



Councillor John Mounsey
Chair
Overview & Scrutiny Management
Committee
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Dear John

Update Report on the Work of the Anti-Poverty Strategy Group

Thank you for your letter dated 21st October 2015 regarding the above. I was pleased to learn that the work undertaken on behalf of Team Doncaster has been so well received by OSMC.

In terms of the recommendations you outline, I understand that a Members Seminar has now been arranged for the afternoon of 9th December 2015, between 2pm-4pm. It is anticipated that this will address most of the issues you raise in your letter. Certainly, information on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015, and the most recent data on the causes and impacts of poverty, will also be incorporated into the presentations. An update on the review of Advice Services funding will also be provided during the Seminar.

I am advised that officers have found it difficult to identify a contact in HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), but they are continuing to try and do so, and will notify Caroline Martin so that she can invite HMRC to a future OSMC meeting.

Information from the Work & Skills Board will be included in the presentation to members. This will highlight activities across the borough and with partners to support people into jobs.

Colleagues from Public Health will be attending the Seminar, and they will be in a position to give advice on activities in relation to health awareness, and the potential links between poverty and ill health, including cancer and substance misuse, amongst other factors.

In addition, as part of its refresh of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, the Health & Wellbeing Board has recognised the importance of economic wellbeing. At its next meeting in January 2016, there will be a more detailed debate about Anti-Poverty measures.

I have discussed your request for an Executive Member to be appointed as a lead for Anti-Poverty with Glyn Jones, and he is happy to take on this role personally. Glyn has already met with Susan Jordan, in her capacity as Anti-Poverty Lead Officer in Team Doncaster, and he will be attending the Members Seminar.

My understanding is that Trade Union colleagues will be invited to future summits, and they will be welcome to participate in the work of the Task and Finish Groups. In addition, I believe that as a result of other conversations with Susan, Bob McNeil, the Regional Officer for the GMB Union, has offered to join the Anti-Poverty Strategy Group. I am sure you will agree that this is a good solution, which can be put into immediate effect, rather than waiting for nominations through the Trades Council.

I trust the above is helpful, and thank you once again for the Committee's constructive comments and recommendations. I hope my response reassures you that this is a topic which is of importance to me and my Cabinet colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Ros

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