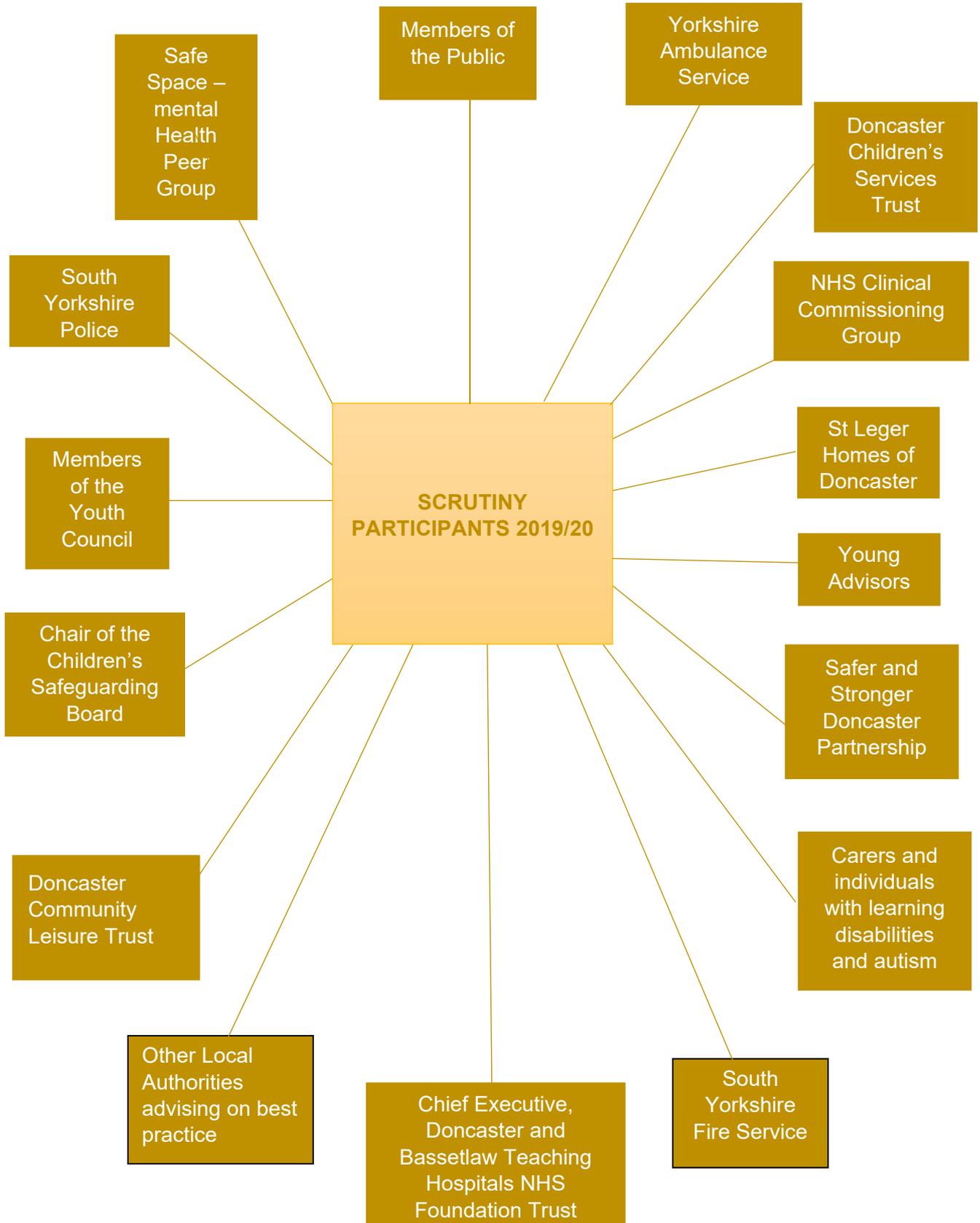
# Impacts and Added Value 2019/20

Examples of where Scrutiny has added value to the Council's decision-making and governance arrangements are detailed below. Further information is provided later in the report within each of the individual OSMC or Panel sections:



# Public and Partners 2019/20

For the purposes of gathering evidence and holding to account, the following public and partners have taken part in scrutiny meetings:



# Giving the Public a Voice through Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny has a key role in giving a voice to and engaging with the public and service users. This is seen as a challenge nationally however, the following examples highlight ways in which Overview and Scrutiny has engaged with the public during the last year.

**Visit to Safe Space** - In early March, 2020 HASC Scrutiny Members visited and met with representatives of the new Safe Space mental health service to gain an insight into how the service operates. Safe Space is a new service based at the Wellness Centre in Intake and is the only peer-led crisis support service running in England. Using peer and voluntary support, the service is aimed at helping those suffering from a mental health crisis and aims to provide each individual with wrap around support and a living well plan.

**All Age Learning Disability and Autism (AALDA)** – the Health and Adult Social Care and Children and Young People Scrutiny Panels considered AALDA. During their work, Members met with carers and people with learning disabilities and autism, who shared their experiences and challenges including having somewhere to meet and make friends, particularly when living in more rural and outlying areas. This provided an opportunity to engage first hand with service users.

**Doncaster Youth Council** – Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel regularly engage with Youth Councillors to hear the how they are addressing their priorities. This year, following the Crime and Disorder Committee outlining how the Safer Doncaster Partnership was addressing knife crime, the Youth Council presented their work on “Putting an End to Knife Crime”. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Councillors also responded to the Youth Councillors’ request, by endorsing and signing up to the Child Friendly Ambition.

**Attendance by members of the public at Scrutiny meetings** – the public attend Scrutiny meetings to listen to debate, and this year did so when the Safer Doncaster Partnership presented its strategy and performance. Public statements were also made when consideration was given to the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service draft Integrated Risk Management Plan, specifically concerns relating to the continued provision of a safe emergency response service, in times of austerity. The comments made were considered during discussion and informed the Panel’s observations, which were provided to South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service following the meeting as part of its consultation process.

**Young Advisors** - were a newly formed team within Doncaster’s Young Peoples Service aged between 16 and 24, who bring unique expertise and knowledge to a number of areas. They regularly attend Scrutiny Panel meetings and provide a valuable young person’s perspective on issues under consideration.

# Highlights and Achievements – Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	DGT Areas
<p>Empowered, Engaged Communities with Devolved Locality Budgets</p>	<p><b>Supporting policy development, implementing best practice principles:</b> - The Mayor asked the Committee to undertake a review to consider how the allocation of ward budgets to Members could bring about positive change and deliver better community empowerment and engagement. The Committee invited all Members to take part in a number of workshops to seek their views and consider what type of arrangements should be in place and what specific outcomes could be achieved through a local model of engagement.</p> <p>Members undertook a site visit to Barnsley Council, to learn about their ward alliance and area committee model and held a telephone conference with Nottingham City Council to review how these arrangements worked in practice.</p> <p>Following its review, the Committee proposed a scheme for administering and monitoring the effectiveness of ward grants, which was supported by the Executive.</p> <p>Due to the pandemic it was not possible to introduce the ward budgets as originally intended, at regular ward Member meetings. However, the key principles of Scrutiny’s recommendations were used to allocate an individual budget of £3k per Councillor to support their communities during the crisis and a further £3k per Councillor for wider community issues. As part of the monitoring process, Overview and Scrutiny will receive future reports to measure the effectiveness of this funding.</p>	<p>All DGT Areas</p>
<p>Monitor Quarterly Performance and Finance Management</p>	<p><b>Holding to account, supporting performance management arrangements:</b> - OSMC continues to review quarterly performance and finance information of the Council, St Leger Homes of Doncaster and Doncaster Children’s Trust to identify the extent to which the Council and its key partners are operating within resources and delivering value for money. This is a key role for the Committee as it provides an opportunity to hold Members and officers to account for service delivery, consider the effectiveness of the Council’s performance monitoring arrangements, help inform the budget process and identify future work plan issues.</p> <p>Some of the key areas considered included:</p>	<p>All DGT Areas</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of Flooding Response – the Committee supported the prioritisation of some front line services to respond quickly to the flooding emergency in November 2019 and recognised this had subsequently affected service delivery and performance in certain areas.</li> <li>• Agency staff – it was acknowledged that it was still necessary in certain areas to employ agency staff where there were skill shortages, for example in ICT, Adult Social Care and Social Services. Members were assured that the position was being carefully monitored.</li> <li>• Fly Tipping – addressing measures to tackle the national issue particularly relating to commercial waste. Initiatives taken by the Council including recent changes to the permit system at Household Waste Sites were welcomed;</li> <li>• Housing solutions for 16 to 18 year old care leavers, including suitable properties where young people felt safe and secure;</li> <li>• Impact of Universal Credit particularly for those who were awaiting payment and their need, during this period, to rely on food banks.</li> </ul>	
Policy Framework	<p><b>Providing assurance, contributing to policy decisions</b> - A number of Statutory Plans and policies were considered prior to their adoption by Full Council, for example, the Youth Justice Plan and Corporate Plan. This provides an opportunity for Scrutiny members to provide views and comments to the Executive prior to the policies being presented to Council.</p>	All DGT Areas
Budget Review	<p><b>Providing assurance and commentary on future resources</b> - OSMC undertook a holistic view of the 2019/20 budget proposals ensuring they were evidence based and supported corporate and borough wide priorities. In addition, the Committee considered the capacity and risks around deliverability and implementation of the proposals.</p> <p>The Committee considered examples of how consultation and other appropriate evidence had been used to develop the proposals e.g. Local Authority charges for adult social care services. This gave Members a helpful insight into the changes required to meet service efficiency and future demand.</p> <p>The Committee recognised that ambitious savings were required to achieve a budget gap of £17.7m over a three-year period due to a change of funding arrangements and agreed the proposals were an appropriate response in the current operating environment.</p> <p>OSMC accepted that the Council operated in a challenging financial environment. However, the Council's and its partners' response to the flooding emergency demonstrated it had the flexibility and resources to meet unexpected challenges. The Committee recognised that in future this would become increasingly difficult as the Council sought to meet its savings targets.</p>	All DGT Areas

# Highlights and Achievements – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	DGT Themes
Autism and Learning Disability – Strategy Consultation	The Panel held two detailed consultation meetings enabling Scrutiny Members to contribute to policy development and invited the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel to take part in this piece of work. The Executive accepted the Panel’s recommendations following this work.	Doncaster Caring
Yorkshire Ambulance Service	The Yorkshire Ambulance Service presented changes required to the service, impacts and benefits of introducing a new “Hub and Spoke” model for the Doncaster area. Members recognised the need for change and discussions addressed a number of areas, particularly patient handover from ambulance to emergency departments. It was acknowledged that this was a national problem and following the Panel’s recommendations, Members’ concerns were responded to by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chief Officer. It was outlined that the CCG and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust were working closely to reduce the patient handover time from Ambulance to hospital care.	Doncaster Caring
Starting Well, Living Well and Aging Well	The Panel agreed to review items that supported these three categories ensuring the lives of Doncaster’s residents were enriched and they were receiving appropriate support and care. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the planned Aging Well element had to be rescheduled to a future meeting of the Panel.	Doncaster Caring
Starting Well: • Child Obesity and Tooth Decay	Members considered the social risks associated with obesity and poor oral health. In response to the Panel’s recommendations to promote good oral health in schools, it was reported that Public Health was liaising with the Junior Civic Mayor to develop a promotion campaign focusing on the benefit of registering with a dentist as well as a child and young person’s right to receive fluoride varnish.	Doncaster Caring
• Hidden Harm – the Impact of parental substance misuse on children and young people	Information was provided to the Panel on the impact of the problem in Doncaster, how partnership services respond and how improvements could be made. In response to the Panel’s recommendations to improve public awareness of the support services available, it was reported that Public Health would provide all Elected Members and the Well North community groups with information about Project 3, Aspire and Families Moving on Together (FMOT).	Doncaster Caring

<p>Living Well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doncaster Royal Infirmary</li> </ul>	<p>As part of the Panel's commitment to ensure all health care was improving for the Borough's residents, the Chief Executive of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust attended a meeting to report on and answer questions on strategic issues and challenges faced by the Trust.</p> <p>Members held the Trust to account on a number of specific issues including cancer care waiting times, the Trusts Care Quality Commission Inspection (October 2019), the significant cost to modernise the buildings that formed part of the estate, how the Trust was meeting performance targets particularly for those on complex pathways and the procedure for prisoners attending accident and emergency.</p> <p>Members questioned what was in place for children and young people around education and career opportunities and learnt that a Foundation School for Health, with Hall Cross Academy, was in place. This aimed to benefit students' education and skill development through close links and working with health professionals.</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust expressed his wish to continue liaising with the Scrutiny Panel and would look to present information focusing on Accident and Emergency and the future of nursing education at the hospital and across the Borough in 2020.</p>	<p>Doncaster Caring</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Planning – Clinical Commissioning Group(CCG)</li> </ul>	<p>Following the Panel's discussions relating to the DRI, the Panel received a second presentation from the Chief Executive of Doncaster NHS CCG and the Chief Operating Officer of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, focusing on the approach and managing Winter Planning. Two of the areas Members focused on were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response to the flooding in October, 2019 possible water borne viruses. Assurances were given that Public Health England would be monitoring data over time and investigate any increases in the Doncaster area.</li> <li>• Continuing from the work the Panel had undertaken on the Dementia Friendly Doncaster the Panel was informed that work had been undertaken to improve the skills of staff across the board, by a Dementia Specialist Nurse.</li> </ul>	<p>Doncaster Caring</p>

Watching Briefs	<p>A number of issues the Panel kept a watching brief on over the year included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide prevention;</li> <li>• Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – an assessment of the health, wellbeing and social care needs of Doncaster and its communities;</li> <li>• Adult Safeguarding Annual Report Care Quality Commission Inspection and Regulation of Adult Social Care –reviewing the ratings of Doncaster’s provider performance;</li> <li>• Your Life Doncaster Transformation Project – considering how the programme was maximising outcomes and demonstrating impact and ensuring people were receiving the correct assistance and enabling them to live at home longer;</li> <li>• Primary Care Networks (NHS CCG) and Integrated Areas Based Working.</li> </ul>	Doncaster Caring
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# Highlights and Achievements – Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	DGT Theme
Doncaster Youth Council	<p>Members of the Youth Council attend the Panel each year to present and highlight their work and outcomes achieved in the previous year. The Panel support the Youth Council by providing a platform to publicise their work at public meetings and to express their views on relevant issues.</p> <p>The Panel endorsed their Child Friendly Ambition initiative. This is an area the Youth Council had been working on to build foundations required to make the borough truly child friendly. The Panel also heard from Youth Councillors about their current work on Knife Crime and their future campaign on Protecting the Environment.</p>	Doncaster Learning/Caring
Education and Skills Strategy 2030 – Consultation Framework	During the summer, the Panel was consulted on the vision for the future Education and Skills system including findings from consultation with parents. The Panel was kept informed of its progress and in March 2020, areas considered included the methodology, partnership working, career opportunities and pathways to employment and acknowledged the need to accommodate more vocational learning. .	Doncaster Learning
Inclusion Programme Overview	The Panel received an overview of the Inclusion Programme, which included Elective Home Education, Inclusion and Attendance and Special Education Needs (SEND). Members received information on key challenges, progress with pupil attendance and behaviour and the SEND Inspection and Strategy. Discussion took into account concerns raised by young advisors, to ensure career pathways could realistically be achieved.	Doncaster Caring/Living
Early Help Demand Management - Local Solutions	Members were consulted on and supported the prototype “Local Solutions” model for early help in the Community. Assurance was provided that staff based at the first point of call were trained to ensure a multi-agency response, for people in need of support. It was acknowledged that once the prototype had been evaluated, consideration would be given to how the model could be rolled out across the Borough’s communities ensuring everyone had the same opportunities regardless of where they lived.	Doncaster caring/Living

Future Placements Strategy	Pre-decision Scrutiny was undertaken by the Panel prior to Cabinet making a decision on the current provision for Children in Care. Members supported the Cabinet's proposals, during deliberation considered, and explored the financial framework for young people remaining with foster carers following their 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday, and recruitment of foster carers.	Doncaster Caring/Living
Watching Briefs	<p>To ensure the Panel retained an overview and awareness of key issues within its remit, updates were received on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools Performance Tables – the Panel gives annual consideration to attainment data including SATs, GCSE's and 'A' Levels, providing an opportunity to consider the improvements made by schools.</li> <li>• Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Board (DCSB) Annual Report outlining the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the Borough.</li> <li>• Youth Strategy and EXPECT Youth – Members supported the work ongoing and requested that the Panel be presented with the Youth Strategy prior to it being considered by Cabinet.</li> </ul>	Doncaster Learning/Caring/Living

# Highlights and Achievements – Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	DGT Theme
Management of Doncaster Markets	<p>As part of the Panel’s monitoring role, Members received two performance update reports on the Management of Doncaster Markets, in October 2019 and March 2020. The information provided at that time, included details of contractual matters and notable events and activities to regenerate the market. The Panel will continue to receive updates on the management of the markets including the challenges faced as a result of COVID and these issues will be reported in the 2020/21 Annual Scrutiny Report.</p>	Connected Council/Doncaster Living
Housing	<p>Housing is a significant element of the Panel’s remit and as part of its overview role consideration was given to the Borough’s current housing provision, with the following two issues being considered in greater detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024</u> – Members were consulted on this issue throughout the year and made a number of recommendations, relating to, the support for Private Landlords and the impact of urgent housing needs, particularly following the flooding emergency in November 2019.</li> </ul> <p>The Panel was able to comment on the Council’s strategic ambition for how services and the wider system could prevent homelessness and rough sleeping in the Borough.</p> <p>With regard to Complex Lives, adequate housing was identified as a major element of the support required particularly in providing a tenancy for those in need. The Panel recognised the valuable and successful work undertaken by the Complex Lives Team in supporting individuals and families living in challenging circumstances.</p> <p>Members also raised a number of queries about support for prisoners requiring housing and received assurance that work and support was undertaken with the South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service prior to their release.</p>	Doncaster Living

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Housing Needs Study briefing session</u> – Members considered how the local authority delivered its housing responsibilities at a time when resources were increasingly stretched. The Panel supported the view that volume delivery must give way to meeting the specific needs of different communities focussing on the size, type and housing design that best meets demand.</li> </ul>	
Watching Briefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Business Doncaster</u> – The Panel received an update on a number of areas including delivering new investments, job growth and supporting businesses. The Panel noted how the Doncaster Business Show Case was promoting what the Borough has to offer the business community and were pleased to note that it attracted both national and international companies.</li> </ul> <p>Members' considered how the floods of November 2019 had affected businesses and noted that whilst this was devastating for those concerned, overall the impact had not been as severe as the floods of 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Major Projects</u> – In reviewing the ambitious capital projects across the Borough, Members were able to learn about Doncaster's growth in comparison to other towns and cities across Yorkshire and the Humber and were provided an opportunity to consider the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Doncaster's Economy</li> <li>○ Connecting With People and Places</li> <li>○ Transport Plans</li> <li>○ Urban Centre Masterplan</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In addition to the above, Members covered a wide range of topics that included the green agenda, migration of young people and housing. As a result, the Panel was able to gain a better insight and understanding of the links between transport, infrastructure and developments and how Doncaster had reached a stage where choices could be made around the needs and direction of the Borough.</p>	Connected Council

# Highlights and Achievements – Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel

Topic Area	Added Value/Impact	
Social Isolation Partnership Alliance	The Panel received an update on the Social Isolation Partnership Alliance (a non-profit Third Sector Partnership Alliance with the Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT) acting as the lead partner. Reducing loneliness is high on the Local Authority's agenda and sited as a key strategic priority in the Health and Well-being Board Outcome Framework 2018-21. Members had the opportunity to consider and review the actions set for the proceeding twelve months firstly with the Local Authority Officers and following contract agreement, with the DCLT Deputy Chief Executive.	Doncaster Living
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	Following a resolution of Full Council in July 2019, the Mayor asked that the Scrutiny Panel be consulted on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (SYFRS) proposed Integrated Risk Management Plan. This meeting provided the opportunity for statements to be made by local residents who outlined their concerns, prior to Members undertaking detailed debate on the robustness of the consultation, the SYFRS response, the current budget challenges and how duties could be allocated and safely undertaken by a reduced four-man crew. The Panel's recommendations fed into the wider consultation exercise.	Doncaster Living
Crime and Disorder Committee	The Panel acts as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee, annually reviewing the work of the local partnership responsible for Crime and Disorder Reduction. This year, the Panel considered the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership's performance by questioning South Yorkshire Police and Local Authority representatives on work undertaken by the Complex Lives Team, tackling knife crime, crime in prisons and child criminal exploitation. Members acknowledged the excellent work, taking place across the partnership, sometimes in particularly challenging and dangerous circumstances. Officers wished to highlight that whilst organised crime had increased in some areas across the Borough, overall crime in Doncaster had reduced compared to other areas in South Yorkshire.	Doncaster Living

Climate Change Agenda and Strategy	<p>Following the Mayor's announcement to combat global warming and the bio-diversity crisis, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel were invited to attend Doncaster's Local Commission on Climate and Biodiversity Crisis, a Team Doncaster cross-sector partnership group, chaired by Ed Milliband MP.</p> <p>The work of this group will be of interest to the Panel moving forward when it considers key elements of the Authority's future Environment Strategy.</p>	Doncaster Living
Street Scene Rapid Improvement Plan	<p>The Panel received an update on the Rapid Improvement Plan established to improve key service outcomes. It was noted however, that work through the improvement plan had only recommenced in January 2020. Work had paused because resources had been prioritised to support the flooding emergency response from November 2019 onwards. Members considered a number of areas including service standards and resources required to respond efficiently. The Panel agreed to undertake further monitoring of this issue at a future meeting.</p>	Connected Council/ Doncaster Living
Areas deferred to a future meeting	<p>The Panel was due to receive an update from the Water Management Consortium and Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board on work undertaken by the Board, and the impact of the management arrangements that commenced in January 2018. Unfortunately, this issue coincided with the emergency flooding response in November 2019. Therefore, it was agreed that the item be deferred and a future report be presented following completion of all necessary investigations. The Panel will also be considering the response by the relevant agencies to the flooding emergency of November 2019.</p>	Doncaster Living
Watching Brief – Get Doncaster Cycling Strategy	<p>A Panel led all Members briefing session highlighted the importance of the Strategy and its benefits to the environment through reduced emissions and improved air quality, providing Members with an opportunity to understand the importance of this strategy and the need to encourage an increase in physical activity across the Borough.</p>	Doncaster Living

# Overview and Scrutiny Priorities for 2020/21

## **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will:**

- Monitor the Local Authority and partners response to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Co-ordinate and manage the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Panels' work programmes;
- Receive and monitor reviews undertaken by Panels and consider their effectiveness and impact;
- Receive quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports;
- Contribute to the Budget Process 2021/22 and beyond;
- Undertake pre-decision scrutiny of key policy issues;
- Further review the impact and outcomes from ward Member Budgets and how the Council's future Locality model will operate;
- Consider Statutory and Council Plans prior to their consideration for approval such as the Borough Strategy; and
- Consider the Annual Compliments and Complaints Report.

## **Children and Young People will address the following themes:**

- Home schooling during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Participation – Child Friendly Doncaster and the Doncaster Officer;
- Early Intervention in localities and supporting families;
- Education, Skills, Learning and attendance; and
- Safeguarding Children.

## **Regeneration and Housing will consider the:**

- Impact on delivery of major projects during the Covid-19 pandemic period;
- Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan; and
- Economic impact arising from Covid-19.

## **Community and Environment will:**

- Review the activities and effectiveness of the Safer and Doncaster Strategic Partnership as the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee with a focus on Domestic Abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Consider areas under an Environment Strategy theme; and
- Flooding assurance and preparation ahead of the winter period and review of flooding emergency 2019;

## **Health and Adult Social Care will:**

- Contribute to work of the regional Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Consider Care Quality Commission Inspection and Regulation;
- Discuss the Adult Safeguarding Annual Report;
- Public Health Protection; and
- Address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Mental Health, Health Protection, and Winter Planning.

# Contacting Overview and Scrutiny

For further information about this Annual Report or any aspect of Overview and Scrutiny work in Doncaster, please contact any of the following:-

Andrew Sercombe - Governance and Member Services Manager  
Telephone: (01302) 734354/ Email: [andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk)

Christine Rothwell - Senior Governance Officer  
Telephone: (01302) 735682/Email: [christine.rothwell@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:christine.rothwell@doncaster.gov.uk)

Caroline Martin - Senior Governance Officer  
Telephone: (01302) 734941/Email: [caroline.martin@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.martin@doncaster.gov.uk)

Doncaster Council  
Governance Services  
Corporate Resources  
Civic Office  
Waterdale  
Doncaster  
DN1 3BU

Email: [scrutiny@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@doncaster.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)

All reports considered at Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings (unless exempt items) are available to the public and are published on Doncaster Council's Website.

**The Governance Services Team is happy to respond to any enquiries about the work of Overview and Scrutiny. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more about the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Panels' work programmes for the forthcoming year, or if you have any comments that you would like to make.**