

# DONCASTER FUTURES FAIR

September

20  
24



City of  
Doncaster  
Council

**NHS**  
South Yorkshire  
Integrated Care Board



Employment  
is for Everyone



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# 1. Introduction



In 2023, a group of young people from Genuine Partnerships and Guiding Voices came together to discuss Employment. The young people said they wanted to hold an event about employment, but to be able to work, they also needed to know about many other things. These included Health, Housing, and Community Inclusion. Young people said they would like this to be called the Futures Fair and they would like one event in each area of South Yorkshire. South Yorkshire ICB gave some funding for an event to Employment is for Everyone to help facilitate this.

At the same time, Doncaster Council was working on their Supported Internships Programme and wished to host an event for young people with SEND to showcase the different employment opportunities available across Doncaster.

Doncaster Council and Employment is for Everyone came together to organise the Futures Fair. Clair Dawson, SEND Enterprise Co-ordinator Project Lead for Doncaster Council, and the DMBC Skills Team, led on the event with support from Employment is for Everyone.

# 1. Introduction

Together we worked with partners and organisations across Doncaster and South Yorkshire to ensure we had the right representation for young people on the day.

The event was held on the 18th of September at Doncaster Eco Power Stadium. The whole day was based on what young people had told us was important.

Young people in Doncaster helped to shape the running order and structure of the day. The event started at 1PM and finished at 6PM, so that people could attend either with school, or with their family or supporters later in the day. This was to help ensure as many people as possible could attend. This report shares the feedback from the day.





## 2. What happened on the day?

The event was separated into different zones based on the feedback from children and young people:

1. Employment
2. Housing
3. Community Inclusion
4. Health
5. Education

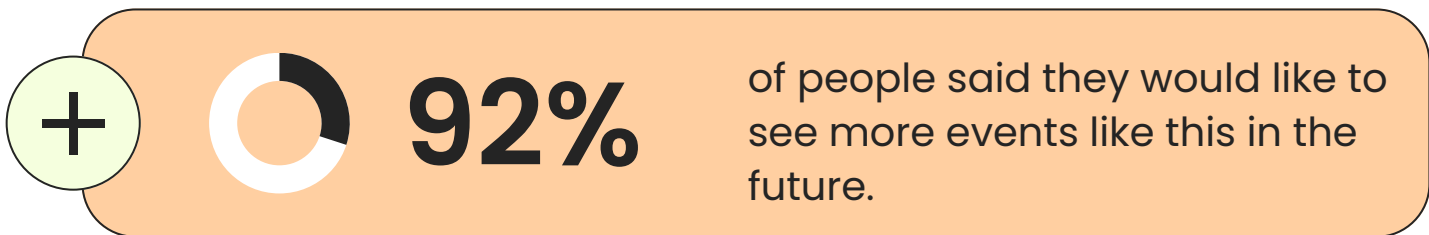
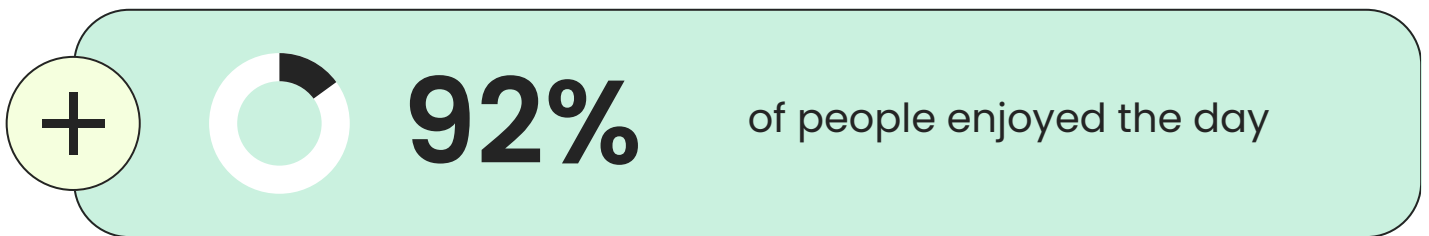
Each zone was given the questions that young people wanted answering at the event.

Everyone attending the event had the opportunity to join workshops on the topics above these were delivered by partners including, NHS England, NSPCC, Peer Support Workers (Speakup) and the DWP. People could also listen to mini talks or find out more information from the market stalls. The mini talks included presentations from:

- Employment is for Everyone
- Sheffield University
- Amazon
- DFN Project Search
- Apprenticeships
- Local Supported Employment
- National Development Team for Inclusion.

### 3. People told us they enjoyed

Over 500 people attended the day, people had a range of ways to tell us their views. Some people filled out questionnaires and others were filmed on the day. 29 people filled in the questionnaire.



## 4. People told us they enjoyed...



**There was a good choice of information about work and further education. The employment talk was really good.**



**Really friendly and positive atmosphere, good networking, fulfilling**



**Mini talks provided excellent info (apprenticeship)**



**The amount of people and stalls**



**I enjoyed mixing and networking with many different people and telling my own personal employment journey**



# 5. People told us what would you like to see at future events?



**A mental health stall to help find autism friendly counsellors/therapists**



**Stalls for children who haven't achieved GCSEs but haven't got an EHCP**



**More stalls regarding specific employment. e.g. office work or factory work etc.**



**LGBT+, sexuality, hate crime, independent living**



**Something on home education**



**More creative opportunities**

## **6. Other things people told us....**

**“It was a brilliant event as there were lots of people who attended from all sorts of different organisations. As well as the stuff going off inside there was also entertainment outside from a small choir who were terrific, and also a mini zoo and burger stand. Quite a lot of people came to our stand and they were interested in what Employment is for Everyone was doing and wanted to get involved which was great.”**

**Jodie Bradley - Expert by Experience**

**"The event in my opinion went well. Me and three other colleagues including someone from DWP presented about employment. We presented this three times throughout the event. I feel we did well in inspiring the young people who attended and I am looking forward to doing it again in the future"**

**Frazer Stansfield - Children and Young People Peer Support Worker South Yorkshire**

## **6. Other things people told us....**

**“A brilliant range of interactive stalls and the sensory room was really good – it had a really good feel, even though it was busy, my daughter was really calm. A great community spirit when everyone comes together to share information to help young people – more of this would be lovely.”**

**Parent of Doncaster young person**

**“Really enjoyed the day – we had our own personal Amazon employer talk, which was really useful. They loved petting the goats from the community farm at the start of the day.”**

**Hayley – Journey Education Group**

**“Really useful and interesting to see what is out there – really beneficial to all parents and great that schools have brought children so they can access it too.”**

**Doncaster Parents Voice and parent of a child with SEND**



## **6. Other things people told us....**

**“I’m trying to grow and achieve more things. There’s lots of opportunities here for job roles including sports.”**

**Doncaster young person**

**“Great opportunity to network and show what’s working well in various areas and work with other organisations and partners and help and engage with young people and families to find out more about accessing dentists and oral health.”**

**Oral Health Stall Holder**

**“I really enjoyed being there. I spoke with sports groups and talked with lots of people.”**

**Doncaster young person**

## **6. Other things people told us....**

**'I feel it's really important to have these events. People like myself that have a hidden disability want to work and want to have careers. People being at the event like myself that have a career can be role model for other people, we can inspire them. People need to stop putting labels on us, we can be great role models and change attitudes of other people and what we can do and achieve in our careers.**

**We can get parents thinking, they don't need to be scared, their children can have careers too'**

**Shaun Webster MBE - Expert by Experience and  
Oliver McGowan Trainer**