

Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report

June 2024

The 3rd Annual
Report for the
Health and
Wellbeing Board



Doncaster
Delivering Together



Contents

- 2 Foreword
- 6 What was achieved 23-24
- 7 Understanding our population JSNA 2022-23
 - 7 Health Protection Update
 - 8 Health Determinant Research Collaboration
 - 9 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
 - 9 Child Death Overview Panel

Health and Wellbeing Across the life course

- 11 **Starting Well**
 - Mental Health Children and Young People Strategy
 - Oral health and dentistry
 - Breastfeeding
- 15 **Living Well**
 - Mental Health
 - Autism and Learning Disability
 - Homelessness
 - Carers
 - Harmful Gambling
 - Substance Misuse / Project 6
- 19 **Ageing Well**
 - Age friendly Doncaster
 - Dementia
- 20 **Ways of Working**
 - HWB Strategy
 - Doncaster Delivering Together
 - Get Doncaster Moving
 - Community Wealth Builder
 - Locality Commissioning
 - Arts and Health
 - Compassionate Approach
 - Heritage and Culture
 - Better Care Fund
 - Fairness and Wellbeing Commission
 - Economic Strategy
 - Health Inequalities
- 35 **Next Steps / Recommendations**

Foreword

Councillor Rachael Blake
Chair of Doncaster Health and Wellbeing board
Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care and Equalities



As chair of the Health and Wellbeing board I am delighted to introduce this 3rd annual report informing the public and all our partner organisations about the work that we have been doing throughout the year to improve the health and wellbeing of all our residents.

This year saw the completion of a first for Doncaster – a Fairness and Wellbeing commission where everyone living and working in Doncaster was invited to have their say on fairness and what needs to change in Doncaster. The Commission was expertly chaired by Dame Rosie Winterton MP who led a diverse group of people from all agencies in Doncaster to develop recommendations that would address the issues that had been gained from hearing directly from Doncaster residents. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to produce the recommendations and you have the Board's assurance that our hard work now begins to start the implementation of your recommendations.

The way the Board works has changed and at each meeting we are delighted to welcome people with lived experience to share their experiences about services along with recommendations that they would like the Board to act on. As we progress into 2024/2025 we expect that this involvement will increase which has improved the way we make decisions at the Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board is an open meeting and we encourage members of the public to attend and share their experiences and work with us to address your concerns and make health and wellbeing something that we all experience and for as long a time as possible.

Every year since 2017 when I became Chair, at the end of the year, I thank all our health, wellbeing and care organisations for the work they continue to do despite dealing with rising demand and less real resources to meet that demand. I am always amazed how organisations attend the Board and continually strive to improve – to be more effective, to be more efficient, to do more with less and to innovate – recognition that I think is sadly lacking from national discussions so I would like to say to all organisations in Doncaster working in the NHS, social care and the voluntary sector thank you for everything you do, your professionalism, your tenacity and your determination to improve health and wellbeing in Doncaster – we as a Board are very proud of the work you do.

Anthony Fitzgerald

Vice Chair of Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board
Executive Place Director- Doncaster



I am pleased to share this year's report which showcases our commitment and approach to improving the lives of residents, their families and our fantastic workforce. As vice chair of the Board, I continue to be proud of the shared achievements showcased within this report and to see how we have built on our commitments from last year's report. Over the last year we have rooted public voice into the Health and Wellbeing board continuing to increase opportunities for local people with lived experience of care and support to influence our approach and improve our services.

Reflecting on the past year and the year ahead, I am also realistic about the very real challenges we still face as a city. It has been a difficult year in many respects for health and care services still continuing to recover from the COVID pandemic and facing continued challenges brought by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The impacts of continued industrial action and pressures on financial funding envelopes have further contributed to a national reduction in patient satisfaction in NHS Services.

It is well documented that poverty and the effect it has on health is not new, but we can see the recent rise in deep poverty, cost-of-living increases and high pressure on NHS services are all worsening the problem and adding to the financial cost to the NHS. Last year one of the three key priorities agreed by Doncaster PLACE Committee was to increase awareness of health and care staff about the levels of poverty within Doncaster, the impact this has on the lives that people are living and their ability to access and connect with health and care services. We stay committed to this priority and have seen some excellent work get underway to help educate our workforce on poverty. We have seen partner's commitment to poverty proof services and plans that directly address poverty and health inequalities including through digital exclusion.

I was delighted to see our "4th Emergency Responder" Citizens Advice Bureau Doncaster launching their two year "Advice on Prescription" scheme across primary care and inpatient ward settings in all four Doncaster localities offering free vital financial advice to our residents that could significantly improve their standard of living and quality of life.

At the heart of our success has been our ongoing commitment to working in partnership, and this year we have taken the opportunity to refresh our shared priorities for the years to come. We will continue to strive for faster and simpler access to our health and care services, which continues to be raised as an ongoing problem for our residents. We must address the health and wellbeing gap currently in place for women and children in Doncaster, this includes improving oral health for our younger people. We also need to improve the experience of ageing across our city whilst always ensuring Doncaster is a healthy place to live, grow and play. You will see all of our partner organisations using these priorities to form plans for the future.

Finally, this year saw the continued work on the Fairness and Wellbeing commission. This has been an innovative and research driven approach to recommending improvements for residents across Doncaster. It is important we follow through on recommendations made in the final report. The Commission was the brainchild of Dr Rupert Suckling, who retired this year. I would like to end by thanking him for leaving us with a blueprint for kind and compassionate leadership in Doncaster and inspiring us through his unswerving drive and dedication to our Health and Wellbeing Board. Let the commission and the continued commitment to improved health and wellbeing in Doncaster be a suitable legacy for his work.

Acknowledgements

- Louise Robson
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- Calum Helman
- Andy Collins
- Vicky Beere
- Lucy Garnham
- Grace Bennett
- Marius Taba
- Whitley Smith
- Marie Rogerson
- Natasha Mercier

About the Health and Wellbeing Board

The membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2023-2024 was:

Name	Job Title	No. of Meetings Attended (out of 5)
Cllr Rachael Blake (Chair)	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care and Equalities	5
Anthony Fitzgerald (Vice Chair)	Executive Place Director, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)	5
Cllr Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Communities, Leisure, and Culture	5
Cllr Sarah Smith	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	4
Cllr Cynthia Ransome	Conservative Group Representative	3
Dr Rupert Suckling , Director of Public Health, City of Doncaster Council*		4 (s)
Toby Lewis , Chief Executive RDaSH ^		1
Fran Joel , Chief Operating Officer, Healthwatch Doncaster ^^		3
Karen Curran , Head of Co-Commissioning, NHS England (Yorkshire & Humber)**		0
Richard Parker , Chief Executive of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		5
Phil Holmes , Director of Adults, Wellbeing & Culture, City of Doncaster Council		5
Riana Nelson , Director of Children, Young People & Families, City of Doncaster Council		2 (s)
Ian Proffitt , District Commander for Doncaster, South Yorkshire Police		0
Ellie Gillatt , Group Manager, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue		0
Dan Swaine , Director of Place, City of Doncaster Council		0
Dave Richmond , Chief Executive, St Leger Homes		3 (s)
Laura Sherburn , Chief Executive, Primary Care Doncaster		2
Lucy Robertshaw , Health and Social Care Forum Representative		2
Cath Witherington , Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Doncaster***		0
Dr Nabeel Alsindi , GP and Place Medical Director, NHS South Yorkshire ICB		3

The attendance figures shown in the table are for the five Board meetings held during the period June 2023 to March 2024 inclusive.

Key

*Retired in Jan 2024

^New post holder joined the Board in August 2023

^^Joined the Board in November 2023

**Left the Board in November 2023

***Left the Board in November 2023

(s) This member has sent a substitute for at least one meeting.

Note – Board Members can nominate substitutes from their respective organisations to attend in their absence, so in some instances the figures in the table may include attendance by substitutes – indicated by '(s)'. Details of substitutes attending meetings are recorded in the formal minutes of the Board meetings, which can be viewed on the Council's website.

What was achieved in 2023-2024

PLAN: To continue to embed and address health inequalities in the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and the Fairness and Wellbeing commission through training/workshops/events and meetings

ACTION: This work is ongoing with key organisations whom have now committed to improving the training offer across workforces across place. DBTHFT are leading the way with a package which it is hoped will be replicated in other key organisations. The health inequalities section later in the report will share other good practice that is being developed.

PLAN: Create and embed the public voice into the board through lived experience.

ACTION: This is already embedded into board agendas and has been working effectively and received well so far, with examples from the Learning Disability Partnership, the deaf society, the Dementia Collaborative and young people (Shaping Stainforth).

PLAN: Develop and strengthen links and relationships with the voluntary sector and new health structures and systems.

ACTION: This is ongoing. New members are now part of the Health and Wellbeing board including DCLT. Lived experience has been shared on various topics from a number of voluntary sector organisations including the deaf society, CHAD, the Dementia Collaborative and others.

PLAN: Continue to develop and build on the community centred approaches including Well Doncaster, GDM and the compassionate approach to weight and wellbeing through targeted approaches and locality working.

ACTION: This is ongoing and will be discussed later in the report in our 'Ways of Working' section (from page 20).

PLAN: Refresh the Doncaster HWB strategy in line with other strategies including the Integrated Care Partnership strategy/joint forward plan and other related existing strategies.

ACTION: This work has commenced and is ongoing. A development session was held with board members in February 2024 and work has now started refreshing the Health and Wellbeing strategy.



Understanding the Doncaster Population

JSNA 2023-24

The JSNA delivery plan for 2023-24 followed the model agreed and followed for several years. The plan included discreet work packages to be delivered over the course of the year;

- Health Well Board Outcomes Report
- Life Expectancy
- Registrar Workload
- Key Messages: Census 2021
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity (BAME) Needs Assessment
- Childhood Obesity
- Substance Misuse (Combatting Drugs Partnership)
- Stronger Families Evaluation

The Data Observatory section of the 'Team Doncaster' website, is updated periodically with new information and completed reports based upon the JSNA workplan as well as other analysis taking place of interest.

Work to finalise the 2024-25 workplan is taking place and will dictate the work taking place over the next 12 months. The likely focus will include a supporting set of products based around local communities and our Locality working model, flows through the health and care system, information related to protected characteristics and analysis linked specifically to the priorities set out in a new Health and Well-being Strategy

The Stronger Families Programme continues as a key programme of work that draws from a range of information about families across organisation in the partnership and we will continue to use this as a means to test and evolve our data sharing and analytics for Doncaster.

Health Protection Update

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of the wider challenges of health protection that have not gone away; in fact, some of them have shown evidence of an increase in incident rates of infections. Examples of these include an increase incidents, clusters or outbreak of measles, tuberculosis (TB), syphilis, gonorrhoea, diarrhoea and vomiting, etc.

Thanks to the good governance system in place in Doncaster, built on strong partnership working, the health protection challenges have been identified and managed. Doncaster Health Protection Assurance Group brings together various stakeholders, including NHS partners, Local Authority, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) among others on a quarterly basis. The Group is Chaired by Dr Victor Joseph, Consultant

in Public Health, City of Doncaster Council. There are other sub-structures in place undertaking both proactive/preventive work and reactive work as appropriate to protect the health of the people of Doncaster. The scope of health protection includes Emergency preparedness, resilience and response; infection prevention and control; air quality; sexual health; substance misuse; and immunisation and screening programmes. A quarterly update report on health protection is provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board, while an annual report goes to the Health and Social Care Overview and the Scrutiny Committee.

As measles cases are starting to increase in Doncaster, this update will focus on the status of vaccination coverage of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination in Doncaster and what is being done to improve the vaccination uptake.

Childhood Immunisations:

The Public Health Programmes Team (NHS England) review practice-level data regularly, along with vaccination waiting lists for practices, with action plans developed where required to facilitate timely access and delivery. The efficiency standard for these programmes is 90%, the optimal standard (required to ensure herd immunity – protection of the population) is 95%. See summary below for Doncaster (taken from National COVER data):

Vaccine Programme	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24
MMR1 (24 months)	90.4%	89.5%	89.4%	90.4%
MMR1 (5 years)	93.0%	91.7%	93.5%	93.0%
MMR2 (5 years of age)	84.5%	83.9%	81.9%	83.2%
Infant vaccines (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Hib/ MenC and Hep B)	94.0%	93.7%	93.4%	94.1%
Pre-school Booster (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio)	83.7%	82.8%	80.3%	82.4%

The NHS England Public Health Programme Team are continuing to work with practices, the Local Authority Public Health Team, and Child Health Information Services to identify barriers to vaccination and address high waiting/unvaccinated lists, including reviewing reasons why parents don't attend/bring their child, capacity, access, clinic management/appointing,

communication to parents, number of children contacted.

MMR remains a national, regional and place priority. A two-phase national catch-up campaign was launched in November 2023, phase 1 targeting 1- to 5-year-olds with incomplete vaccination record and phase 2 which commenced in January/February 2024, targeting 6- to 11-year-olds, with a national call/recall letter. Whilst this is predominantly a primary care campaign, NHS England Public Health Team, the Local Authority Public Health Team, and school aged immunisation provider are working collaboratively to increase access and uptake of MMR vaccination.

For further information and guidance on Measles, please visit:

- [Think Measles! Vaccination rates have fallen, and cases of measles are increasing in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/think-measles-vaccination-rates-have-fallen-and-cases-of-measles-are-increasing-in-england)
- [National measles guidelines April 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/national-measles-guidelines-april-2024)

Health Determinants Research Collaboration

Research and the Health and Wellbeing Board

During 2023/24 we have established the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) delivery team, including 8 embedded researchers, along with our partners at the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University.

In January 2024, the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to champion evidence informed and evidence supported decision making, and to ensure the Health and Wellbeing strategy for Doncaster is evidence informed. At this meeting, the HDRC team also updated on the progress made throughout 2023/24, including:

- Public Involvement and Community Engagement (PICE) – our core approach of developing and enhancing PICE at place with Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Foundation Trust and the Grounded Research Community Research Hub.
- Started the development of our research priorities (what we want to research in and for Doncaster) and the development of our research approaches (how we go about research in Doncaster) and embedding ongoing consensus work and engagement with partners, voluntary and community organisations and local communities.

- Supported the approaches, work and dissemination of the Doncaster Fairness and Wellbeing Commission.
- 30 live and completed HDRC projects that are looking at health inequalities and the wider determinants of health in Doncaster.
- Been a part of 9 successful collaboration research funding bids, bringing opportunities to Doncaster such as a [Creative Health project led by Sheffield Hallam University](#) colleagues.
- Delivered our inaugural HDRC annual conference, bringing together around 100 colleagues from across Doncaster to celebrate progress, local research and to deliver a range of skill development sessions.
- Continuing work across Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust and City of Doncaster Council on the Born and Bred in Doncaster project which continues to go from strength to strength and our midwives have now recruited over 2,000 participants.

To find out more about the HDRC, our team, principles and ways of working by visiting [Health Determinants Research Collaboration \(HDRC\) webpage](#) or email HDRCDoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk.



Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

The pharmaceutical needs assessment (2022-25) was completed and published on the City of Doncaster website in October 2022. A refresh of the PNA is due to be published on 1st October 2025 in line with current guidance and regulations. The board continues to receive supplementary updates which are updated on the website and the work will commence for the next PNA from October 2024.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The death of a child is a devastating loss. Each Local Authority and their partners have a process to

immediately respond to every child death. Additionally, all deaths of children up to the age of 18 years, are reviewed by a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). The CDOP review process requires panels to identify if there are any modifiable factors in relation to each death. The purpose of this is to enable agencies to learn lessons, improve practice and ultimately prevent further deaths. Across South Yorkshire, individual Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) review processes continue to cover each local authority area. A South Yorkshire CDOP provides a forum for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield to combine data and provide an improved opportunity to identify themes, trends and shared learning at local level. An annual report from South Yorkshire CDOP is presented annually for the Health and Wellbeing board, safe sleep and equalities were a focus of the 2022/23 annual report.

Starting Well



Starting Well

Starting Well Overview

This year's focus has been on a joint approach to commissioning services across health and social care.

In September we published the Special Educational Needs & Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy setting out our partnership joint commissioning vision and ambition for the next 3 years aligned to the data from the SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The strategy is published on the Council's Local Offer. The joint commissioning priorities within the strategy are linked to the outcomes in the SEND strategy and will be monitored through the SEND Board and reviewed by the Joint Commissioning Resource Group.

Young Carers remains an area of focus within the action plan and this year's actions have been to increase the number of young carers identified who have the opportunity of an appropriate assessment, including a transition assessment at key points in their life. This has seen a 42% increase in assessment throughout the year. There has also been a focus on increasing resilience from assessment stage onwards with a number of young carers reporting a positive increase in 'How you feel'. A number have remained the same due to the impact of difficult circumstances on the lives of young carers.

We have remained committed to the early intervention support offer for Children's Mental Health (Kooth) which saw 11514 new registrations during 2023/24 with over 500 chat sessions undertaken.

In Maternity services, our post-natal offer in partnership with Club Doncaster won the League Two community award and will now move into family hub locations from 2024/25 ensuring more joined up provisions at the heart of local communities.

We continue to work with our Health colleagues on improvements to our diagnostic pathways for Neurodiversity. During 2024/25 we intend to re-shape the assessment model to become much more community and early intervention focussed.

Work is ongoing on the development of new service specifications across Team Doncaster to ensure equity in the Children's Community Nursing and the Special Schools workstream. This continues to be an area of focus as we further define the offer aligned to the SEND strategy.

Locality leads are engaged with the Starting Well commissioners to discuss links between Starting Well Delivery Plans and the locality area plans to adopt a joint approach to exploring future funding opportunities and to reduce duplication across services.

Mental Health Children and Young People Strategy

In 2019, we embarked on a joint understanding of the Mental Health and Education support required by both schools but also the children and families of Doncaster.

With the publication of year two of the Doncaster Children and Young People Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy we continue on a three-year commitment for positive change within our borough.

Linked to their vision, the Doncaster Young Advisors also set out 9 key ambitions. These act as the foundation for all the priorities and actions set out within the strategy:

In year two:

- We have conducted a full review of the joint commissioning arrangements and implementation of the local Joint Commissioning Strategy. The SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy has been published and is part of the Local Offer.
- We have increased the number of young carers identified and who have the opportunity of an appropriate assessment including a transition assessment at key points in their life, 42% increase so far compared to last year. To support this further a Young Carers champion as a 'go to' person in all Doncaster schools has been implemented.
- We developed a dedicated mental health service offer, with all partners and families, around early years which draws on support offered through parenting programmes, health visiting, perinatal mental health services, and family hubs.
- We continued to extend the Children and Young People's Crisis Team provision to provide support 24/7, 7 days a week from November 2023.
- We launched the [Donny Dot website](#) in November 2023 outlining the support available for children and young people. This

encompasses support services for anxiety, stress, depression, ADHD & Autism, Eating Disorders, suicide prevention and more.

- We have worked collaboratively with our School estate to introduce a graduated response to SEMH (Social, emotional, and mental health) needs indicators, ensuring all schools and practitioners use the same language.
- We have extended the early intervention model (Kooth) into 2024/25.
- We opened four SEMH hubs across Doncaster to support pupils with their mental health needs. The increase in demand for special school places means that this project will have a positive impact on mainstream schools, which would otherwise have pupils requiring specialist provision.
- We have undertaken co-production workshops with our SEND parents to review our current provision, learning from lived experience and co-production over the summer of 2023. This has commenced a change to the current General Developmental Assessment/Autism Spectrum Disorder pathway that will be undertaken during 2024/25.
- We expanded the With Me In Mind (Mental Health Support in School Teams) to 13 secondary and 39 primary schools in Doncaster. We also secured national funding to further expand the With Me In Mind Team by another 8000 pupils in 2025, however work to engage with new schools has already begun.
- As a partnership we continue to monitor the presentations at A&E and in March 2024 commenced a deep dive into these cases.
- We have met response times for both urgent and emergency Eating Disorder referrals, these have consistently been met at 100% through the financial year to September 2023.

Oral health and Dentist Services

Tooth decay is almost entirely preventable, yet Doncaster experiences some of the highest levels of poor oral health in the country. By the age of 5, a third of children have tooth decay, with each of those children having around 4 teeth affected ([OHID, 2023](#)). Levels of tooth decay are higher amongst the more deprived and non-white ethnic groups. Furthermore, Doncaster has the second highest level of hospital tooth extractions related to tooth decay for 0-19 year olds nationally ([OHID, 2024](#)).

Efforts to improve oral health and reduce oral health inequalities have involved the combined efforts of LA-commissioned oral health improvement programmes and ICB-commissioned dental services. Prevention centres around: supporting people to reduce the amount and frequency of consumption of sugary foods

and drinks; increasing exposure to fluoride e.g. through toothbrushing with a fluoride toothpaste; and facilitating access to dental care for tailored advice and preventive treatments (e.g. fluoride varnish application).

There is an active LA-led oral health improvement group which enables partners to work together to raise awareness of the importance of good oral health for general health across the life course. Over the past year, the Children and Young People and Families Public Health Team has continued to provide the supervised toothbrushing scheme within schools and nurseries and has welcomed a number of new settings to the scheme. The council offers oral health and nutrition training, and there are links into the Healthy Learning Healthy Lives School accreditation programme, including lesson plans on oral health. The 0-5 service distributes oral health packs containing toothbrush, fluoride toothpaste, leaflets with key oral health messages and Tommee Tippee (free flow cup) through health visitors to every baby at their 6-8 week assessment. Health visitors also provide every child with an oral health pack at their 2-2.5 year assessment. There is equally a Doncaster oral health conversation guide for Early Days Workers, Health Visitors and nursery nurses to help them support families. Oral health packs have also been provided at a number of other settings for those at high risk of tooth decay including children and families attending DRI for hospital tooth extractions.

NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB) assumed responsibility for the commissioning of dental services across South Yorkshire from 1st April 2023. Access to dental services in Doncaster is recovering following the severely reduced access seen during the initial stages of the pandemic. There is significantly better access to NHS dental care than in England overall. However, despite this, there has been a need to prioritise access to those who are the most in need. The dental contract remains one of the biggest challenges to commissioning dental services differently. However, the flexible commissioning scheme has allowed 14 NHS dental practices in Doncaster to focus more on prevention. This has also enabled those working in health and social care in Doncaster to refer children who are at high risk of poor oral health who do not have a dentist to one of these dental practices, helping some of the most vulnerable children in Doncaster to receive much-needed dental care. As a result of partnership working, we have also set up a new dental service for those experiencing homelessness at the Flying Scotsman, using a model whereby homeless clients requiring dental care are identified by local homeless charities/organisations and chaperoned to attend their appointments. Access to dental services has also been boosted by a dental practice in Doncaster offering a number of urgent access sessions to enable both the immediate urgent needs and ongoing care of patients to be addressed. All these services have received positive feedback and continued funding in 2024/2025.

The ICB Board received an update on ongoing work (challenges, current position and developments) in

March 2024 and supported 3 key principles with regard to funding, commitment to more innovative ways for commissioning of services to build on the existing flexible commissioning approaches currently in place in Doncaster and supported the identified priorities for investment in 2024/25 in order to further improve access and reduce inequalities.

The [NHS Dental Recovery Plan](#) 'Faster, simpler and fairer: our plan to recover and reform NHS Dentistry' was published in February 2024 to support access to NHS dentistry and improve preventative care. The Plan has reinforced the ring-fencing of the ICB dental budget which will enable non-recurrent initiatives to be commissioned to improve access to dentistry whilst also piloting a range of new schemes in 2024/25. Furthermore, the SYB Acute Federation's paediatric innovator programme is also working with commissioners and providers to improve access to paediatric dental general anaesthetic (GA) services, and the SY ICB Child and Young People's alliance has an oral health connectors project working with teenagers in a few secondary schools in Doncaster to promote oral health messages amongst their peers.



Breastfeeding

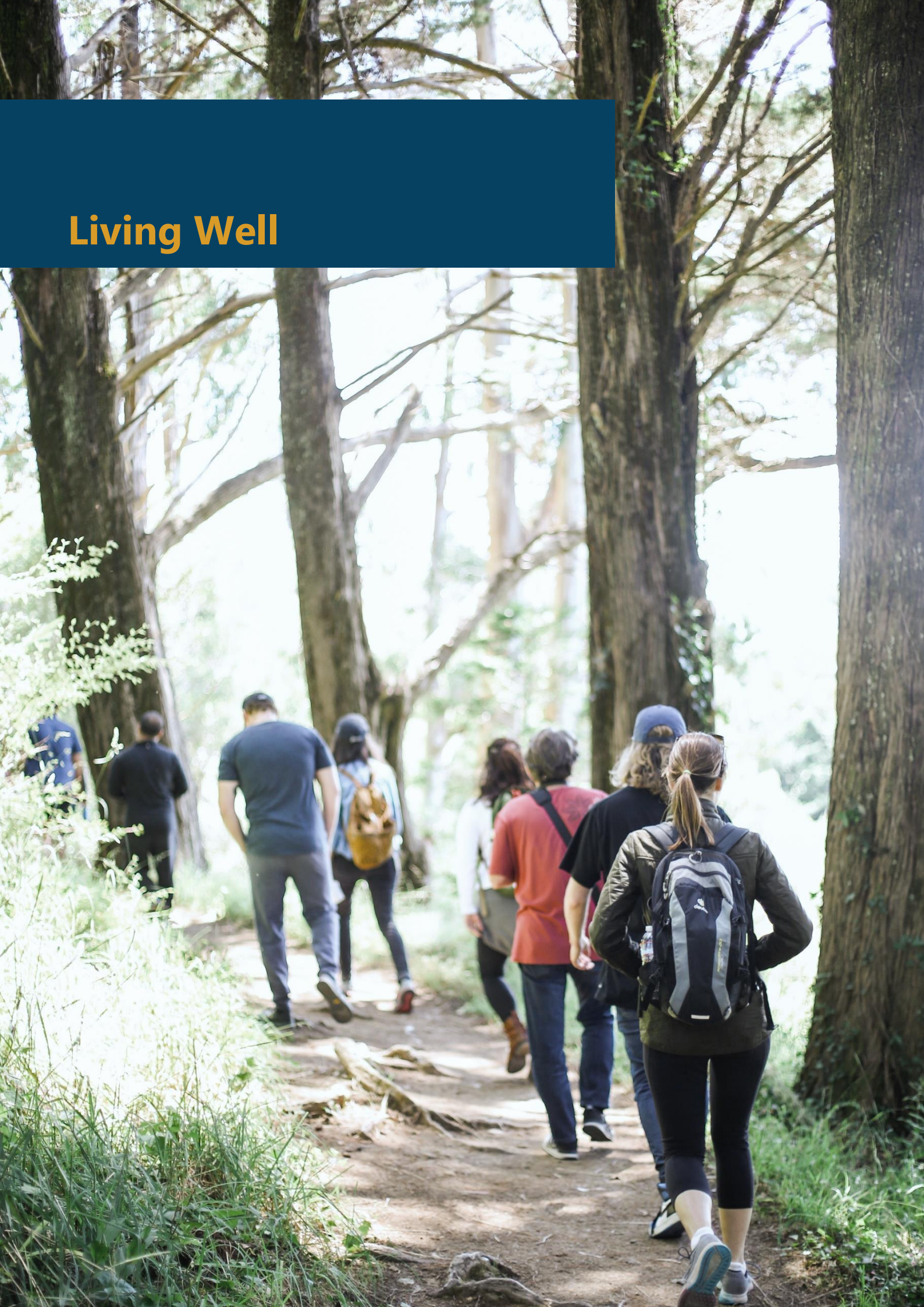
Efforts to support mums who wish to breastfeed have been ongoing across the City over the past year. Progress has been made in several areas, but most notably in the recruitment of a dedicated Infant Feeding coordinator to Family Hubs with support from Start for Life funding. With support from the Infant feeding coordinator and others, the Family Hubs achieved full UNICEF Baby Friendly accreditation in February 2024, a huge achievement and a positive step in ensuring breastfeeding is supported and protected in early years settings across Doncaster.

Family Hubs are also in the process of expanding the breast pump loan scheme currently offered by the Health Visiting service, and the Infant Feeding coordinator is leading on the development of a city-wide Infant Feeding strategy.

We Support Our Mum scheme is ongoing. Changes to staff have meant some delays in promoting the scheme wider but remains a priority in efforts to ensure mothers who choose to breastfeed their babies in public spaces are supported to do so in comfortable and welcoming environments.

CDC HR provided additional information for managers supporting staff members who are breastfeeding or expressing milk via the 'Supporting Employee Provisions' section of the staff intranet. Opportunity to fully implement a full breastfeeding at work policy for CDC remains. The Public Health team will continue to work with HR to support staff members who are breastfeeding or expressing milk and others in Doncaster who seek advice on implementing breastfeeding policy in their organisations.

Living Well



Mental Health

Over the past 3 years the NHS South Yorkshire ICB led the Mental Health Transformation Programme. The Programme aimed to support more people with mental health needs in and into the Community, with a particular focus on developing Primary Care Mental Health Support, the needs of people with higher level needs and greater access to community-based support for people with mental health needs.

The programme is now nearing its end and is currently being reviewed.

a. Crisis Alternative Services

A key area of focus in the Transformation Programme is the development of Crisis Alternative Services across Doncaster.

In 2023, a Commissioning partnership between NHS South Yorkshire ICB, Public Health and Adult Social Care repurchased The Crisis Alternative Alliance - 5 community-based services offering a range of counselling and support services aimed at providing accessible services to people who are in or at risk of mental health crisis. The third sector providers deliver services that support more people to access services they need, when, where and how they need them. The providers also work closely with RDASH and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals to coordinate and improve pathways of care for people with mental health needs. As an Alliance Agreement, the partners are now working collaboratively to develop their services together, to ensure that people accessing them can move seamlessly between the different services, with care and support provided that helps them manage their mental health earlier and reduce the need for using hospital care.

b. Mental Health Rehabilitation Pathways

The transformation of mental health rehabilitation and recovery pathways and services was also a focus of the Programme.

During 2023, a series of workshops were undertaken with key partners to understand the current pathways for people with severe mental health needs, towards greater independence in the community.

Work is now well underway to understand the key supported accommodation needs of people within the identified groups, to map current provision of services, and to identify gaps and opportunities to develop supported accommodation that will meet the needs of people with high level needs that is community based and closer to home.

Autism and Learning Disability

The Doncaster All Age Learning Disability and Autism strategy 2021-2024 was launched in April 2021, co-produced with people with

lived experience of Learning Disability and / or Autism, and Doncaster partners.

The Strategy and delivery programme has delivered improvements across the 5 key priority areas ranked as most important by people with lived experience:

- Pre and Post Diagnosis of Autism
- Education and Inclusion
- Employment
- Carers and Short Breaks
- Housing and Support

More recently the Preparation for Adulthood workstream has been set up, focussing on supporting the needs of young people as they enter adulthood.

As the Strategy and its delivery programme reach the end of the term, a review of the programme delivery is well underway, focussing on what people said mattered to them, what has been delivered, and the impact made. Our approach to the review has been co-produced with people with lived experience through the Learning Disability and Autism Partnership Boards, and with support from Inclusion North.

A programme of activity and a timeline for the review have been mapped throughout 2024, including self-assessments, workstream outputs, assessment of co-production and deep dive challenge sessions with the Partnership Boards. The information and outputs will be summarised into a final report, with recommendations made by the Boards for next steps and actions.

Homelessness

Homelessness work has continued to progress in delivering Doncaster's 23/24 Ending Rough Sleeping Plan (co-produced with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) including:

- Securing Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Single Homelessness Accommodation programme capital and revenue funding totalling £3m to deliver 18 units of dispersed supported accommodation in partnership with Target Housing and Homes England along with 3 full-time Making Every Adult Matter workers in the Complex Lives Team to provide wraparound support to tenants
- Securing mental health capacity in the Complex Lives Team to provide an enhanced offer funded through a combination of DLUHC Rough Sleeping Initiative funding and NHS

England/NHS Improvement, including a Mental Health Social Worker and Mental Health Clinician

- Introduction of a homelessness (lived experience) forum enabling the voice of lived experience to shape priorities and service delivery
- Commenced a thematic review into homelessness related deaths
- Commenced recommissioning of key homelessness and rough sleeping related services with a corporate commitment to funding longer-term contractual arrangements
- Enhanced rough sleeping prevention offer through the provision of a 14-day hotel offer for people at risk of rough sleeping regardless of homelessness duty status (recognised as good practice by DLUHC)
- Embedded monthly Strategic Homelessness Board providing director level strategic oversight of the homelessness and rough sleeping system
- Secured settled accommodation under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Project (ARAP), Homes for Ukraine, and Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) initiatives
- Developed partnerships and accommodation pathways around prison releases and hospital discharges
- Introduced 10 safe accommodation properties for people suffering domestic abuse along with funding two domestic abuse officers
- Introduced a "Making Homelessness Everyone's Business" approach to promoting 'duty to refer' across the Team Doncaster Partnership
- Work will continue to reduce the numbers rough sleeping in 24/25 through a refresh of Doncaster Ending Rough Sleeping Plan to deliver the Government's ongoing ambition to prevent rough sleeping where possible and, where it cannot be prevented, it is a rare, brief and non-recurring experience.



Carers

Doncaster Carers Journey 2024 report, endorsed at the City of Doncaster Council's Cabinet meeting last week, is a strategic document that reviews the previous year's achievements in carer support and outlines the objectives for the current year. It is a collaborative effort involving key stakeholders, including statutory and other organisations and most importantly, carers themselves, ensuring that they directly influence service improvements.

The report is structured around six themes chosen by the carers: Identification, Recognition, Information and Advice, Rights, Connection, Independence, and Wellbeing. These themes guide the report's content, which includes updates, carer experiences, and the actions taken in response to their input. The annual update process follows a "You said, We did" approach, highlighting the importance of co-production and responsiveness.

The vision presented in the report is for Doncaster's carers to have fulfilling lives with support from their communities. It not only reflects on past progress but also sets specific priorities for 2024, reaffirming the commitment of Doncaster's statutory bodies to enhance support for carers and encouraging all carers to contribute to the future direction of care services in Doncaster.

Harmful Gambling

The Doncaster Harmful Gambling and Financial Group continues to move this agenda forward. A challenge which will hopefully be resolved during this next year is to increase the number of people on the group with Lived Experience of harmful gambling to improve our knowledge of the kind of support that people have found useful.

This year, Public Health has worked alongside our regional colleagues to develop a brief intervention training package; it is envisaged this will be rolled out across the region during 2024 to front line staff and volunteers. A media campaign was delivered in two bursts over the last 6 months to encourage people experience gambling related harms to seek help and support.

A new [language guide for gambling related harms called 'Words Can Hurt'](#) is a resource created by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, in collaboration with ADPH Yorkshire and the Humber and ADPH North East as part of their work to prevent and reduce gambling harms and work independently from the gambling industry. This guide has been created to

combat the ‘individual responsibility’ narrative that is often used by the gambling industry, which is stigmatising for people who may be seeking help and advice for gambling harms. Finally, there was good news for South Yorkshire as [The Northern Gambling Clinic](#) launched a new site in Sheffield on 18th March 2024, previously the nearest specialised NHS clinic for referrals was Leeds.

Substance Misuse

Combatting Drugs Partnership

In response to the National Drug Strategy ‘From Harm to Hope’, a Combatting Drug Partnership Board of senior system leaders has been formed to oversee local delivery of the strategy.

A Drug & Alcohol Needs Assessment has been completed and a delivery plan developed which addresses drug supply, achieving a generational shift in demand and delivery of world class treatment and recovery support.

The Combatting Drugs Partnership strongly supports and values the voice of lived experience and the development of a Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) and a group has been established to develop this.

Aspire Drug and Alcohol Service

The model for the Aspire Doncaster Treatment and Recovery System has been completely revised and key elements of delivery to improve capacity, quality and ease of access into treatment are:

- Rapid access and lowering thresholds (with rapid access clinics and plans to expand this approach across the service)
- Outreach development (targeting sex workers, homeless, domestic abuse and GP engagement)
- Increasing numbers in treatment
- Increased engagement with women, BAME and LGBT underserved groups
- Localities and partnership working to improve geographical access points
- Expansion of availability of new opiate prescribing options

Support4Change

The support that family and loved ones give to those with active addiction is a key part of a person’s ‘recovery capital’. Support4Change is a local group that operates in Doncaster city centre and has expanded its provision in the last year to Thorne, which offers peer group support and counselling to parents, carers and loved ones.



Ageing Well



Ageing Well

Ageing Well Update

In 2023-24, we continued to work in partnership with our colleagues across health and social care to further develop services, so everyone can age well, have a good quality of life and to be able to live as long and as independently as possible. The NHS Long Term Plan includes priority commitments to support people keeping healthier for longer but underpinning all of this is a focus on health promotion and prevention. Early identification coupled with targeted support can help older people living with frailty to stay well and live independently for as long as possible. The ageing well work continues to build on this foundation.

Age Friendly Doncaster

We continue to make strides with our efforts towards creating an age friendly community. In October 2023, we conducted an online survey to gather perspectives and experiences on ageing. Thus far, we have received 1037 responses from residents of Doncaster. These responses offer valuable insights into the 8 domains that contribute to an age-friendly community. Currently, we are in the midst of a second phase of engagement, focusing on reaching underserved groups and individuals who may face digital exclusion. The information gathered will be written into a baseline assessment which will inform our future action plans. Looking ahead, we plan to establish an older person's forum to actively involve the community in shaping our ageing well initiatives based on lived experiences.



Dementia

Building on the engagement undertaken in 2022/2023 that provided invaluable insight to the experiences of people living with dementia, the Team Doncaster Dementia Strategy has been coproduced with partners, people with lived experience and key stakeholders in the city.

The Strategy was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board and launched on 01 October 2023 setting out the following 4 areas for improvement:

- Information, advice and guidance
- Receiving a diagnosis
- Support following diagnosis
- Support for carers

There is then a 5th area of cross-cutting themes to be considered throughout all strategy delivery:

- Health Inequalities
- Coproduction
- Dignity and compassion
- Workforce development and awareness
- Data and intelligence

Partners have been identified as leads for each of the priority area and the Dementia Partnership Board was launched in February 2024 with the primary aim of holding the strategy to account. The Dementia Partnership Board is co-chaired and attended by people with lived experience of dementia to ensure strategy delivery is driven by the voice of those experiencing or caring for someone with dementia.

To align with the above insight, two new dementia services were also launched on 01 October 2023 consisting of:

- Pre and Post Diagnostic Clinical Service, Mindset, delivered by RDaSH and Alzheimer's Society: Providing information, advice, guidance, navigation, signposting, care and support for people with dementia and their carers/families/supporters at all stages (inc. pre diagnosis) in their journey through the assessment and diagnosis pathway and working with external organisations/providers in early identification and referral.
- Community Therapy Service, Keep In Mind, delivered by Age UK (with Alzheimer's Society, Crossroads Care, Royal Voluntary Service, darts and Club Doncaster Foundation): Providing a holistic wellbeing MOT by a key

named worker to coproduce a plan of support for people with dementia. And collaboration with other providers to deliver community groups. There will be an emphasis on people feeling supported in their communities, providing activities/services to ensure they live independently and well for as long as possible in their chosen place of residence.

Over the next 12 months, we look towards nailing down delivery plans for the dementia strategy, working with providers to create a strong presence of the new services in Doncaster communities reaching as many people with dementia as possible (including those from health inclusion groups) and revisiting the dementia surveys to monitor impact of the new services and strategy delivery.

Ways of Working

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Doncaster's Health and Wellbeing Board has been leading the development of a new health and wellbeing strategy, consulting with key partners and members of the public.

One of several linked plans and strategies, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a statutory requirement. It is in line with the ten-year borough strategy of Doncaster, Delivering Together. Simultaneously, the Doncaster Place Partnership has been working on a five-year integrated health and care delivery plan tailored to Doncaster.

This integrated approach encourages collaboration among stakeholders, including the City of Doncaster Council, health and social care providers, and community organisations.

The heart of this strategy will focus on how we can create the right conditions for our residents to have a healthy and happy life. It will be based on what can we do together in Doncaster to address the wider determinants of health. We know that there are some of our residents that have poorer health than others and therefore this strategy will prioritise action that meets the needs of communities.

To develop this strategy we are:

1. Reviewed and Synthesised Resident Engagement: Built on existing resident engagement to understand what local people think is important about health and wellbeing
2. Reviewed Existing and New Data Sets: Reviewed the refreshed Joint strategic Health Assessment and the recent data mapping from the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission.
3. Strategy Mapping: Reviewing and mapping existing strategies contributing to health and wellbeing, ensuring a clear line of sight and incorporating recommendations from the Fairness and Wellbeing commission where appropriate.

4. Sharing the findings & priorities: Tested our assumptions and improved understanding with a range of stakeholders including Team Doncaster, Elected Members, Health and Wellbeing Board and resident representatives.

This approach aims to create an informed, collaborative, and targeted strategy that addresses local health challenges while ensuring alignment with broader initiatives and priorities.

Further work on the strategy's priorities is currently ongoing at the time of writing of this annual report alongside support from the Local Government Association to revisit the role and ways of working.

Doncaster Delivering Together

Doncaster Delivering Together (DDT), our City Strategy, was agreed in September 2021 and sets out a vision for the type of place we want Doncaster to be by 2030. It has a central mission of 'Thriving People, Places and Planet' and a set of goals and priorities that inform and guide the work of Team Doncaster.

We have published our DDT Annual Report which sets out the achievements in 2022-23 and outlook for the years ahead. There remains some significant challenges for sure but real and tangible improvements are being made. We continue to monitor summary agreements, the deliverables across the partnership from each delivery group 2023-24, where each group sets out what they will deliver and how it will contribute to the priorities in Doncaster Delivering Together. We review and make sure that the partnership focusses in on the key things that will have impact and need a partnership approach.

Several of the Team Doncaster Strategies have been completed over the past two years and in the year ahead we will bring a new Health and Well-being Strategy alongside place based plans linked to the Integrated Care Partnership. The Strategy, annual report and further information can all be found via the Team Doncaster Partnership website -Doncaster Delivering Together - Team Doncaster

Get Doncaster Moving Physical Activity

The Get Doncaster Moving (GDM) Network is made up of people and organisations who work together to support residents to be active. The GDM Team within Public Health coordinates a collaborative, whole system approach to tackling inequalities in physical activity, connecting projects, policy, resources and knowledge to shape effective support for residents.

Highlights over the past year:

- Growth of the GDM Network – over 100 partners from a diverse range of organisations attended GDM's yearly summit in October 2023 to consider what we have collectively achieved and learnt so far, and what we can achieve next together. Three-time Olympic gold medallist Ed Clancy was the keynote speaker. A successful City-wide GDM communications campaign, quarterly Network meetings, bi-monthly partner newsletters and a GDM blog, have also helped grow and strengthen the GDM Network.
- Sports Minister visit - GDM's partnership approach to reducing physical inactivity was commended by the Sports Minister who chose to launch the National Sport and Physical Activity Strategy in Doncaster.
- Future Parks – improvement work is underway on five parks (Hexthorpe, Denaby Crag, Town Field, Campsall Country Park, Edlington Pit Wood). So far, residents have provided 2,500 consultation responses to shape the development of the first 7 Future Parks (also for East Lane Stainforth and Highfields Country Park). GDM worked with Doncaster College students to identify what would encourage young people to visit green space more often and a key theme was around creating social spaces where young people feel welcome. Amongst the amazing ideas from the students, a design for a seating area



stood out, and with GDM's support the concept

is now a reality and closely aligns with the Make Space for Girls campaign.

- Doncaster Green Space Network - has supported the development of new and existing voluntary groups through training and assistance to deliver community events and activities.
- Walking Trails - themed trails in partnership with Doncaster Mumbler are encouraging visits by children and families, whilst Enigma Trails are a series of unique digital trails aimed at engaging a teen/young adult audience that have already attracted over 4,000 visitors across 9 parks.
- Play Parks Infrastructure Policy – establishes a new evidence-based approach to investment in parks and guides a more effective way of working for the provision and maintenance of parks' play facilities.
- Active communities in partnership with Well Doncaster – 2023 saw the 130th Active Communities Grant awarded (£500 each to support a variety of local projects). Over 30 regular walking groups are now supported and 2023 saw the 150th walk leader trained.
- Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot – started in April 2023 in Balby and supports residents who are disabled and have long term conditions through referrals to walking or cycling from a health worker.
- Sports facilities for communities - the tennis courts at Haslam and Hexthorpe have been refurbished as part of a national LTA program and Doncaster Community Tennis was awarded runner up in National LTA awards for 'Connecting Communities'. Players from Doncaster Dynamo, a walking football team who play at Goals in Wheatley, are partnering with GDM and this has already resulted in a second group being created and support from the Sports Club Fund to train six referees.



- Doncaster's first Pétanque pitch (a type of French boules) opened at Hexthorpe Park for all to enjoy. GDM's investment in the pitch and support has helped a new club formalise, which is now 50 strong.



- Dance On! – a Strength and Balance pilot programme for older adults was launched by Darts in January 2024 with GDM's support. It contributes to falls prevention and building participants' confidence to undertake more social activities. A new Dance On! toolkit was also launched to get more people moving.
- Active Schools – six new schools have joined phase 3 of the Creating Active Schools programme, taking the total to 19 and enabling over 4,000 pupils to benefit from a programme of activities. Over 70 primary schools have joined Doncaster's PE and Active Schools Network to share learning and opportunities. A new Active Schools Toolkit is helping primary schools provide pupils with fun and effective physical activities.
- Local Skills Advisory Board – started meeting in 2023 to assess workforce skills requirements within the physical activity sector and identify actions to address them.
- Rugby League World Cup legacy - since 2022 Doncaster RLFC have seen an increase in attendances, and projects creating a lasting legacy include Bentley ARLFC's new £700k purpose built changing pavilion which officially opened on 9 March 2024 for use by the club's teams and the local community.
- Further Investment in Leisure Centres – the Dome will benefit from £14.4m capital investment for significant refurbishment and enhancement works (including revamping the lagoons) and to retain the aesthetic of a newly listed Grade II building. Thorne has £1.2m grant funding from Sport England to enable phase two of the refurbishment work to be completed, for example installing a bowling alley, soft play facilities and two wellbeing studios.



- Embedding physical activity in health and care – collaboration projects include: a cancer prehab pilot led by DBTH (exploring how physical activity before cancer surgery supports post-operative recovery); a pilot exploring how breathing pattern disorder patients benefit from 'Breathe and Connect' classes provided by Darts; GDM contributing to an improved approach to falls prevention and pain management in Doncaster; and joint work with Primary Care Doncaster to support GP practices to have conversations with patients about being more physical active.
- Sport England's Active Lives Survey - shows that 33.3% of Doncaster adults are inactive, a reduction since the first survey (2015/16) which reported 35.7%. The percentage of inactive children and young people has reduced from 31.3% to 25.7%, which is now lower than the England average (30.2%).

Community Wealth Builder

Community Wealth Builder (CWB) is a person-centred approach to local economic development, providing support to new and existing social enterprises. The CWB approach works to make employment via community based social value work a viable option for residents across the borough. CWB has supported 233 organisations and supported 79 new community groups and CICs to set up. CWB has built capacity through tailored 1:1 support, training and mentoring, small grants, and networking. Over 343 hours of training have been delivered and 190 volunteer roles have been supported and 61 new volunteer roles created.

Well Doncaster

Since 2015 Well Doncaster has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to utilising and embedding community centred approaches in creating a community led approach to reducing health and wealth inequalities. Well Doncaster is creating whole systems change at an individual, community, and organisational level. Our approach enables us to act as a lightning rod in redesigning systems and ways of working and facilitate positive change on people and place.

Now working across the whole city, Well Doncaster works collaboratively across Sectors to minimise the effects of the cost-of-living crisis by increasing access to hyper-local advice, established a network of warm and welcoming spaces and working to improve food security.

Well Doncaster brought together ongoing community insight and local and national intelligence from 26 sources and created population health management community profiles for all 88 communities in Doncaster. The Community Profile highlights the health and wealth assets and inequalities of each community. The community insight and data will be used to shape and inform investment as well as service design and delivery at a hyper-local level.

In 2023, Well Doncaster proudly launched their new website, making it even easier for residents and community organisations to understand what Well Doncaster is, access support and be part of the movement towards a healthier, happier Doncaster.

Locality Commissioning

In 2021 Locality Investment (non-recurrent Better Care Funded) allocated £2.039m for local strength-based community commissioning, providing an innovative opportunity to use non-recurrent funds to test and learn new approaches to commissioning, move from a deficit approach to strengths-based commissioning approaches and be recognised as an ambitious and aspirational borough, leading the way in creative bold community placed based commissioning. The collaborative strengths-based approach to developing hyper local interventions was used as an innovative approach to challenge the competitive culture that has been fostered with the VCFS through traditional funding streams and encourage grassroots organisations in accessing funding. Several organisations were funded in 2023 taking the total of organisations funded through locality commissioning to over 70. The organisations continue to deliver hyper local community support in response to local priorities. These include therapy and support sessions in woodland spaces, podcasting and media training, family support for those affected by crime.

In 2023 the Community Investment Fund was launched where four anchor VCFS organisations took on the role as 'host' to administer the grants and support a community based panel. Grant of up to are available for capital and revenue costs and 82 organisations have accessed £203,085 of funding for a range of activities including Chronic Pain sessions, SEND swimming lessons, building works and community gardens development.

Cost of Living Household Support Fund Round 4

To respond to the impacts of the cost of living crisis and food insecurity, Household Support Fund 4 became available to all Foodbanks in Doncaster at the end of Summer 2023 with a move to providing access to emergency food and wrap around support promoting long term food sustainable access. The funding has been used to support residents who have been referred to a foodbank due to unplanned need arising from: loss of jobs, benefit changes, domestic abuse, substance misuse, housing etc. Foodbanks have reported over 700 'emergency referrals' to foodbanks since October 2023.

Don't be alone at Christmas

In December 2023 Well Doncaster launched a campaign to reduce social isolation in our communities at Christmas time. £500 funding was available to all grassroot organisations to apply for, to provide a social outing with food and celebration. 28 organisations across the city were successful and over 1200 residents enjoyed a Christmas meal and company.

Arts and Health

Our vision is that everyone in Doncaster can access participatory creative activities, resulting in them feeling happier, healthier and more resilient. The Arts & Health Board is chaired by darts and Public Health with membership from the cultural sector, health professionals and senior council members.

Our work continues to focus on the impact creative activity can have on children, young people and adults' mental health, with adults living with dementia and how we can increase physical activity in older adults.



This year we have presented the impact of our Creative Health programmes in Doncaster at the national Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance conference, worked with University of Leeds to publish papers on the impact of dance on reducing fear of falling and

presented at the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership identifying how Creative Health can directly address health inequalities.

We are delighted to be part of a £2.1 million programme funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, as part of UK Research and Innovation. This will explore a new mode for embedding creative health in health systems across the UK, using Doncaster's Arts & Health model as a model of best practice and then scaling the work across South Yorkshire and then nationally. The research team is led by Sheffield Hallam University.



Compassionate Approach

Doncaster's Compassionate Approach to health and wellbeing continues to progress.

Our collaborations with the communications team have gone from strength to strength – including a targeted campaign about weight stigma on World Obesity Day, and weaving the Compassionate Approach throughout our Summer Health campaigns. We also relaunched our Compassionate New Year campaign this year, in alignment with the Doncaster Choose Kindness movement, and have seen the success of this campaign grow exponentially. The campaign webpage became the 5th most viewed page across the whole of the Your Life Doncaster website – increasing from 11th during last year's campaign. Our emails were opened a total of 122,283 times, and our social media messages were seen a total of 16,851 times. Our social media engagement increased by 914% on last year. This success is largely due to the learning from last year's campaign being embedded.

Speaking with our social media team, we believe that we can put our success in this year's campaign down to the use of pictures and real people within our campaign work – a lesson from last year. We have also incorporated more partnership working this year, working closely with Get Doncaster Moving, Be Well, and the Primary Care Network.



Development of our training package continues, with plans to complete an internal evaluation this year with support from the Doncaster Health Determinants Research Collaboration. The Compassionate Approach Practice Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis and has grown to over 130 members from across the UK. We also continue to present the Compassionate Approach at international, national, regional, and local events, building up our advocacy role. Most notably, we presented at the International Weight Stigma Conference in June hosted in Denver, USA.

We are continuing to embed compassionate principles within the organisation and test it in existing programmes and services. Most notably: continued partnership-working with Get Doncaster Moving through our comms work; collaborating with Be Well on their Feel Good Hub pilot, and developing a Compassionate Approach Statement of Intent; involvement in the development of the Doncaster Food Network and strategy, including recruitment of a new Food Coordinator post; and the development of compassionate public health messaging and resources in relation to Affordable Warmth.

Heritage and Culture

Heritage Doncaster's History, Health and Happiness programme has continued to develop this year, building on the successes of last year. This programme is part of Heritage Doncaster's outreach and community engagement activities which use local heritage, storytelling and museum collections as a tool to reduce isolation and improve wellbeing for the local community. These activities provide opportunities for people to come together and learn something new, handle real museum artefacts, have a go at historical activities, initiating new conversations, and forming connections and friendships with others to improve wellbeing and reduce isolation. In turn, this promotes pride in the

heritage and history of local communities, helping people feel more connected to where they live.

History, Health and Happiness works with adults, families and young people, and people access the programme both through self-referral, as well as more formally through social prescribing and other third sector organisations referrals.

Different projects within the programme have continued to be delivered both in partnership with other organisations and independently and the work is funded by Arts Council England. All activities take place in localities across Doncaster and the work is evaluated by Sheffield Hallam University and Arc Research and Consultancy Ltd.

For more information visit [Heritage Doncaster](#).

Projects include:

- History Book Club - Adults experiencing isolation explore history through getting hands on with museum objects and reading.
- Curiosity Club- Under 5s and their adults explore the past through story, games and craft. Developing motor and literacy skills, and boosting wellbeing of parents.
- Herstory- women explore the lives of women in the past through craft, storytelling, and objects, which aims to build confidence and skills.
- Culture Nature, Back to Nature and Cooking Through Time. A collaboration with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, bringing the past to life through cooking on open fires, foraging and woodland craft. Aimed at adults experiencing poor mental health.
- Collaborative visits with b:friend, Alzheimer's Society and other groups.
- History, Forage and Feast – home educated young people explore historical artefacts and campfire cooking of historical recipes to support wellbeing and reduce isolation.
- Moving Museum – for all ages this brings Heritage Doncaster's objects and stories into the community during a Summer Tour. This includes object handling and different activities exploring Doncaster's history at local community events across the borough.

New for 2023-2024:

- Feel Good Fridays – Adults explore different art and historical themes from Doncaster's history through object handling, discussions and craft activities, promoting reduced isolation, discussions and pride in local community.
- Culture YAP - Youth Advisory Panel meets weekly during term time for young people aged

14- 24 providing opportunities for hands on experience of local heritage and museums through behind the scenes activities to bring their voices into the wider museum programming decisions.

- Herstory taking place in Thorne.
- Body Image Through Time – for young people accessing disordered eating services aged 12-16. Activities aim to build confidence, and facilitate group and peer therapeutic discussion by exploring ideas of beauty and body image in the museum's collection.
- Get Wild Summer Camp –young people aged 12-16 experience history being brought to life during the summer holidays through exploring museum objects and collection items, different periods of history and craft activities in the outdoors at Potteric Carr Nature Reserve.
- Smile group – sessions and activities for older people, adults with learning disabilities, autism and individuals who require specialist support using museum collections in the community.
- Doncaster Conversation Club – activities supporting adults who may also be asylum seekers and refugee, using museum objects



and themes from Doncaster's History as topics for the sessions.

Figures for 1st April 2023 – March 2024

- 1709 interactions
- 186 sessions

New Activities at Danum Gallery, Library and Museum 2023-2024

October 2023 saw the launch of Danum Doodlers. This is a weekly art club for 7 – 11 year olds which runs during term time, exploring different art works and art techniques inspired by the art collections held in the gallery.

Chess club started in the summer of 2023 and is an opportunity for young people to play chess and hone their skills on a by-weekly basis after school in the Children's Library, as well as make friends and have some fun.

Adults and Crafts launched in August 2023 and runs every other month providing a relaxed crafting session to support wellbeing in the Danum Library Gallery and Museum for adults.

Create and Make is a programme of ticketed activities for families launched in October 2023 to provide opportunities to be creative and support wellbeing during school holidays for children and their parents/guardians. Activities run every Friday in the holidays.

Existing Activities at Danum Gallery, Library and Museum 2023-2024

ACES continues to be popular at Danum Gallery, Library and Museum. This is a monthly after-school get together for young people with autism and their siblings. The sessions focus on building friendships, confidence and boosting wellbeing. Regular attendance averages at 10 families.

Rhyme Time for under 5s, takes place every Wednesday in the Children's Library at Danum Gallery, Library and Museum which includes a weekly rhyme or story time. The group provides opportunities for parents and children to meet regularly and consistently. Numbers of attendees often reach between 60-70 people.

Museum Makers is a drop-in session for all ages and takes place every Tuesday in the museum spaces. Activities include storytelling, crafts and object handling and are designed to encourage literacy and motor skills, as well as meet new people.

Other activities at community locations:

Changing the Record and Herstory: A Walk-Through Time. This project finished in Spring 2023 with the installation of place markers and illustrations celebrating the stories of 7 women from Mexborough, Edlington and Thorne and a follow-on workshop at a local school for 30 KS2 pupils with local artist Phil Shepherd to celebrate International Women's Day.

Cusworth Hall continues to host Park Run every Saturday.

Shared reading sessions are for adults suffering with dementia in partnership with Age UK and in collaboration with The Reader. Attendees continue to enjoy sessions which support increased levels of communication, engagement and confidence for attendees.

Better Care Fund

The vision for the Better Care Fund (BCF) over 2023-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent, and dignified lives, through joining up health, public health, social care, and housing services seamlessly around the person. We know BCF is important because in Doncaster too many people spend more time in hospital than they need to and short-term care in the community for people can vary depending on where, when, and how they are supported. We have a high use of bed-based care, and many older people could reduce or avoid the deconditioning that has an impact on their independence and long-term care needs. BCF funded projects therefore can help to bridge the gap between existing health inequalities and improve Doncaster residents' healthy life expectancy.

Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board provides strategic assurance of BCF planning and reporting activities. This shapes how we collectively meet priorities and develop new ways of working across Doncaster as well as the services we commission and deliver. Care and support are tailored to community strengths to help Doncaster residents maximise their independence, health, and wellbeing.

A significant focus of our use of BCF funding has been to improve market shaping and commissioning of adult social care and support, helping providers with recruitment and retention to ensure sustainable care capacity and prevent market failure. We have also maintained a strong focus on preventing, reducing, and delaying needs through investment in a range of intermediate care services that are designed both to pre-empt crisis (and avoid admission to hospital) and to enable recovery (and avoid re-admission to hospital). All partners are continuously reviewing how the greatest impact can be achieved in terms of reducing delayed

discharges through the Urgent and Emergency Care Board and Home First Board.

Doncaster are working towards developing an evidenced-based outcomes framework to shape and drive our work in reducing health inequalities and build stronger, more resilient communities linked to our wellbeing goals. By focusing on community centred approaches at an individual, community, and organisational level, we have the best chance of closing the health gaps that have only widened since the COVID-19 Pandemic.

BCF is underpinned by two core objectives:

1. Enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.

BCF contributes to reablement support that is provided free for up to 6 weeks following discharge from hospital, informed choices, and capacity to support people in their own homes or usual place of residence. Therapy and rehabilitation packages and post discharge care are provided by community-based services including patients with complex discharges along with alternative housing options or equipment and adaptations along with carers respite support. The below bullet points identify the benefits we are working towards across Doncaster:

- Enable information sharing with pathways and relationships explored in more detail.
- Meet urgent escalation of need by improving capacity across the system.
- Develop locality offers and asks around system wide improvements for hospital discharge and hospital avoidance.
- Establish shared responsibility for system wide preventative services, proactive care and reablement that reduces pressure on health and social care services.

2. Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

BCF contributes to improving patient experience and quality of care through discharging patients to the best place for them to continue recovery in a safe, appropriate, and timely way. This could mean people go home from hospital with little or no additional care or go home from hospital with a short-term package of home-based or bed-based care. This could also mean people go home from hospital with recovery support in the community, pending assessment of any longer-term care needs. The below bullet points identify the benefits we are working towards across Doncaster:

- Fewer adults admitted to hospital.
- People spend fewer days in hospital.

- People go home sooner from a short-term hospital bed.
- More people go directly home after their stay in hospital.
- People go home after their time in intermediate care.
- People benefit from a more rehabilitative offer in their own home.

Fairness and Wellbeing Commission

In 2022, following a pandemic response which shone a light on systemic and entrenched inequalities in our city, our Health and Wellbeing Board initiated a commission to take a step back from our ordinary policy planning cycle and conduct an in depth look at fairness and wellbeing issues for Doncaster. The board recognised the need to confront the unfair issues and challenges that have emerged and were exacerbated in the city in the wake of austerity, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the ongoing cost of living crisis.

They felt there was a need to take a step back from traditional policy planning work and wanted to establish a bespoke group, or commission, to dedicate time and thought to identify ways to create a fairer future for Doncaster's residents. Chaired by a local MP and comprised of 17 members from various sectors, including public, voluntary, faith, and academic backgrounds the commission took a rounded look at a wide variety of evidence through a "mixed methods" approach. Through a year's worth of detailed evidence sessions, commissioners studied a significant range of evidence, data and community insights and have now developed a set of recommendations for local public service reform.

Whilst many of the drivers of poor outcomes come from national policy constraints, the commission have focussed their recommendations on what local action public services and community organisations can do together.

At the time of writing this annual report the [Fairness and Wellbeing Commission report](#) is due to be published and Doncaster's Health and Wellbeing Board are in the process of embedding the Commission's work in its developing strategy and contributing to the creation of Doncaster's Integrated Care Board forward plan.

Economic Strategy

2023/24 has been a productive year for the delivery of the economic strategy and clear progress has been made towards our overall aims:

The economic board has been established and brings together key stakeholders to provide collaborative oversight and support for the delivery phase.

Key deliverables have been identified across the economic strategy themes of Industry Platforms, Employment for All, Green Economy, and Vibrant Places.

As we move into 2024/25, we intend to build on the strong foundations established in 2023/24 by:

- Developing growth plans for key sectors in Doncaster, working with businesses, focused

on understanding where the sector is geographically located, their spatial requirements, investment needs, and talent and skills pipeline to shape support offered and help drive greater levels of inward investment in Doncaster.

- Utilising our business engagement strengths through Business Doncaster and Doncaster Chamber.
- Going further and faster where actions intersect between key strategies to align resources and maximise impact.
- Building on the nationally recognised work already undertaken by Public Health, look to implement a compassionate approach to employment to support more people to access, and remain in, work.
- Incorporating our actions into wider economic goals and delivery, including through our approach to developing a new City Centre Strategy, delivery of Long Term Plan for Towns and the Levelling Up Partnership, alongside the continued delivery of Town Deals and Levelling Up Fund Round 1 and 3 in Mexborough and Moorends.

Health Inequalities

In 2023/2024, the Doncaster Place Committee agreed on 3 key areas for focus, when thinking about how we might start to tackle health inequalities together across Doncaster Place:

- Each CEO committed their organisation to 3 key actions they would take to tackle health inequalities.
- Implementing the core20plus5 programme - adults and Children (early intervention and prevention)
- Inclusion Health, supporting our most vulnerable communities – people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping, Gypsy Roma Traveller communities, sex workers, asylum seekers and refugees.

We have taken time to connect with our different core20 communities, inclusion health groups and people with protected characteristics, such as ethnic minority groups, Veterans and the deaf society. We wanted to understand the barriers that people face when they are trying to access health and care services. We have heard that most of the challenges facing different communities are the same – poverty, can't afford transport to get to appointments, digital inclusion, difficulty accessing translation and interpretation services, poor literacy, staff attitude, discrimination and caring responsibilities.

4 integrated neighbourhood locality workshops brought health, care, voluntary sector and communities together to increase awareness of poverty and the access barriers faced by communities. We heard stories from lived experience, the importance of choosing kindness

and coproduction, personalising services and the need to provide more support to help people navigate complex pathways.

Funding for timely cancer presentation and for the development of a women's hub has been directed to core20plus5 communities and the projects are being supported and developed by wider Team Doncaster, with a focus on developing sustainable solutions.

Health inequalities are running through wider partner strategies and included in the smoking cessation, dementia and health check tenders.

Moving forwards, we will develop a Place wide health inequalities education and awareness programme for staff. We will also facilitate a more collective focus on the key barriers, which make it difficult for our core20plus5 communities to access the health, care and wellbeing services they need.



Items from Meetings

June 2023 – January 2024

June 2023

Learning Disability Partnership Board – Lived Experiences

The Learning Disability Partnership Board continues to remain a strong and vibrant partnership board committed to discussing and addressing the things that matter most to people with a learning disability in Doncaster. The board continues to be co-chaired by an individual with a learning disability and a Councillor. The board strongly believes that it is important that all people who attend the board have the opportunity to share their views, opinions and experiences. With this in mind, the board refreshed how the board is run, re-introducing some things that make it easier for people attending to express their views, such as visual cards and picture symbols for people to use during the meeting. At the request and preference of board members, the board have returned to meeting in person (with the option of attending online if people prefer). The agenda of the board is set by its members, recognising the true sense of a 'partnership' and that we should be discussing the things that matter most to people with a learning disability.

The board is extremely keen to extend its membership and increase the number of individuals with a learning disability that attend. The Community Adult Learning Disability Team (CALDT) in the council and some of our in-house council run services such as SMILE, have been promoting and raising awareness of the board to encourage people with a learning disability to attend.

A vast range of topics have been brought to the board in the last year for discussion. Some of the topics discussed have included issues relating to transport, employment opportunities for individuals with a learning disability, support for carers and access to good healthcare for people with a learning disability. Throughout the year the partnership board have heard of the progress being made against the key priorities set out in the learning disability and autism strategy. Leads delivering on these priorities in the strategy have regularly attended the board to update the board and seek views and experiences. As the strategy is due to come to an end, the partnership board will now be taking a central role in evaluating what has been achieved over the course of the strategy and most importantly identifying what is still left to do to support

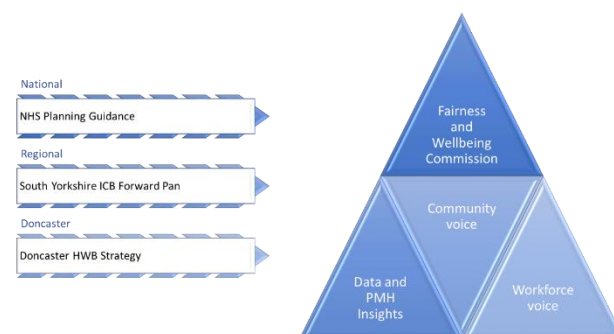
individuals with a learning disability in Doncaster to live a good life.

Developing the 1 Doncaster Plan

The ICB Joint Forward Plan was published in 2023 setting out the ambitions and delivery priorities across South Yorkshire for 2023/24. Following the publication of this South Yorkshire plan, a specific plan for Doncaster, the 1 Doncaster Plan, is being developed. For the first time, the plan is being coproduced with residents, and in parallel with the refresh of the Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Developing both the delivery plan and the strategy started with the synthesis of the extensive engagement that has taken place with our residents and communities, and we have heard from them about the difficulties that they experience accessing health services and about other ways we can improve the care that we provide.

We also wanted to include the strong messages we have heard through the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission, feedback from our workforce and also the key challenges highlighted through the refresh of the Doncaster Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.



The Health and Care Chief Executive Officers across the Doncaster partnership are committed to the significant system change required in order to respond to the resident voice and also to addressing the financial challenges across the sector. A number of partnership conversations have taken place at an executive level, which will set out the vision for the next 5 years as well as outlining how we must work together to achieve it. It is expected that the plan will be finalised by May 2024.

Lived British Sign Language user

The Deaf Society engaged positively with Doncaster Wellbeing Board's dedicated and committed representatives from DBTH and Primary Care as well as Doncaster Council's Family Hub Transformation Manager, Callum Hellman and Central Family Hub team and Healthwatch (Fran Joel).

Discussions to establish a monthly Happy Hands playgroup, BSL Family Hub at the Deaf Community Centre held on 18 October 2023 was successful and session dates agreed to start January 2024.

Central Family Hub staff and health professionals will be visiting Happy Hands with BSL Interpreters in attendance. Plans are in the early stages to arrange BSL health visitor presentations and BSL parenting workshops.

This arrangement allows BSL User parents equal access to maternity and early years vital health advice and information in their language at the Deaf Community Centre.

Meetings with BSL Users covering a wide age range of issues was held with DBTH/ Primary Care, Dr Nabeel Alsindi, Amanda Espey, Ray Hennessy, Grace Mhora and Janine Grayson and were key in addressing gaps and inequalities in NHS services.

All relevant topics of concern were thoroughly covered on 19 September 2023, concentrating on Audiology on 5 December 2023 and Primary Care/GPs with Dr Dean Eggitt and the Chief Executive for Doncaster Local Medical Committee in attendance on 14 March 2024.

Discussions which drew special attention was a complete lack of deaf awareness within the NHS, lack of communication in omitting crucial contact information on hospital appointment letters, accessibility to services and signage.

Additionally, issues with the provision of BSL interpreters and the way appointments are booked or not booked, some GP surgeries' attitude towards BSL Users and reluctance to book BSL interpreters is ongoing.

Two-way text communication was recognised as the preferred method for BSL Users or emails, not phone calls! This is currently being looked into for use by GP surgeries and hospitals. Chemists will also be advised.

The largest number of complaints from BSL Users, was audiology, A meeting was arranged 5 December 2023 with Jenny Chadwick, Audiology Clinical Lead and Rob Mason, Quality Improvement Lead.

BSL Users highlighted the dire quality of an extremely frustrating, inadequate service and long waiting list for equipment affecting their quality of life. Both were unaware of some of the issues and undertook to make improvements. A follow up meeting will be arranged May/ June this year.

Communication needs and health services for the very elderly BSL User without access to digital equipment and not able to read and/or write, was a different matter which still requires attention and will be actioned over the next few months.

The next meeting follow up will be arranged sometime in June.

The Society initiated Teams and face-face meetings with Healthwatch from October 2023 with Fran Joel and her team and are now represented on their health ambassadors committee. Important feedback was conveyed on oral health inequalities affecting BSL Users.

A teams meetings from January 2024 with Sian Owen, Healthwatch and Ruth Bruce DBTH to create a 'Plan on a Page', addressing health inequalities was essential to give input from a BSL User perspective. Most recently, a meeting on 7 March 2023 with BSL Users and Natalie Bowler Smith discussed healthcare and the many challenges the deaf community face.

No stone has been left unturned during a year of meetings, essential information gathering, feedback and clear and concise notetaking actions.

The Deaf Society and BSL Users have appreciated the opportunity to work alongside health professionals and organisation representatives, who listened to their lived experiences and wasted no time actioning barriers in healthcare, but there is still a long way to go.

Family Hubs and Start for Life – Calum Helman

Staff and leaders from across the Council, the NHS, and the Voluntary Sector have made notable progress on expanding our already well embedded Family Hub offer. This has included delivering increased staffing capacity and training offers across the partnership and moving towards a shared approach to shaping, designing, and owning the Family Hub model. Key elements of this success are:

Early Days Workers

We have introduced Early Days Workers across the borough. Working out of our 12 Family Hubs, these roles have been integrated into a joint 1001 days offer alongside Midwifery and Health Visiting to increase our touch points with families and provide a more holistic approach to support them. These roles see all families from conception to the age of two and play an integral

role in delivering infant feeding and mental wellbeing support, informing families around child development, attachment, and bonding, and introducing families to



more targeted support should they need it.

Perinatal Wellbeing Health Visitors

In order to make our perinatal mental health and attachment and bonding offer more robust at a targeted level, we introduced this new role into the system. Delivering a set of core contacts and evidence-based interventions, these staff work with families during the first 1001 days to support their mental health, help them build strong relationships with their babies, and help to tackle the isolation that often comes with this.

Early Help Locally

We have integrated holistic targeted support for families into the Family Hub offer with dedicated staff in communities to work with families. With the other new roles added at a universal level, this means we can identify need earlier and guide families to the support they need as seamlessly as possible.

Parent & Carer Panels

Our new Parent & Carer Panels have been running since April and have had a massive impact on the way we deliver services and make decisions. Thanks to their input and supportive challenge we have refined our new Early Days Worker role, redesigned our processes for creating and consulting on our timetables of activity, and made focused efforts to

better engage co-parents and Dads in the start for life offer.

Partnership Planning

We have introduced joint approaches to the ownership and oversight of the Family Hub offer through partnership meetings at a leadership, operational, and front-line level. Each locality now has arrangements in place for staff across the council, health, and voluntary sector to meet, share their thoughts and experiences, and collectively tackle the needs of the communities they serve. These meetings have been very popular and delivered new priorities for the partnership to focus on.

Alcohol use in 50+ women

Public Health have funded this piece of work and have extended the funding to include another Alcohol and Older People's worker in Project6 in 24/25.

In the last 13 months Project 6 has supported 110 women who are over 50 and drinking problematically. The main reasons the women cite for their alcohol use and wish to access treatment are as follows in order of significance.

- Managing the symptoms and consequences of the menopause; which include lack of confidence, loss of identity and the physical symptoms. Our women often drink to give themselves a lift and feel different/better.
- Managing relationships; women often feel oppressed by their relationships, having frequent arguments and experiencing verbal abuse. Women struggle with boundaries and often drink to escape.
- Family life and caring stresses, increasingly caused by caring responsibilities for older parents especially those with dementia.
- Work related, this often links to stress, age discrimination and loss of sense of identity when women come towards retirement.

Our results

The women respond well to community focused 1-1 support. Often reducing from 1-4 bottles of wine a day to safer amounts or abstinence. Women seem to take longer than men to make healthy changes to their alcohol use and are more likely to, after a period of abstinence, start to drink safely socially again.

Nearly every woman we have supported has made significant positive changes to her alcohol use (94%) and general wellbeing.

I have attached a case study of Lynn - a woman accessing our service and also our 6 month report for this service which includes outcomes for men and women.

Older Person's Alcohol Project Case Study

Brief about Lynn

Lynn is a woman in her fifties who lives in Doncaster. Lynn is partially sighted and has short term memory loss due to a stroke several years ago. The stroke resulted in Lynn losing her job in the NHS and brought her life and independence to a standstill. Lynn also experiences anxiety and feels unsafe going out which has isolated her further.

Alcohol use

Lynn says she used alcohol to escape and self-medicate. Before her first session with the OPA service she was drinking three bottles of wine and a bottle of whisky a night, which was causing significant health consequences such as impairment of mobility, acid reflux, stomach and esophagus pain. Alcohol also affected her mental health by exacerbating her anxiety and social isolation. Lynn was in a low place and wanted help to change, which is when she took the big step of referring herself.

'I've learned I can cope better, I don't feel gripped by drink'

Progression

Over six weeks, Lynn made great progress. She started to feel comfortable taking steps to rebuild her life and very confident managing herself to cope without alcohol, using the tools and skills she developed to overcome urges and triggers. Lynn says she now feels in a strong position through willpower and discipline to now drink in moderation by sticking to two cans of lager a week.

During the six weeks Lynn saw a lot of improvements in her physical and mental health and experienced the benefits of drinking in moderation by feeling and looking much healthier.



Brief Intervention sessions

Lynn received six weeks of 1:1 Brief Interventions where we explored and discussed her alcohol use and how she could reduce this with advice. Because Lynn struggles with short term memory loss, we worked with her to create visual cues and reminders to re-enforce the changes she was making. This was worked on with a drinking diary, reminder cues of health benefits on her fridge and prompts of affirmations in key places ('I am not a drinker', 'I am more powerful than the urge').

Additionally, outside the sessions it was important for Lynn to put more structure into her life as she tended to drink due to having a loss of purpose. In the sessions we spent time looking at alternatives to drinking and where she could direct energy elsewhere with healthier substitutes to drinking. Lynn's confidence has improved and she now puts her energy into her passions and hobbies. As a result of these interventions by the OPA service, Lynn's alcohol use is now dramatically lower than when she first came.

'I feel more independent now'

November 2023

Youth Engagement -Lived experiences

The Shaping Stainforth steering group have been focusing on young people, ambitions and opportunities. Earlier this year, Shaping Stainforth took the young people to visit the unity development project that is being built in Stainforth to see what opportunities will be coming to Stainforth for the young people over the next few years.

Young people were also given their opportunity to go to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. On this trip we met with Ed Miliband where we discussed the work the steering group have been participating in. We then met Lord Andrew Mawson who gave us a tour around the House of Commons and House of Lords. This had a significant impact as some of these young people would have never been given the opportunity to go to London.



The steering group has recently been collaborating with the NSPCC working on online safety. From this opportunity they have created a tool kit and an awareness video to help other young people to be safe online. The leaflet will be distributed across all Doncaster schools. After a visit to the steering group from Damien Allen the NSPCC held a launch event in



the Doncaster Chambers on the 24th April 2024.
Awareness video: [Doncaster Safety Net - Stainforth Steering Group Video \(youtube.com\)](#)

Smokefree generation: Proposed legislation

In November 2023, the Health and Wellbeing Board received a briefing following the Prime Minister's announcement in October 2023 outlining potential legislation to raise the age of sale for tobacco by one year every year and to tighten restrictions on the sale of vapes to children and young people. The Health and Wellbeing Board was asked to support the proposed changes to legislations for age of sale and restrictions on the marketing of vapes to children. On behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board, a letter of support for the proposed legislation and local information about the impact of smoking on Doncaster residents was sent to Doncaster's MPs. The proposed legislation will provide a prevention focussed approach, reducing the risk of children and young people becoming addicted to tobacco in the first place.

Gypsy Roma Travellers

Doncaster have approximately 4000 people living in GRT communities. Local data is limited, but national data tells us that hate crime and discrimination are the biggest challenges that these communities face when it comes to accessing health and care services, resulting in some of the worst health outcomes and an average life expectancy of 50 years. Children from GRT communities also have the worst educational outcomes of any ethnic minority group.

Two GRT community link workers have been working with the Health Inequalities Lead since April 2023 and are working hard to raise the profile of the significant challenges their communities face every day. Awareness presentations have been delivered to Doncaster Summit, Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board, NEY PHM and HI Forum, SY LMNS, NEY BCF Conference, SY Primary Care Conference, RDASH Physical Healthcare Care Group and also as part of the 4 Doncaster integrated neighbourhood locality workshops.

A lot of time has been invested in building relationships with the Roma community in Hexthorpe, linking through the school, supporting ESOL classes and delivering health fayres. Discussions are ongoing around development of a community engagement group at the boxing gym.

A culturally appropriate video is being developed to increase awareness and take up of breast and cervical cancer screening, whilst we have also delivered cultural awareness training to cancer champions in primary care. It is also proposed to support women to

access the women's health hub clinics in the town centre.

There is a commitment from RDASH and Primary Care Doncaster to take health services to Gypsy Traveller sites, with a focus on core20plus5 pathways and immunisations. It is recognised that developing trusted relationships with people from the GRT communities takes time – aligning with what we have seen with building services for other ethnic minority & inclusion health groups – such as Changing Lives, Amber project and Complex Lives.

However, even though the numbers are low at this point, the women on the pilot site are coming forward with their own health concerns and for those of their children. 6 month's funding has been secured to support monthly visits to the pilot site, with a view to rolling out to other sites once we have evaluated and understood the learning and impact. Wider partners are coming together to build relationships with the GRT communities to improve health and wellbeing. Focus will be on early intervention, access to health and care, anti-racism, housing, CYP, education and employment.

Health Needs Assessment, People from an ethnic minority background

An updated Health Needs Assessment (HNA) of residents from an ethnic minority background was completed in 2023. It drew on data from the latest census, along with data from local partners and engagement with residents, to reassess the health needs of people from an ethnic minority background in Doncaster.

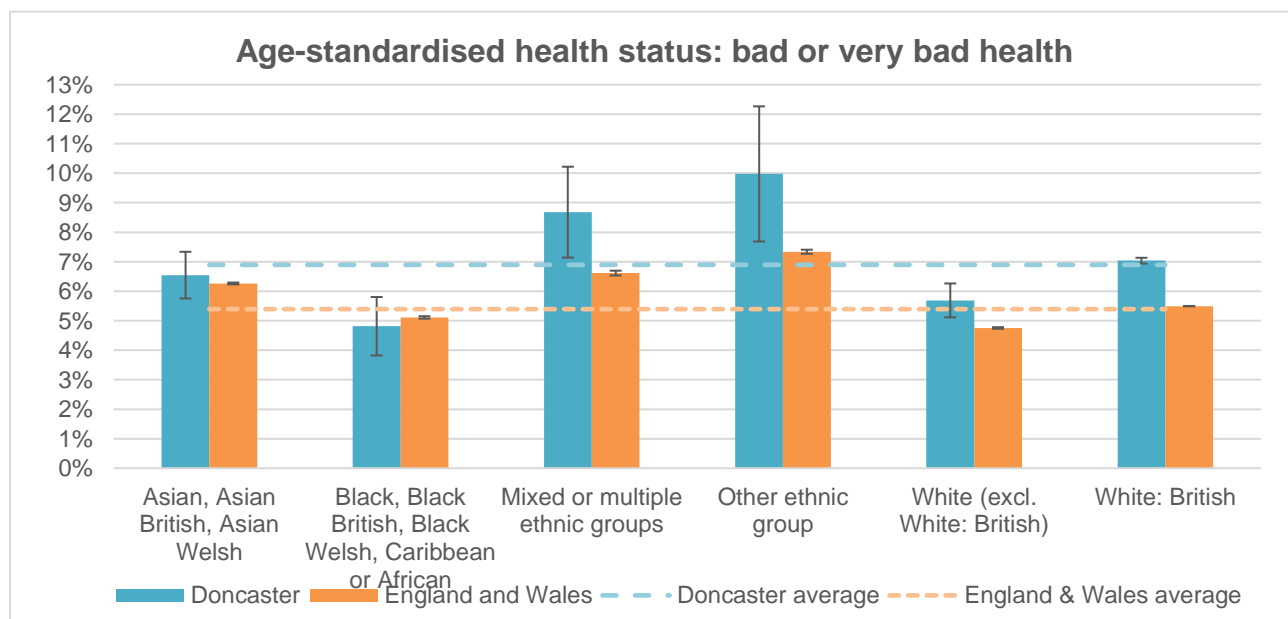
It provides an updated demographic understanding of Doncaster's ethnic minority communities, who together now comprise over 13% of Doncaster's population. A breadth of health and wellbeing data was reviewed, along with the findings from a series of focus groups

with representatives from different ethnic minority communities. Together, these highlight inequalities and unmet needs across a range of areas. These include: rates of diabetes, vaccination uptake and childhood obesity; practical and cultural challenges in accessing healthcare services; and the wider determinants of health, including employment, education, language and housing.

The Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the HNA's findings and recommendations in January 2024. These will inform the development of a refreshed action plan, which will be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Minority Partnership Board. The latter was established following the previous HNA in 2017, and is a cross-system group to build community capacity, trust and communication networks.



The findings from the HNA will also inform wider service planning and strategy development across Doncaster, including the new health and wellbeing strategy. Using the broader classification below, it can be seen that rates of bad and very bad health are generally higher in Doncaster, compared to England and Wales. Within Doncaster, people from other, mixed or multiple ethnic groups, and potentially those from an Asian background, have higher rates than the Doncaster average.



Next Steps and Recommendations

The ambition for 2024/25 is to build on the work and recommendations from the last year's report and to deliver the following:

1.	Complete the refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy for 2024-2030
2.	Review Board ways of working to deliver the new Health and Wellbeing strategy
3.	Develop a 12 month forward plan with support from the Local Government Association (LGA)
4.	Continue to include voice and lived experience to set the context for board, developing the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector links
5.	Scope the refresh of the Pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) due in October 2025
6.	Contribute to the development of the Thrive model, building on community centred approaches including Well Doncaster, Get Doncaster Moving and compassionate approach to health and wellbeing