

## Local Enterprise Partnership

07 July 2022

### Launch of South Yorkshire Data and Intelligence Hub

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<b>Is the paper exempt from the press and public?</b>	No
<b><i>Reason why exempt:</i></b>	Not applicable
<b>Purpose of this report:</b>	Discussion
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Has it been included on the Forward Plan?</b>	Not a Key Decision

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#### **Executive Summary**

The new 'Data and Intelligence Hub' platform embedded onto SYMCA's website will enable residents, businesses and organisations to easily access data about South Yorkshire's social, economic and environmental performance. These datasets provide an insight into how South Yorkshire is performing across several domains such as transport, environment, inequality, and more. The platform brings over 130 open-source datasets into one place.

The wider vision of this initiative is to become a central point for intelligence and insight in South Yorkshire, complementing it with deeper analysis, mapping and further data insights. The aspiration is that this can improve decision making at all levels.

## **What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?**

Enhanced transparency and increased access to data and information for a wide range of purposes.

### **Recommendations**

Board members are asked to

1. Note the progress made
  2. Consider how they would like this resource to be deployed
  3. Advise on how the MCA can work with partners to build an inclusive data and analytics community in South Yorkshire across age, sector and personal circumstance
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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Strategic Economic Plan (2020) identified key indicators of success against the vision for 'growth, inclusion and sustainability'. To track progress but also to provide better access to data on South Yorkshire, 130 datasets across 8 themes – have been pulled together to track South Yorkshire's economic, social and environmental performance.

The themes are:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Business & Innovation
- Education, skills and employment
- Transport and mobility
- Clean energy, net zero and environment
- Land, housing, digital & infrastructure
- Inclusion
- Culture & Visitor Economy

The new Data & Intelligence Hub has been developed to meet this need, presenting data in an accessible way to a range of anticipated users which include:

- MCA and anchor partners
- Civil servants
- Peer LEAs and Combined Authorities
- Data & Research community
- Policy makers
- Academia
- Local Resilience Forum
- Residents
- Businesses, investors, etc

The aim of the platform is to enable better access to data, deliver better data and enhance analytics, enhance understanding of data, promote open and integrated data to improve insight, intelligence and decision making and improve lives.

More specifically, the 'dashboard' will:

- Provide a single source of "truth" where all the key, validated data regarding SY can be shared, investigated, and quoted to track performance, inform decisions and challenge perceptions.

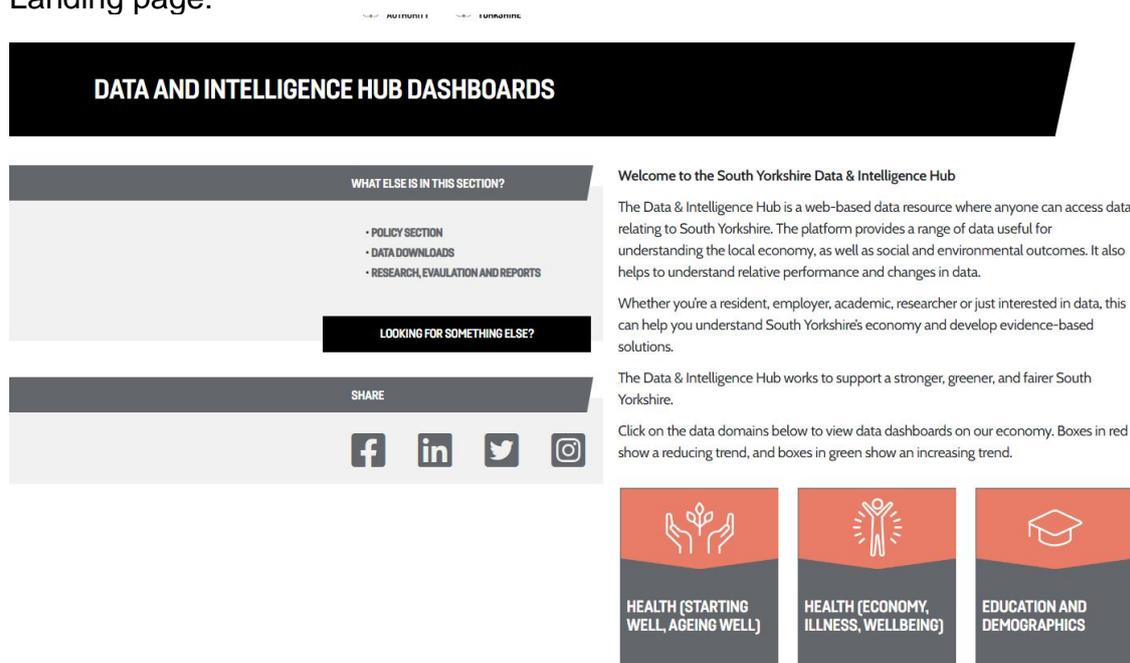
- Enable data experts and enthusiasts to use the data to provide creative solutions to the big questions of our time.
- Utilise data and evidence to provide insight on how the varied priorities of partners are connected and interdependent and the key issues and objectives we all have are related.
- Monitor and show the progress being made regarding achieving our climate emergency targets as well as showing the extent of inequalities, deprivation and the net zero challenge to track the progress being made to reduce/eliminate/meet our ambitions towards these.
- Confirm the pace and nature of local economic growth and how this compares with peer areas. This should also inform business and individual decisions.
- Inform stakeholders about data related to their interest areas (e.g. labour market information, transport operational performance).

1.2 The dashboard is embedded into the main SYMCA website. The pages are available here:

<https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/Data-Intelligence-Hub> (not available on a google search until launch). Below are two select screenshots which the user will see.

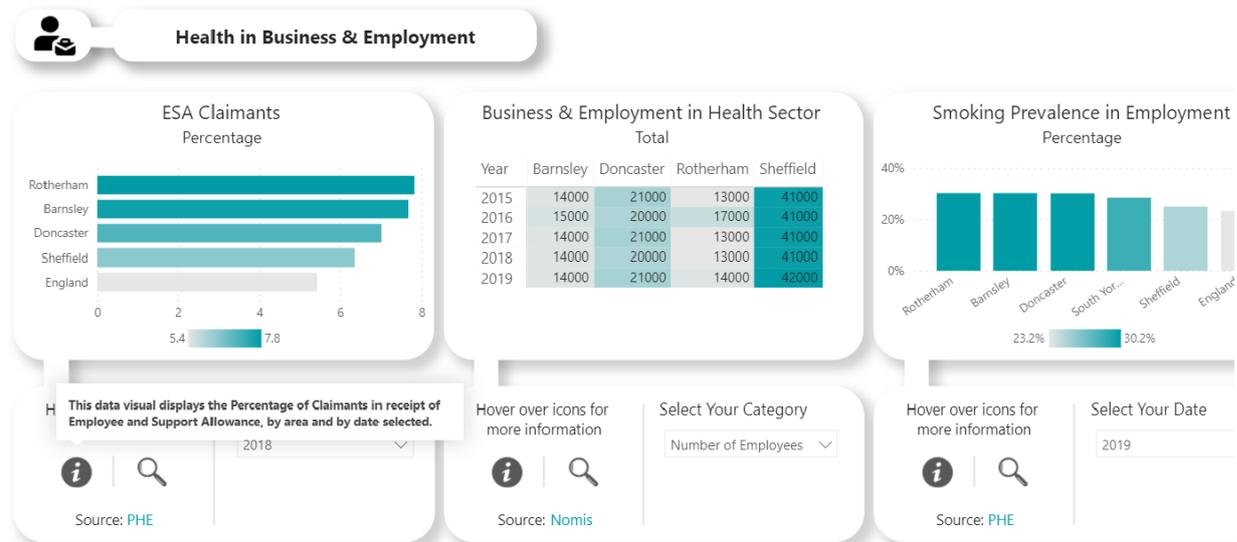
### Screenshot (1/2)

Landing page:



### 1.3 Screenshot (2/2)

Data visualisation within the 'Health' theme.



1.4 The data provided is from official sources (ONS, Government Departments, etc) and the dashboards allow users to download the information and visit the source data. All of the data has simple interactive features and allows users to understand more about a range of thematic areas.

1.5 All data generated from commissioned research (by the MCA and partners) will be used to update and improve the Hub.

## 2. Key Issues

### 2.1 In process

- The Hub has undergone a 'soft launch' process of the platform, inviting a range of colleagues and external stakeholders to test it, find any errors, and provide feedback.
- The "hard launch" will be in early July.

### Future development

- The next phase of this work will be to extend the functionality within the platform to host finely detailed mapping data. This will involve an interactive set of maps which incorporates 'rich' datasets which contain datapoints at small geographical scales. For example, Census data can be incorporated here, as well as bespoke data such as the location of a range of place-based MCA investments and plans, such as an active travel network.
- Data on its own is not sufficient and the MCA has been working with the University of Sheffield to scope and pilot an Office for Data Analytics (ODA). The pilot is nearing completion, and this will provide a proposal for a future service, allowing contributors and interested parties to access analysis, detailed data and more analytical capacity.
- Beyond providing a data platform, the wider vision for the Data & Intelligence Hub is to foster a community of practice in South Yorkshire to encourage further data sharing and exploration, as well as opportunities for analysis and learning. This could involve activities such as making administrative data suitable for publication and hosting blogs and events, building upon the policy briefings, (e.g. data hacks) and analysis of new data (e.g. mobile phone data).

### **3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

#### **3.1 Option 1**

Do Nothing – commission data ad hoc to meet a specific need

Option 1 Risk and Mitigation

Risk: The MCA / LEP and Partners have delayed access to information and this approach involves considerable cost and procurement

#### **3.2 Option 2**

Do something – The development of the Hub in house, was a pragmatic approach to bring together a large number of data sets. Making this open access should support partners with their information requirements.

Option 2 Risks and Mitigation

Risks – Needs internal capacity and capability to maintain data sets – that cannot be auto updated

Mitigation – This has been built into core team objectives

#### **3.3 Option 3**

Do more – There is work underway with the Universities on the development of the Office for Data Analytics and aligned to this the desire to build a vibrant research community and research programme.

Option 3 Risks and Mitigations

Risks: Trying to do too much too soon before the Hub embeds itself as the go to place

Mitigation: Continue to discuss and plan

#### **3.4 Preferred Option**

Option 2

### **4. Consultation on Proposal**

4.1 The Data and Intelligence Hub's progress has been very open with regular feedback and consultation. The intention is to formalise this consultation and to enhance the feedback and leadership from colleagues.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 The Hub will be launched in early July.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

6.1 Development of the Data and Intelligence Hub has been costed within existing budgets. The proposals around mapping and further next steps require further scoping.

## **7. Legal Implications and Advice**

- 7.1 All data is open and at this stage there are no legal implications. The next stages around data sharing and open data are likely to require bespoke agreements between parties.

## **8. Human Resources Implications and Advice**

- 8.1 This is managed internally by the MCA Executive Policy Team (Data Services).

## **9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

- 9.1 The data collected shows the need for better understanding of equality and diversity within South Yorkshire and many of the datasets (and subsequent analysis) will enhance work to improve equality and diversity.

## **10. Climate Change Implications and Advice**

- 10.1 The data dashboards provide further insight into the opportunities and challenge around climate change, net zero, natural capital and the green economy.

## **11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice**

- 11.1 The dashboards use Microsoft PowerBi and next step developments include looking at a server to host the data.

## **12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice**

- 12.1 A launch is planned for the Data and Intelligence hub in July. A small set of communications activities is planned for the launch which includes webinars, social media and a small data focused event.

### **List of Appendices Included**

No Appendices. Visit page here: <https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/Data-Intelligence-Hub>