

Planning Event Summary – *Young People, Our Future: 18th October 2024 - 12pm to 3pm.*



Important announcement by J. Gladden, The Chair of DHYP

RT HON DAME Rosie Winterton DBE will resign as Patron from DHYP and Sally Jameson and Lee Pitcher will be joint Patrons.

We are very honoured to have Sally and Lee as our patrons and thank them for taking up the roles.

[Two MPs are announced as new patrons at Doncaster Housing for Young People event](#)

IMPACT REPORT 23-24

DHYP Impact Summary April 2023 to March 2024

A total of 319 young people accessed DHYP's services

Our support has made a real difference to those young people:



71

young people have been supported to access and/or maintain **secure accommodation**

“I was homeless. DHYP helped me get assisted living and then to move into my own place and made sure I stayed on my feet.”



58

young people have accessed a range of **employment, volunteering or education opportunities**

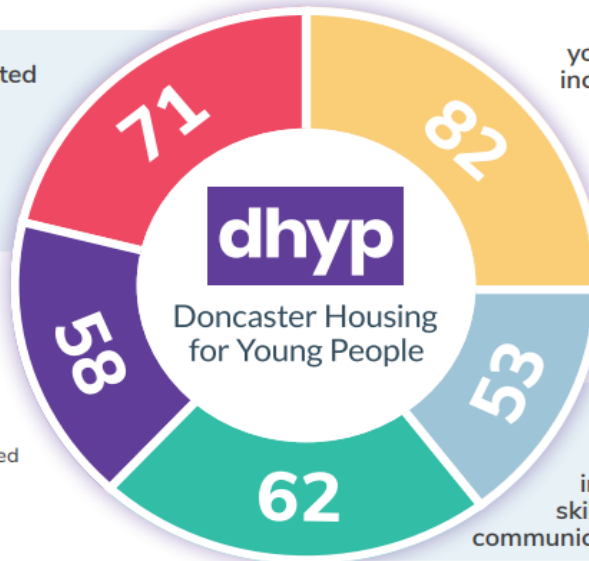
including 5 young people who have gained a job and 17 young people who have volunteered in the community



62

young people have **improved well-being** including 35 young people who accessed our counselling service

“In the counselling, I could bring up anything and actually speak about it rationally and come to a conclusion.”



82



young people have a **secure income** including through accessing benefits and employment, with 29 young people who have learnt to manage their finances

“I’m in a lot better place now than where I was. I have a better understanding of money and managing my finances. Getting out of my comfort zone and getting the help that I needed has made me feel like I have a brighter future.”

53



young people have **increased life skills** to live independently including household skills, healthy lifestyles, interpersonal communication and making positive choices

We have ensured the voice of young people is heard and valued including improving our employment skills programme booklet during the Client Scrutiny process and consulting with Doncaster Council about their plans for the city

“I enjoyed giving constructive criticism to help DHYP.”

DHYP Video

Please see link below to the video shown on the day

<https://youtu.be/dNCp5PoNi68?feature=shared>

Roundtable discussion summary

Tables 1 and 7 – Housing

Q1) How can we improve the amount of affordable/social housing available in Doncaster?



- **Review and reduction of age restrictions on housing:** Removing or reducing age restrictions on existing housing areas and new developments could increase availability for younger residents and other underserved populations. This would create more flexibility in the housing market and ensure that available homes can be offered to a broader demographic.
- **Control rental increases in social and private rented sectors:** Keeping rental prices in check, especially in the private rental market, can make housing more affordable. Regular review of rent increases in both social and private sectors would help ensure that costs remain within reach for lower-income residents.
- **Extended tenancy support post-transition:** Providing ongoing tenancy support, even after individuals transition from supported housing or temporary accommodations, could help reduce eviction rates and improve tenancy sustainment. This includes assistance in understanding housing rights, budgeting, and basic repairs.
- **Rent guarantor schemes:** These schemes can be crucial for people who may struggle to secure a tenancy due to financial instability or lack of a credit history, especially young people. Local authorities or housing charities could act as guarantors.
- **Strengthen partnerships with private landlords:** Encouraging collaboration with private landlords could open up more affordable rental options. By creating incentives, such as tax breaks or offering mediation support, landlords might be more willing to offer affordable housing.

- **Enforce affordable housing mandates in new developments:** Stricter enforcement of laws requiring a portion of new builds to be allocated for affordable or social housing would ensure that housing needs are met across all demographics. This could be reinforced with new housing bonds.
- **BAME community outreach:** Actively engaging with BAME communities ensures their housing needs are understood and addressed. This could involve culturally sensitive outreach programs to ensure these communities know about housing options and support services.
- **Understanding housing needs and affordability criteria:** Conducting research to better understand the specific needs and affordability of different groups (e.g., young people, single parents, disabled individuals) could help tailor housing strategies. This might involve revising affordability criteria to reflect local income levels.
- **Improve information for tenants on housing benefits:** Many tenants are unaware of the housing benefits and support available to them. Increasing the availability and clarity of information, potentially through digital platforms, could help more people access support.
- **Address circumstantial needs (disability, priority housing):** Developing tailored solutions for people with disabilities or other special circumstances (e.g. elderly or high-priority needs) could ensure that they have access to suitable, adapted housing.
- **Explore alternative housing models:** Investigating different housing models, such as hosts (temporary housing for those transitioning from homelessness) or shared housing schemes, could diversify the housing options available in Doncaster.
- **Sharing best practices:** Engaging with other councils or housing associations that have successfully tackled similar housing issues can offer valuable insights and strategies for improvement. Regularly reviewing best practices can inspire innovative solutions to local challenges.

Q2) How can we improve the existing service of social landlords/housing associations?

- **Clear expectations on repairs and timeframes:** A clear and agreed-upon timeline for repairs, with transparent communication to tenants, would reduce frustration and increase tenant satisfaction.
- **Empowering young tenants with repair skills:** Offering workshops or training to young people on how to do basic household repairs (e.g. changing light bulbs, fixing minor leaks) can help them manage their homes better and reduce pressure on landlords for small fixes.

- **Improved understanding of repairs policies:** Ensuring that tenants have a clear understanding of what repairs are covered by their landlord and what responsibilities fall on them would help manage expectations and reduce misunderstandings.
- **Welcome pack tailored to tenants:** Introducing a welcome pack for new tenants that is age-appropriate, simple, and accessible for non-English speakers can ensure everyone understands their rights, responsibilities, and how to access support services.
- **Collaborate with local experts and organizations:** Social landlords could work closely with organizations that understand the local community's needs, ensuring that services provided are relevant and beneficial to tenants.
- **Streamlined connections with repair suppliers:** Building relationships with suppliers or services for repairs could ensure timely responses to tenant needs, improving overall satisfaction. This could include pre-ordering common repair items to reduce wait times.
- **Standardizing processes and streamlining assistance:** A more uniform approach to dealing with repair requests, complaints, and other tenant concerns across all housing associations could help improve efficiency and fairness.
- **Simplifying the reporting process:** Simplifying how tenants report issues—through user-friendly apps or digital platforms—would make it easier for tenants to flag problems and track their resolution.

Tables 2 and 3 – Education, Employment, and Training.

Q1) What opportunities can we create for young people in Doncaster around volunteering, education, and employment?



- **Online training courses:** Providing access to free or low-cost online training opportunities (e.g. IT skills, vocational qualifications) can help young people enhance their employability.
- **Expand Workers' Education Association (WEA) courses:** Offering more WEA memberships for free, can help individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds access lifelong learning opportunities.
- **Apprenticeships and work experience programs:** Collaborating with local businesses to create more apprenticeships, internships, and work experience programs can provide pathways to stable employment.
- **Sponsors for work experience:** Offering sponsorships for work experience (e.g. covering travel or living costs) could help remove financial barriers for young people looking to gain experience in their chosen field.
- **Access to library computers:** Ensuring that all young people have access to computers and the internet, particularly in libraries, will help them develop digital skills and access education and employment resources.
- **Help with digital CV creation:** Providing support for creating professional, digital CVs could improve young people's chances of getting job interviews.
- **Bring-to-work days:** Organising events where young people can visit local workplaces to gain insight into different careers and industries.
- **Central education hub:** Creating a digital hub that centralises information about courses, apprenticeships, and training programmes in Doncaster would simplify access for young people.
- **Volunteering with financial support:** Offering financial support to young people engaged in volunteering programs (e.g. covering travel or food costs) could increase participation, helping them gain valuable experience.
- **Collaboration with local businesses and educational institutions:** Encouraging local employers and Doncaster College to partner with youth programmes can facilitate easier transitions into employment through short-term training that leads to interviews and apprenticeships.

Q2) Is there access to free education for people over 20?

- **Open learning and further education:** Adult learners can access free or low-cost learning opportunities through open learning platforms, especially if they are eligible for certain benefits.
- **Support for care leavers:** Care leavers often qualify for additional educational support, including funding for courses, which can extend beyond the age of 20.
- **In-work training programs:** Many employers offer free or subsidized training for employees, allowing them to gain qualifications whilst working.

Table 4 – Other Services

Q1) How can we improve information sharing and access to other services for young people, such as Mental Health Services and Drug and Alcohol services?



- **Increase social media presence:** Promoting mental health services through social media channels, which are frequently used by young people, could increase awareness.
- **Promotion through public spaces:** Displaying posters in GP surgeries, youth clubs, and local shops will help spread awareness about available services in Doncaster.
- **Create safe spaces for conversations:** Offering community spaces for open discussions around mental health and substance abuse can reduce stigma and encourage young people to seek help.
- **Strengthen connections with Aspire/CAMHS:** Building stronger partnerships with mental health services like Aspire and CAMHS would improve trust and accessibility, particularly for those with preconceived fears about these services.
- **Virtual notice board or app:** Creating a central online hub or app that provides information on all available mental health and addiction services, including how to access them, could make services easier to find.
- **Anonymous forums:** Offering anonymous, peer-led forums where young people can discuss issues without fear of judgment might encourage early intervention.
- **Peer support networks:** Developing peer support systems would allow young people to help each other and share their experiences with mental health challenges.

Table 5 – Service Development

Q1) Could DHYP support people over the age of 25 in accessing services?



- **Support for existing clients beyond age 25:** Extending support to current clients who need ongoing assistance past the age of 25 would provide continuity and reduce the risk of homelessness or mental health crises.
- **Referral to specialised services:** While resources may be limited, signposting clients over 25 to relevant services such as employment support or mental health services would ensure they get the help they need.

Q2) What other services providing similar support are available for people over 25?

- **Employment support:** Programs like Changing Lives provide targeted support for employment and education for those over 25.
- **Mental health services:** Various organizations, such as the Samaritans and local talking therapies, offer mental health support for adults.
- **Supported housing schemes:** Services like Riverside and the YMCA offer housing support for those transitioning out of homelessness or in need of long-term housing solutions.

Table 6 – City Centre

Q1) How can we improve Doncaster city centre (in terms of cleanliness, safety, and anti-social behaviour)?



- **Health on the High Street Initiative:**
The "Health on the High Street" initiative aims to improve well-being and reduce health inequalities by providing healthcare services directly in the city centre. This could involve offering mental health support, addiction services, or general health checks in accessible public spaces. The presence of healthcare professionals in the city centre would help create a safer environment, offering immediate support for vulnerable individuals and reducing antisocial behaviour that may stem from untreated health issues. Clear information about available services and outreach should be a priority to engage those most in need.
- **Strengthen Links Between the Council and Youth Parliament (YPF):**
Ensuring that young people's voices are actively heard in planning and decision-making processes is critical. Strengthening the connection between the council and youth organizations like YPF allows for greater representation of younger demographics, who are often the most impacted by safety and social issues in city centres. Regular consultations or focus groups with young people could help highlight their needs and ideas for improvement, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility toward the city's development.
- **Targeted Campaigns to Identify Youth Needs:**
A follow-up campaign focusing specifically on what young people want to see in the city centre would provide more focused insights. This could involve tailored surveys, interviews, or community workshops that gather young people's perspectives on issues like safety, anti-social behaviour, and what types of recreational activities or spaces they would like to see. Conducting these campaigns in youth-friendly spaces and using appropriate methods of communication (such as social media) will help engage this demographic more effectively.
- **Revised Survey Approaches:**
Who asks the survey questions can influence the responses. Having young

people themselves conduct surveys with their peers may result in more candid and insightful feedback on issues that directly impact them, such as safety, cleanliness, and public amenities in the city centre. This peer-to-peer approach creates a more comfortable environment for respondents and ensures that their voices are better represented.

- **Online Youth Hub:**

Creating an online youth hub, possibly in collaboration with DHYP (Doncaster Housing for Young People), could centralize information about events, services, and opportunities specifically for young people. This could be a space for information on volunteering, activities, and employment, but also an avenue for ongoing dialogue about the condition of the city centre, providing a virtual platform where young people can voice their concerns or share ideas for improvement.

- **City Centre Conversation – Leveraging Existing Data:**

The City Centre Conversation, which received 8,000 responses, offers a wealth of data to draw from, even if the youth representation was low. The feedback can still help inform future decisions around public spaces, safety measures, and urban design improvements. Future initiatives should focus on increasing youth participation to ensure that their concerns about safety and their use of public spaces are fully understood and addressed.

- **Promote Events to Engage Youth:**

Young people are more likely to participate in community discussions or improvement initiatives when these are promoted through channels they use, like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. Advertising city centre events, consultations, or initiatives through social media could attract higher youth engagement and participation, encouraging them to contribute ideas for how to improve cleanliness, safety, and social behaviour.

- **Tap into Specific Groups (e.g. Stainforth / Well Doncaster):**

Targeting initiatives to specific areas like Stainforth and Well Doncaster, which may have higher concentrations of young people or vulnerable groups, can ensure that interventions are localized and impactful. These areas may have unique challenges when it comes to cleanliness or anti-social behaviour, and addressing their specific needs can lead to better overall outcomes for the city centre as a whole.

- **Investment of £1 Million in City Centre (Mayor's Fund):**

The Mayor's allocation of £1 million for the improvement of Doncaster city centre represents a significant opportunity to address pressing concerns related to cleanliness, safety, and social behaviour. This funding could be allocated toward increasing street cleaning services, upgrading urban furniture, and installing better safety infrastructure like lighting and secure bins to deter littering and vandalism. Additionally, this investment could be used to

support youth-friendly spaces and activities, making the city centre a more welcoming and inclusive space for all.

- **Improved CCTV, Urban Furniture, and Staffing:**

Increasing CCTV coverage, enhancing urban furniture (e.g. seating, bike racks, waste bins), and adding additional staff (e.g. community wardens or security personnel) would help deter anti-social behaviour and improve public perceptions of safety. More visible staff in the city centre can act as a deterrent to crime, provide a point of contact for concerns, and offer support to people in distress. Enhanced CCTV can not only prevent crime, but also help in quickly resolving issues related to vandalism or theft, creating a more secure environment for visitors and residents alike.

Celebration of Young People

The collaboration poem – DHYP

(by young people who attend the Monday Creative Writing Group)



Doncaster housing for young people
a reassuring acceptance
an overwhelming process at first
but soon...
a sense of belonging a feeling of home

Hope in clients allowing them to believe they can change their own future
warm and trusting conversations to share their knowledge and support
relax
a warm drink to ease my emotions and worries
muscles relax a breath out
safety in the warmth of a cup of tea.

Young minds, young people, you can be anything you want to be here
The feeling of belonging
like being wrapped up in a warm blanket
no matter where you come from or your background DHYP holds a special place in
many people's hearts
Changing lives and making us who we are today.

Praise from the moment you walk in you'll never feel alone
like someone switched a light on
bringing light to your life
trust that I feel the safety I once wished for.



Thank you to all our partners, supporters, donators and funders!



Doncaster Housing
for Young People



Ardagh Group



Real Help Doncaster



The Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust

The Oliver Borthwick Memorial Trust





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