

11th July, 2016

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

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PANEL WORK
PLAN REPORT 2016/17**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All	None

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 Scrutiny work plan attached at Appendix A;
and
 - ii) Receive and comment on the correspondence made following its review into children with disabilities.

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. Members will recall that OSMC and the standing Panels held work planning sessions in May and June, 2016 with a view to identifying areas for consideration over the coming year. The work plan attached at Appendix A, approved by OSMC provides an ongoing summary of the work currently being undertaken across the whole Scrutiny function
6. Children with disabilities review – The review was completed and ratified by OSMC in April, 2016 and a response has been provided by the Executive, attached at Appendix B.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7. 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 OUTCOMES

	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> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster’s vital services</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 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>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs</i> 	

	<p><i>and Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	

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 2016/17 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

Schedule of Overview & Scrutiny Meetings with Potential Items

	OSMC	H&SAC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S (one review or one-off meetings)	C&E O&S (one review or one-off meetings)
May	Fri, 20 th May 2016, 11am –Chamber (CR)	Mon, 23 rd May 2016, 2pm – Sheffield (CR)		Wed, 25 th May 2016, 1:30pm Rm 209 (CM)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Care & Support (FP) 	Regional Health Scrutiny; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Together Programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work planning – R&H O&S 	
June	Fri, 10 th June 2016 at 9am – Chamber (CM)	Mon 6 th June 2016, 10am - Rm 410 (CR)	Thurs 2 nd June 2016, 9am –Rm 210 (CM)		Wed, 1 st June 2016, 3:30pm, Rm 210 (CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work planning - OSMC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work planning – HASC O&S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work planning – CYP O&S 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work planning – C&E O& S
	Fri, 10 ^h June 2016, 10am – Chamber (CM)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O&S Draft Work Plans O&S Membership 				
	Mon, 27 th June 2016 – Rm 209 (CR)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Plan (Refresh) 				
July	Thurs, 7 th July 2016, 10am – Chamber (CM)	Wed 6 th July 2016, 10am – Rm 409 (CM)	Mon, 11 th July 2016, 10am – Chamber (CR)		Date to be confirmed (could be late July/August) (CM or CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMBC Finance & Performance Qtr 4 15/16 SLHD Finance & Performance Qtr 4 15/16 Youth Justice Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate Care – changes to current service (Jon Tomlinson/Debbie John-Lewis/Karen Johnson) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childrens Trust Update Qtr 4 1516 Education White Paper Update – Implications for Doncaster 		Drainage Board Overview to include Hydraulic Modelling – Environment Agency (Scrutiny led information session with all Members to be invited – Panel to then agree how to take the issue forward)
Aug	August - Dates TBC (CM or CR)	Mon, 8 th August, 2016– 3:30pm (CR)			Thurs 11 th August 2016 – All Day, Rm 210 (CM & CR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget discussion 	Regional Health Scrutiny; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Together Programme (Doncaster supporting this meeting). 			Domestic Abuse (one day review) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy Meet Victims Meet with Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing Futures Perpetrator Programme – Foundation for Change Changing Lives Police (Safeguarding Adults Team) Riverside DMBC Officers Sandra Norburn/Bill Hotchkiss Refuge Visit (separate session)) – two members only
Sept	Thurs, 1 st Sept. 2016, 2pm –Chamber (CR)	Wed, 21 st Sept. 2016, 10am –Rm 008 (CM)	Tues, 27 ^h Sept. 2016, 10am – Chamber (CR)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress Digital Council 	Health Inequalities. Incl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> description of overall approach focus on the health needs of BME populations plans to update the assessment Veterans Information session to follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CQC Health Watch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childrens Trust Update Qtr. 1 1617 Chairs Safeguarding Board – Annual report including CSE Update (outstanding issues) Findings from the Education and Skills Commission (ESC) Outline of role and function of Performance Account Board (PAB) Overview of outcomes from: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGA Peer Review (incl. Early Help) DFE Achievements of Children Inspection Framework for SEN School Results (by pyramid/sub-groups) 		
Oct	Thurs, 6 th October 2016, 10am – Chamber	Dates – TBC (CM &/or CR)			

	OSMC	H&SAC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S (one review or one-off meetings)	C&E O&S (one review or one-off meetings)
	(CM) • DMBC Finance & Performance Qtr 1 16/17 • SLHD Finance & Performance Qtr 1 16/17	• Age Friendly Review (cross-cutting)			
	Dates TBC - (CM or CR) • Budget				
Nov	Thurs, 10 th Nov 2016, 10am – Chamber (CM) Possible community themed meeting including; • Stronger Families Update	Wed, 23 rd Nov 2016, 10am – 007b (CR) • Transformation Programme (Kim Curry) • Direct Payments • Community Engagement (future role of communities) • Sustainable Transformation Plan (Jackie Pederson)			
Dec	Thurs, 15 th Dec 2016, 2pm – Chamber (CR) • DMBC Finance & Performance Qtr 2 16/17 • SLHD Finance & Performance Qtr 2 16/17		Tues, 6 th Dec 2016, 10am – Chamber (CM) • Childrens Trust Update Qtr 2 1617 • Education & Skills Programme (Standards & Strategy) • Council Response to the Education and Skills Commission • Effectiveness of Pupil Premium across Doncaster • CIC – Virtual School		
Jan	Thurs, 19 th Jan 2017, 10am – Chamber (CR) • Budget (formal/informal)	Wed, 25 th Jan 2017, 2pm – 007b (CM) • Mental Health within Children’s Services (jt with CYP O&S) • Update on Care and Support at home	H&ASC O&S - Invite Wed, 25 th Jan 2017, 2pm – 007b CYP O&S Invite for the following; • Mental Health within Children’s Services (jt with CYP O&S)		
Feb	9 th or 23 rd Feb 2017, 10am – Council Chamber (CM or CR) • Budget (formal - will commence earlier tba)		Mon, 27 th Feb 2017, 10am – Chamber (CR) • Children’s Trust Update Qtr. 3 1617 • Children’s Trust Annual report • Annual Complaints • Exam Results (& update on actions from E&SC)		Mon, 13 th Feb 2017, 10am – 007b (CM or CR) • Crime & Disorder Meeting ○ Performance & Update on Priorities ○ Community Safety Strategy • Fly Tipping - Enforcement
Mar	Thurs, 23 rd March 2017, 10am – Chamber (CM or CR) • DMBC Finance & Performance Qtr 3 16/17 • SLHD Finance & Performance Qtr 3 16/17	15 th March 2017, 10am – 007b (CM or CR) • Public Health Protection Responsibilities (annual) to include: - Vaccinations – how is data on reactions used - Air Pollution (performance targets/impact on public health)			15 th March 2017, 10am – 007b - invite CYP O&S Invite for the following; • Public Health Protection Responsibilities (annual) : - - Air Pollution (performance targets/impact on public health)

*** R&H O&S and C&E O&S review meetings to be scheduled at a later date ***

Other potential issues to be considered and confirmed				
OSMC	H&SAC O&S	CYP O&S	R&H O&S (one review or one-off meetings)	C&E O&S (one review or one-off meetings)
<p><u>Ongoing List of Plans</u></p> <p>Council Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Plan Refresh - 27th June 2016, 2pm <p>Statutory Plans: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Justice Plan (Yth Offending Plan) – 7th July 2016, 10am Local Transport Plan – TBC Community Safety Plan (known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy – Refresh 2016/New Plan 2017) – May refer to Crime and Disorder Committee Health and Well-being Strategy - not required 2016 Local Plan (Development Plan) - TBC <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devolution - Date/s TBC (Also see C&E – Waste) New Library/Training/Museum/Cultural Centre (FP Item) - Oct 2016? TBC Equality Action Plan Borough Strategy (Sustainable Community Strategy no longer obliged to have as a Statutory Plan) Community Engagement Strategy - TBC 	<p>Review – Cross Cutting – Developing an Age Friendly Doncaster (see below)</p> <p>Health Inequalities: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Obesity Health for homeless <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancer Quality Accounts (annual) Updates e.g. CQC, Healthwatch, NHS England, NHS CCG,H&WB, regional health scrutiny 	<p>Other: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETE Opportunities for CIC – Career Advice & Guidance (CYP O&S Members involvement) Update – Ofsted <p>Joint Scrutiny Work: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health within Children's Services (jt with H&ASC O&S) – Possible piece of work/involvement with Youth Council 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre Plan – to consult with Panel on the way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic overview and direction Look at principal towns Include market (invite market traders), car parking and issues around homelessness within discussions Economic Plan Refresh – to consult with the Panel (will include element of housing) – Autumn 2016 Also for an update on the Place Marketing Action Plan and outstanding Delivery of Additional Housing actions to be provided at a later date. 	<p>If capacity allows:</p> <p>Waste – to look at future opportunities through Devolution how can the authority make the most out of joint opportunities.</p> <p>Vol/Com Strategy – update and impacts of the the new grant scheme.</p>

FP – Forward Plan Decision

Councillor Neil Gethin
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Overview & Scrutiny Panel
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23rd May 2016

Dear Neil

Thank you for providing your Panel's findings of the recent Scrutiny review into Children with Disabilities. I note that Councillors had the opportunity to meet with young people who have a disability, their parents, officers and providers of respite care. My responses to each of your Panel's recommendations are below.

Recommendation 1

Consider actively promoting that parents of children with disabilities can contact their local councillors, to assist with directing them to appropriate support within the local authority and provide continued support to ensure they continue to receive the most appropriate cost effective support package.

Response:

Parents of children with disabilities are encouraged to seek support and contact their local councillors. The Cabinet member for Children's Services is a key member of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategic Partnership Board, which informs on all of the developments and gives regular service specific updates. Members of Doncaster Parents Voice have time allocated on the agenda of every meeting, and we seek to support co-production across all areas of SEND. Although services are being reconfigured to accommodate budget restrictions, engaging with parents and seeking to support by informing them via the Local Offer remains a priority.

Recommendation 2

Continue to support the need for an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) high functioning with sensory need resource and the work being undertaken to provide a pool of, or an increase in, respite providers who can be brokered by the Council and parents.

Response:

Respite care provides essential support to the families we have through commissioning activities and increasing our range of providers, thus reducing the time parents are waiting for support. After a great deal of activity, our respite care resource, Oaklands, is much improved. Parents now regularly meet to support and inform developments and recent Ofsted inspection evidenced improvement to achieve overall GOOD across the service.

Recommendation 3

Continue to support the work being undertaken to seek appropriate school placements for children and young people with ASD high functioning social communication difficulties (academically mainstream).

Response:

We continue to support the need for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) high functioning resource. Numerous options have been explored and we are implementing proposals which will support the opening of a resource, specific to meet needs. Parenting support services were commissioned via CAMHS. The commissioning for this has transferred to the local authority, and although the budget for this has reduced, we have plans agreed by the ASD Group to appoint to two vacant positions for Parent Advisors for September 2016.

Recommendation 4

Ensure mechanisms and statutory guidance are in place to make sure Education Health Care Plans to enable correct interpretation, for example, by schools and transport providers.

Response:

Education Health and Care Plans: Legislation for the changes across SEND was embryonic during the review. Since that time, we have progressed across all areas, developing Person Centred Planning. Parents report the new process has greatly improved the comprehensive assessment process. Ofsted Inspection has issued their framework for inspection for SEND, and we are preparing for this imminent inspection. A weekly inspection preparation group is currently working across all stakeholders to prepare. We can evidence much improvement.

Recommendation 5

Investigate whether Council transport could be used/hired to take groups of young people out in evenings, using their personal budgets.

Response:

The availability of additional transport provided by the local authority is extremely unlikely, given current financial constraints. We are supporting young people accessing a range of activities through their short break and personal assistants.

Recommendation 6

Support the POET Pilot and an evaluation be provided to a future Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Response:

Doncaster has piloted the first year of the Education Health and Care plan implementation through Personal Outcome Evaluation Tool (POET). As response to this was voluntary, we have had very low numbers respond in the first year. However, the parents who have responded report great improvements in the process and outcomes for their children. We wish to follow this up this year, by telephoning each parent after their EHC review and encourage them, where possible, to go on line and complete the evaluation.

Recommendation 7

Ensure continued work and commitment providing the best deals being procured for children where there is need to be placed out of authority.

Response:

The NEXT project, 16+ and post-19 developments to support young people into active employment continue to make sound progress. Special School Head Teachers are supporting this development across the borough, and have been instrumental in seeking to both improve the range of opportunities available, but have assisted local authority officers in challenging post-16 providers to improve their offer. The Hub have plans to increase their High Melton site offer as this site is more suited to meet sensory needs, compared to the busy modern Hub location.

Recommendation 8

a) Consider writing to the Secretary of State for Education asking if thought could be given to the development of interactive examinations and other support aimed at young people with disabilities to help them overcome barriers forced through the formal examination processes.

b) Support the current project with NEXT and investigate the possibility of such schemes being rolled out through the borough by the Council and its partners.

Response:

Across the borough, employment for all post-16 learners remains challenging. Our priority is to try and eliminate the barriers to full time employment that young people with SEND experience, so they have equality of access to employment opportunities. Northridge School continues to progress and champion this work, supporting increased numbers of pupils to experience work settings in preparation for full time work.

Across the span of SEND services, the local authority continues to make good progress. We have sustained our 100% targets for the transfer of Statements to Education Health and Care Plans, continuing to meet the twenty week deadline for issuing the new plan. Neighbouring boroughs are not meeting this target, and have seen an increase in the number of parents seeking recourse via the SEND's Tribunal process. To date, Doncaster has experienced very few appeals - one in the past 18 months – and the expertise and quality of our SEND support services have greatly contributed to this success. However, we will continue to support negotiation and mediation to achieve agreed outcomes with our parents and carers.

Preparation with all stakeholders for the area SEND inspection is a current priority. The framework for the inspection was released at the beginning of May, with the first area being inspected the week beginning 9th May. Our preparation is going well. We have many things to be proud of, and we seek to present the inspectors with a realistic account of our achievements and challenges.

I trust the above is helpful, and thank you for your Panel's input into this review.

Yours sincerely

Ros Jones
Mayor of Doncaster