

**To the Chair and Members of the
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PANEL WORK PLAN
REPORT 2015/16**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on the Panel's work plan.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

2. Not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Panel is asked to:
 - i) Consider and comment on the revised work plan attached at Appendix A.
 - ii) Receive an update on the Children with Disabilities Social Care Review.
 - ii) Receive and comment on the correspondence made following its meeting held on the 2nd July 2015 in Appendix B.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy. This is achieved through making robust recommendations, monitoring performance of Council and external partners and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.

BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. As Members will be aware the Scrutiny Panels will continue to focus on review work with OSMC taking a lead business role. Members will recall that OSMC and the standing Panels held work planning sessions in June 2015 with a view to

identifying a small number of review topics. The work plan attached at Appendix A, approved by OSMC provides an ongoing summary of the work currently being undertaken.

6. **Children with disabilities social care review** – The panel on 27th July, 2015 scoped the review and agreed the following key areas for consideration:

1. Meeting with parents, Foster Carers and Parents Forum;
2. Meeting with young people – Ladder Group;
3. Visit Respite Care Facility and North Ridge School to address Transition to adulthood and the Next Project; and
4. Meeting with Officers/social workers to address Direct Payments, POET (Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool) pilot, SEN Out of Authority Costs, Good/Poor Practice and gaps.

A further update will be provided at this meeting.

7. **The Children’s Services Trust** – Additionally, the CYP Panel will continue to receive briefings and updates on the arrangements and performance for the Children’s Trust through quarterly formal meetings. The first of these meetings was held in June, 2015 where evidence was received from Mark Douglas, Chief Operating Officer, Doncaster Children’s Services Trust and Peter Featherstone, Business Manager, Learning and Opportunities Doncaster MBC. The next discussion with the Children’s Trust will be held earlier on this meeting’s agenda.

8. **Correspondence with the Executive**

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review – Relationships with Academies and Educational Attainment - In relation to the Panels review undertaken last year; a letter was forwarded to the Mayor following the response provided to the Panel’s recommendations that were made in that review. A copy of this correspondence is attached at Appendix B.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for Members to discuss the Panel’s work plan for 2015/16.

IMPACT ON COUNCIL’S KEY OBJECTIVES

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> 	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council’s key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of council</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>and external partners services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.</p> <p>This issue has a direct impact on helping children live safe, healthily and active in a safe environment whilst ensure the governance between the Children's Board, Scrutiny and partners is working effectively.</p>
People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
All families thrive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
Council services are modern and value for money.		
Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.		

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

10. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function it is important that the work plan devised is manageable and that it accurately reflects the broad range of issues within its remit. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The Council's Constitution states that subject to matters being referred to it by the Full Council, or the Executive and any timetables laid down by those references Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will determine its own Work Programme (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6a).

12. Specific legal implications and advice will be given with any reports when Overview and Scrutiny have received them as items for consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The budget for the support of the Overview and Scrutiny function 2015/16 is not affected by this report however, the delivery of the work plan will need to take place within agreed budgets. There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Any financial implications relating to specific reports on the work plan will be included in those reports.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

14. This report provides an overview of the work programme undertaken by Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny. There are no significant equality implications associated with this report. Within its programme of work 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

15. The work plan has been developed in consultation with Members and officers.

CONTACT OFFICER AND REPORT AUTHOR

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Background Papers; None

Damien Allen
Director Learning, Opportunities and Skills

Appendix A

Children and Young People (CYP) Overview & Scrutiny Panel Workplan (DRAFT) – Fixed Panel Meetings Outcomes and improvements for children and young people

10am 2 nd July 2015	17th Sept AM – informal	2pm 17 th September 2015 Formal	November 2015 (TBA)	10am 8 th December 2015	10am 29 th February 2015
Quarterly Performance Report and update from Children's Services Trust – delivery of agreed budgets	Early Years and Collaborative Strategy update	Quarterly Performance Report and update from Children's Services Trust – delivery of agreed budgets	Sexual Health (Informal Meeting TBA) – Signposting for young people/partnership working (how successful is this) – Joint Meeting	Quarterly Performance Report and update from Children's Services Trust – delivery of agreed budgets	Quarterly Performance Report and update from Children's Services Trust – delivery of agreed budgets
School Improvement Inspection Report		Annual Complaints – Children's trust		Exam Results – improving education provision	CSE – review – 10 key scrutiny questions
		Chair Safeguarding Board – Annual Report		Update on Educational Attainment Review Recommendations	Adoption – annual update/review

C&YP O&S Review

Review Scope - Disabilities – what is it like being disabled and is provision meeting needs

5. Meeting with parents, Foster Carers and Parents Forum – 3rd September at 5.30pm
6. Meeting with young people – Ladder Group
7. Visit Respite Care Facility – 27th August at 10am
8. North Ridge School to address Transition to adulthood and the Next Project
9. Meeting with Officers to address Direct Payments, POET pilot, SEN Out of Authority Costs, Good/Poor Practice and gaps, Invitations to Social workers
10. Youth Service Report (deferred)

Other Areas (to be scheduled)

- Transfer of health – outline what is now in the contract and responsibilities (informal joint meeting with H&ASC)
- Careers Advice and Guidance (in particular NEETS and Progression Routes Post 16) – R&H O&S Panel to formally invite CYP O&S Panel to Skills Meeting (part of Place Marketing Review)
- Youth Offending Service (YOS) Statutory Plan – Going to OSMC

Workplan Ideas 2016/17

- Virtual School /CIC
- Coasting academies

Councillor Rachel Hodson
Councillor for Thorne Ward

16th July, 2015

Mayor Ros Jones
Floor 4 Civic Office
Waterdale
Doncaster
DN1 3BU

Dear Ros,

Children and Young People Scrutiny Review – Relationships with Academies and Educational Attainment

I am writing further to your letter dated 20th April 2015 which responds to the previous Panel's "Relationships with Academies and Educational Attainment" Scrutiny Review and recommendations which was sent by e-mail on the 5th March 2015.

I would therefore like to comment on some of the replies provided and request additional information. These are for recommendations 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 12 and are as follows: -

Recommendation 2

Write to the Schools Regional Commissioner requesting that:

- A. Academies and Academy Sponsors be robustly challenged where they refuse to have any or very low contact with the Local Authority, to ensure they take their responsibilities seriously with regard to the Local Authority's obligations and work it is undertaking to ensure strong educational attainment;**
- B. Robustly challenge large Academy sponsors, where there is concern relating to attainment, and in such cases review whether they should be allowed to accept additional schools into their provision/chain.**

Response Provided

Regularly meetings take place with the DfE and the School's Commissioner. Information is shared with them, and they have been asked for risk assessments on all Academies in Doncaster, in line with the annual local authority risk assessments.

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Comment/Action

It was felt by Panel Members that this response does not provide a clear indication as to whether the recommendation has been accepted or not, and if accepted how it will be implemented. The response has merely provided a summary of what is already in place. It is therefore requested that clarification be provided on whether it has been accepted or not and if so, what is being actioned in addition to the above

Recommendation 5

Ensure, as much as is practical, there are minimal changes to the Local Authority education structure and continuity of staff and support.

Response

The new structure is proving very successful, but is at risk to the PPR review and corporate challenges regarding the necessary restructures in the Access to Learning and Data Performance and intelligence services. Centralising the data and intelligence work with schools and settings is at risk if major changes to service organisation dilute the expertise and remove the processes from the heart of services in Learning and Achievement. Funding is secure to maintain overall Standards and Effectiveness team for a further year, but after that we must seek sustainable income sources to maintain the quality and effectiveness of the work we have delivered via the post-Ofsted action plan.

Comment/For Action

In light of the issues raised within your response, Members have expressed concern about how the PPR review and corporate challenges referred to will affect the new structure, which has been working very well. I would be therefore grateful for further information in response to our concerns, particularly regarding the stability of the funding in place, an issue which has been positively referred to within the letter following the focused school inspection in Doncaster.

Recommendation 6

Encourage local councillors to make contact with and visit schools within their wards, if not already undertaken.

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Response Provided

The Cabinet Member is working with the services to examine the membership of all Governing Bodies, including Academies, and encourage Councillors to engage with school governance.

Comment/For Action

To the Panel's knowledge there has been minimal or no confirmation of what has been done to encourage Councillors to engage with school governance. I would be grateful for an update on the response to this recommendation and for any correspondence that has been sent out to Members previously to be repeated and refreshed.

Recommendations from meetings specifically with Primary Head teachers

Recommendation 8

Investigate the numbers of families having to take their children to different schools across the borough, due to their preferred school being full, and how prolific the problem is.

Response Provided

Where there are pressures on school places, the local authority will see to resolve the issues and have a strategic view of future school place planning needs.

Comment/For Action

Again, it has been thought that this response does not provide a clear indication as to whether this recommendation has been accepted or not and if accepted, how it will be implemented. It is considered that the response only provides a broad outline of what would happen in this event of such pressures taking place. It is therefore requested that clarification be provided on whether this recommendation has been accepted or not and if accepted, what exactly is being actioned to address this issue where relevant.

Recommendation 9

Consider the pooling of resources for support of children where English is a second language and investigate how the resource can be increased to meet prospective high demand.

Page 4. Continued

Response Provided

This will be considered by the Assistant Director and the Head of Service Learner Engagement to see how this can be developed.

Comment/For Action

Panel Members would like an update on whether this recommendation has been accepted or not and if so, how it will be developed further to consideration by the Assistant Director and Head of Service Learner Engagement.

Recommendation 12

Investigate simplifying the direct payments scheme and ensure guidance for the transition of pupils requiring special educational needs is up to date with informative easy to use guidance being made available.

Response Provided


Noted and will be considered by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Teams and Finance.

Comment/For Action

Panel Members would like an update on whether this recommendation has been accepted or not and if accepted, how it will be developed further to consideration by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Teams and Finance.

I would be grateful for a response to be provided as soon as possible but no later than the 16th August 2015. I therefore look forward to receiving further information and clarifications to the recommendations outlined above.

Kind regards,



**Councillor Rachel Hodson
Chair – Schools Children and Young People
Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

cc. Jo Moxon – Interim Director – Learning and Opportunities
Peter Featherstone – Business Manager – Learning and Opportunities
Councillor Nuala Fennelly - Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools