



# Doncaster Council

17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## To the Chair and Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

### Youth Council Presentation: Youth Council Update including the Domestic Abuse Campaign

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Rachel Blake Portfolio holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities  Cllr Lani-Mae Ball Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills & Young People	All	No

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The report provides cover for a presentation and verbal update on information on school/academy participation in the Youth Council election held across the borough. The Youth Council in the meeting, will present the results of the recent Youth Council election and the action plan on the Make your Mark priority campaign of "**Reduce Domestic Abuse**".
2. This is supported by a short film from the Youth Council, on a recent project they have developed around domestic abuse. This project was funded by the Violence Reduction Unit and supported by Safer Stronger Doncaster and the intention is to show the film in a variety of settings, including schools.

### EXEMPT REPORT

3. The report is not exempt.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. That the Panel:
  - i. Considers the information presented, which includes information on school/academy participation in the Youth Council election held across the borough.
  - ii. Approve the plans on the #ReduceDomesticAbuse campaign, including the use of the film.
  - iii. Seeks to identify any opportunities to work more closely between the Members of Youth Parliament, Youth Council and the children and young people's overview and scrutiny.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

5. The Youth Council work pro-actively with children and young people from all wards and settings to make sure that they have a voice. This means that there are well developed routes in for children and young people to shape future strategies and what services are provided. This is a crucial part of being a child friendly borough.
6. Domestic abuse is a priority for Doncaster and there is a new strategy that puts in place plans to support residents. This includes support to children and their families and the campaign by the Youth Council will raise awareness of coercive behaviours and where to go for help and support. Schools will be supported to help pupils as part of the campaign.

## **BACKGROUND**

7. Doncaster Youth Council is the strategic youth voice vehicle for Doncaster's children and young people. Once elected each member serves a two-year term of office. Over the years we have seen a real investment in the Youth Council from LOCYP in terms of expanding the membership increasing more opportunities for young people's involvement and providing more platforms for youth voice to drive forward service improvement. The Youth Council is a strategic partner in our ambition to become the "Most Child Friendly Borough" in the country. Elected youth councillors run campaigns based on information gained from their peers, plan partnership events to ensure the views of young people are listened to and enable opportunities for young people to meet with decision makers. They work to ensure young people have a say in the decisions locally, regionally, and nationally, by:
  - a. Providing a forum for young people to have a voice.
  - b. Representing and communicating the views of young people to the decision makers and the wider community.
  - c. Raising the profile of young people in a positive way.
  - d. Representing young people locally, regionally, and nationally.
  - e. Lobbying for change.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASON FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

8. There are no specific options to consider within this report. It provides an opportunity for the Panel to consider the information provided and provide feedback and comments.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

9. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the Borough.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The work of Overview a Scrutiny has the potential to have an impact on all the Council's key objective. The youth council elections and campaign work have the potential to impact across all the key outcomes Doncaster Working, Living, Learning and Caring.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic, and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The work on Domestic Abuse will raise awareness of healthy and unhealthy relationships to prevent domestic abuse and identify the signs of a coercive and controlling relationship for young people.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient, and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

10. There is a potential risk to using the film in schools if the schools do not have appropriately trained staff, to support any immediate issues with pupils.

*Mitigation: This will be mitigated by ensuring schools see the film before showing to pupils, to ensure they have the correct support in place. Training will be provided to school staff (likely to be either the designated safeguarding lead or designated mental health lead), as required prior to showing the video.*

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (HP 1.3.22)

11. Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 requires that every local authority must, so far as reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to sufficient educational and recreational activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for

such activities. There is statutory guidance dated June 2012 providing further detail of this duty.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places additional responsibilities on local Authorities regarding responding to domestic abuse.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (SB 1.3.22)**

12. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report. In financial year 2021/22 there is a budget of £7,390 to support the work of the Youth Council

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

13. No implications have been sought.

### **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

14. No implications have been sought.

### **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (CW 03.03.2022)**

15. The participation of young people in the design of projects such as the 'Make Your Mark Priority Campaign' can be advantageous in many ways. Notably, involvement in such processes may extend the capabilities and opportunities of the young people who participate and result in more effective solutions because they are based on the genuine needs of the population and more likely to reflect young people's culture.
16. The most recent Pupil Lifestyle Survey results demonstrate:
  - 23% of pupils (secondary aged) have experience some form of abuse in previous or current relationships
  - 86% of those who have experience abuse would know where to get
  - 61% of those who have experienced abuse would feel able to get help
17. This demonstrates a need for greater awareness in young people in recognising abusive behaviour, understanding where they can get help and being supported to do so. It is hoped the campaign will take these points into consideration and address them.

### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS (CR 08.03.22)**

18. There are no significant equality implications associated with this report. Overview and Scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

## **CONSULTATION**

19. There has been lots of consultation with young people, via the Youth Council in the development of the information, including the short film. The Youth held meetings with the domestic abuse team to identify which aspect of domestic abuse the youth council should target.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

20. There are no background papers

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

21. LOCYP – Learning Opportunities Children and Young People

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