



**City of
Doncaster
Council**



Children, Young People and Families Fairness & Wellbeing Commission

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www.doncaster.gov.uk



**Fairness & Wellbeing
Commission**

Specific groups to consider

- Children living in poverty and Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE): a third of our children live in poverty. More children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM's) than take-up.
- Children open to Social Care and those that are looked after : CIN steady around 2000 open; reduction in CiC figures, excluding UASC.
- Children with Special Educational Needs and or a Disability: requests for EHCP's significantly higher. 600 in 2022 s opposed to 138 in 2017.
- Children with low self-esteem or poor mental health, factors in the neighbourhood, such as crime rates, factors within the family, such as parental health or addiction, or. financial difficulties at home are at a greater risk of exploitation
- Children living in migrant families: growing numbers which require specific language and cultural support.
- Unaccompanied or Separated Children; Growing pressure in Kent, increasing numbers locally 35 under 18, 42 over 18.
- Young Carers: 410 registered in Doncaster.
- Children and young people from BAME communities - mental health and wellbeing.

Specific themes to consider

- Areas of deprivation and poverty in the City – often greater levels of vulnerability. 68 neighbourhoods ranked in top 20% most deprived nationally.
- First 1001 critical days and Early Years development, the impact on Covid babies
- Significant increase in mental health and wellbeing issues during and post pandemic – more young people presented at A&E during the pandemic in crisis and this hasn't slowed down.
- Increase in eating disorders.
- Care experienced children, including care leavers often face inequalities.
- Education – The national picture suggests that the North–South gap has widened. Recent outcome indicators suggesting Doncaster to have held position and made small improvements is positive. Gaps appear to be narrowing for gender, disadvantage and EAL
- Inclusion - rising levels of EHCPs, out of area placements, suspensions and absences from school.
- Early intervention, prevention and supporting families as early as possible works and is better value for money.

What we are doing?

- The following slide shows our vision and outcomes for children, young people and families, under four headings. Our guiding principles are:
- Building resilient children, parents and communities.
- The voice of children, young people, parents/carers.
- Early Identification and Intervention.
- Safety in a whole family approach.
- Equitable access and inclusion.
- Education.
- Partnership.
- All age education and skills development.

Outcomes for our children, in our communities

Doncaster is a place of places where we celebrate difference and are kind to each other. We strive to be truly inclusive and provide equitable opportunities for all. Our ambitions are as follows:

01

Our children are given the very best start in life by their parents and carers who are supported to optimise their child's development.

02

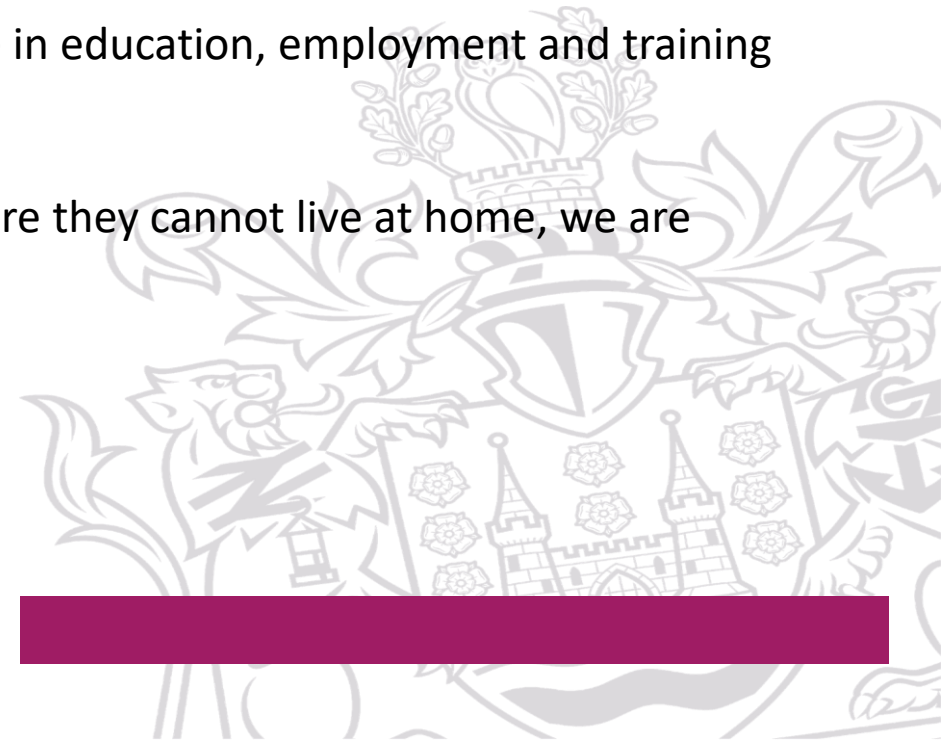
Our children enjoy good health and receive effective services as needed in order to optimise independence and the best health outcomes.

03

Our children are well prepared for adulthood, access and engage in education, employment and training and contribute to their community positively.

04

Our children live safely and happily within their families and where they cannot live at home, we are good corporate parents.



Education & Skills Strategy

- **Vision:** Equitable and inclusive lifelong learning that empowers people to fulfil their potential and thrive in life and work.
- **5 priorities which span the lifelong learning journey:** Best Start, Accelerating Achievement, New Model Post 16 Education, New skills and pathways to fulfilling life and work, Equitable and inclusive learning.
- **Transformative blueprint to supercharge delivery of the priorities:** Talent and Innovation Ecosystem model.

Key achievements so far (not exhaustive):

- In partnership with Remake Learning Pittsburgh, developed a new approach to informal learning opportunities; as a UK-first, Doncaster's inaugural Remake Learning Days festival engaged 10k residents in 260+ learning events over 10 days, hosted by over 80 different providers.
- In partnership with Rethinking Assessment, developing a bespoke Doncaster Skills Profile, linked to three key sectors – Manufacturing & Engineering, Health & Care, Creative & Digital. Rolling out a CPD programme with approx. 15 learning providers to support with the development of a prototype profile and learning model by Sept 2024.
- Sustained improvement across all phases and stages for the past 7 years and the we are closing the gap.
- Phase 1 of a new University City proposition completed. Proactive response to the closure of NCATI – we have a prospective partner for the site that will stay true to its original purpose - deeply rooted in skills, training and learning, and have positive economic benefits for the borough.
- Convening a range of stakeholders to develop an ecosystem-wide recruitment and retention programme; have started to deliver a Teacher Externships programme.
- Improving teacher CPD and promoting teacher wellbeing. Support educational settings through high support and challenge. Majority of school now good or better.
- Joining up a range of existing CIAG provision to ensure there is a joined up, all-age offer with a single front door; Invested in a dedicated SEND Enterprise Coordinator, and an additional ESOL tutor and recruitment advisor for refugees to recruit to the Multiply programme.

Equity & Inclusion

- Established a SEND employer forum; SEND careers event to take place in the Autumn
- Invested in an additional ESOL tutor for AFCL
- Invested in a recruitment advisor to engage refugees in the Multiply programme
- VEGA college
- Attendance and suspensions not where we want them to be but making steady progress.

SEND

- Introducing Inclusion Charter and Locality Inclusion forums to convene the local system.
- Improving the graduated approach to meeting need so that there is consistent identification, assessment and support.
- Ensuring that funding is attached to needs.
- Developing the capability of the workforce so that needs can be identified and met earlier.
- Improving planning for adult life, including employability.
- Developing a broader range of local provision so that needs can be met locally.
- Developing an integrated approach to assessment.
- Improving strategic planning between partners.

Social Care

- Support for Care Experienced Young people - following agreement that in Doncaster this is a protected characteristic
 1. how do we support young people in the community to better understand what being in care means - challenging discrimination
 2. ensuring there is equity and pathways to employment - access to apprenticeships and interviews
 3. ensuring access to accommodation - review of allocation for care leavers, letting policy and Guarantor scheme
- Invest in early interventions and therapeutic support – workshop planned to review the CAMHS and wellbeing support offered to care leavers
- Council tax exemption for care leavers – in place for all even if placed out of area to ensure equity
- Working collaboratively with young people to develop the service-Reviewing the support around preparation for independence through the voice of young people (quarterly question)
- Fewer number being looked after. Great improvement in educational outcomes for this cohort.

Early Intervention & Prevention

- Our vision is clear, in Doncaster we want Early Help to be a priority for all. For families, we want support to be available in their community and accessible, without difficulty or stigma, in a way that allows families to tell their story once and fosters trusting relationships between them and professionals.
- We are in the second year of our Early Help Strategy, with good progress made in year one. There are four priorities, which are listed below.
 - Priority 1 – Build Family Resilience and Trust in the System
 - Priority 2 – Strengthen Local Community Services and Support Networks
 - Priority 3 – Cohesive, Consistent and Collaborative Leadership across the Partnership
 - Priority 4 – Support professionals across all services to maximise their impact

What is going Well

- We have high numbers accessing early help
- Outcomes and impact for children and their families – we measure this and families tell us
- Our offer is diverse, innovative, strong, connected and mature

Areas for Development

- Bring the partnership back to early pandemic levels - number of lead professionals
- Pilot Family Help model



Partnerships

- The Youth Council are running a campaign #MoreThanJustAHeadline about the cost of living campaign and are already making an impact, i.e. Yellow Box Project, which has free emergency personal hygiene products.
- A priority within the refreshed Children's mental health strategy is to continue to make access to mental health support easier for the BAME community, already seen green shoots with our Kooth online offer.
- Your Family Teams are now well established providing early help often in the most deprived areas.
- Aspire Parenting Support Programme, working with families where there are adult substance misuse issues.
- Domestic Abuse navigators working with families to provide support.

Recommendations to the Commission

- Support the Youth Council campaigns.
- Support the partnership commitment to provide support as early as possible to children and families.
- Support the broad principle of shifting the focus towards a *lifelong learning ecosystem* model which is responsive to the needs of the local (and national) economy; recommend that SYMCA reflect this approach as they develop their forthcoming Sub-Regional Skills Strategy.
- Support the mental health and wellbeing offer to young people 16+
- Support creating opportunities for care experienced people to succeed
- Support the principles and strategic intent of the SEND Strategy to develop more effective responses at an earlier point.
- Support the development of Locality Inclusion Charters and a theory of change for all providers, agencies and businesses. Setting out how all parties will commit to improving the lives of children and young people who require additional support and will take responsibility for improving relational practice.
- Support the strengthening of young carers voice.