

## **Doncaster Education and Skills Commission**

### **General Briefing & Key Lines of Enquiry**

#### **Background**

Doncaster's economy is changing – significant investment is taking place in this part of South Yorkshire and this will offer different and new job opportunities for the people of the borough. A new sort of economy is developing in which creating ideas and generating enterprise is becoming increasingly important. The Commission's role is to determine how Doncaster's residents can best be prepared to benefit from these developments as well as for the significant social, technological and environmental changes that accompany them.

#### **The role of the independent Commission**

Team Doncaster decided to invite a small group of independent national experts to assess what can be done to ensure the whole education and employment system – schools, colleges, independent private training providers, charities, social enterprises, universities as well as the landscape of informal learning opportunities across the community - can best equip Doncaster's residents and businesses for changing times. The Commission will assess the existing system and its fitness for purpose, identify barriers to growth, outline how existing local assets can be built on and make recommendations for actions to be taken by a range of stakeholders.

#### **The Commission's members**

The independent commission is chaired by Dr Ann Limb CBE DL who is currently Chair of the Scouts Association and the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and is a national leading expert on further education and skills.

The Vice Chair is Professor Sir Tim Brighouse, one of the country's leading educationalists who recently led the London Challenge which has delivered huge improvements in the capital's secondary school performance.

Ann and Tim are supported by 3 specialist Commissioners. Professor Keri Facer of Bristol University, Amali de Alwis of Code First Girls and Nigel Brewster of Brewster Pratrapp Recruitment Group.

#### **Timeline**

The Commission formed in late February 2016, begin its initial scoping with a first full meeting in Doncaster on 10 March 2016 and will submit a final report to Team Doncaster on 14 September 2016.

#### **The Commission's approach**

The Commission will

- ☐ focus on Doncaster's assets and how these link to new opportunities
- ☐ look to build upon Doncaster's ambitions and aspirations
- ☐ listen to a wide and diverse variety of stakeholders
- ☐ be pragmatic in its recommendations
- ☐ seek to leave the people of Doncaster with a way forward that can be turned into an action plan that will be successful

## **Engagement**

The Commission will take evidence from a wide range of stakeholders who contribute to the education, employment and learning landscape of the borough and to the development of Doncaster's residents' skills and capabilities. Engagement will take place through face to face meetings, open workshops and online consultation requesting the submission of written evidence.

## **Key Lines of Enquiry**

The Commission has determined the following the seven lines of enquiry:

1. What role does your organisation/do you play and what role might it/you play in future in the wider educational and employment landscape in Doncaster?
2. What are Doncaster's strengths in relation to supporting Doncaster residents to prepare for a new economy? Can you think of particular examples of great initiatives or activities that are working well and could be encouraged?
3. How would you want to make the broader educational system stronger? What would you want to develop?
4. What support or systems or activities are needed to help make that happen?
5. What are we up against? If there's one obstacle you can change, what would it be, particularly in education and skills?
6. What do you see as the future opportunities and challenges Doncaster is facing? What are we going to need to be able to respond to those?
7. What should all Doncaster's children experience by the time they are 18 so that they can cope with all these opportunities and challenges?

## **Evidence Gathering Process**

### **Recording of discussions**

To help the Commissioners focus on the conversation, the discussion with you will be recorded digitally or by a note taker. Any audio recordings and notes will only be heard/viewed by the Commission and their administrative support team. If you would like to see a copy of the notes from the meeting, please let us know at the beginning of the interview.

### **Anonymity and confidentiality**

We will update the list of everyone we have spoken with on the Commission website on a fortnightly basis and your name will be listed in the final report. We might like to take a photograph with you or of the venue for our social media when we meet. We will not attribute any quotes directly to individuals. If we decide to include a specific example of activity from our conversation in the report, we will contact you to check the wording we are using is accurate.

## **Publication of the Commission's report**

The final report will be available publicly on the Commission website in mid-September 2016. We expect that Team Doncaster will, shortly after this, publish their responses to the Commission's recommendations.