



# Doncaster Council

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

To the Chair and Members of Cabinet

REPORT TITLE: Youth Strategy 2023-2028 (including Youth Investment Fund)

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Lani-Mae Ball  Councillor Rachael Blake	All	Yes

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the refreshed Youth Strategy 2023 – 2028. It sets out the vision, to create a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century youth offer, with eight ambitions that form the foundations for the delivery of our strategy. These are essential in helping young people develop the confidence and resilience to improve their life chances, transition to adulthood, and engage meaningfully with their communities and wider society.
2. The new Youth Strategy will contribute to the City Strategy by supporting more young people to be active citizens, who are able to thrive in the place where they live.
3. Partnership working and the need to deliver services on a locality basis, ensuring young people are safe from harm, thriving and community respect and resilience is promoted underpin the vision and ambitions that are set out in the strategy.
4. The Youth Strategy reflects the Council's drive for an early intervention and prevention approach, ensuring the majority of our resources are targeted into universal youth provision, providing engaging and diversionary opportunities, therefore reducing the need for more expensive targeted provision.
5. The targeted offer for young people will embrace technology, bringing in expertise from specialist providers and sourcing diverse opportunities for young people via external funding.
6. In addition, in October 2022 the Department of Digital Media, Culture and Sports announced the Youth Investment Fund inviting Local Authorities to apply for predominately capital (80%) and revenue (20%) funding to support the delivery of youth provision. There are two distinct funding pots. The first, Phase One is aimed to test out new modern methods of construction, and the second is Phase Two (22/23 to 24/25) will deliver up to 300 youth facilities across the country that represent positive value for money.

7. Doncaster has been successful in Phase One of the YIF, however this is dependent on the relevant permissions and planning approval. The proposed site is in Wheatley.
8. A programme board for the Youth Investment Fund (YIF) has been established with key services including Planning, Commissioning, Assets, Corporate Landlord, Children, Young People and Families, Finance along with Communication and Marketing colleagues. This group will report directly to the lead Assistant Director.
9. A provisional funding plan is in place for the delivery of the Youth Strategy that includes the potential monies from the YIF, current budget, Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding, and the potential ability to generate external funds and has been shared with the Director of Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer. At the time of writing this report, there is a challenge around the ability to extend the YIF funding beyond 2025. Along with other Local Authorities we are lobbying DCMS with regards to extending the timescales.
10. **We would not accept any YIF phase two funding if we are unable to develop a sustainable model for long term delivery from the youth hubs.**
11. The creation of any new Youth Hubs, will be part of the wider Council asset review, to ensure value for money and in line with our corporate green ambitions.

## EXEMPT REPORT

12. There is no exempt information detailed within this report.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

13. To approve the Youth Strategy (2023-2028) and to note the co-produced delivery plan will be complete in April 23 and overseen by the Youth Advisory Board.
14. To note the progress on the Wheatley Youth Hub and the expected opening date of November 2023, subject to planning. (44-48)
15. To delegate the decisions on the expression of interest in phase two Youth Investment Funding, including site locations, commencing capital build projects, acceptance of associated revenue funds and grant terms and conditions to the Director of Children, Young People and Families, the Director of Corporate Resources and in consultation with Lead Member. The expected timeframe for the decision is April 23. (49-54)

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

16. Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 imposes a duty on a Local Authority to secure sufficient educational and leisure activities, and facilities for those activities, for all young people in their area aged 13 to 19, and for young people in their area with a learning disability aged 20 to 24. Wide discretion is given as to the way in which this duty is met; it may include direct provision as well as planning with others to provide the service and/or facilities. There is also statutory guidance 'Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Wellbeing', published in June 2012. The proposals set out in this report comply with this legislation and guidance.
17. The proposed strategy and model of delivery will encapsulate partnership working at its best. **It will deliver the broadest possible Youth Offer provided by working with the Community Voluntary and Faith Sector, Schools, and the business community, with young people at the heart of the offer as equal partners.** The strategy will deliver a more diverse range of provision and interventions to ensure that children and young people are able to thrive and develop their interests and talents to live successful lives.

18. An underpinning principle of the Youth Strategy is co-production, both with our partners, but importantly with children, young people, and their families, ensuring lived experience and local intelligence influence the decisions we make. The strategy is supported by a cycle of co-production and review activity with children, young people, parents, and carers.
19. Through the delivery of the Strategy and its eight ambitions, we aim to ensure that each locality will have an increased youth offer, through expanded universal provision and increasing the capacity of the voluntary, community and faith sector. In addition, through successfully securing capital through the Youth Investment Fund to design and build new Youth Hubs, we aim to expand the number of safe spaces for young people to meet and access.
20. Based on intelligence and data, local areas will be identified and supported by street based provision to work with hard-to-reach groups of young people in the places young people congregate. Working from a range of bases including schools, youth centres and community settings.
21. The Participation and Engagement/Children's Rights Service have dedicated Youth Participation and Engagement Officers that ensure that young people are empowered, with support, and that their voices are heard and acted upon using the following approach:
  - Young Advisors
  - Youth council
  - Independent Visitor Scheme
  - Children in Care Council.
22. Alignment and reference to other key strategies is crucial in the delivery of the strategy, in particular **The Children and Young People Plan, Early Help Strategy, Mental Health in Schools Strategy** and **Education and Skills 2030**. In addition the as the Youth Strategy has an ambition to increase locality based delivery it is crucial to be aligned with the refreshed **Locality Plans**.

## BACKGROUND

### National Context

23. Doncaster and other Local Authorities across England and Wales have a statutory duty under Section 507B, Education Act 1996 to 'secure, so far as is reasonably practicable sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people, and to make sure young people have a say in the local offer'. This is often referred to as the '**Youth Service Duty**'. This includes youth work and other provisions that:
  - Connects young people with their communities.
  - Offers young people opportunities in safe environments to take part in a wide range of activities
  - Supports the personal, social, and economic development of young people
  - Improves young people's physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing
  - Raises young people's aspirations, builds their resilience, and informs their decision-making
24. In 2019, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs published its Youth Work Inquiry findings, highlighting the need to provide a positive commitment to our young people by encouraging the whole of society to invest in them, ensuring that they are fully included in decision-making and democratic processes.
25. In October 2020, the National Youth Agency (NYA) also published new guidance to support Local Authorities in their statutory duty to secure local services. This includes the meaningful

engagement of young people to ensure access to quality youth services at a neighbourhood level, whether they are directly delivered, commissioned by, or run independently from the Local Authority.

26. The government is currently reviewing its programmes to support youth services, including the National Citizenship Service (NCS). With the potential for additional funding to be made available.
27. In May 2022, the Government announced that hundreds of youth groups across the country could benefit from the Youth Investment Fund, in relation to youth provision. Doncaster was one of many areas across England that met the eligibility criteria to apply for the funding.
28. Since 2010 there has been a continued reduction in national funding with Local Authorities across the country have made significant cuts to youth budgets. A report from the YMCA in 2021 found that across England and Wales in 2018/2019, there was around £429million spent on youth services compared to a spend of £1.4billion in 2010, this is a decline of 70%. This report also found that some Local Authorities had ceased all funding on youth services.
29. Recently the Government funded Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme has provided Local Authorities with funding to provide holiday activities for those in receipt of free school meals. Whilst this has been positive, it limits who can access the activities. Lobbying to the Government has resulted in a slight broadening of the criteria, with 15% of the funding now available to other children deemed to be vulnerable, but not in receipt of free school meals. The delivery of the Youth Strategy will be aligned to the HAF Programme to ensure we are supporting delivery across 52 weeks of the year, especially for our most vulnerable families.

#### **Local Context:**

30. Whilst Doncaster has seen a reduction in funding for youth services, it has maintained some youth provision, through both in-house provision and the commissioning of Expect Youth. This was further bolstered this with an additional £250k in 2022 to provide a comprehensive universal free at the point of access summer holiday programme, that engaged with over 10,000 children and young people.
31. Whilst funding was provided for additional holiday activity, the funding for youth services has reduced over recent years, as referred to above in the national context and this has been reflected in the local funding available. Currently the designated budget for universal youth provision in Doncaster is £100k and therefore whilst we are ambitious in our plans to grow our youth offer we are also realistic in what we can achieve.
32. Due to the reduction in council budgets and youth services, we have worked closely with our Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Partners to ensure we are still able deliver a vibrant youth offer to our children and young people. This Youth Strategy will extended this commitment through the offer of workforce development, training and qualifications. Alongside practical support in the delivery of youth activities and help in bid writing.
33. In Doncaster, there are a range of VCF partners from our middle tier organisations through to our grassroots providers. This has allowed Doncaster to still offer children and young people a range of positive activities in their local area.
34. The Holiday Activity and Food Programme is an example of this, in that we now work with around 25 larger VCF groups alongside over 75 smaller grassroots organisations. Through this model smaller groups are supported to grow and expand their offer, whilst the larger groups have provided quality assurance and financial framework.
35. The new partnership City Strategy, 'Doncaster Delivering Together', with its 'Great 8' priorities, has informed the content of this strategy. This strategy will be critical to ensuring that children and young people develop the skills to thrive in life and work and will deliver a more child and family

friendly approach to delivering provision. It will be key to ensuring greater fairness and inclusivity in education and employment in the future.

36. Doncaster's all-age 'Education & Skills 2030 Strategy' sets out the key priorities, which will deliver against these broader strategic ambitions, with a vision to deliver 'Equitable and inclusive lifelong learning that empowers people to fulfil their potential and thrive in life and work.' Over the next decade, we will focus on five key areas for transformation – four of which cover key learner age stages, with a fifth (**Equitable & Inclusive Learning**) providing a crosscutting 'golden thread'. The Youth Strategy will contribute significantly to a range of activities which will enhance the achievement of a number of these priorities and aims; particularly those around support for transitions, mental health, the development of curricula, and pathways to employment.
37. In 2022, the plans for the four localities included increased positive activities for children and young people as a priority.

## Youth Strategy – Ambitions

38. Working with the wider partnership and young people we are aiming to create a Modern 21<sup>st</sup> Century Youth Offer, we have eight ambitions, which form the foundations for the delivery of our strategy. These are essential in helping young people develop the confidence and resilience to improve their life chances, transition to adulthood, and engage meaningfully with their communities and wider society.
39. Under our vision to create a **Modern 21<sup>st</sup> Century Youth Offer**, we have **eight** ambitions, which form the foundations for the delivery of our strategy. These are essential in helping young people develop the confidence and resilience to improve their life chances, transition to adulthood, and engage meaningfully with their communities and wider society.

1

**Expand Universal provision** - We will provide a more accessible and inclusive youth offer by utilising digital youth work alongside a local community in person offer.

2

**Capacity Building** – We will accelerate the growth of the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector through regular stakeholder engagement, initial set up along with continued workforce development and support with identifying funding streams.

3

**Locality Based Delivery** – We will establish an area-based Youth Work Model with trained Youth Support Workers based in communities delivering a high-quality youth work curriculum.

4

**Safe Spaces** – We will ensure we have more safe spaces for all young people to access.

5

**Youth Work Curriculum** – We will co-design with young people a youth work curriculum which will complement learning in school and raise the aspirations of young people in Doncaster. Including implementing the findings of the Youth Work in Schools Review (published Spring 2023).

6

**Targeted and Street-based Youth Work Teams** – We will provide access to support and services for young people within communities, in the spaces and places where they live and meet.

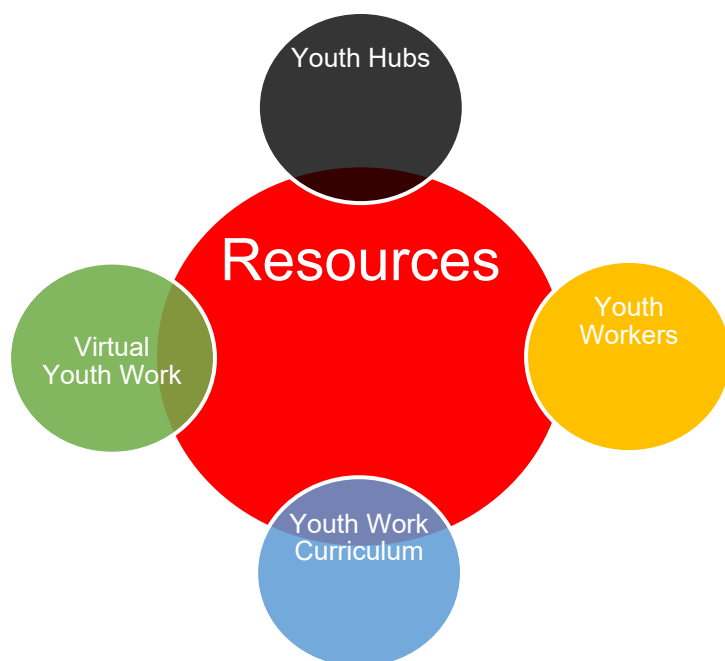
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**Sustainable Funding** – We will identify and seek funding opportunities from local and national sources including the Youth Investment Fund.

8

**High-Quality Workforce** – We will recruit, support, and train a youth service workforce to deliver 21<sup>st</sup> Century Youth Work offer. Our focus will be to develop and implement a comprehensive learning and development package for staff working with young people in a youth-based setting. For example we will be able to support the wider workforce to gain a range of qualifications including Level 2 in Youth Work through to Degree Level and apprenticeships.

40. **Conditions for success towards achieving our 'Eight' ambitions.**



41. To deliver our stated ambitions for all young people across Doncaster the following requirement will need to be prioritised.
42. **Youth Hubs** that are modern safe and future-proof for the next generation of young people. This will be supported through the submissions to the Youth Investment Fund but also looking at our existing assets across both the council and its partners.
43. Being clear in Doncaster Council's role in convening and co-ordinating the Youth Strategy alongside leading the delivery. This will include ensuring funding streams are identified and VCF organisations are supported to draw down monies they are able to access.
44. To work with our Voluntary, Community and Faith organisations to offer a comprehensive and supportive **Training Pathway for those working with young people** to enhance and extend the local voluntary youth work offer.
45. To introduce the National Youth Agency progressive **Youth Work Curriculum** to all youth work, deliver across the City supported by access to high-quality training.
46. Partner with schools, colleges and wider educational settings to support delivery, for example as venues for local delivery and the application of the youth work curriculum. Ensuring all our education partners are aware of the importance of youth work and the positive impact it has on the life chances of young people, not only supporting their personal and social development, but provides training, awards and qualifications. Alongside supporting and enhancing their academic achievements.
47. Provide targeted and specialist support for children and young people when it is needed and at the earliest point possible, including on issues such as alcohol and substance misuse, sexual health, sexual or criminal exploitation and gangs.
48. To develop a **Virtual and Digital Youth Work** offer that enables young people to connect with youth support services digitally.

49. To ensure there is a high quality workforce which is provided with training and development opportunities. This also includes quality assuring youth providers, making sure they are safe and delivering high quality services and activities for children and young people. Exploring with partners the need for a minimum qualification.
50. The delivery of the Youth Strategy and the ambitions will be enhanced by the Youth Investment Fund and the build of new youth hubs, however its delivery is not dependent on the Youth Investment Funding.
51. Currently there is a dedicated £100,000 Youth budget which will be utilised to deliver the Youth Strategy, this will fund Youth Officer Posts which will both support the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector to deliver youth provision as well as provide face to face delivery of youth activities.

## Youth Investment Fund

52. The Youth Investment Fund (YIF) is providing £368 million to create, expand and improve youth facilities and services. The Department of Digital Culture Media and Sports (DCMS) objectives are to create, expand and improve local youth facilities and their services, to drive positive outcomes for young people, including improved mental and physical wellbeing, and skills for life and work. **At this stage, there are two distinct funding pots.**
53. **The first is to test out new modern methods of construction**, which will test facilities designed to meet the needs of smaller youth organisations, with space requirements ranging from circa 100m<sup>2</sup> to 350m<sup>2</sup>. They have made this available to only four Local Authorities nationally. Doncaster was successful in being chosen as one of four Local Authorities nationally.
54. We are currently working with the company Architecture 00 to complete the design of a new Youth Hub in Wheatley. The planning application has been submitted, with an end date of 16<sup>th</sup> February 23. There has been on-going consultation with residents and ward members, and the feedback is very positive.
55. All relevant groundworks for Wheatley Youth Hub have been submitted and were given the green light to proceed pending the planning application approval on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 following this DCMS are expected to commence the build stage. The build time is up to nine months and DCMS are aiming to have the build complete by November 2023. DCMS have full responsibility for all capital costs and we understand that they will be contracting with the project construction company for the build stage of the pilot. At this point, there is no confirmation of the capital costs.
56. DCMS will confirm associated revenue funding, as highlighted in the grant application criteria. This will be to cover the development cost including staffing and training of the delivery team at the Youth Hub. At this stage, we are still waiting on confirmation of the one-off revenue funding amount.
57. Revenue funding is likely to be restricted to covering project management costs, workforce development and training and project delivery costs in year 1 for innovation / proof of concept rather than ongoing operational cost. Existing staffing will be from current budgeted resource and the new building running costs of £15k per annum are to be covered by relocating the Epic team and using their current rental budget, which is £17k. Therefore we are comfortable that we could use existing resources to run the hub, if there wasn't to be ultimately any revenue funding, therefore removing the risk.
58. **The second is Phase Two of the Youth Investment Fund (22/23 to 24/25)**, which will

deliver across the country up to 300 facilities that represent positive value for money, are environmentally sustainable and enable positive activities for young people aged 11 to 18 (up to 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in eligible places across England.

59. The Youth Investment Fund will drive value for money facilities that youth organisations can afford to sustain. Utilising innovative construction techniques, as well as supporting redevelopment projects that expand youth service provision, the YIF will achieve savings on facility running costs, benefiting providers so resources can focus on activities that enrich young people's lives.
60. The capital/revenue split was identified as the same as the pilot, with an 80/20 split. However, DCMS have agreed to review this element on a case-by-case basis, after we lobbied for a review
61. Our Phase Two, Expression of Interests have been successful, and we have now been allocated a Relationship Manager from the Key Fund commissioned by DCMS to provide the support in completing our Phase Two Full Bid Submission. All grant funds awarded for Phase Two, by the Youth Investment Fund must be spent by 31st March 2025. We are pursuing funding for five new youth hubs, whilst lobbying DCMS regarding the funding timescales, along with other Local Authorities.
62. A programme board has been established with key internal DMBC departments from Planning, Commissioning, Assets , Economy and Environment, Corporate Landlord, Young People's Services, Finance along Communication and Marketing , drive forward the YiF work. This group will continue to develop the bid, constantly checking sustainability and value for money.
63. At the time of writing the report, it is likely that a final decision will be made by DCMS in April 2023. **We would not accept any YIF phase two funding if we are unable to develop a sustainable model.**

### **Key Issues and Challenges**

64. Budget reductions have affected capacity over the last few years and this option provides a model of delivery that is founded on an asset-based community development approach. Joint working between youth work providers and a range of stakeholders is evident and valued across the city. There is good engagement with elected members and increasing partnership delivery between the third sector and the council as demonstrated in the Holiday Activity and Food Programme.
65. Quality and outcome monitoring varies across services and groups and has been a challenge, therefore through the implementation of the strategy and its ambition to have consistent high quality youth work. A quality assurance framework will be implemented for all providers commissioned by Doncaster Council and those smaller VCF groups who are providing youth activities. This will also be closely aligned to a workforce training and development plan.
66. The population of young people is growing, becoming more diverse and more children live in the most deprived neighbourhoods. Children and young people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have lower attainment at school, are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment, or training) post 16, and are more likely to be involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. Where a child lives has a major impact on their outcomes later in life, the youth work curriculum will complement that of formal education, providing opportunities for young people to access youth provision when they need it.



- 67. Through consultation, stakeholders highlighted that there is a need for the youth work workforce to reflect all communities so that young people can build relationships with adults that understand their culture, background, and speak their language. Therefore, this is a key element that will be incorporated into a workforce development plan.
- 68. Accessing quality venues in the right locations is a challenge. Street based youth work is an important starting point to engagement and valued by all but both young people and adults around them agreed that building based youth work is the most effective way to deliver outcome-based youth work. EPIC have delivered in the space well over recent years. However, sometimes access to quality venues is difficult or cost prohibitive. Taking an asset-based approach to work with young people by collaborating with community organisations to deliver positive activities has proved successful in some areas and could be key to expanding provision where we are looking to secure funding from DCMS for new Youth Hubs.
- 69. The fundamental aim of the Youth strategy In Doncaster is to deliver a preventative and early intervention service for young people. As such, the Youth Strategy plays an integral part in delivering the outcomes of the Doncaster Children and Young People’s Plan and is a key component of achieving our ambition of being a Child Friendly City.
- 70. The biggest challenge to the delivery of the strategy is financial, as the current budget attached to youth delivery is £100k, some of which is already committed to youth related salary costs. However, we are ambitious and doing everything we can to secure additional funding including the Youth Investment Fund. A decision on phase two funding is likely in March/April 2023. In addition, as a key component of the strategy is to expand and bolster voluntary, community and faith organisations to support youth delivery we can support organisations to drawn down funding we as a LA are not eligible for.

**OPTIONS CONSIDERED**







- 71. Do nothing and maintain the status quo (*not recommended*)
- 72. Move forward with implementing the changes to the Youth Strategy based upon the model of delivery set out in this report (*recommended*).

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

- 73. The recommended option is to implement fully the Youth Strategy at pace to ensure we meet our statutory duty as detailed under Section 507B, Education Act 1996 to ‘secure, so far as is reasonably practicable sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people, and to make sure young people have a say in the local offer’.

**IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES**

<b>Great 8 Priority</b>	<b>Positive Overall</b>	<b>Mix of Positive &amp; Negative</b>	<b>Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall</b>	<b>Neutral or No implications</b>
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 <b>Tackling Climate Change</b>	✓			
Comments: Securing capital funding from the Youth Investment Fund to develop new network of Youth Hubs using modern construction methods will contribute to our environment friendly city agenda.				
 <b>Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work</b>	✓			
Comments: Youth work helps all young people to successfully navigate this journey, giving them access to new opportunities and experiences and provide information and guidance that will support their personal and social development. It will raise their aspirations, build resilience, and enable them to make informed decisions that are right for them.				
 <b>Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs</b>	✓			
Comments: As part of this strategy, we will work with training providers and employers to ensure that young people are able to access meaningful and successful employment in later life.  Youth work builds on the strengths of a young person in an asset-based approach and helps build social capital within communities. Youth workers provide emotional and practical support to young people and help them develop the skills they need to succeed in life.				
 <b>Building opportunities for healthier, happier, and longer lives for all</b>	✓			
Comments: High quality youth work will support young people's increased attendance, attainment and achievement in learning and improve their destinations as young adults. It will reduce the need for statutory interventions in their families life, reducing teenage conceptions and engagement in risky behaviours such as substance misuse or involvement in anti-social behaviour or offending, all of which will potentially impact on their life opportunities.				
 <b>Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs</b>	✓			
Comments: Providing local youth provision supports opportunities for children and young people to contribute to their local area and encourage greater multi-generational working. A principle of the Youth Investment Funding is ensuring all new buildings or refurbished buildings must have green credentials and wherever possible be carbon neutral.				
 <b>Nurturing a child and family-friendly City</b>	✓			

Comments:

This principle is key to our work in supporting partners to deliver improved practices to work with families to meet the needs of young people at an earlier point. In Doncaster, the Youth Strategy will support a preventative and early intervention service for young people. Therefore plays a significant part in delivering the outcomes of the City Of Doncaster Children and Young People's Plan and is a key element of achieving our ambition of being a Child Friendly City.



**Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future**

✓

Comments:

As part of this Strategy, we will work to provide an opportunity for young people to access a range of services digitally and that provides the basis for a truly inclusive and modern 21<sup>st</sup> Century offer.



**Promoting the City and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities**

✓

Comments:

Not directly relevant

**Fair & Inclusive**

✓

Comments:

Fairness and inclusivity underpin the core principles of this strategy. Children and young people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have lower attainment at school, are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment, or training) post 16, and are more likely to be involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. Where a child lives has a major impact on their outcomes later in life.

Stakeholders also highlighted that there is a need for the youth work workforce to reflect all communities so that young people can build relationships with adults that understand their culture, background, and speak their language.

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

74. **Risk:** Key stakeholders such as schools and the voluntary community and faith sector do not engage productively with this strategy.
75. **Mitigation:** We will mitigate this by building relationships with all key stakeholders including schools and VCFS, through consultation and working groups. We will work with a body of head teachers to ensure that the strategy is owned and delivered collaboratively. We will also establish a cycle of meetings with parents, children, and young people to ensure that their experiences are central to all activity. We are also mitigating this by working with NYA to ensure that national perspectives are presented to partners so that partners can understand the wider context.

76. **Risk:** Without a clear, shared vision for youth work in Doncaster the provision and Opportunities available for young people to access and benefit from could be limited or inconsistent across the city.
77. **Mitigation:** we will mitigate this by working with all key partners, creating a strong brand identity for youth provision that is creatively communicated to young people as part of ensuring universal, and targeted youth work opportunities are widely accessed as part of a valuable ecosystem that supports young people.
78. **Risk:** There is a risk that youth work and universal services are not valued and not understood.
79. **Mitigation:** We are mitigating this by holding engagement events and co-producing with a range of stakeholders. We will take a whole family approach and be visible to both young people and their families, so they know where to go for support. Parents and carers will be encouraged to be involved in the youth work process to ensure sustainable change and benefits.
80. Youth work opportunities across the city will be well publicised on our shared partners websites with young people taking the lead to identify the most effective ways in which to reach and connect with all groups.
81. **Risk:** Actions within this strategy will not be delivered on time and this will exacerbate existing pressures.
82. **Mitigation:** We are working on establishing a Project Implementation Board with all partners that will set out clear milestones and outcomes. The Children and Families Executive Board and the NYA will monitor this plan to ensure accountability and timeliness of delivery.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CD Date 7/2/2023]**

83. As set out in the body of the report. 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.
84. The Youth Strategy 2023-2028 will set the vision of what the Council wishes to achieve which will a public document and the delivery plan will set out the route and timescale for delivering the strategy. This will help the Council to stay focused on the delivery of its vision.
85. Where we consult, either in accordance with a statutory duty or by choice, the process must comply with the established consultation principles. These are that: consultation should occur when proposals are at a formative stage; consultation should give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration; consultation should allow adequate time for consideration and response; and the decision maker must demonstrate that it has considered the consultation responses or a summary of them, before taking its decision.
86. The decision maker must also comply with the Public Sector Equality duty to consider the need to promote equality for persons with "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and have due regard to:

- i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
  - ii) advance equality of opportunity
  - iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
87. In order to do this the decision maker will need to have sufficient information about the effects of the proposed changes on the aims of the Equality Duty. The Equalities implication section is designed to assist with compliance with this duty and so the decision maker must take that into consideration and the public sector equality duty before taking the decision.
88. The decision to submit an expression of interest for phase two Youth Interest Funding has been delegated. If successful, a further cabinet approval will be required to accept and use the funding.
89. Should any funding be used to purchase goods, services and/or works, those procurements must be carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective funding agreement, the Councils contract procedure rules and the Councils financial procedure rules
90. Further legal advice should be sought as the matters proceeds.
91. Section 1 of the localism act 2011 provides the council with a general power of competence, allowing the council to do anything that individuals generally may do.
92. s112 of the local government act 1972 allows a local authority to appoint such officers as are necessary for the proper discharge of its functions, on such reasonable terms and conditions as it thinks fit. salary grade should be determined by job evaluation.
93. Where a permanent contract of employment is entered into, this will continue until the employee or the council choose to end the contract. a contract must be terminated in accordance with any express or implied terms to avoid a claim for breach of contract.
94. The council should note that time spent on a fixed term contract immediately before a permanent contract will count towards continuous service in order for employment rights to be conferred.
95. If the employee is employed for 2 years or more, they will acquire statutory protection against unfair dismissal. There are however certain grounds for which an employee can claim automatic unfair dismissal, for which there is no period of qualifying service. If the length of the contract exceeds 1 year upon termination the employee may be entitled to be placed on the redeployment register and after 2 years may be entitled to a redundancy payment.
96. The council's recruitment, retention, and vacancy management policies should be followed and hr advice should be sought.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials DB Date 6/2/2023]**

97. The Youth Strategy outlined is to be funded from within ongoing existing resources, including core staffing and general fund youth budget of £100k. This will be supplemented via external funding where possible, including a mix of Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding and YIF revenue funding to cover fixed term expenditure.

98. The YIF funded Wheatley hub build is expected to be completed by DCMS, following planning approval, with DCMS responsible for all related capital costs. There is expected to be an associated revenue funding allocation of c.£180k still to be confirmed which is expected to cover one-off costs such as project management, workforce development, training and project delivery. Acceptance of this funding will need to be covered in a separate ODR setting out the plan to spend the revenue allocation. The ongoing running costs of the Wheatley hub have been identified as costing up to £15k (but expected to be less based on current building plans) which are to be funded by the saving generated from locating the EPIC team at this location (current rent budget for EPIC team) and the staffing will be from existing resources.
99. Delegation is sought in the recommendations of this report for YIF phase 2 and, as set out in the report, phase 2 funding is only to be accepted if a sustainable funding model can be produced covering all ongoing running costs including any staffing and related costs and consideration of any future capital investment required. External funding is expected to be from a variety of potential sources that all need further investigation and confirmation and will be considered further by the YIF Programme board, outlined in the report, as to ongoing sustainability. Officer decision records would then be required, as per the delegation requested, to sign off on those plans.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials JC Date 09/02/2023]**

100. There are no direct HR implications associated with this report. However, should there need to be any changes to staffing resources at a later date, this would require separate authorisations.

#### **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NR Date 07/02/2023]**

101. Any technology requirements to support the delivery of the Youth Strategy 2023-2028 (including new Youth Hubs and developing a Virtual and Digital Youth Work offer) will need to be considered and prioritised by the Technology Governance Board (TGB).

#### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RM Date 09/02/2023]**

102. The aim of the Youth Strategy is to increase universal youth provision across Doncaster. It is also clear in its approach that there should be no barriers for young people when accessing youth provision and therefore we need to ensure that the offer is equitable for all. Whether this be young people in our more deprived communities or those from marginalised groups. Through this refreshed Youth Strategy will be ensure that alongside the universal offer we will target activities and funding towards those groups are in greater need of the provision or face barriers in accessing.

#### **CONSULTATION**

103. A series of consultation events have taken place with partners, including elected members and MPs. This included a member's briefing session on 24th November 2022 and via Lead Member with MP's at the start of December 2022.
104. Consultation and co-production with children and young people is an on-going process and there are numerous forums, and examples of doing this. A rough figure would be around

10,000 children and young people engaged to date. This will continue throughout the life of the strategy.

105. Council officers are also working closely with National Youth Agency (NYA) to ensure that our strategy is in line with the national strategy and makes the best use of experiences in other local areas.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

106. None

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

- 107.

VCFS Voluntary Community and Faith Sector  
NYA National Youth Agency  
YIF Youth Investment Fund  
NCS National Citizen Service  
YMCA The Young Men's Christian Association  
DCMS Department of Digital Culture Media and Sports  
NEET Not in Education, Employment or Training

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

- 110.

Marcus Isman-Egal - Service Manager Young People's Service and Innovation  
[Marcus.isman-egal@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Marcus.isman-egal@doncaster.gov.uk)

### **Name & Title of Lead Officer**

- 111.

Rebecca Mason - Head of Partnerships and Families  
[Rebecca.mason@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.mason@doncaster.gov.uk)

**Riana Nelson – Director of Children, Young People and Families**