

## **Doncaster Education and Skills Commission**

### **FAQs**

#### **What is it?**

- The Doncaster Education and Skills Commission has been set up by 'Team Doncaster' the local partnership of public services, business and the voluntary and community sector.
- It is an independent Commission that is being brought in to advise Team Doncaster on how to better align education, skills and employment. It will report in September

#### **Why is it necessary?**

- Doncaster is hoping to create new jobs in the coming years. We think many of these will require good levels of education and skills.
- We want our young people to have every chance of competing for these new jobs and want to make sure everyone is pulling together on this
- We have been holding conversations with businesses and schools throughout 2015 to look at the many challenges they all face and the idea of the Commission has emerged out of this

#### **When is it happening?**

- The Commission convened in February and will start its work in March.
- It will spend March to May engaging with people and organisations across Doncaster reporting initial findings to Team Doncaster.
- It will deliver its final report in September 2016

#### **Who are the members of the Commission?**

- The Commission will be chaired by Dr Ann Limb CBE DL who has long standing experience in the business skills sector and is currently Chair of the national Scouts Association
- The Vice Chair is Sir Tim Brighouse, a national renowned expert on schools who led the highly successful London challenge.
- Ann and Tim will be supported by Professor Keri Facer of Bristol University , an expert on future education challenges, and Amali de Alwis the Chief Executive of CodefirstGirls and technology start up. Amali has a background in business consultancy.
- A 5<sup>th</sup> member of the Commission is awaiting confirmation

### **How will it work?**

- Team Doncaster has asked the Commission to be consultative and to engage widely. They will meet with local decision makers, visit schools and colleges, meet with local businesses , take the views of young people and families . It will seek the views of health professionals, the blue light services and a wide range of voluntary, faith and community groups.
- The Commission will set up its own website and will publicise its activities via social media

### **How much will it cost ?**

- On behalf of Team Doncaster, the Council has put aside £85k to deliver the Commission which will cover engaging 5 commissioners over the 6 months and associated expenses and costs.

### **How will we be able to tell if the commission has worked?**

- Firstly, we can judge the impact of the Commission by the extent to which local stakeholders engage with it. We want to make it an open and conversational approach that people can engage with. The more interest it generates , the more likely the findings will represent local views
- The reception of its final report in Doncaster will be important. We are hoping that this will generate excitement and a range to possibilities. If all our partners embrace its findings and can see a collective way forward to supporting our young people into employment , then I will consider that a success
- The full impact of the Commission will only be better outcomes for our young people