



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Tuesday, 13th October, 2020 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 15th October, 2020

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 26th October, 2020. The decision will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy Framework)

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services.
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools.
Chris McGuinness	Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment.
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

No public questions or statements were submitted for the meeting.

Decision Records dated 29th September 2020, be noted.

DECISION 1

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| 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE |
| 6. Doncaster Offer – Children and Young People Activities. |
| 2. DECISION TAKEN |

Cabinet:-

- (1) Agreed the approach, seven principles and five strands to delivering a sustainable Doncaster Offer over the next three years, that is ambitious and is by children and young people for children and young people;
- (2) Agreed the principle of a small amount of seed funding to a middle tier infrastructure organisation (Expect Youth), to enable them to fulfil the key functions of community capacity building, quality assurance and income generation;
- (3) Agreed that the Children and Schools Directorate Leadership Team and Portfolio Holder to receive quarterly updates on progress against agreed milestones; and
- (4) To receive an annual report detailing progress.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report which outlined the changes to the Doncaster Youth Strategy reflecting the learning over the past four years and setting the direction for the next three years.

The refreshed Strategy was to be led by children and young people, through a newly formed Youth Advisory Board, which would hold officers and the partnership to account for its delivery. The Board had agreed that the new offer should be for all children and young people aged 0-25 years, and not just for those within the Statutory age range of 13-19 years.

The proposed Strategy would provide a set of overarching principles supported by a robust implementation plan, with the creation of a five strand delivery model with key objectives.

In introducing the report, Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, highlighted that children and young people had led on the changes through a newly formed Youth Advisory Board that would hold officers and the partnership to account for its delivery.

The Advisory Board had decided that the offer should be for all children and young people, not just those within the statutory age range of 13 to 19 year olds. The Board felt there was already lots on offer in Doncaster, and needed to build on the excellent support and activities already in place. Therefore, they had renamed the Youth Strategy 'The Doncaster Offer'.

As the Advisory Board was clear that they did not want to have a lengthy written Strategy, a set of overarching principles supported by a robust implementation plan had been developed that was both child and young people friendly in the way it is communicated.

To support the principles, five delivery strands had been created with key objectives. The Board had created a Doncaster Offer Poster designed by the Board

that would be distributed to all Doncaster Schools, Youth Providers, Childcare settings, Partners and Local Communities. This would promote the Doncaster Offer and how this was to make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.

A short film had been produced promoting the Doncaster Offer, which showed the commitment and valuable contribution that the Youth Advisory Board were making to lead this Offer.

Councillor Fennelly emphasised that the successful delivery of the Doncaster Offer would be paramount to ensuring that the Council not only continued to provide its legal duties, but deliver a refreshed framework and infrastructure, that allowed children and young people to achieve and flourish across Doncaster.

To conclude, Councillor Fennelly stated that she would continue to personally monitor these improvements and would therefore ask that Cabinet approve the content of the report and its recommendations.

Cabinet commended the report and praised the approach taken by the service and the work carried out by the young people, and suggested that other services could learn from this engagement model. Cabinet noted the work and achievements supported by the voluntary, community and faith organisations over the past 3 years, in particular, the Summer programmes and recent Doncaster Staycation where over 6,000 children and young people took part. Members recognised the challenges faced by the Council over the next few months, in continuing the excellent work and engaging with children and young people in a Covid-secure way.

In referring to paragraph 22 of the report, Mayor Ros Jones was delighted to note that children and young people were to be the decision makers and could hold officers to account, and that there had been some really valuable learning that had directly shaped the refresh of the Strategy. The Mayor was also pleased that this would also help to shape the future needs of children and young people, which they valued.

In response to a question from the Mayor regarding how frequently progress was to be monitored, it was noted that the Council was keen to have a system in place so that people could hold the decision makers to account. The Council was currently in the process of mobilising working groups that would report directly to the Youth Advisory Board. It was proposed that the Board was to receive monthly updates on progress. The Council would also be held to account by the local Children's Commissioner, who would work with young people to ensure that they received information and used it well. The Mayor welcomed this and that the young people would receive direct feedback.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other options considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Riana Nelson, Director of Learning Opportunities, Skills and Culture.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker