

OFFICER DECISION RECORD 2 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions which have a financial impact (income/expenditure) between £25k - £100k.

Decision Reference No:

BOX 1.

DIRECTORATE: LOCYP

DATE: 01/02/21

Contact Name: Alison Tomes

Tel. No.: 01302 735395

Subject Matter: Temporary additional staffing to support vulnerable children and young people who step down from social care, in particular into educational settings, many of whom have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

BOX 2**DECISION TAKEN:**

A growing number of children and young people are showing signs of social and emotional mental health problems. This issue has been identified nationally and in Doncaster. Locally, this is evidenced through feedback from schools, through our child and adolescent mental health services and in high numbers of children presenting at A&E, having self-harmed or attempted suicide.

The number of families open to early help has reduced steadily over the last two years, in comparison to the number of families open to statutory social care, which has increased. It is recognised that a number of pressures relating to the delivery of the Early Help offer have emerged which has necessitated a review of current processes and procedures. In addition, a number of corporate and partnership priorities have been identified during the COVID pandemic that require dedicated leadership capacity.

The current pandemic has simultaneously increased the strain on families and reduced school capacity to manage early help cases, in particular step-downs from social care. This places a risk in the system for vulnerable children and young people, especially any not in an educational setting. These often end up in a re-referral into Social Care, placing greater pressure on an already stretched front door. Therefore, adding in extra Early Help Officers means that educational settings can be better supported and the officers can more effectively catch the step-downs and ensure support is provided.

To provide support for the above, this ODR seeks to establish the following posts:

- 2 FTE Early Help Family Lead Practitioners (Grade 7) appointment for 12 months from the Doncaster Opportunity Area funding.

The Early Help Pathway Leads will manage the Early Help Family Lead Practitioners

The cost of this decision is £60K, as detailed in the table below with the breakdown of cost expected (subject to start dates and assumed scale points / agency rates).

This will be funded through the Doncaster Opportunity Area Funding.

Post /Activity	Estimated Period	Cost	20/21	21/22
2 x Early Help Officer	1 st Feb 2021 – 31 st Jan 2022	59,906.34	4,300	55,606.34
TOTAL		59,906.34	4,300	55,606.34

The Doncaster Opportunity Area Funding is time limited and has to be spent by the 31st August 2021. The £60,000 funding will be used to fund these posts and contribute towards a further 8 temporary posts until the 31st August 2021 within the Early Help structure (subject to a further decision record).

These 8 posts are to be funded from the COVID-19 pressures funding allocated. Therefore, funding of these 8 posts in part from the Doncaster Opportunity Area funding will free up resources to fund these 2 temporary posts until the 31st January 2022.

BOX 3

REASON FOR DECISION AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

Do Nothing – The impact of doing nothing is not a viable option, as this will result in some vulnerable children and young people not being supported and, ultimately, the likelihood of them being re-referred into Social Care. It places added pressure upon educational settings who are stating that they are not able to provide their customary level of support as a result of the current circumstances.

BOX 4

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NO

BOX 5

INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

Signatures only require redaction.

Name: S. Douglas

Signature: 

Date 16.02.2021

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

BOX 6

AUTHORISATION:

Name: Lee Golze **Signature:** [REDACTED] **Date:** 10/02/21

Assistant Director Early Intervention and Localities

Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer?

YES

If yes please authorise below:

Name: _Faye Tyas_____ **Signature:** [REDACTED] **Date:** _19/02/21____

Assistant Director of Finance

Consultation with Relevant Member(s)

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Designation _____

(e.g. Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair/Vice-Chair)

Declaration of Interest NO

If YES please give details below:

PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Once completed a PDF copy of this form along with any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk who will arrange publication.

It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.