

Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2024-2025



Doncaster
Delivering Together



Foreword

As Chair of the Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board, I am delighted to present our annual report for 2024-2025. This year we have taken time to look at the data and gather views to be able to produce a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy. With support from the Local Government Association, we have also worked on the best way to work together to address the challenges to health that we face in Doncaster.

At the heart of our approach, we aim to create the conditions that will allow our residents to live healthy and happy lives. We understand that some of our residents experience poorer health than others; consequently, this strategy will prioritise measures that address their needs. By focusing on the wider determinants of health, we aim to create a more equitable and supportive environment for all residents.

The Health and Wellbeing Board help local partners to work better together to make a positive impact on the health and well-being of our communities.

I would like to thank our former chairs Rachael Blake and Nigel Ball for all their support, guidance and input to the Health and Wellbeing Board throughout their tenures.

Thank you to Clare Henry and Saima Nazir-Desforges for their role in developing the Board.



Councillor James Church
Chair of Doncaster Health and
Wellbeing Board



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Celebrating the New Strategy

In September 2024, the Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030 was approved. This strategy is built on the vision of creating **"A compassionate city where collectively everyone is supported to add life to years and years to life "** and focuses on three key areas:

1. Improving the experience of ageing
2. Closing the gap in women's and child health
3. Creating healthy places to live, grow, and play

The strategy was developed through extensive consultation with residents, stakeholders, and colleagues, ensuring that it reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.



Role of Health and Wellbeing Boards

Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) continue to fulfil their statutory role, as defined by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and associated guidance, despite recent changes within the NHS and the publication of the 10 Year Health Plan “Fit for the Future”.

Their key responsibilities remain:

- Publishing a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Evaluating the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population.
- Developing a Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS): Setting out strategic priorities to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities.
- Producing a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA): Reviewing local pharmaceutical service provision every three years.

As further details emerge in response to the NHS Long-Term Plan, HWBs will continue to adapt and respond, ensuring their work remains aligned with national policy developments and local priorities.

For Doncaster, the purpose of the Board is to improve the health and wellbeing for the residents of the City of Doncaster and to reduce inequalities in outcomes. They provide a forum where political, clinical, professional and community leaders from across the care and health system come together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and look to reduce health inequalities. They continue to identify further opportunities to shape and influence the wider system to drive long-lasting improvements to population health and wellbeing.

Nigel Ball, former chair and cabinet member for Public Health, Communities, Leisure, and Culture

Lani Mae Ball, former cabinet member for Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People

Sarah Smith, former cabinet member for Adult Social Care

2024 - 2025 Membership

Cllr James Church (Chair), portfolio holder
Neighbourhoods, Planning and Public Health

Anthony Fitzgerald (Vice-chair), Executive Place
Director, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
(ICB)

Cllr Sue Farmer, portfolio holder for Children, Young
People and Families.

Cllr David Nevett, portfolio holder for Adults,
Wellbeing and Culture

Cllr Nick Pritchard, Reform UK representative

Cllr Cynthia Ransome, Conservative Group
Representative

Racheal Leslie, Director of Public Health, City of
Doncaster Council

James Woods, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice
Doncaster Borough

Peter Thorp, Chief Superintendent, Doncaster District
Commander, South Yorkshire Police

Toni Illman, Chief Funding & Information Officer,
Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust

Nick Abbott, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

Dr Nabeel Alsindi, GP and Place Medical Director, NHS
South Yorkshire ICB

Phil Holmes, Director of Adults, Wellbeing & Culture,
City of Doncaster Council

Fran Joel, Chief Operating Officer, Healthwatch
Doncaster

Toby Lewis, Chief Executive, RDaSH

Riana Nelson, Director of Children, Young People &
Families, City of Doncaster Council

Chris Margrave, Chief Executive, St Leger Homes of
Doncaster

Richard Parker, Chief Executive of Doncaster and
Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Lucy Robertshaw, Health and Social Care Forum
Representative

Dan Swaine, Director of Place, City of Doncaster
Council

Kelly Hicks, VCFS Great 8 Rep for 'Building
opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives'

Laura Sherburn, Chief Executive, Primary Care
Doncaster

Areas of Focus Development Sessions

Throughout the year, the Health and Wellbeing Board has met regularly to discuss the implementation of our strategy. These sessions included data, insight and evidence from residents, colleagues and organisations. A set of commitments for leaders to act upon were then developed.



Areas of Focus

Improving the Experience of Ageing:

Health and Wellbeing Board discussed challenges and opportunities in supporting older people. Clinicians shared insights on hospital care, while discussions highlighted the importance of an age-friendly approach that listens to residents. NHS organisations were committed to strategic changes for better preventative care, and the benefits of community-based support and evidence-driven solutions were explored.



Improving the Experience of Ageing: Age Friendly

City of Doncaster Council launched an 'Age Friendly' survey via the Doncaster Talks platform to gather insights from older adults about how age-friendly they perceive the borough to be.

The initiative aimed to ensure that the voices of older residents were heard and considered in shaping services and environments that support healthy and fulfilling ageing.

The survey received an impressive 1,038 responses, reflecting strong engagement from the community. A dedicated team undertook a thorough analysis of the data, identifying key themes and concerns that matter most to older adults in Doncaster.

These findings were compiled into a comprehensive Baseline Assessment, which now serves as a foundational document for future planning and decision-making.

To enhance accessibility and usability, the survey results were transformed into an interactive dashboard.

This tool enables stakeholders to explore the data in a way that aligns with their specific interests or workstreams (for example, housing, transport, or health).

The dashboard's layered functionality allows for deeper insights and supports evidence-based decision-making across sectors.

Building on the survey's success, the next phase involves the creation of an Ageing Well Network. This network will be centred around a forum of older adults who will play an active role in influencing and validating decisions and initiatives that affect them.

The network will include:

- In-person forums and workshops
- Opportunities to participate in online surveys and questionnaires
- A commitment to accessibility and inclusivity

The overarching aim is to ensure that older adults in Doncaster have a meaningful voice in shaping the services and environments that impact their lives, fostering a truly age-friendly community.

"Age friendly work creates communities that people can age well and live a good later life, continue living in their homes, participate in the activities they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible."

Areas of Focus

Closing the Gap in Women's and Child Health:

This session explored why women in Doncaster experience poor health outcomes and how poverty and childhood adversity contribute to these inequalities. It highlighted real-life stories from support services that help women, children, and families, showing the positive impact, they can have. The board welcomes a focus on taking a whole-person approach to care and the benefits of guidance and peer support for those facing extra challenges.



Closing the Gap in Women's and Child Health

Case Study - Understanding the Health of Women in Doncaster

In 2022, HM Government published the first comprehensive Women's Health Strategy, marking a significant step in recognising and addressing the specific health needs of women and girls.

Over the previous year, Doncaster's Public Health team initiated a review of local data to better understand the health and well-being of women and girls. This work aimed to identify local needs, gather insight, and support informed conversations with partners to shape future services.

To support this, a working group was formed, bringing together public health practitioners and an embedded researcher from the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDCRC). The group collated data from a range of sources to build a clearer picture of women's health in Doncaster.

According to the 2021 Census, women and girls make up 50.4% of Doncaster's population—around 155,571 individuals.

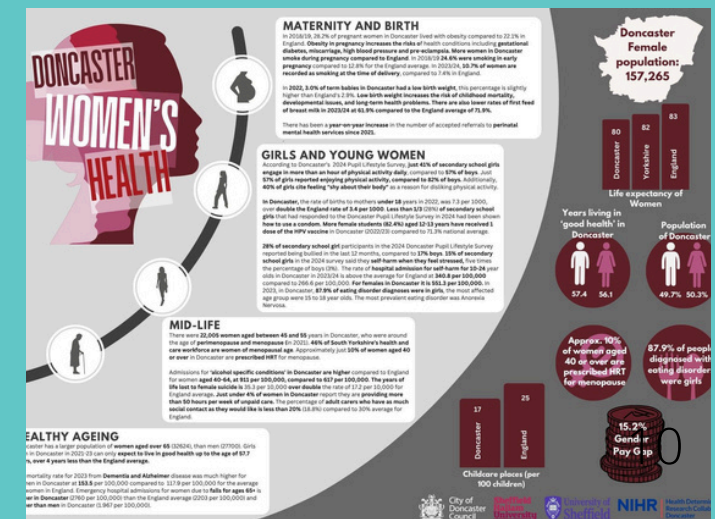
The data demonstrates significant challenges to the health and wellbeing of women and girls in Doncaster across the social determinants of health such as employment, caring responsibilities, income and housing alongside indicators of population level issues of ill-health, disability, long term illness and life expectancy.

Between 2016-2020, female life expectancy in Doncaster varied by ward, with a difference of 6.8 years. Roman Ridge had the highest life expectancy at 84.9 years, while Adwick le Street and Carcroft had the lowest at 78.1 years. The national average for England during this period was 83.2 years.

An infographic has been developed to bring together local and national data, supporting future discussions and priority setting.

Key learning points:

- Fragmented data about women's health across organisations.
- Limited access to gender-disaggregated data, and in particular the intersection with other protected characteristics.
- The need to better understand the diverse experiences of women and girls.
- Further engagement with health inclusion groups is essential to identify priority issues.



Areas of Focus

Creating Healthy Places to Live, Grow, and Play:

Health and Wellbeing Board members met to discuss key issues affecting health for Doncaster, including the high levels of preventable disease and how business practices impact positively or negatively on these health inequalities. They explored the role of urban planning in building healthier communities and improving healthcare services. The link between employment and health was highlighted, with a focus on fair pay and job opportunities. Additionally, they reviewed Doncaster's Food Plan, which involves residents and organisations in creating a healthier, more sustainable food system.



Creating Healthy Places to Live, Grow, and Play

Case Study - Food Plan

Around 1600 Doncaster residents were consulted on development of the Food Plan between May – August 2024.

An online survey was completed by 1400 residents, face-to-face 'pop-ups' were held at various community venues and events, and targeted workshops ran at a local primary school and many local community groups.

Residents were asked questions regarding their food-related priorities, current barriers to eating well, and views on what an ideal food system in Doncaster would look like.

Responses were evaluated and themed alongside other local data, identifying reoccurring topics and priority areas. From this we held two workshops with ~40 stakeholders to agree key aims and objectives of the Food Plan and identify overarching actions for each objective.

The five key aims of the Food Plan are to: Build residents' food related knowledge and skills; strengthen Food Ladders to address food insecurity; create a supportive food environment; tackle food waste and surplus food; and to support and promote locally produced food.

The Food Plan was finalised in February 2025, accompanied by a 'live' action log. A council steering group and the Doncaster Food Network will be used to progress the existing actions and identify new actions.

Actions that have been completed or are currently in progress

- Impact of commercial determinants of health on food-related behaviours through development of a new Council Advertising and Sponsorship Policy
- Increasing local food growing capacity and fruit and vegetable access via 'Grow Your Own' grants and tomato growing in 33 primary schools.
- Consultation with parents and schools on the current school meal provision
- Helped shape the 2024-2025 'Food for Thought' Moonshot Grant programme, which has included cultural cookery classes, creation of a community cookbook and food growing activities for families.



Ways of Working

Using the work of Doncaster's Fairness and Wellbeing Commission, the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed a set of guiding principles that shape the way we approach the areas of focus:

Recognise that multiple factors, such as age, ethnicity, economic status, and health, intersect to create unique challenges for residents and focus on addressing **intersectional** issues comprehensively.

Build trust and community participation by being **community centred and asset-based**, starting with the strengths and trust in Doncaster's communities. Identifying opportunities to redistribute power in decision making by empowering deprived communities and marginalised groups by building from a foundation of inclusion and voice.

Take an approach which enables and supports the concept of '**Health Equity in all Policies**', building on what has been achieved since 2016. Moving from addressing health outcomes in policies and decision making to considering health equity and in what ways are different populations impacted.

Be underpinned by **research, data and evidence** supported by Doncaster's Health Determinants Research Collaborative ([HDRC](#)). HDRC Doncaster is a collaboration between City of Doncaster Council, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University and represents significant investment to grow our capacity to do and use research. The HDRC team includes several embedded researchers with complementary experience, knowledge and expertise.

Our **compassionate approach** involves ensuring that everybody in Doncaster is fully able to pursue their own health goals and are fully supported to do so by society, without judgement or assumptions. Good health and wellbeing is not just the result of the decisions we make as individuals, but are hugely affected by the social environment we live in. Compassion is at the heart of how we move together towards a healthier society for future generations.

Sponsors

To drive progress in our areas of focus, we have designated sponsors who provide strategic oversight and accountability. These sponsors lead development sessions, collaborate on plan development, and report on progress. Their dedication ensures that our strategy remains aligned with our principles and goals.

Strategic Oversight:

Sponsors act as primary points of contact, ensuring accountability and progress across identified areas of focus.

Board Development Sessions: Sponsors lead sessions to outline context, identify future needs, and facilitate discussions.

Plan Development:

Collaborating with the board to create recommendations, identify milestones, and provide strategic input.

Progress Reporting:

Sponsors receive updates, review reports, and present progress to the board.

The designated sponsors for each area of focus are:

Improving the Experience of Ageing:

Phil Holmes, Director of Adults, Wellbeing & Culture, City of Doncaster Council

Toby Lewis, Chief Executive, RDaSH

Lucy Robertshaw, Health and Social Care Forum Representative

Closing the Gap in Women's and Child Health:

Dr Nabeel Alsindi, GP and Place Medical Director, NHS South Yorkshire ICB

Toni Illman, Chief Funding & Information Officer, DCLT

Riana Nelson, Director of Children, Young People & Families, City of Doncaster Council

Creating Healthy Places:

Rachael Leslie, Director of Public Health, City of Doncaster Council

Dan Swaine, Director of Place, City of Doncaster Council

James Woods, Chief Executive of CADB

Local Government Association Development Session

In December 2024, we had a development session led by the Local Government Association. This session was the result of over a year of support, including interviews with members of the board and observing meetings. It was important for checking our progress, improving our priorities, and making sure our strategy works well. The discussions and activities during this session have made our approach stronger and show our commitment to improving health and wellbeing in Doncaster.

It was observed that there was common language and shared priorities among the participants with evidence of distributed leadership and shared responsibilities across the represented organisations. It was noted that the board's successes over the past 18 months in developing its approach was attributed to the decision to resource the board adequately in terms of capacity and capabilities.

The LGA concluded that the Health and Well-being Board is now ready to operationalise its ambitions and recommendations. This includes further developing relationships among health and well-being boards, adhering to the methodology, and realising the board's strategy.

Achievements and Progress:

The session highlighted significant strides made over the past 18 months, including the successful development of a strategy rooted in the voices of Doncaster residents.

Challenges and Solutions:

Discussions focused on operationalising the strategy, maintaining relationships, and addressing capacity issues.

Next Steps:

Recommendations were made to embed the strategy across organisations and ensure traction throughout.

“Doncaster's Health and Well-being Board was in a strong position, engaging in sophisticated conversations with broad representation from various organisations.”

Minority Health Action Plan

The Minority Health Action Plan has been produced to help to improve the health of minority communities in Doncaster. It is based on a robust health needs assessment report and its recommendations. The action plan supports the Health and Wellbeing Board's ways of working, recognising intersectionality, building trust and community participation, and ensuring a health equity in all policy approach.

Health Protection Assurance Report

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) received the Annual Health Protection Assurance Report for Doncaster from the Health Protection Assurance Group. Over the past year, various partner agencies have worked hard to protect the health of Doncaster's residents. The HWB's role is to ensure that these health protection measures are in place, including infection prevention, vaccinations, screenings, and environmental conditions. This report is also sent to the Health and Adults Scrutiny Committee.

Partner Strategies, Plans and Services

The Minority Health Action plan adds further focus to tackling health inequalities of people from minority ethnic backgrounds and exists in a wider scheme of strategies, plans and services, including SY Maternity Equity and Equality Action Plan, RDaSH Clinical and Organisational Strategy, DBTH Tackling Health Inequalities, Changing Lives Healthy Living Project.



Looking to the year ahead 2025-2026

The Health and wellbeing board will:-

- Receive and approve Doncaster's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.
- Hold board meetings within community venues to discuss collaborative working on the three areas of focus and will include locations at Woodlands Library, Central Family Hub and The Hope Centre Stainforth.
- Provide strategic oversight and leadership in response to recent health system reforms, using its governance role to strengthen collaboration across Doncaster and the wider South Yorkshire system.
- Support the future implementation of England's 10-Year Health Plan (Fit for the Future), ensuring the national vision leads to real improvements in local health and wellbeing including shaping the development and delivery of Doncaster's Neighbourhood Health Plans.



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