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Doncaster Children, Young People & Families Plan 2011 – 2016

Interim 2015 – 2016



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Look out for hyperlinks embedded in this Plan that will take you to documents we have referenced.

Foreword by the Chair

Children and Families Partnership Board



Welcome to the 2015 refresh of the Doncaster Children, Young People and Families Plan. This is an interim plan to reflect the many changes since the original plan was conceived and to keep up the momentum until the landscape for children's services is clearer. It is our vision, our expression of the outcomes that we will deliver, for our children and young people, from birth to 19 years of age. It is the precursor to a brand new plan for 2016 -2019.

This plan focuses on the issues where the national picture, our needs assessments, performance information, quality assurance and what children and families themselves tell us that we still need to improve.

It is imperative that agencies work in true partnership spirit, sharing resources – time, money, staff and energy to produce the synergy that only effective partnership working can deliver, especially as many organisations are faced with declining resources. This context means that our response must be focused, with greater clarity on our joint priorities, the outcomes that are of most importance and how we can best secure added value through collaboration. Our Children, Young People and Families Plan is the overarching framework for that collaboration and demonstrates how we will achieve the right outcomes our children and families, so we can see the impact we want, and that they deserve.

We are fully committed to listening to the views of children and young people and families, so as to secure the outcomes that will ultimately create a brighter future for the people of Doncaster.

Bishop Peter Burrows

Chair of the Doncaster Children and Families Partnership

Introduction

The last few years have been a period of significant change for local government and public services in general. Our ambitions for Doncaster children remain focussed but we now have fewer resources to deliver them. Demand for our services has increased, costs are rising and overall funding has reduced dramatically. We know that the current situation is unlikely to improve and that even greater challenges lie ahead. Therefore we must find different and more creative ways to deliver services. Doncaster has worked in partnership for many years and the “Team Doncaster” ethos will be a catalyst for even closer bonds pooling our resources is the most effective way to deliver better outcomes for Doncaster children and families together.

The changing landscape has re-shaped Doncaster’s services for children. Government intervention and the establishment of the Children’s Trust, a national focus on safeguarding and early intervention, the impact of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the growth of the academies programme and increased participation age have all contributed to where we are today.

The future will require even more commitment, energy and flexibility. Changes to health visiting services are imminent and new Government Bills are progressing through parliament. The Childcare Bill will result in changes to childcare availability and information available to parents and children. The Welfare Reform and Work Bill will impact upon apprenticeships, Youth Allowance, careers advice in schools and Child Benefit. The Education and Adoption Bill will introduce new powers for intervention

in failing and coasting schools and change adoption arrangements. The expanded Troubled Families programme aims to turn around 400,000 families nationally in the next 4.5 years. Clearly, the nature and scale of change will require us to constantly review our plan. Consequently, it is presented here on the basis that it is an interim plan and will merely bridge the gap between where we are currently and a clearer long term plan that will run from 2016-19, which will incorporate our process and Partnership review.

This Children, Young People and Families Plan contains the vision and outcomes which the Children and Families Partnership, within Team Doncaster wants to achieve to secure better outcomes for all children and young people in the Borough. It is informed by key policy developments at national and local level and reflects a developing relationship between the Children and Families Partnership Board and children, young people and families. The plan outlines the importance of our primary objective to ensure the safety of children within the Borough and is underpinned by our agenda to improve early help provision offered to families, thereby enabling them to make the best choices for children, as well as providing appropriate pathways towards targeted help and support for those who need it. We will focus on improving the voice of the child and families in monitoring the effectiveness of services and input into the design and delivery of service provision.

The bottom line is that we all want Doncaster’s young people to thrive.



Our focus and challenges ahead include:

- To work together as a partnership to improve services for children, young people and families
- To Improve the quality of safeguarding and support for our most vulnerable children
- Through partnership and influence, improve children and young people's attainment, particularly for vulnerable groups and the number of good and better schools, particularly in secondary academies
- Deliver effective preventative early help support with a reducing budget and less reliance on buildings
- Improving and strengthening our Early Years Services so that our youngest most vulnerable children are engaged in activities that will help them develop and thereby improve all outcomes for young people as they grow older

Doncaster's Borough Strategy

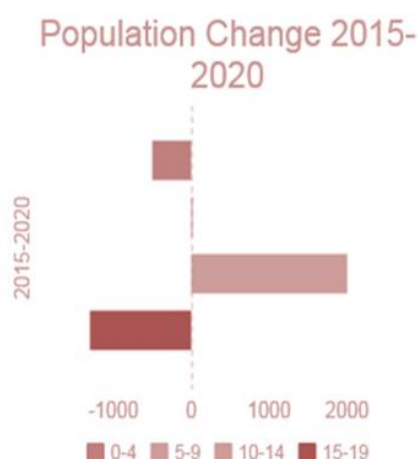
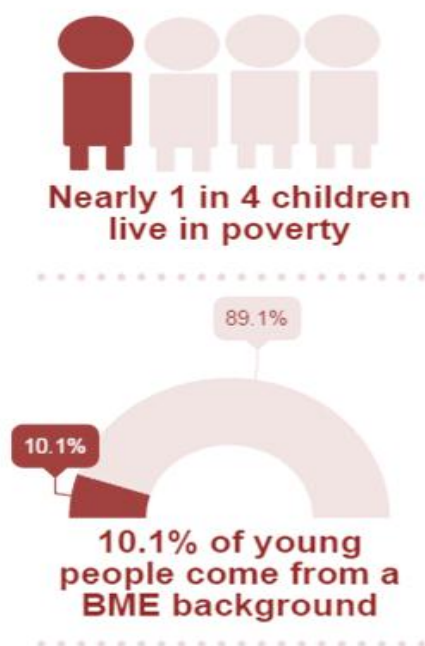
Theme 1: Children, young people and families

Our Strategy:

- Children should have the best possible start in life: they should be safe, fit, well fed, clothed, educated and given access to all the opportunities that Doncaster has to offer.
- Children's voices must be incorporated into everything we do, informing service planning, service delivery and decision making: if we don't listen, we can't learn.
- Families face multiple issues, and they need support. Early intervention remains vital to preventing the escalation of problems, and children in resilient families will have a better quality of life.
- The most effective support is only possible if Doncaster's statutory, private, voluntary and independent organisations work together to share information and work towards sustainable solutions.
- We must maximise opportunities for our young people in school and beyond, boosting attainment, raising expectation and improving the transition to work and independence. Our young people should feel valued and job-ready, and have the skills, qualifications and personal qualities to take on the world.

Doncaster's Children & Young People

Doncaster is the largest borough in England by geographic area (220sq miles) with a mix of an Urban Core, larger urban settlements and rural areas. The population of Doncaster is 304,200 with a younger population (0-19) of 71,200 which is approximately 23.4% of the population, broadly similar to the national average.



Health and Wellbeing of Children in Doncaster

The health and wellbeing of children and young people in Doncaster is generally worse than the England average:

At Birth

- In the first year of life 9.2% of Doncaster babies are born at a low birth weight, directly related to parental factors including high levels of maternal smoking.
- 5 per 1000 Doncaster live birth babies die before their first birthday, again worse than the national average
- Life expectancy at birth for boys and girls is below the regional and national average

By Age 5

- 23.7% of children in reception class have excess weight compared to 22.5% nationally
- A third of children have one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth
- Over 90% of Doncaster children have been vaccinated

Age 5 to 24

- Hospital admissions due to injuries, asthma, substance misuse are higher than national averages
- Admissions for mental health are also increasing; including an increase for children and young people with an eating disorder.
- Nearly a third of young people in year 6 are overweight or obese, similar to the national average.

What Young People have told us...



Top issues identified through Make Your Mark 2014:

Living Wage
Euthanasia



Our Youth Surgeries are concerned about lack of activities, drug and alcohol issues and sexual health



Emotional Health and Wellbeing is a priority for the Youth Council, especially mental health and identifying gaps in mental health provision



Jobs / access to jobs including work experience



Accessible, affordable and acceptable public transport



Bullying and cyberbullying

Attainment of young people in Doncaster

The gap between Doncaster children and their peers nationally has narrowed across most age groups and subjects; however educational attainment is generally lower than the national average.

Early Years

- 95% of 3 and 4 year olds benefit from an early education
- In 2014, 53% of Doncaster children have achieved a good level of development at the end of reception compared to 60% nationally. However results demonstrate good progress in 2015 with a provisional figure of 65.4%.

Key Stage 2

- In 2015, 73% of young people at the end of primary school achieved a level 4 in reading, writing and mathematics against national average

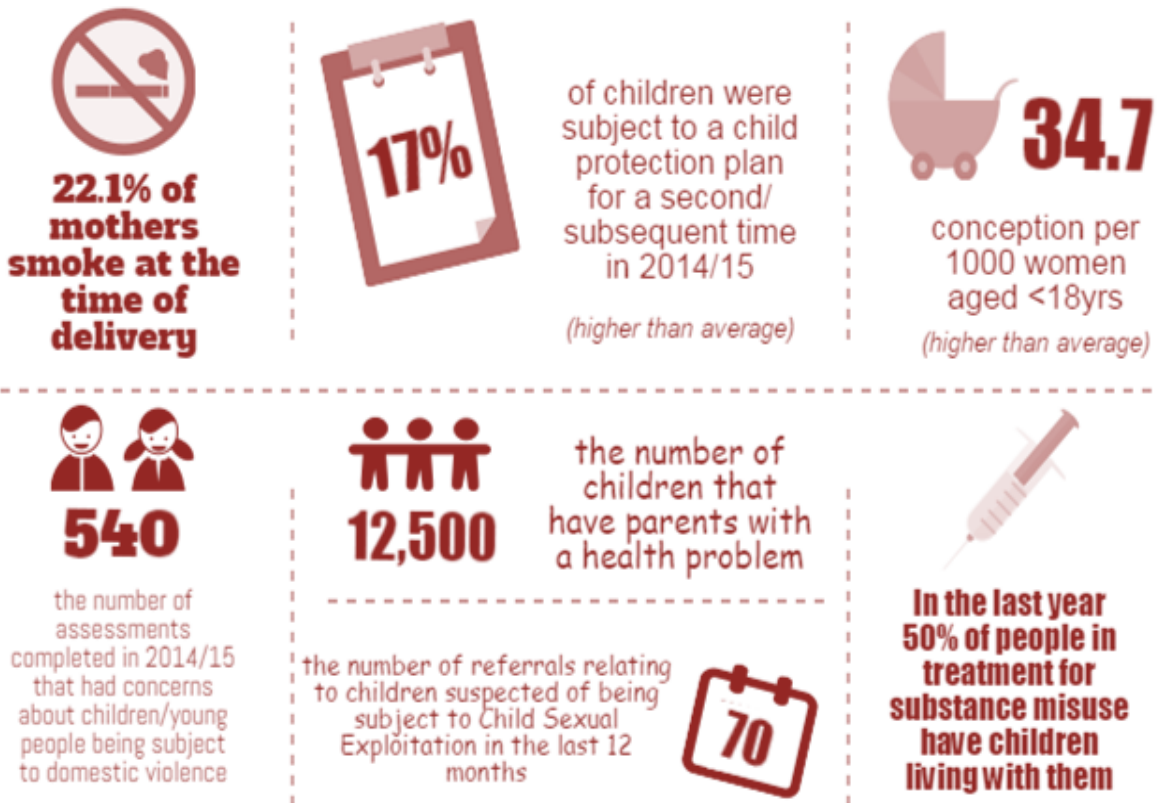
of 80%. This was the lowest performance in the Yorkshire and Humber Region and one of the lowest in the country.

Key Stage 4

- 49% of Doncaster children achieved 5 or more A* to C Grades at GCSE or equivalent (including English and Maths) in 2014, compared to 53% nationally.

16-19

- 5% of 16 to 18 year olds were not in education, employment or training in 2014
- By the age of 19, 83% of young people had achieved a level 2 qualification, similar to the national average of 86%.
- By the age of 19, 48% of young people had achieved a level 2 qualification, slightly below the national average of 57%.



Wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of parents directly impacts on the wellbeing of children and young people

It is important to have an understanding of the needs of children, young people and families within the Borough. This plan in arriving at its priorities and outcomes having used the needs assessment and the following sources of information to provide a profile of children and young people in Doncaster:

The 2014 Children and Young People Needs Assessment

Identified Key Areas of Focus

- Support vulnerable young people who need it most and support all Families to Thrive
- Raise Aspirations and support young people with skills and experience to help them into work, education, volunteering and training

- Improvements in Education attainment and experience is at the centre of what we do
- Improve data analysis and understand the views of young people

The data within the children's needs assessment has been used to inform the Children, Young People and Families Plan.

Links:

 [Doncaster Data Observatory CYP Needs Assessment](#)

 [2014 Community Profiles](#)

What We Have Achieved So Far



Doncaster
Children's
Services Trust

Established



Reduction in NEET



School Ready



**Reduction in
Childhood Obesity**



Stronger Families

100% Achieved

Progress on Previous Plans

- ✓ Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST) became operational on 1st October 2014 with a smooth transition of children's social care services.
- ✓ The average length taken for children in care proceedings at the end of March 2015 was 22 weeks, an improvement to the 26 week target; indicating timelier placements for children who enter into care.
- ✓ There has been a reduction in the number of children with a Child Protection Plan.
- ✓ The percentage of school leavers aged 16 to 18 years 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' (NEET) reduced to 5.4% in 2014/15 against the target of 6%. This improvement in performance is in part down to the increased partnership working and most notably the contribution of the Stronger Families Programme.
- ✓ Preparing our very young children for education has shown a marked 12% improvement on 2014 performance, with 65% of children measured as 'school ready' as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.
- ✓ Improving the education of our children is pivotal to the general improvement of Doncaster. To support school improvement we have a detailed Post Ofsted 2-Year Action Plan and have demonstrated improvements in management and leadership.
- ✓ The percentage of children aged 10-11 years classified as obese or overweight was lower than the national and regional averages.
- ✓ Over 950 families achieved positive outcomes through the Stronger Families Programme against the target of 870. This included fewer incidence of antisocial behaviour, better attendance at school and more people into work

How It All Fits Together

Team Doncaster is an ethos of collaboration, progress, and positivity. Membership of Team Doncaster is not a private and elitist group, but it is certainly something to be proud of.

If you are making a positive difference to the people and place of Doncaster through the work that you do, through volunteering, through being a neighbour, a parent, or a friend then you are part of Team Doncaster.

Team Doncaster is also formally recognised as the strategic partnership of organisations and individuals that span the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

The Team Doncaster Partnership board sets the strategic direction and oversees four thematic partnerships that direct activity to where it is needed the most. Each theme board is responsible for delivering a section of the Borough Strategy - a key document that sets out an aspirational vision for improvements to the quality of life for Doncaster's residents, and those working in and visiting the borough. Theme 1 of Doncaster's Borough Strategy is 'Children, young people and families'



The Children and Families Partnership Board

The Children and Families Strategic Partnership Board is one of the four thematic partnerships. It has the senior partnership responsibility for policy, strategy and achievement in services for children, young people and their families.

The core functions of the Board are:

- Determine Children & Families strategy - establishing a vision, and prioritising issues that have not progressed and can only be addressed in partnership
- Oversee the Children and Young People's Service Improvement Plan and delivery against the agreed priorities
- Commission and sign-off an annual children, young people and family's needs assessment, and associated research as appropriate, to inform priorities
- Ensure the voice of children and young people is represented in both strategic planning and service delivery across the partnership
- Review and reflect on opportunities for alignment of resources
- Promote success, stimulate innovation and engage with evidence around what works
- Challenge and act as a critical friend around performance
- Interact with other strategic theme boards, the Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership and Overview and Scrutiny
- Respond to challenges about safeguarding identified by Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB)

The Board has agreed **3 key priorities** which shape their activity and overall outcomes, towards the delivery of the Borough Strategy. These are:

- **Early Help and Early Years**
- **Work experience, Information Advice and Guidance and, Education Attainment linked to Economic Opportunities**
- **Voice of Children, Young People and Families**

The Children, Young People and Families Plan identifies **6 outcomes** to deliver the 3 priorities:

1. Children and young people are healthy and have a sense of wellbeing
2. More children, young people and families access appropriate services at the earliest opportunity
3. Children and young people are free (and feel free) from harm
4. The gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children and young people narrows
5. Children and young people are listened to and their influence is evident
6. Children and young people reach their full potential



The Delivery Plan

The following tables demonstrate our outcomes and key objectives for the Children, Young People and Families Plan.



OUTCOME 1: *(Early Help and Early Years)*

Children and Young People are Healthy and Have a Sense of Wellbeing

OBJECTIVES

- Reduced incidence of dental decay
- Reduced childhood obesity
- Reduced smoking rates in pregnancy
- Fewer unwanted teenage pregnancies
- Reduction in premature mortality
- Reduction in children that access acute mental health provision



OUTCOME 2: *(Early Help and Early Years)*

More Children and Young People Access Appropriate Services at the Earliest Opportunity

OBJECTIVES

- Better access to mental health services
- Reduction in avoidable hospital admissions
- Reduction in family offending
- Children and families are seen by the right services at the right time

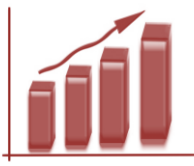


OUTCOME 3: *(Early Help and Early Years)*

Children and Young People are Free (and Feel Free) From Harm

OBJECTIVES

- Reduction in risk scores for young people in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation
- Children who have an identified need have an appropriate plan
- Fewer traffic accidents involving children and young people
- Fewer children live in households with domestic violence
- Children and young people feel safer



OUTCOME 4: *(Work experience, Information Advice and Guidance and, Education Attainment linked to Economic Opportunities)*

The Gap between Disadvantaged and Non – Disadvantaged Children and Young People Narrows

OBJECTIVES

- Reduction in the attainment gap for disadvantaged children
- Education achievement of Looked after Children
- Reduce child poverty
- Reduce the health gap for disadvantaged children and young people



OUTCOME 5: *(Voice of Children, Young People & Families)*

Children and Young People are Listened to and their Influence is Evident

OBJECTIVES

- Enable the voice of parents and carers in the development and review of children and family services
- Evidence children and young people participation in delivered services
- Better service design and delivery that meets the needs of children, young people and families



OUTCOME 6: *(Work experience, Information Advice and Guidance and, Education Attainment linked to Economic Opportunities)*

Children and Young People to Reach their Full Potential

OBJECTIVES

- Increase school readiness
- Improved school attendance
- Reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training
- Improvement in GCSE results and post-16 qualifications.

Governance

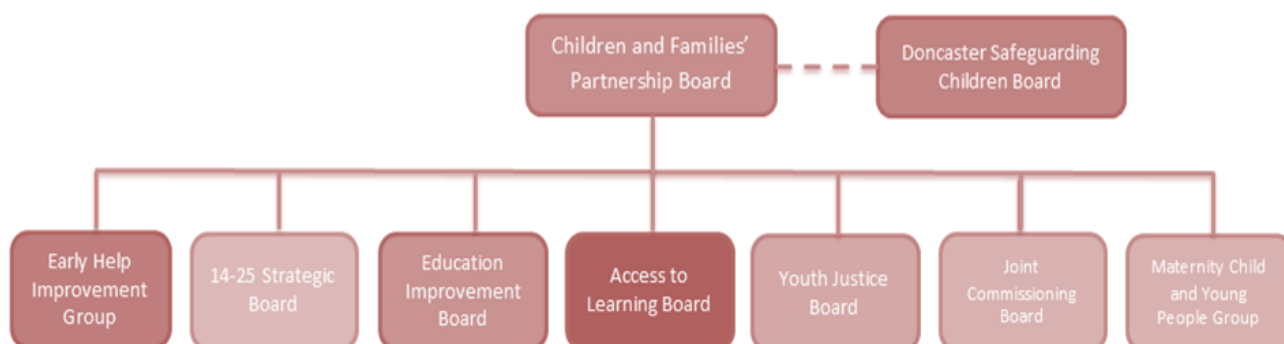
The Children, Young People and Families Plan is the overarching plan for our children, young people and families in the Borough. Partner agencies will also have their own strategies and plans that contribute to it, but this Plan is specific to the Partnership and pulls together those shared priorities that as a partnership we will deliver together. The Plan forms part of the Partnerships' integrated planning and performance management framework for children, young people and families.

The various boards that sit below the Children and Families Partnership Board will contribute to the delivery of the partnership priorities and report their progress to the Board on a regular basis. Similarly, the Children and Families Partnership Board will regularly report to the Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership on achievement of priorities, partnership learning and challenges through Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) methodology, which has been adopted across the Partnership.

The governance framework will provide the means for the monitoring of plans and performance by the most appropriate individual sub-board. Issues which cannot be resolved or which require further action will be escalated to the appropriate higher tier. Equally, issues which require a more detailed response will be delegated to the most appropriate lower level tier.

In any event, each of the partnership boards will periodically report into the Children and Families Partnership Board on any escalations or exceptions (areas of concern; very good or poor performance).

In the coming year, the Children and Families Partnership Board will be undertaking a review of its membership, its sub-structure, and how it delivers against the plan.



Our linked strategies and plans:

These are some of the Plans and Strategies that the Partnership Boards have put in place to deliver the priorities in the Borough Strategy and that complement the Children, Young People and Families Plan.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Sets out a high level vision for health and wellbeing in Doncaster, outlines the roles and ways of working for partners and indicates 5 areas of focus where partners must work together to bring about real progress – Alcohol, Mental Health & Dementia, Obesity, Family, Personal Responsibility.

Community Safety Strategy

Focuses on reducing crime and disorder in Doncaster's communities, focusing on 3 priorities – Protecting vulnerable people, Reduce crime ASB and re-offending, Reduce substance and alcohol misuse and associated effects on crime. *(Revised plan to be published autumn 2015)*

Economic Growth Plan

Provides a clear framework for how we will release the potential of our people, businesses and the Borough's assets, focusing on business growth, place, and skills.

Joint Strategic Commissioning Strategy

This has 3 key areas of focus, including: Complex Needs, Emotional Health and Wellbeing and School Readiness.

Early Help Strategy

Underpins improvements in the delivery of Early Help Services. Its 3 outcomes include: Early Years Foundation Stage, reduced number of referrals to specialist services, improved progress with speech and language

School Improvement Plan

Action plan to address the post Ofsted recommendations for the School Improvement Service

Child Sexual Exploitation Plan

Focusing on 10 key assurance questions to scrutinise and challenge partner and action owners

Domestic Violence

Doncaster Children's Services Trust programme aimed at breaking the cycle of domestic violence by helping victims and their children recover and move on together.

Stronger Families Expanded Programme

Based on 6 family themes aimed at identifying and intervening in families earlier, using a whole family approach and building resilience whilst reducing demand on high cost services. *(Plan to be published autumn 2015)*

Mental Health and Wellbeing local transformation Plan

A five year vision based on 5 themes from 'Future in Mind' to bring about a whole system transformation to our local offer of services that contribute to, and support children and young people's mental and emotional health. *(Plan to be published late 2015/16)*



Children and Families Board Members

- Chair - Bishop of Doncaster
- DMBC Cabinet members with responsibility for Education and Children's Services
- Children and Young People's Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Chair
- Doncaster Council – Director of Children's Services
- Doncaster Council – Chief Executive
- Doncaster Children's Services Trust – Chief Executive / Chair
- Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group – Chief Nurse
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust – Service Director, Children's and Community Services
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Chief Operating Officer
- Voluntary and Community sector representative x 2 (via network)
- Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board – Independent Chair
- Doncaster College – Deputy Principal Curriculum and Learner Experience
- Schools – Primary, Secondary and Special School Heads representatives
- South Yorkshire Police – Superintendent
- Doncaster Youth Council – Chair / Secretary
- UK Youth Parliament – Doncaster's Member
- Doncaster Council – Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing
- Enterprising Doncaster – Work and Skills Board – Chair
- Doncaster Council – Assistant Director, Public Health
- Doncaster Council – Assistant Directors Children and Young People's Service
- St Leger Homes – Director of Housing Services
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

The following organisations will receive Board papers and be invited to attend / contribute as relevant:

- South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company
- JobCentre Plus

If you have a question or comment regarding the Children and Families Partnership then please contact:

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Tel: 01302 737414 | Email: partnerships@doncaster.gov.uk

