

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

**DONCASTER METROPLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

**Due Regard Statement
Community Safety Strategy 2022-25**

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.

<p>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>	<p>Development of the 2022-25 Community Safety Strategy, which is a statutory plan under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.</p> <p>The strategy outlines the priorities of the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership over the next four years and the methods we will use to achieve them. The strategic priorities/themes are detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse• Reducing anti-social behaviour• Reducing crime & re-offending• Tackling serious & organised crime• Reducing substance & alcohol misuse• Reducing violence and violent crime <p>In addition to the above priorities, the strategy also details an overarching principle of 'Leaving Nobody Behind'. This principle recognises that some people are more at risk than others in our communities, perhaps because of their age, disability, ethnicity or other distinguishing characteristics that can link to increased vulnerability.</p> <p>For children and young people, and for adults with care and support needs, cross-cutting work is delivered through other structures including the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding board. Each of these structures has their own priorities and strategies supporting. The Community Safety Strategy will not seek to duplicate their work here.</p> <p>However, ensuring we engage with and support people who are at higher potential risk than others is a key overarching principle which runs as a cross-cutting theme throughout the partnership structure. Understanding and addressing vulnerability was identified as a key issue in the consultation process informing this strategy, resulting in the ongoing commitment to deliver improved services to communities across Doncaster.</p> <p>Having also considered the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, there are some key areas that have been considered and included, as detailed within each of the priority group sections and Delivery Plan. Overall, through the Strategy and accompanying actions we will show our commitment to equality and good outcomes for all Doncaster people, regardless of situation or background.</p> <p>Our aim through consultation with all communities is to understand what is important to them and for them to be part of the solution, working with us as an active partner in creating a safer, stronger Doncaster.</p>
---	---

2	Service area responsible for completing this statement.	Community Safety Team – Adults, Health and Well Being Directorate.
3	Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.	<p>Protected user groups as defined by the Equalities Act 2010 are:</p> <p>age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.</p> <p>The review of the Community Safety Strategy begins from the statutory Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which is a comprehensive analysis of crime and community safety data across Doncaster. In addition to this, our Strategy is informed by an understanding of our communities, their demographics, needs and concerns. Overlaid with this is key information from data sources such as the census, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and local crime and anti-social behaviour data.</p> <p>The JSIA and our local community intelligence have identified a number of issues relating to those with protected characteristics. These are summarised as follows:</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour and Vulnerable Victims:</p> <p>During the covid pandemic, we have seen an increase in reported anti-social behaviour, particularly in the categories of nuisance bikes/quads and rowdy/nuisance behaviour. These types of incidents have been of particular concern to those members of the community who are isolated and/or vulnerable, for example the elderly and those with mental health concerns and other health conditions.</p> <p>In response we have continued to secure the regular deployment of resources as part of our tactical response to nuisance illegal off-road bikes and have led on a successful campaign to lobby the Home Office for a change in legislation to tackle illegal off road motorbikes and quad bikes used in organised crime. Operations carried out by the off-road bike team have been highly successful and have been publicised, sending a strong message of our approach and importantly providing reassurance to vulnerable members of our communities.</p> <p>Our Partnership approach to tackling ASB includes the completion of vulnerable victim risk assessments which gathers information across a variety of factors, including the protected groups. This information is then used tailor an appropriate response to effectively meet the needs of the individual concerned.</p>

In terms of community cohesion, strong links and mechanisms are in place across the partnership to effectively measure community tension levels in Doncaster. This reporting cycle allows us to identify issues and trends and respond accordingly.

Hate Crime:

General reporting of hate crime is increasing at a steady pace, which can be interpreted as a good thing in that trust and confidence in reporting is improving. During the last 12 months, the covid pandemic has resulted in a small spike in hate crime reports, with a particular focus on victims from Asian communities. It is also evident that hate crime figures rise in the aftermath of any terror attack. It is also not unusual for reports to rise during periods of warm weather or high-profile events where large crowds gather, although covid restrictions since 2020 have limited the opportunity for this type of incident to occur.

We continue to work in a changeable environment where opportunities for collective working are more important than ever before. We have operated within an integrated, partnership-focused structure for many years to effectively address hate crime. The strategic management of hate crime is located within the Anti-Social Behaviour Theme Group of the partnership structure. At an operational level within the SSDP, hate crime cases are managed by the Council's Communities Service, through established multi-agency mechanisms. These groups are populated by agencies who manage all actions and interventions relating to victims and offenders, to ensure early intervention for those reported cases and the prevention of any repeat cases, wherever possible. Every hate crime or incident reported through the partnership receives a multi-agency response to ensure that vulnerable victims are supported and offending behaviour is challenged. We aim to always provide a thorough, co-ordinated, partnership response to reports of hate crimes or incidents which facilitates the development of tailored action plans to address the specific needs of each case.

Hate crime victims are offered a choice of reporting agency and location, with Doncaster Council hosting a number of hate crime reporting locations across the Borough. At these locations, staff have received training to take and process hate crime reports sensitively and confidentially, in line with the victim's wishes. Whilst our Council services are robust and co-ordinated, the majority of hate crime reports continue to be made directly to the Police. As a partnership, we continue to recognise that that reported incidents to the Police as a single agency are only a part of the hate crime story, and that this crime type is historically highly under-reported. As a Council, we also offer further reporting options in the form of a dedicated Hate Crime telephone line and an on-line reporting service for any victim of a hate crime or incident.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse:

An estimated 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2020, according to Crime Survey for England and Wales (1.6 million women, 757,000 men). The majority of victims of domestic homicides recorded between April 2017 and March 2019 were females (77%).

The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 773,000 adults aged between 16 and 74 experienced sexual assault (including attempts) in the year ending March 2020. There were almost four times as many female victims (618,000) as male victims (155,000). Only around 16% of those who experience sexual violence and assault choose to report to the police. Almost half (49%) had been a victim more than once. Almost 90% of people who are raped know the perpetrator prior to the offence.

At a local level, domestic abuse remains a priority for the Borough and during the year to March 2021 we have seen increases in the number of reports, we are aware that this issue still remains largely un-reported.

In addition to risk management by the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy service and MARAC, there is also the Domestic Abuse Hub and Domestic Abuse Caseworker team. There is improved collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse and a strong commitment to learning from their experiences. This is to provide support for victims, survivors, children and young people that have been affected by domestic abuse and to promote trauma informed practice to understand and address offending behaviour. By addressing adverse childhood experiences and trauma, the aim is to prevent people becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse in the future.

Domestic Abuse staff support victims of sexual abuse when the incidents occur in a domestic abuse setting, working in collaboration with specialist support services including Independent Sexual Violence Advocates and Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (DRASACS). ISVAs and DRASACS support victims and survivors of sexual and violence and abuse that is not domestic related.

All work to support victims, survivors, children and young people is undertaken in collaboration with South Yorkshire Police and other partners across the borough and beyond.

In September 2021 the new Countywide Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme will be launched. The programme will receive referrals from Perpetrators to change their behaviour. Doncaster has been pivotal in developing this programme, modelled on our own successful approach. The programme will again be managed by Doncaster on behalf of all four local authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The programme will accept referrals from male and female perpetrators and is a key component to reducing and preventing Domestic Abuse, which directly impacts predominantly on females and children.

Serious and Organised Crime / Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking:

The issues of modern slavery and human trafficking have been highlighted within the annual joint strategic intelligence assessment and research indicates that modern slavery and human trafficking can disproportionately affect under-represented groups of a particular nationality and also females, who may be victims of sex trafficking. Therefore it is important that our Community Safety Strategy addresses these issues, ensures that victims are aware of the support available and professionals receive training on identifying the signs and reporting mechanisms.

Child criminal exploitation is a further area which has been identified as a concern, both during our consultation and our strategic intelligence assessment. The partnership has responded to this issue by improving training and investment in resources to provide support to victims and families. The referral process for persons at risk of criminal exploitation has highlighted this predominantly affects young males and therefore our support services are able to provide support based upon levels of risk.

Our outreach services for victims have been adapted to be highly mobile and can be deployed into areas and locations to engage with affected groups. This may include youth clubs, local parks and open areas where young people may congregate.

Substance and Alcohol Misuse:

The Local Authority based Public Health is responsible for commissioning drug and alcohol services (Aspire via RDasH and ADS). This provides a platform for a more integrated approach to improving public health outcomes. This approach addresses the root causes and wider determinants of drug dependence and alcohol misuse and the harm and impact they have on communities and troubled families (such as mental health, employment, education, crime and housing). It also delivers the greatest gains for individuals and the community.

As of May 2021 Aspire currently has 1,178 clients receiving structured treatment across the Borough of Doncaster. The service has hubs in strategically placed parts of Doncaster based on need, Bentley with 138 clients, Mexborough with 186, Thorne 123, a central base in Doncaster town centre with 678, criminal justice clients of 172 and New Beginnings 29. Aspire also has a dedicated midwife.

According to the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, in the period 1st of April to 30th of September 2019 males made up 68.5% of clients and females 31.5%. Between the ages of 18 to 40 years of age there are 41.1% of clients and 59.1% over the age of 40. 95% of clients identified as White/British, 94% Heterosexual, 1.7% Gay/Lesbian, 1.7% Bi-Sexual, 2.5% missing/not stated.

Between the period 1st of April to 30th of September there were 234 clients starting new treatment of which 85% of clients stated no disability. 66% stated no religion and 23% Christian, 1.8% Muslim/Sikh/Buddhist and 7.3% stated other.

This data is monitored on a regular basis by commissioners via NDTMS and yearly by PHE Commissioning Support Packs.

Violent Crime:

Reducing violence and violent crime, including alcohol related crime is a cross-cutting theme and priority for the partnership. The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SYVRU) was established in August 2019 to develop the South Yorkshire-wide public health approach to tackling violent crime and has produced two pieces of work to aid Community Safety Partnership in reducing violence and violent crime: an area profile and a response strategy for South Yorkshire. The strategy highlighted 16 priorities for each Partnership to work towards when developing a local response to reducing violence. These documents have been approved by the Home Office.

SYVRU activity supports a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling violence which is embedded and delivered locally and Community Safety Partnerships are the agreed lead mechanism for local delivery.

In March 2020 Doncaster's Partnership Manager from the SYVRU worked with the SSDP and other partners (e.g. Doncaster Children's Services Trust, Youth Offending Teams, Health and Wellbeing Board etc.) to identify gaps, based on information from the area profile and survey analysis, as well as local knowledge, and created a working action plan that could be under taken against the SYVRU priorities.

The action plan has been reviewed and updated for 2021/2022 and includes a continued focus on the night-time economy with the view to achieving Purple Flag status for the Borough. This will enable people to quickly identify Doncaster's night-time economy as an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out. Other actions are focused around violence and children and young people (both as victims and offenders of violent crime) and a focus on a trauma informed approach.

4	<p>Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</p>	<p>In addition to utilising those data sources described above, an extensive and broad-reaching consultation exercise was undertaken during June 2021 to collect as wide a range of views and experiences as possible.</p> <p>This consultation requested the input of a broad range of community and faith groups across Doncaster; the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership; the Youth Council; Elected Members (with an additional dedicated briefing note); external social media communications and internal communications, including a Directorate Newsletter and the Chief Executive column. The consultation was posted on the Doncaster Talks consultation platform, with support from the Policy, Innovation and Change Team and the corporate communications team.</p> <p>Offers to facilitate consultation in different ways and formats (including audio and braille) was made and an article was featured in the Doncaster Talking Newspaper. An 'Easy Read' version of the strategy will also be produced and launched alongside the full document.</p> <p>The consultation period received 175 responses during the month, the findings of which were analysed and used to inform the strategy content.</p>
5	<p>Real Consideration:</p> <p>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</p>	<p>The Community Safety Consultation:</p> <p>The review of the community safety strategy begins from the statutory Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which is a comprehensive analysis of crime and community safety data across Doncaster. In addition to this our Strategy is informed by an understanding of our communities, their demographics, needs and concerns.</p> <p>Overlaid upon this is key information from data sources such as census, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and local crime and anti-social behaviour data. The Community Safety Consultation identified a number of prominent issues. The community consultation identified that the strategic current priorities should remain, as they continue to meet the needs of residents and Partner and identified a number of emerging issues.</p> <p>The strategic priorities reflected within the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse • Reducing anti-social behaviour • Reducing crime & re-offending • Tackling serious & organised crime • Reducing substance & alcohol misuse • Reducing violence and violent crime

The emerging issues identified as part of the consultation include those detailed below – these are addressed within the strategy and delivery plan:

- Increased community engagement and officer visibility
- Increased/simplified reporting services and support for victims
- Begging and homelessness
- Online crime
- Targeted work in geographical locations

This strategy will result in closer partnership working in respect of the identified priorities and will have a positive impact on the citizens of Doncaster who will see improved outcomes in terms of feeling safer; being safer and getting the support they need with access to improved services. We will also be taking a strong enforcement approach to reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse, supported by early intervention and prevention, stopping issues from escalating at an early stage and targeting resources where they are most needed.

What the Evidence Shows:

- The vast majority (91.38%) of surveys were from people who lived in Doncaster, 59.2% worked in Doncaster, 6.32% study in Doncaster and 4.6% have a business in Doncaster.
- The majority of people surveyed said they feel safe living in Doncaster most or all of the time (63.79%).
- Only 3.45% of those surveyed said they never feel safe living in Doncaster.
- People felt most unsafe at night-time (62.50%) or in the evening (41.18%).
- The majority of those who stated they didn't feel safe identified the Town Centre as the place they didn't feel safe. Other areas identified included Lakeside (4.44%), Doncaster Bus Station (2.22%), certain villages (4.44%) and rural locations (4.44%).
- When asked about the reasons for feeling unsafe, crime accounted for 16.19% of responses, with general comments around crime and reported crime along with burglary, thefts and organised crime.
- Police visibility and reduced Police funding accounted for all 6.34% of responses.
- Anti-social behaviour accounted for 67.60% of responses. Drinking alcohol and drug misuse, homelessness and aggressive begging, particularly in the town centre were the main issues raised.
- Large groups of people gathering and quad and/or motorbike nuisance were also issues raised.
- Nearly 40% of those surveyed said they felt agencies are very effective or effective at tackling crime and disorder in Doncaster.
- 19% of those surveyed said agencies were neither ineffective nor effective.

- 31% said they felt agencies were not very effective.
- When asked about the crime and disorder themes that were most important, results indicated a relatively even priority across the strategic themes. However, reducing Anti-Social Behaviour accounted for 88.37% of the Community Safety themes most important to those surveyed.
- Additional comments in respect of areas of concern included a lack of agency resources and a need for increased engagement with communities; begging and large groups in the town centre; organised criminality; online crime; speeding traffic/dangerous driving; vehicle theft; young people and anti-social behaviour; dog theft; substance misuse in public spaces e.g. parks; women's safety and domestic abuse.
- 34.5% of respondents had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months.
- 75% of those had been victims of anti-social behaviour and 28.33% had been victims of damage to property.
- Vehicle crime and hate crime also accounted for significant proportions of crime respondents experienced.
- 48% of victims were women and 40% were men.
- 62.2% of those who experienced crime were in the 45-64 age group and 22.2% in the 25-44 age group, 11.1% were over 65 and only 2.2% under 18.
- The vast majority (67%) reported crime they experienced, however, 33% did not.
- The majority (79%) reported such crimes to the Police and 14% reported issues to the Council. Of those who said they reported it to other agencies, comments identified those agencies as Housing Associations, Education staff and Domestic Abuse agencies.
- Reasons provided for not reporting included: being unable to identify the offender; long waiting times on the 101 service; previous negative experiences when reporting / lack of confidence that positive action will be taken; lack of resources across agencies to tackle issues.
- When asked what could be done to improve the partnership and its services, responses included: more visible presence from officers within communities/neighbourhoods; simpler and faster reporting services; increased engagement with young people; increased support for offenders; closer working with community organisations; improved communications/social media presence; targeted work in hotspot areas; increased CCTV coverage; better support for victims of crime; additional resources for outlying areas.

Who Responded:

The questionnaire circulated included details of respondent's age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation and area of residence. This enabled us to monitor how representative the responses were. This information is valuable when developing local delivery plans, assessing existing service provision and exploring potential new services. In brief, the consultation, which attracted 175 responses showed:

- The majority of respondents were from the 45-64 age group, followed by the 25-44 age group. Combined they account for over 78% of responses.
- 9.98% of responses were from those under the age of 24.
- Almost two thirds of responses were from those identifying as women, whilst those identifying as men were just short of a third.
- A small proportion preferred not to say and one individual identified as a Transgender Male/Man.
- One individual preferred to self-identify and commented "I go by all pronouns, I am me and am not defined by my gender/pronouns".
- The vast majority of respondents identified as Heterosexual (85.53%). 4.4% identified as Bisexual, just over 3% identified as a gay man and 1.89% identified as a gay woman/lesbian. Almost 4.5% preferred not to say how they identified.
- The vast majority of respondents (158) identified as English, 4 people identified as Scottish, 3 Polish, 2 Romanian and 1 Czech and 1 Kurdish individual. All were born within the UK except for 12 individuals.

How have we used the evidence:

The majority of people surveyed said they feel safe living in Doncaster most or all of the time (63.79%). Only 3.45% of those surveyed said they never feel safe living in Doncaster. The survey highlighted that residents felt most unsafe in the Town Centre, highlighting anti-social behaviour, homelessness, alcohol and drug misuse as key concerns.

Since the last Community Safety Strategy, a significant investment of additional resources has been made in the town centre. The Complex Lives Team continue to focus on individuals with a range of needs, which may relate to substance misuse, lack of accommodation and access to key services. Continued focus on this cohort enables individuals to gain accommodation and access to support and services. It is recognised that maintaining stability is a continuing challenge, but alongside the Public Space Protection Order, this provides the tools to manage these issues within the locality.

The consultation has identified that hate crime remains an important issue as this accounted for a proportion of crime that respondents experienced. The JSIA also highlighted a small increase in reports – these rises were linked to national / international issues such as terror attacks, the covid pandemic and the EU exit. Robust Hate Crime services are established across the Borough as described earlier in this statement.

Doncaster has, for a number of years, welcomed asylum seekers into our communities and we have developed strong links with providers who operate the national housing contract. Approval mechanisms exist to support decision making in relation to local service provision, crime and anti-social behaviour activity and the condition of properties. Bi-monthly multi-agency meetings are also established to ensure communication mechanisms are strong and services are working well.

Domestic abuse and sexual abuse continue to be a priority for the Partnership. A new domestic abuse strategy for 2021-2024 has been produced following extensive consultation with communities, survivors and practitioners and a new sexual abuse strategy is also being written. The new domestic abuse strategy emphasises that domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility and that it will only be tackled by everyone working together.

There is improved collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse and a strong commitment to learning from their experiences. The strategy seeks to provide support for victims, survivors, children and young people that have been affected by domestic abuse as well as promoting trauma informed practice to understand and address offending behaviour.

By addressing adverse childhood experiences and trauma, the aim is to prevent people becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse in the future. Increased reports of domestic abuse and domestic homicide is also a UK emerging risk as identified in the JSIA.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking continues to be managed through the Serious and Organised crime theme and is an issue affecting individuals from the protected user group. The issues of modern slavery and human trafficking have been highlighted within the annual joint strategic intelligence assessment and research indicates that modern slavery and human trafficking can disproportionately affect under-represented groups of a particular nationality and also females, who may be victims of sex trafficking. Therefore, it is important that our Community Safety Strategy addresses these issues, ensures that victims are aware of the support available and professionals receive training on identifying the signs and reporting mechanisms.

		In addition to the details within this statement, all emerging issues identified within the strategic themes of Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse; Reducing anti-social behaviour; Reducing crime & re-offending; Tackling serious & organised crime; Reducing substance & alcohol misuse and reducing violence and violent crime are recorded within the Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan to ensure progress and performance management.
6	Decision Making	<p>It is important that the Mayor and Cabinet understand the obligation of demonstrating due regard from the review of this strategy and any changes to priorities are presented with a clear rationale and evidence base.</p> <p>The Mayor and portfolio holder will be made aware of due regard considerations through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular briefing updates reporting upon progress of the Community Safety Strategy; • As the Strategy progresses through the Councils Governance structures the Mayor and Cabinet will be able to comment upon the content and provide feedback as to due regard considerations.
7	Monitoring and Review	<p>The Community Safety Strategy will be monitored through various mechanisms which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSDP Executive Board meetings, reports and presentations, including utilising performance management models; • The consideration of equality standards and impact will continue to be a required theme of action plans and new policies; • Action plans developed from the strategy will be monitored through the Partnership theme group structure; • An annual review of the Strategy will take place and will be informed by on-going consultations with communities through various methods.
8	Sign off and approval for publication	<p>The JSIA and community consultation has examined a full range of evidence across all protected groups and has used the information as a basis to show due regard to the aims of the general duty.</p> <p>This has enlightened the development of the strategy, based upon the changing nature, needs and concerns of our communities.</p>