



Doncaster
Metropolitan Borough Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 16

Contents

	Page Nos.
Foreword	3
Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs	4
Overview and Scrutiny Membership 2015/16	5
Overview and Scrutiny structure	6
Impacts and achievements 2015/16	7 - 8
External organisations who have contributed to the Scrutiny process in 2015/16	9
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC)	10 - 12
Health and Adults Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel	13 - 15
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel	16 - 17
Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel	18 - 19
Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel	20 - 21
Overview and Scrutiny Priorities for 2016/17	22
Contacting Overview and Scrutiny	23

Foreword

Before I outline the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during 2015/16, I would like to report the sad passing of Councillor Tony Revill. He played an active role in Overview and Scrutiny since his appointment to the Council in May 2011. Tony had recently been the Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel and had also made a significant contribution to the work of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Yorkshire and Humber, particularly the Children's Cardiac Review. During the period 2012 to 2014 he was Chair of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel and has also contributed significantly to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has continued to co-ordinate and manage the work of the Panels as well as undertaking its own work programme. This year's Annual Report contains information on key scrutiny activity over the last year and information about some of the subjects that will be considered over the next 12 months.

It has been a challenging year for the Council and also for Scrutiny. The Council continues to face the challenge of delivering services to the people of Doncaster with reduced resources and our Councillors involved with Scrutiny regularly analyse these plans put forward suggestions for improvement and providing constructive critical friend challenge. It has also been a year of opportunities as the Council has supported the Sheffield City Region Devolution proposal as a means of advancing the economic prosperity of the region. This also brings with it a number of challenges and in particular Overview and Scrutiny will want to review the extent to which the people of Doncaster benefit from this agreement in the future.

If you would like to know more about Overview and Scrutiny at Doncaster Council or wish to suggest an issue for consideration then please feel free to get in touch using the contact details at the end of the report.



Councillor John Mounsey
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS 2015/16



Councillor John Mounsey

Overview and Scrutiny
Management Committee
Chair



Councillor Charlie
Hogarth

Overview and Scrutiny
Management Committee
Vice Chair



Councillor Rachel Hodson

Children and Young People
Chair



Councillor Neil Gethin

Children and Young People
Vice Chair



Councillor Jane Kidd

Community and
Environment Chair



Councillor Jane Cox

Community and
Environment Vice Chair



Councillor Tony Revill

Health and Adults Social
Care Chair



Councillor Cynthia
Ransome

Health and Adults Social
Care Vice Chair



Councillor Craig Sahman

Regeneration and Housing
Chair



Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Regeneration and Housing
Vice Chair

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP 2015/16

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Chair – Councillor John Mounsey	Vice-Chair - Councillor Charlie Hogarth
Councillor John Cooke	Councillor Tony Revill
Councillor Rachel Hodson	Councillor Craig Sahman
Councillor Richard A Jones	Councillor Jane Kidd
Invitee – Paul O'Brien GMB	

Health and Adults Social Care Panel

Chair – Councillor Tony Revill	Vice – Chair Councillor Cynthia Ransome
Councillor Elsie Butler	Councillor George Derx
Councillor Rachael Blake	Councillor Sean Gibbons
Councillor Jessie Credland	Councillor David Nevett
Councillor Linda Curran	Invitee – Lorna Foster UNISON

Communities and Environment Crime and Disorder Panel

Chair – Councillor Councillor Jane Kidd	Vice-Chair – Councillor Councillor Jane Cox
Councillor Iris Beech	Councillor Majid Khan
Councillor Susan Durant	Councillor Cynthia Ransome
Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Councillor Clive Stone
Councillor Kenneth Keegan	Invitee - Tom Fent UNISON

Children and Young People Panel

Chair – Councillor Rachel Hodson	Vice Chair – Councillor Neil Gethin
Councillor Nick Allen	Councillor Alan Jones
Councillor Nigel Ball	Councillor Sue McGuinness
Councillor Bev Chapman	Councillor Sue Wilkinson
Councillor James Hart	

Education Co-optees: Damien Thorpe and John Hoare – invited to attend the meeting and vote on any Education functions which are the responsibility of the Authority's Executive. They may also participate in but not vote on other issues relating to Children and Young People.

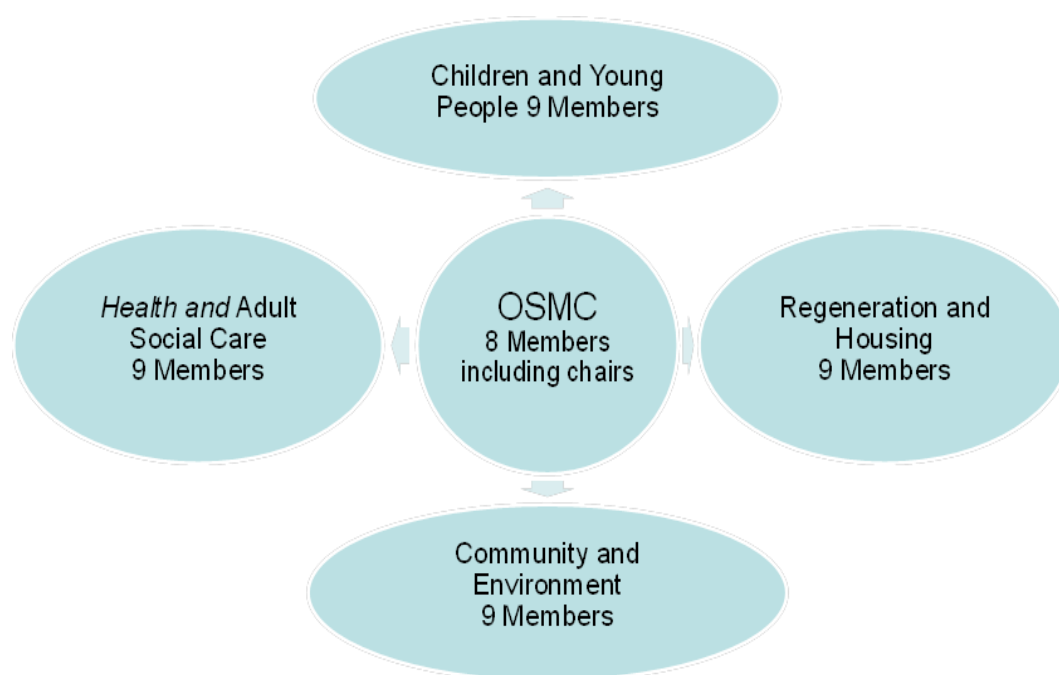
Invitee - Jim Board UNISON

Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chair – Councillor Craig Sahman	Vice-Chair – Councillor Kevin Rodgers
Councillor John Healy	Councillor Alan Smith
Councillor Susan Knowles	Councillor Clive Stone
Councillor Eva Hughes	Councillor Jonathan Wood
Councillor Ted Kitchen (L)	Invitee - Paul Smilie UNITE

Overview and Scrutiny Structure

Overview and Scrutiny continues to provide a strategic overview through the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the four Panels. Overview and Scrutiny have endeavoured to review issues both in-depth seeking to support the delivery of priorities by holding to account and putting forward evidence based suggestions for improvement thereby adding value and a unique perspective to future service delivery.



The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee operates as the business committee for the Overview and Scrutiny function covering all aspects of the Council and partnership activity (except Health). Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairs have been included within the membership of OSMC and have held a key role in co-ordinating the overarching Overview and Scrutiny work programme.

The Scrutiny Panels held a number of spotlight and in-depth reviews meetings and undertook a small number of in-depth reviews, reporting their findings and recommendations to the Management Committee.

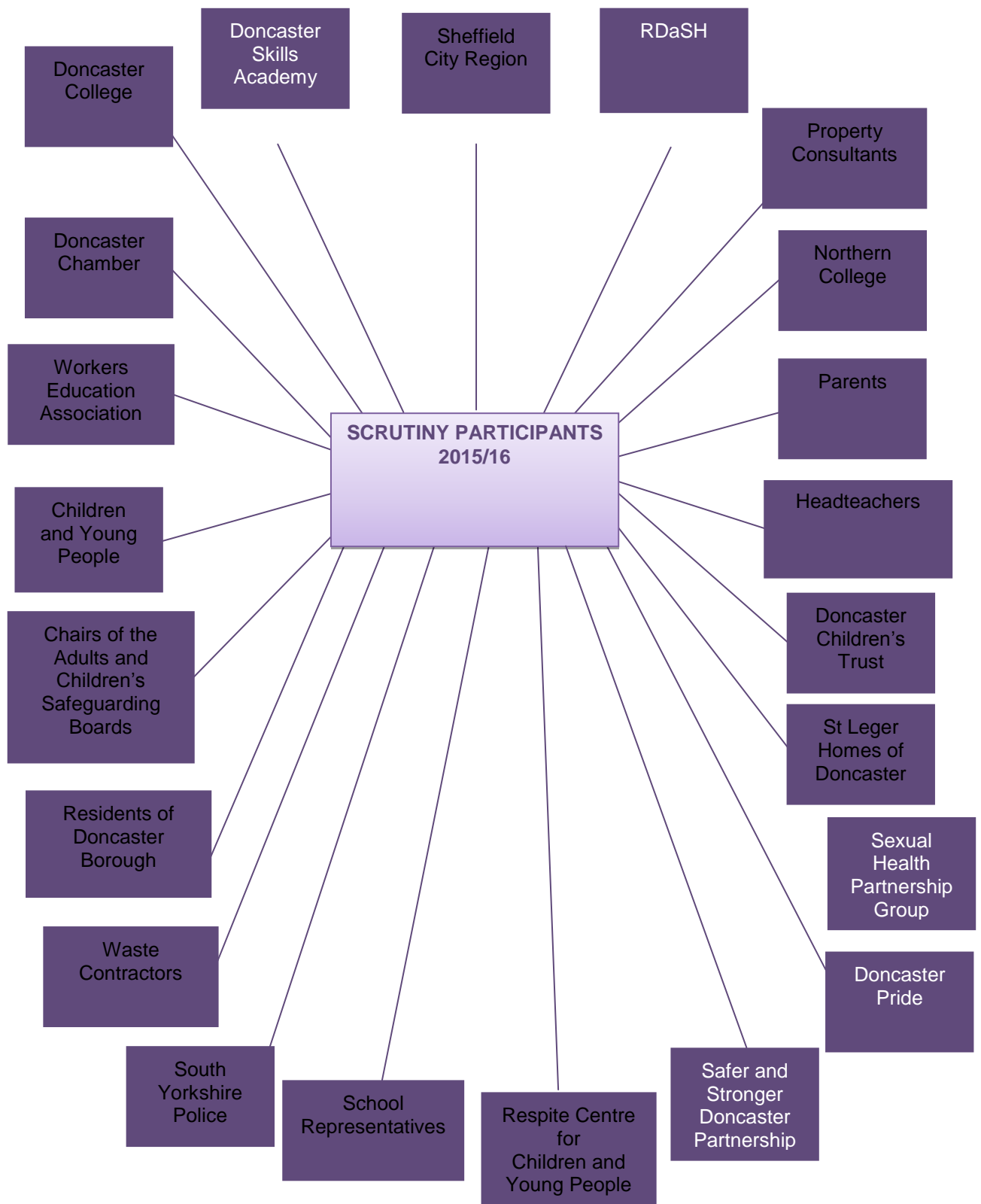
Impacts and Achievements

Here are some examples of where Scrutiny has added value to the Council's decision making and governance arrangements. Further information is provided within each of the individual Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or Panel sections:

- **Cabinet Member attendances** at meetings help encourage openness and accountability. Cabinet Members attended meetings to respond to questions from Members on a number of issues including the budget, delivery of priorities and performance monitoring. This face to face discussion has enabled Members to express their views directly to the Executive for example, during consideration of changes to charges of social care, Members recognised the difficult choices that had to be made but asked the Executive to recognise that subsidies be equitable and that those with a lower income contribute less.
- **Holding to Account** – The Children and Young People Panel has met on 4 occasions to provide challenge to the Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board in relation to its business plan and to receive an update on child sexual exploitation (CSE). Following concerns expressed at earlier meetings, Members were pleased to note that children and young people had been involved in discussions on CSE in Doncaster and a clear plan of action in place to address the concerns raised through this engagement. Doncaster Children's Trust (DCT) has continued to regularly attend the Panel where its performance and a regular update has been provided. This provides a further opportunity to increase transparency and public accountability on how the DCT undertakes its functions on behalf of the Council.
- **Contribution to key policy development** – This is where Scrutiny is able to consider policies and put forward suggestions for improvement. Scrutiny, for the last two years has contributed to how the borough's future waste collection is carried out, making suggestions on how consultation and communication with residents is best undertaken and proposing the most appropriate waste receptacles. Other policies that Scrutiny has considered and supported have included the Corporate Plan refresh, Youth Justice Plan and Statement of Licensing Policy. This provided an opportunity for Members to have an in-depth discussion that has helped better inform debate and understanding before being considered by Council.

- **Pre-decision Scrutiny** – OSMC and the Panels have given consideration to a number of issues prior to decisions being made by Cabinet or Full Council, including the benefits of using solar energy panel on Council housing properties. OSMC considered what the Sheffield City Region proposed Devolution Deal would mean for the region but specifically what were the benefits for Doncaster. All Members were invited to this meeting and together with the Committee raised some pertinent issues around governance and engagement that will be taken forward as the agreement progresses. In particular Members raised the issue of ensuring there was a clear understanding of the difference between Doncaster's Elected Mayor and the functions of the Mayor of the Sheffield City Region as residents would be voting for both at a combined election in 2017.
- **Performance Monitoring** – OSMC continues to rigorously review quarterly finance and performance to ensure that the arrangements remain robust and services continue to be delivered effectively. Directors and Cabinet Members have attended meetings to answer questions particularly about how they are addressing under performance or projected overspends, and this has enhanced transparency and accountability of service delivery.
- **Public and partnership engagement** – Engaging with the public in Overview and Scrutiny can be particularly challenging, however, throughout the year there have been some good examples. Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel engaged directly with a number of young people with a disability who explained about the general public's attitude towards them and a lack of willingness to understand that each child or young person with a disability was an individual. Through the review the young people were continuing to champion the independent lives of children and young people with a disability. We would like to take the opportunity to thank partners, stakeholders and community members mentioned in this report for taking part in the process. Members of the wider community have also taken the time to make a number of statements and contribute to discussions during Scrutiny meetings.

External Organisations Who Have Contributed To The Scrutiny Process in 2015/16



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Management Committee last year held 14 meetings and continued to manage the scrutiny panels by monitoring and reviewing their work plans and receiving regular updates from the Panel Chairs. The Committee also undertook its own programme of work focusing on reviewing finance and performance.

Pre-decision Scrutiny – The Committee considered a number of Statutory Plans and Policies providing comments to the Mayor and Cabinet including the Corporate Plan, Youth Justice Plan and Statement for Licensing with recommendations and comments being taken into account before final decisions were made by Cabinet or Full Council.

OSMC considered the Sheffield City Region (SCR) proposed Devolution Deal, what it would mean across the region but specifically for Doncaster, it was acknowledged that the proposal would build on the positive work already being undertaken by the Sheffield City Region such as developing effective relationships with the private sector and gaining approval for delivering major infrastructure projects such as the National College for High Speed rail (NCHSR), National Institute for Infrastructure, Construction and Engineering, phase 2 of the airport link road, an airport railway station and a new M18 link road at junction 5. The Committee identified a number of issues to improve governance and to consider within any future arrangements such as ensuring elected Members are kept up to date with developments, checks and balances within the decision making structures and strong performance management processes are in place. Members sought assurances that the SCR would work as efficiently as possible by pooling resources and working in partnership to achieve its outcomes and also ensure communities and areas of deprivation do not become further marginalised. This is an area that the Committee will continue to review this year.

Scrutiny – The Committee continued its consideration of the Stronger Families Programme undertaking its holding to account role. Members questioned how the programme aligned to the Early Help work currently being implemented in Doncaster, aims to embed itself across agencies over the next 5 years up to its close in March 2020 and looked at how these changes will be sustained and self-funded through cost savings across partners. Members learnt of the progress being made to continually support families in Doncaster resulting in 100% success in delivering the programme through a multi-agency approach.

Scrutiny Councillors also received invaluable information from outside organisations and partners, developing their knowledge and understanding. For example, OSMC learnt more about the work being undertaken through the Anti-Poverty Strategy Group to address key issues being faced within the Borough, with the Committee questioning Doncaster's latest position on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, steps being taken to address problems around raising levels of debts and impact of health issues on poverty concerns relating to implications and effects of the welfare reforms and tax credits. This has enabled Councillors to become more aware of the initiatives in place and how these issues are being addressed.

Finance and Improvement - The Committee has continued to receive a detailed overview of the quarterly finance and performance reports and scrutinised key areas of overspend and underperformance. To ensure the approach to this element is more systematic and structured question planning sessions have been used to identify and manage questions around key areas of concern, particularly when addressing performance management, the budget, Devolution and Doncaster's Childrens Trust. The Committee has continued to consider the quarterly Finance and Improvement reports focusing on key areas of overspend and underperformance. Question planning sessions have again been used prior to these meetings to ensure there is a structured approach to lines of enquiry.

Budget – OSMC Members continued to play an important role in support the Council's financial planning process by undertaking a major piece of work every year to respond to the Mayor's budget. Every year, the Committee effectively reviews and monitors the current budget and performance of Council Services reviewing effectiveness of actions taken to address overspends and providing constructive feedback on any such proposals. This year saw the Committee considering the final year of a 3 year budget which included looking at a Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Comprehensive Spending Review prior to giving detailed consideration to the proposals for 2016/17. The Committee's deliberations were presented to Council in March including, for example, that opportunities for growth within the borough arising from Capital investment are maximised. This particularly focused on promoting job opportunities, upskilling and addressing low wages and that key risks to the delivery of the budget continue to be identified and effectively managed, to make sure they do not adversely impact on the Council's ability to meet its savings target.

Other areas addressed included Members giving detailed consideration to the proposal to implement the removal of subsidies from non-residential adult social care charges alongside proposals to increase the charges for transport to council run day centres and a draft transport/travel policy. As a result of this particular meeting, the Committee agreed with both proposals in principle and recommended that the most vulnerable residents and service users who will be affected by changes receive ongoing care and support with finance management, with an assessment process being undertaken for each user. It was also requested that during 2016/17 as part of the ongoing Transformation Programme an update be provided on the wider modernisation agenda.

Councillor John Mounsey
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Before I outline the work that has been undertaken by the Panel this year, I would like to echo the sentiments made by Councillor Mounsey, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and express the sadness felt after the passing of Councillor Revill, who Chaired the Panel from 2014/15 to 2015/16.

Overview– the Panel has undertaken its work through five formal meetings and one joint meeting with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel. One important area covered is the Transformation Programme which outlined the changes in services required to address how the Council looks to transform the way it commissions and delivers services for adult social care whilst improving outcomes for people. It was recognised that the Council's traditional model of social care requires modernising to ensure that Doncaster's residents continue to live an independent life at homes whilst being offered maximum choice to help them do so. Other related areas that the Panel considered during 2015/16 included the Implementation of the Care Act, Personalisation, Direct Payments, the Consideration of the Arrangements to Deliver High Quality Care for People in Residential Homes, Care Homes and also Admissions to Long Term Care.

The Panel continues to keep informed of key public health services looking at a range of issues such as 'Healthy High Street', Public Health Self-Assessment and a high level summary of some of the key implications for Doncaster resulting from its ageing population.

Holding to Account – the Chair of the Adults Safeguarding Board attended the Panel to present the Adults Safeguarding Annual Report. The Panel was pleased to note that if timeliness of referrals were not achieved or standards were not being met then the Chair of the Safeguarding Board had the ability to address the situation with the Chief Executive or Director of the relevant organization. The Panel has continued to undertake its holding to account role by considering the Public Health Annual Report on Health Protection Assurance for the year 2015/16 looking at how Public Health Protection was performing and what was next for health protection. The information presented addressed 12 scrutiny questions which had been adapted from guidance submitted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny and previously agreed by Officers and Members. This continues an approach successfully undertaken over previous years ensuring continuity and appropriate challenge.

Engagement with the Health and Well-being Board – The Board continues to undertake its work programme, with the Chair and Cabinet Member extending invites to the Scrutiny Panel to attend Board meetings and workshops to increase shared understanding of local and national issues, for example, Obesity and Loneliness workshops.

The Panel also considered and supported the draft refresh of the Joint Health and Well-being Strategy 2015-20 as part the consultation process. The Chair and Vice Chairs of both the Board and Panel also regularly meets to discuss their relevant work plans to ensure there is a joint understanding of key priorities.

Regional Health Scrutiny – New joint health scrutiny working arrangements with other local authorities included the formation of the Commissioners Working Together, a collaborative of eight clinical commissioning groups and the NHS England across South and Mid Yorkshire, North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire to consider key health service changes, such as consultation for Children’s Surgery and anaesthesia and Hyper Acute Stroke Services, under a Working Together Programme which commenced in May 2016.

The Chair of the Panel continued to serve on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for Yorkshire and Humber, which has considered changes to Children and Adult’s Cardiac services, with the review now formally completed following the approval of the model of care, service specification and standards. This review is now entering the implementation/commissioning phase of the process.

Finally, the Sheffield City region Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee has continued to meet. This Committee which includes Member representatives provides an opportunity to undertake Overview and Scrutiny of the wider sub regional economy and key issues such as employment housing and transport.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust - A Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection was undertaken in January 2015 and the report published in August 2015. Prior to publication of the report, the CQC convened a quality summit with key stakeholders to discuss its findings from the inspection and to allow the Trust to outline its initial response. Local authority overview and scrutiny committees including Doncaster are included as a key stakeholder in this process, however, given the geographical area covered by the Trust, it was agreed that Wakefield Council would lead from a scrutiny perspective. The Panel therefore provided input into this process through attendance from a representative of the Panel who represented Doncaster and fed back to the Panel. This has demonstrated

positive and effective regional health scrutiny working, reducing duplication whilst sharing expertise and resources.

Joint Health Scrutiny (Cross Panel Working) – The Panel has taken into consideration the new commissioning responsibilities of Children’s health early years 0-5 services including health visiting and family nurse partnership that the Council assumed on the 1st of October 2015. This included how the public health services were delivered by Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust. The Panel discussed areas such as performance, information sharing, potential opportunities moving forward and the role of communities. Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel were invited to this meeting to ensure that they were able to provide their valuable input and ask questions to add to the debate.

Councillor Cynthia Ransome

Vice Chair of the Health and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel has held a number of meetings and undertaken an in-depth review. The Panel also undertook a joint piece of work with the Health and Adult Social Care Panel, which is reported in that section of this Annual Report.

Review - The Panel's review has focused on what deal children with disabilities are receiving. To undertake the work six meetings and site visits were held. In addition to meeting with Council officers, Members of the Panel met with young people, parents and visited the Council's respite care facility. Meeting service users face to face and hearing their accounts first hand was a very important part of the review process. It was recognised that preparation for everyday life was regularly addressed by parents, carers, the local authority and schools and the following project shows one way that work preparation was undertaken.

Members learnt about the positive project being provided by NEXT supported by North Ridge School, giving students from there, Pennine View, Stone Hill and the College the opportunity to undertake a 30 week work placement on 3 basic key elements of employment. It was recognised that something unique had been created by North Ridge School and NEXT and that no young person from the school had been taken on in full-time employment prior to the project being set up. Members recommended the need for such a positive project to continue and expand across the Doncaster business sector.

Holding to Account – Members of the Panel have questioned the Chair of the Safeguarding Board and provided a critical friend role when it was presented with the Board's Annual Report and Business Plan and an Assurance Report relating to Child Sexual Exploitation. The impact of this was to provide assurances that safeguarding the Borough's children and young people was a priority and effective mechanisms and processes were in place.

Doncaster's Children's Trust has continued to regularly attend the Children and Young People Panel where regular updates on its performance were provided as required by the Trust's Agreement with the Local Authority. The Panel also took into consideration the Trust's Annual Review and a report on the Trust's annual complaints with an update being later provided on proposed improvements to the complaints process. The Panel found that actions had been taken in 14 out of the 15 areas highlighted previously with action being planned to address the outstanding areas. It was acknowledged that steps were being taken towards streamlining the Trust's and Council's complaints systems to improve its robustness and also review the Service Level Agreement.

The Panel continues to review standards within Doncaster's education provision and considered areas such as the outcome of the Local Authority Inspection of School Improvement Arrangements, updates on the Educational Attainment in-depth review and Academy Growth and Development Strategy.

Members recognise the challenges that are in place and have agreed to maintain an overview of progress to improve Educational Attainment through the Panel's work plan. The Panel has sought assurances from the Director of Learning and Opportunities Children and Young People on how poor exam results and schools that were causing concern were being addressed.

Members were pleased to learn that measures put in place included establishing a senior Local Authority lead to oversee assessment in early years Key Stage 1 and 2 and teacher assessment and support to ensure good secure assessments were being made to prepare children for tests.

Overview – The Panel was also provided with early years policy information where Members learnt more about the Early Years and Collaborative Strategy.

Joint Scrutiny (Cross Panel Working) Including Children's Health – As mentioned earlier, the Panel undertook a piece of joint work with Health and Adult Social Care Panel looking at sexual health of young people and how successful the Council and its partners were in delivering and signposting services around sexual health to young people. Members considered the services effectiveness and identified the Corporate Parent aspect by ensuring that the provision for looked after children was adequate and informative. Members did raise concerns about the quality of signposting and accessibility to services including the level of resources and capacity in place to deliver outcomes for looked after children. Members also recognised the positive work being undertaken to support young people in this area, including improved accessibility, education and early diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases.

Members of the Panel were also invited to a Place Marketing review meeting of the Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel which focused on Learning and Skills. The Panel also contributed to a joint meeting with the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel to consider the new commissioning responsibilities of Children's health early years 0-5 including health visiting and family nurse partnership.

Councillor Rachel Hodson

Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Review – During 2015/16, the Panel decided to focus its efforts on an in depth review of Place Marketing and the Development of the Doncaster brand. The panel considered what could be done to improve the Doncaster brand regionally and internationally. Additionally looking at how local communities can harness and develop civic pride within the town to change perceptions and make it a better place for everyone to live, with the goal of making Doncaster the best town in the north of England.

Members addressed the following elements during the review:

- Current position
- Work – external view of employment opportunities;
- Play – promotion of the Borough’s leisure activities;
- Learn/Skills – linking schools with businesses and opportunities and barriers faced when seeking employment;
- Rest – where do people want to live and what can the Borough offer in terms of housing and lifestyle; and
- Familiarisation Tour of the Borough.

During its evidence gathering the Panel heard from many partners with their views and opinions, for example, Cabinet Members, Councillors, Local Authority officers, representatives from Doncaster Chamber, Doncaster College, Northern College, Doncaster Skills Academy, Workers Education Authority and local Property Consultants.

The Panel recognised that whilst there were many positive developments and assets to the town and borough, there is still a need for this to grow even further to attract more businesses and visitors and to increase the areas vibrancy for residents. Undertaking this review contributed to providing stakeholders with the right information to drive growth, promote civic pride and understand Doncaster’s ambitions.

The review will be fed into work being undertaken by “Thinking Place”, an agency who is helping the Local Authority to develop the “Doncaster Story” that can be used by both the public and private sector to promote the town and borough. This has led to the Panel being invited to a development workshop where Members can express their thoughts and aspirations for the Borough giving the Panel the opportunity to contribute and help shape the new “Doncaster Story” for a long term approach to improve the wealth of the area.

The Review enabled Members of the Panel to be provided with a good overview of where Doncaster is and what potential it has for moving forward. The review identified a number of findings and recommendations ranging over the four key elements of work, play, learn/skills and rest. One recommendation was that the evidence and recommendations coming out of the review should be taken forward where appropriate and used for the future place marketing work. In terms of the Members own role within this, it was also recommended that a 'pitch pack' be developed and tailored for Members and local property companies (estate agents, consultants, developers) to use accordingly and aims to promote Doncaster.

As part of it's work plan, the Panel also considered updates on the Action Plan produced from its 2014/15 Delivery of Additional Housing review. It was noted that the Panel's recommendations had made an impact and resulted in progress being made. For example, when it was asked for further consideration to be made to establish a more customer-focused and consistent planning process, a review of process to introduce "Systems Thinking Principles" had since been embedded with initial positive results being shown.

Councillor Craig Sahman

Chair of the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel

Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Panel held a small number of reviews over the year and undertook its statutory role to consider Crime and Disorder.

Pre-decision Scrutiny

- Energy Efficiency (Solar panels) – the Panel has given consideration and supported the benefits of using solar energy panel on some of the Council's housing stock. Whilst doing so the Panel identified a number of areas for further consideration, to ensure the correct package was being provided to tenants. This would include good quality information to tenants on how they will benefit from the energy generated. For example, tenants needed to be clear that electricity would only be free during daylight hours and that energy generated was not stored for use at night, and ensuring the highest yielding roofs were presented to the National Grid for approval.

Reviews: The Panel also undertook reviews on the following:

- Waste – This included consideration of the future Waste Contract and BDR Waste Strategy and feed into work being undertaken to ensure the correct service for future waste needs was provided. The Panel has made suggestions on how consultation and communication with residents is best undertaken and the most appropriate waste receptacles. The Panel was also able to discuss with the current waste contractors the position with regard to complaints around service delivery over the Christmas period.
- Voluntary and Community Faith Strategy - The Panel continued with the previous year's work by looking into why the Strategy had been redesigned and reproduced with Members of the voluntary sector. The Panel expressed the view that the Policy was now fit for purpose. The Panel highlighted the difficulties presented to Doncaster's organisations when tendering through the European Procurement process, expressing it's wish that when tendering for work Doncaster's organisations be supported as much as possible.

It is a statutory requirement for the Council's Crime and Disorder committee to hold the Community Safety Partnership to account. The Community and Environment Panel undertake the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee. In reviewing the effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership, the Panel split its Scrutiny into four separate categories enabling it to give detailed consideration to these issues.

- Local Policing Team and impact – Members were assured that the team was working effectively following Doncaster’s designation as the first district in the region to move to the new structure, which also coincided with the formation of Force Crime Units. Although the Command Team’s structure remained unchanged, the most significant change was the merging of Response and Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the reduction in Police Community Support Officers. It was recognised that the Safer Neighbourhood Team was very proactive with the work it undertook and some Members of the Panel will be joining the team in the near future to observe the work they undertake. The discussion highlighted some of the positive examples that were being undertaken including the use of Public Place Protection Orders to make communities a safer place to live and that no call was wasted when a crime was reported.
- Safer and Stronger Doncaster Partnership priorities – The priorities and effectiveness of the partnership in meeting its objectives were considered by the Panel, including the level of crime and anti-social behaviour incidents and how this impacts on residents perceptions of feeling of safe and their quality of life.
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS/Legal Highs) – An update was received on the success of closing Head Shops in Doncaster, that were selling NPS. Discussion highlighted the impact across the community such substances were having, e.g. Accident and Emergency visits and its attractiveness to young people, particularly those in local authority care. This was reported to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for further consideration.
- Enforcement – The Panel received a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness of the Enforcement Service and considering outcomes from investigations.

Councillor Jane Kidd

Chair of the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Priorities 2016/17

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will:

- Co-ordinate and Manage the Panel's work programmes;
- Receive and monitor reviews undertaken by Panels and consider their effectiveness and impact;
- Receive quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports;
- Contribute to the Budget Process 2017/18 and beyond;
- Undertake pre-decision scrutiny of key policy issues;

- Consider Statutory and Council Plans prior to their consideration for approval; and
- Consider the effectiveness of Devolution arrangements and the benefits for Doncaster.

Children and Young People will:

- Receive updates from the Doncaster Children's Services Trust;
- Consider Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report;
- Review education and school improvement information, including Key Stage and GCSE results;
- Consider Doncaster Children's Trust annual complaints report; and
- Consider an annual update/review of Adoption.

Regeneration and Housing will:

- Focus its review on the Town Centre Plan; and

- Consider the Economic Plan refresh.

Community and Environment will:

- Undertake a review on Domestic Abuse;
- Consider Drainage Board Hydraulic Modelling;
- Review the activities and effectiveness of the Safer and Doncaster Strategic Partnership; and

Health and Adult Social Care will:

- Contribute to regional Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Consider health inequality issues;
- Review the Intermediate Care Transformation Programme;

Contacting Overview and Scrutiny

For further information about this Annual Report or any aspect of Overview and Scrutiny work in Doncaster, please contact any of the following:-

Andrew Sercombe - Governance and Member Services Manager

Telephone: (01302) 734354/ Email: andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk

Christine Rothwell - Senior Governance Officer

Telephone: (01302) 735682/Email: christine.rothwell@doncaster.gov.uk

Caroline Martin - Senior Governance Officer

Telephone: (01302) 734941/Email: caroline.martin@doncaster.gov.uk

Address: Doncaster Council
Governance Services
Finance and Corporate Services Directorate
Civic Office
Waterdale
Doncaster
DN1 3BU

Email: scrutiny@doncaster.gov.uk or visit the website at www.doncaster.gov.uk

All reports considered at Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings (unless exempt items) are available to the public. You can see them by visiting Doncaster Council's Website or by requesting a copy from the

The Governance Services Team is happy to respond to any enquiries about the work of Overview and Scrutiny. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more about the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Panels' work programmes for the forthcoming year, or if you have any comments that you would like to make.