

EAST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Day: Wednesday
Date: 24 January 2024
Time: 6.30 pm
Place: Zoom

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for absence from Members of the Forum.	
2.	MINUTES To receive the minutes of the meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 11 October 2023.	1 - 6
3.	TORNADO UPDATE To receive a presentation from the Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods.	7 - 12
4.	BUDGET CONSULTATION To receive a presentation from the Director of Resources.	13 - 20
5.	CARERS STRATEGY To receive a presentation from the Head of Service, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health.	21 - 30
6.	HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER CARER To receive a presentation from the Children’s Services Consultant.	31 - 46
7.	LOCAL PLAN To receive a presentation from the Planning Policy Team Manager.	47 - 64
8.	SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY To receive a presentation from the Assistant Director of Public Health.	65 - 72
9.	FLU UPTAKE & IMPACT OF DOCTOR'S STRIKE To receive a presentation from the Assistant Director of Public Health.	73 - 76
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that the next meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum is scheduled to take place on 20 March 2024.	

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Benjamin Hopkins, Senior Democratic Services Officer, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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EAST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

11 October 2023

Commenced: 6.30 pm

Terminated: 8.15 pm

Present:

Councillors J Homer (Vice-Chair), Feeley, Jackson, Lane, N Sharif, Sweeton, Taylor, Tilbrook and Wills

In Attendance:

Emma Varnam Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
James Mallion Assistant Director of Public Health
Lee Holland Head of Engineering Services
Sharon Smith Head of Public Protection
Bev Hursthouse Regulatory Services Manager (Environmental Services)

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Pearce, Beardmore, Billington, S Homer and T Sharif

8 MINUTES

The minutes of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum meeting held on 21 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

9 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE

The Panel received a presentation from the Head of Engineering Services in relation to highways maintenance in the borough.

Members were informed that the Council was responsible for a variety of infrastructure on Tameside's highway network and this included 73km of principal roads, 70km of classified roads, 615km of unclassified roads and 1,155km of footways. In addition, the Council was responsible for 48,126 gullies, 25,341 street lighting columns, 4,000 signs, 159 bridges and 304 retaining walls/structures.

An explanation of the borough's road hierarchy was provided and it was explained that the hierarchy was important in terms of maintenance as this helped to establish where demand was and where resources could be best deployed.

It was explained that the highway network was the Council's largest single asset and a valuation of the network was conducted each year. This valuation determined whether the network had improved or deteriorated and where money should be spent. Members were advised that the Council's highway network was currently valued at £1.4 billion due to depreciation of assets. The Head of Engineering Services emphasised the importance of the efficient use of resources used on asset maintenance.

The Head of Engineering Services explained the different areas of highway asset groups and how the Council determined the condition of the network around the borough. Members were presented with an overview of the condition of highway structures and it was explained 41.47% of structures were rated as being in a fair condition. The condition of structures was regularly monitored.

In terms of street lighting, it was explained that the Council held an inventory of all assets with an electrical supply. Members were informed that the age profile on columns dictated the strategy for maintenance and structural testing was undertaken on a percentage of columns. Visual inspections and electrical testing were also regularly undertaken which assisted with the efficient use of resources within Highways.

Regarding winter maintenance plans, it was highlighted that the Highway's team regularly monitored the weather forecasts between October and April. There was two dedicated weather stations within Tameside, which provided real time weather information and the team used this to determine the measures required. The team regularly undertook a pre-treatment during the winter months that treated 350 kilometres of the network with grit. This was based on a risk assessment that looked at the areas requiring treatment.

In relation to risk management, it was explained that regular inspections of the network were undertaken and interventions were based on a risk-based approach. Members were advised that, 7,516 footway inspections and 7,118 carriageway inspections were undertaken last year.

Members sought an update on the maintenance of gullies and the Head of Engineering Services advised that there was a backlog in gully clearance but the Council now had two gully cleansing vehicles and clearance would take place on a risk-based approach.

The Forum thanked the Head of Engineering Services for the continued work to maintain the borough's highway network in the face of diminishing resources. It was important that residents understood that there was a budget gap but vital that the Council continued with a rolling programme of maintenance.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

10 VACCINATIONS

The Panel received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Population Health in relation to flu and covid-19 vaccinations for autumn-winter 2023/24.

Members were informed that the flu and covid-19 vaccinations were available for those aged 65 and over as well as those who were considered to be clinically vulnerable. The flu vaccine offered varied slightly from year to year and was designed to protect against the type of virus that was likely to be circulating. Covid-19 booster vaccinations were being offered to those eligible to coincide with the flu vaccination programme.

It was highlighted that vaccinations not only provided individual protection but also made it harder for viruses to spread between people, including those who were more vulnerable and/or were unable to be vaccinated.

The Forum was advised that NHS England set out the criteria for those who were eligible to be vaccinated and how the programme would work. The Population Health team at the Council then worked together to deliver the vaccines according to this.

A summary of the seasonal flu vaccination uptake for 2022/23 was shared with the Forum and it was highlighted that uptake had been lower among pregnant women and toddlers. It was explained that this was related to issues around access and a perception that the risk from flu was not as great among these groups.

In relation to the covid-19 booster vaccination uptake for 2022/23, the Assistant Director advised that it was down on the height of the pandemic.

Plans for the 2023/24 autumn-winter vaccination were presented and it was explained that the vaccines would be available in all four neighbourhoods. Primary care networks were leading on the covid-19 vaccine delivery and the flu vaccine could be obtained from practices and community pharmacies. Co-delivery of both vaccines was available for eligible groups.

To increase uptake among those groups where it had been lower, special sessions would be held for two and three year olds, and free soft play vouchers would be available in some areas. Pregnant women would be offered the flu vaccine at antenatal clinics and a flyer on covid-19 vaccine availability would be provided. A school and TMBC programme would also be available.

Members were keen that GPs communicated the availability of vaccines to their patients and the Council's Communications Team would also be launching a campaign on social media and in local publications, as well as posters and banners in key locations.

RESOLVED

That the content of the update be noted.

11 ENFORCEMENT PANEL ACTIVITY

The Panel received a presentation from the Head of Public Protection in relation to recent enforcement activity by the Council. An overview of the functions undertaken by the Public Protection team was provided, and this included Food Safety and Food Standards; Trading Standards; Housing Enforcement; Environment/Waste Enforcement; Public Health; and Licensing.

Members were informed that the Council was required to have a Corporate Enforcement Policy and a draft of this policy was currently being updated. The Policy outlined how the Council enforced a range of legislation in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. It was intended to protect the public, the environment, consumers, and workers within the borough to meet their legal obligations, and take firm action against those who flouted the law or acted irresponsibly.

Details of the Council's Enforcement Panel were outlined to the Forum and it was explained that the purpose of the Panel, which met quarterly, was to:

- Provide overview, assurance and scrutiny of the wide range of enforcement activity undertaken across the Council by receiving reports from service areas in scope.
- Promote the enforcement activities of the Council's enforcement services throughout the borough.
- Provide cohesion for the Council's enforcement bodies.
- Provide integrated service provision and joined up planning across a range of enforcement activities with wider service providers, such as Greater Manchester Police.
- Deliver on strategic priorities, including increasing enforcement across Tameside.

A wide range of enforcement activity had taken place between March and September 2023 across the remit of Public Protection. A summary was provided to the Forum. Environmental Services had conducted an investigation at the Bake 'n' Butty Café following the installation of a petrol generator in the basement of the premises. A Health and Safety Notice was served and Tameside Magistrates Court imposed 100 hours of unpaid work, 20 rehabilitation days, £130 victim surcharge, £5,000 costs and an 18-week custodial sentence.

Members welcomed the successful prosecution at Tameside Magistrates Court of a Droylsden man for fly tipping. The magistrates imposed a fine of £500, victim surcharge of £50 and costs of £1,269. An Ashton woman had also been successfully prosecuted for waste dumped on Bentinck Street in the town. A fine of £112 plus £200 costs was imposed.

The Council had undertaken a number of successful Waste Enforcement Days of Action in Hyde Werneth on 15 March, St Peter's on 28 June, St Michael's on 12 July and Waterloo on 27 September. A total of 32 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued across these days of action. Members were keen that they were invited to days of enforcement activity.

It was reported that the Council's Licensing Panel had refused two applications for a taxi license as the applicants did not meet the standards of the Council's fit and proper person test.

In relation to anti-social behaviour, it was reported that the Council had received 178 reports between January and August. Twenty-one Public Space Protection Order tickets were issued, as well as four Community Protection Warnings and three Community Protection Notices.

Members and the public were encouraged to contact the Public Protection Team if any matters of concern arose.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

12 JOINT HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY AND LOCALITY PLAN

The Forum received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Population Health in relation to the Tameside Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Locality Plan.

The Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Locality Plan would set out Tameside's ambitions for improving the health of residents and reducing the many inequalities that some communities in the borough faced. It also explained how these ambitions would be achieved by making commitments across the life course, including a focus on mental health & wellbeing, and then building back fairer, stronger and together to achieve these.

Members were informed that each local authority area was required to have a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and this had the responsibility for building a strong and effective partnership for Tameside, including the local authority, NHS and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector.

The Locality Plan for Tameside provided the vision for health and care services across the borough, aligned to the priorities in the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Strategy and Joint Forward Plan.

A number of the key aims for Tameside were outlined to the Forum:

- Giving children the best start in life;
- Helping people stay well across the life course and detect illness earlier;
- Enabling all residents to grow old with dignity and independence;
- Helping people get into, and stay in good work;
- Strengthening communities; and
- Delivering healthy places with accessible and inclusive services.

This would be achieved by building back fairer, stronger and together.

The voice of Tameside residents was crucial during the formulation of the Plan and their views included:

- More job opportunities that matched skills;
- Charities being supported;
- Concern about poverty and climate change;
- A recognition that local and national funding was a challenge; and
- Improved access to mental health support.

A discussion ensued in relation to how the success of the strategy would be measured. The Assistant Director explained that increases in healthy life expectancy and reducing levels of smoking would be important indicators, though stressed results would not be immediate.

A copy of the Strategy was available for both Members and the public to read.

RESOLVED

That the content of the update be noted.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of the Forum would take place on 24 January 2024.

CHAIR

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Tornado Update January 2024



- Late in the evening of 27 December 2023, a T5 tornado was registered in Stalybridge. This incident was an element of storm Gerrit that impacted areas of the North West.
- The tornado was of short duration and an unexpected incident that caused significant damage to properties and also brought down trees resulting in further damage to properties, vehicles and roads in the area.
- A major incident, in line with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 was declared and a significant multi-agency response was mobilised throughout the night and the following days.
- A rest centre was established at Dukinfield Town Hall on the night of the event and the following day for any displaced residents. Only one family attended seeking support although not accommodation.
- Fortunately, there were no casualties as a result of the incident, and the major incident was stood down the following morning.

- Our emergency call centre received 1050 calls during the 24 hours following the incident – a period during which we would normally expect to see 200 calls.
- All properties were inspected by the evening of Thursday 28 December of which: -

Section 78 Notices Issued:	24
Section 77 Notices Issued:	107
No Notice Issued:	4
- A large number of properties owned by the Social Land Jigsaw (<https://www.jigsawhomes.org.uk/>) were also impacted and they are supporting residents with necessary remedial action.



Our Response

- The Council brought in around 75 staff over the Christmas period, during which we would normally have a skeleton staff over Christmas closure.
- Street teams prioritised debris and fallen trees along our public highways ensuring they were safe and accessible before dealing with debris within fenced off areas.
- Street cleansing teams attended Hough Hill Road on the afternoon of 29 December to remove debris from the road and footpath.
- Of the 135 properties affected, only 23 remain uninhabitable as at 23rd January 2024
- We will continue to connect with residents as their homes are repaired
- Application to the Forever Manchester Fund on behalf of affected 77/78 property owners. Communication will sent to residents in the next 10 days.



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BUDGET 2024/25 & MTFS 2024/29

Neighbourhood Forum
January 2024



National Landscape and Challenges

- Nationally, Local Government is facing significant challenge, with a number of local authorities reporting acute difficulty in balancing their budgets with others being subject to Government intervention.
- For context, Local Government funding declined by almost one third between 2010 and 2021. A report to the Public Accounts Committee in February 2022 ([Local Government Finance system: Overview and challenges \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/publications/2022/02/local-government-finance-system-overview-and-challenges)) found that Local Authorities' income was £8.4bn less in real terms than in the previous decade.
- Whilst recent settlements have been more reasonable, much of the funding was meant for the Adult Social Care reforms and an expectation Councils would raise more locally through Council Tax.
- In November 2023, the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered the Autumn Statement. The Government described the Statement as one for growth, prioritising tax cuts for individuals and businesses. The announcements reducing Employees' National Insurance contributions from 12% to 10% and the reset of Local Housing Allowances to the 30th percentile in April 2024 are welcome for residents of Tameside given the cost-of-living increases since the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there was very little announced for public services.
- Following the Autumn Statement, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has revised its economic forecasts and updated its analysis for Local Government finance. The OBR is now forecasting that, nationally:
 - Locally financed expenditure, i.e. that raised through Council Tax and Business Rates will rise 21% over the 3 years to 2025/26 - £62.2bn to £75.3bn.
 - Councils will have to use reserves of up to £2.3bn to deliver balanced budgets to 2025/26. Before the Autumn Statement, the OBR did not forecast the use of reserves at all.
 - Local Government spending will fall from 5.0% of GDP today to 4.6% of GDP in 2028/29. In 2010/11, it was 7.4% of GDP.
- In the 18 years from 2000 – 2018, only 2 Councils issued a Section 114 notice. Since 2018 there have been 12 issued and many other Councils have stated that there is only so much resource left in the system.

Whilst the funding increases in the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement are welcomed it still **does not replace the funding lost through austerity.**



↓ **£700**

Reduction per dwelling (real-terms) in Tameside since 2010-11



18.9%

Average reduction in English local authorities real-terms spending since 2010-11



22.4%

Reduction in Tameside's real-terms spending since 2010-11



£318

Reduction per head (real-terms) in Tameside since 2010-11



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The average cut per dwelling in England in real-terms since 2010-11 was £581. If Tameside had received the average cut it would be **£12.5m better off.**

This has put an over reliance on locally raised taxes which passes the financial burden onto the local taxpayer.

Additional demand for services across the front line

Fragile markets for social care and housing supply

Increases in complexity of care needs in Social Care

Increasing numbers of young people with Education, Health and Care Plans

Increased contacts due to the economic environment

Digital Transformation

Budget Reductions

Budget reductions proposals by Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity)	(3.350)	(2.820)	(0.300)	(6.470)
Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)	(3.562)	(6.150)	(6.000)	(15.712)
Executive Member (Education, Achievement and Equalities)	(0.500)	(0.200)	0.000	(0.700)
Executive Member (Towns and Communities)	(0.102)	(0.020)	0.000	(0.122)
Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)	(0.424)	(0.271)	0.000	(0.695)
Executive Member (Climate Emergency & Environmental Services)	(0.808)	(0.798)	0.000	(1.606)
First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	(3.799)	1.368	0.822	(1.609)
Executive Member (Population Health & Well-being)	(0.144)	0.000	0.000	(0.144)
Total	(12.689)	(8.891)	(5.478)	(27.058)

Revised Budget Gap

December 2023 MTFs:

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Net Expenditure Requirement	234.247	248.487	259.341	274.197	287.941
Resources	(234.247)	(236.107)	(240.122)	(243.952)	(248.124)
Budget reductions to find - cumulative	(0.000)	(12.379)	(19.219)	(30.245)	(39.817)
Budget reductions to find - incremental	(0.000)	(12.379)	(6.839)	(11.026)	(9.572)

This was the budget gap prior to the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS): 2024 to 2025 published on the 18th December 2023.

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Resident Engagement and Consultation

- Budget consultation went live on 19th December 2023.
- 193 responses as at 23 January 2024.
- The consultation will close on the 2nd February 2024.
- Consultation will help shape the priorities for the 2024/25 budget.

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Budget Consultation

[Tameside Council seeks your view on £39.82m budget challenge](#)

Next steps 2024:

- **2 February 2023 – Big Conversation Closes**
- **14 February 2023 – Executive Cabinet**
- **27 February 2023 – Budget Council**

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Next steps 2024/29:

- **Rolling consultation with Cabinet Updates**
- **Greater use of Neighbourhood Forums**
- **Increased Member Engagement**



“Supporting you, while you support your loved ones”

[Click here to view our strategy](#)

Who is a Carer?

A Carer is a person who provides informal and/or unpaid support to a partner, family member, friend or neighbour who is ill, struggling or disabled and could not manage without this help.

This is distinct from a Care Worker, who is paid to support people. For this strategy, we will use 'Carer'.

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The Voice of Carers

Throughout 2022 – 2023, we consulted with Carers across Tameside to understand what is most important to them.

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In your assessment we asked you about your caring and role and how our service can support you.

We asked for feedback about our service and how we can improve what we do.

In January we started **Carers Coffee Mornings**, this has been a great way for us to consult with a wide range of Carers by using feedback forms, flip charts, group and 1-1 conversations. This gives us the chance to hear about your experiences and how our service can meet your needs.

The **Carers Forum** is a chance to come together and have a voice in the service development, priorities, and impact. We look at everything from Carers experiences to the leaflets we provide.

We worked with an **independent research consultancy** firm. They developed 1-1 and group interviews with Carers to talk about being a Carer in Tameside. The research talked about the priorities and the vision that Carers felt were most important to them.

Feedback forms in the Carers Centre and in Carers Packs ask you about what would help you the most and what you know about the service.

The Big Conversation is an online survey that enabled you to look at our proposed visions and priorities of the strategy. This gave you the chance to look back on the consultation work and confirm if this work was meeting the right priorities.



LIVING WELL AT HOME

Tameside
**Carers
-Centre-**

Tameside
Metropolitan Borough

Our Vision for Adults...

We all want to live in the place we call home with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing **things that matter to us.**



What Matters to Carers?

1. Identifying and Recognising Carers

'I didn't realise as I was a Carer, I was just doing what I had to do to take care of my loved ones'.

2. Carers as real and expert partners

'It's important that Carers are listened to, we know the person we are caring for inside out and often know when there are changes in their health'.

3. Supporting Carers to stay health and well

'Helping Carers to have a social life access opportunities for training and education and getting them the right support and information at the right time. Helping Carers to network with each other if they wish to'.

4. Getting the right help at the right time

'I didn't know about Carers support, when I started Caring and I wish that I had have done as it would have really helped at the beginning'.

5. Younger Carers

'Supporting young carers in their educational settings. School settings to be more aware of situations that young carers face on a day-to-day basis. Reasons they could be late for school. Reasons why they might be disengaged in their learning. Taking Young Carers feelings into consideration and looking to support them to reduce their worries'.

6. Carers in/into employment and training


'Often Carers find it difficult to be employed due to the number of appointments and inflexibility of employer's or hospitals'.

Tameside Carers Centre

- Offers emotional support, advocacy, advice, guidance, advocacy and signposting
- A daily Carers drop-in service 10am – 2pm at the Carers Centre
- Local Hubs
- 1-1 Support / Welfare Calls
- Monthly Coffee Morning, Carers Activities
- Carers Forum
- Events Carers Rights Day / Carers Week
- Carers Courses

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SUPPORT FOR CARERS 

Who is a Carer?
A Carer is someone who looks after a loved one who cannot manage at home without the Carers help. Many people are employed to provide paid formal care, but when we talk about Carers here, we mean those who provide unpaid and informal care for a loved one.

Tameside Carers Centre offers a safe environment for Adult Carers to access practical and emotional support.

- Help with Carers Assessments to see how we can help you and the person you care for.
- Advice on benefit entitlements such as Carers Allowance.
- Signposting to support services, advice, and advocacy.
- Staying connected by giving you regular updates with events, via our newsletters and Facebook page.
- Help to access Radar Keys, Message in a Bottle and Tameside Emergency Cards (TEC).


Drop-in Support
Monday - Tuesday 10am - 2pm
Thursday - Friday 10am - 2pm

There's no need to book but please contact us if you would prefer to schedule a time.

Professionals can also refer by directly contacting the Carers Centre.

Monthly Coffee Mornings take place 10am to 12 noon on the last Tuesday of every month. Come along to chat with our Wellbeing Advisors and other Carers over a brew and access support.

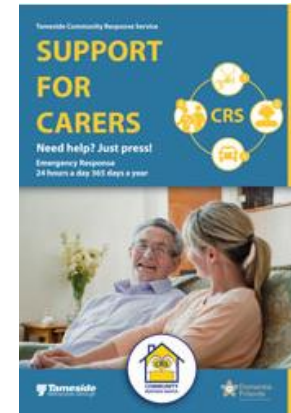
Shape our Service!
We are always looking for ways to include you in improving our service. If you have any feedback for us, please let us know in person, email us or give us a call.

• The Carers Centre in The People Place of Tameside One, Ashton-under-Lyne OL8 5BH
• 0161 342 3544
• www.tameside.gov.uk/carerscentre
• CarersCentre@tameside.gov.uk
• Tameside Carers Centre 



Carers Offer

- Carers can ask for a Carers needs Assessment in their own right or a joint assessment with the person they care for
- Carers respite
- Tameside Emergency Card (TEC) for Carers Contingency planning



CRS at Carers Right Day Information Fair



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• [Community Response Service \(CRS\)](#)

• [Tameside and Glossop Talking Therapies](#)

• [Be Well Tameside](#)

- Tameside Voluntary Sector – Age UK, MIND, Anthony Seddon, Together Centre etc.

Tameside Emergency Carers (TEC) Card



Peace of mind for Carers in an Emergency

By carrying a Tameside Emergency Carers (TEC) card in your purse or wallet, you can have peace of mind that if anything unexpected was to happen to you, such as an accident or being taken ill, help can be arranged for the person you care for as well.

The card has the 24 hour emergency contact number for Tameside Control (our 24 hour call centre) and a unique serial number to identify you as a Carer.

When is the TEC Card used?

The card is ONLY used in an Emergency. The scheme does not cover situations where a Carer can use a telephone and make alternative arrangements themselves.



How Can Our Carers Get Support?

Carers can be referred by partner agencies, services within Tameside Council or carers can self-refer.

Find the Tameside Carers Centre at:

The People Place @ Tameside One
Market Place
Ashton-Under-Lyne
OL6 6BH.

0161 342 3344

CarersCentre@tameside.gov.uk

[Carers Centre Facebook](#)

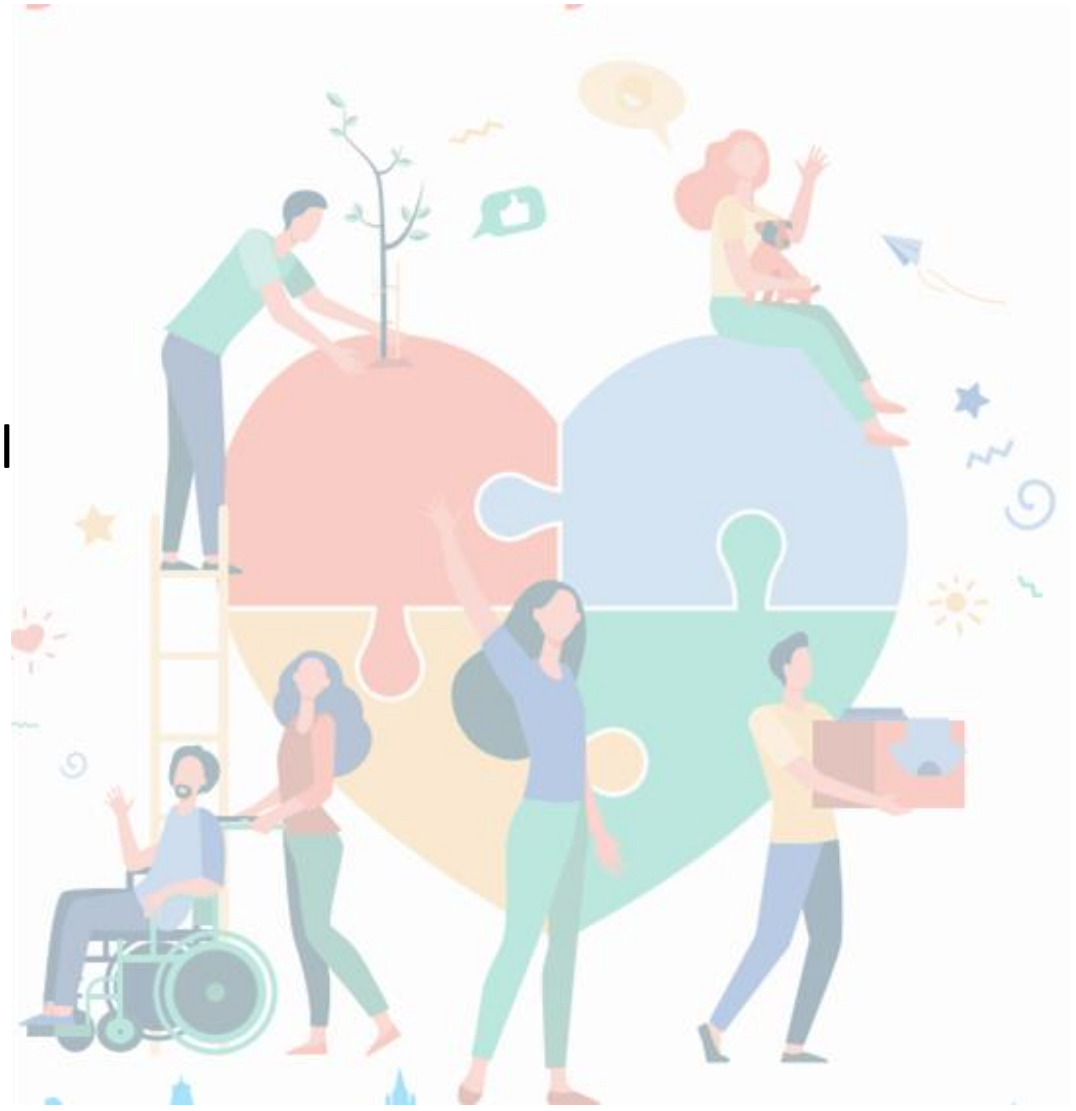


The Carers Centre can be accessed via Warrington Street or Ashton Library

Next Steps

- Develop a delivery plan for implementation of the Strategy
- We plan to work with our partners across Social Care, Health and VCSF to do this
- We will continue to check back with Carers and ask them to have a voice in our work.
- We will feedback to Carers annually on our progress to deliver this strategy.
- LAUNCH – MARCH 2024!

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Any Questions?

Thank you



Foster for Tameside



Agenda Item 6



FOSTER FOR TAMESIDE
CHANGE A LOCAL CHILD'S LIFE



What is fostering?

Fostering for Tameside Council means you are helping children in your local area. We are not-for-profit and our locally based carers help keep children close to their existing schools and support systems. Fostering is a fun, flexible, challenging and rewarding role where you as a carer can make a real difference to Childrens' lives. The reasons children come into care vary widely, including a parent's short-term illness or another temporary problem within the family. Some children may have witnessed domestic violence or a parent's depression or drug or alcohol abuse. Others may have been abused or neglected. Each child's circumstances and needs are unique.

Could you foster?

Every year, tens of thousands of children across the UK need foster carers while they can't live with their own families. That means thousands of new foster carers are needed every year. Could you be one of them?

What is the role of a foster carer?

- By becoming a foster carer you will be providing a nurturing and welcoming environment where children and young people will be safe and have a place to call home.
- You will be giving them the opportunity to grow and develop to reach their full potential, by helping to ensure that their emotional, health and educational needs are met.
- The challenging backgrounds that many cared for children and young people have experienced means they may find it hard to build relationships. With support, patience and reassurance, you can help a child or young person to build their self-esteem and confidence.
- Fostering today involves working closely with others involved in the welfare of the children you are caring for.
- Foster carers work closely as a team, not only with professionals but also form a strong support network with each other.
- All cared for children and young people have a care plan and as a foster carer, you will be asked to attend meetings and reviews to talk about their wellbeing.
- Our children come from diverse backgrounds with different life experiences. Your role will be to help a child understand and feel positive about themselves.
- We try to provide placement choice for children and foster carers so that children can be matched with a loving and nurturing family and achieve their potential.

Who can foster?

Children and young people need foster carers from all backgrounds with a wide range of life, work and care experiences. All foster carers are given ongoing training and support to develop the skills they need to help children thrive.

Just as no two children are the same, foster carers need to come from a variety of backgrounds and have different life experiences, skills and qualities to help meet the needs of children and young people in foster care. You can be a foster carer without having any specific qualifications, and you don't need to have children of your own. What's important is that you can support, nurture and care for children who cannot live with their own families. There is no typical foster carer, and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds, nationalities, religions, genders and ages. The most important thing is that you care about the welfare of children and young people and want to help them achieve stability in unsettling times. You will have the skills to work as part of a team and can relate well to children and young people, making them feel like part of the family.

"It's the whole family that fosters, not just the foster carer. It is so important to make the child feel like a part of your family from the start, no matter how long they are with you for"

- Jo, Tameside Foster Carer

What are the different types of fostering?

- **Short-term fostering-**

Short-term emphasises that the child will one day move on, either back to parents/relatives or on to a long-term foster/adoptive placement. It is a very special and important role which may involve working closely with parents to improve their relationship with the child, working with children's behaviours and needs, or preparing a child for a move to a permanent home. These types of arrangements range from looking after children from one night to a number of months, and sometimes longer. They can sometimes be adapted to long term foster care if the match between child and carer is deemed to be good.



- **Long-term fostering –**

We talk about long term foster care when the plan for the child is that they cannot live with a family member. Therefore we need a foster placement that can care for them for the duration of their childhood and into adulthood. Placements of this nature often involve teaching the children selfcare skills so that they can move onto independence in a positive way.

- **Respite fostering –**

Sometimes parents and carers need regular breaks, maybe because they have health problems, or because their child has complex needs and it takes a lot of energy to care for them. Respite means that a child is placed with a foster carer for a short period of time and this may occur on a regular basis. Within Tameside there is a Family Link Scheme for the families of children with a disability. This means that we link the child with a specific carer who will look after that child for a series of short breaks (maybe one weekend a month). Often this service will be provided on a regular basis for some years and the respite carer becomes a vital part of the support network for that child and their family.

- **Supported lodgings scheme –**

Tameside also runs a supported lodgings scheme for young people aged 16 and over.

The journey to becoming a foster carer:

- **Step 1- Initial Enquiry**

Complete our online enquiry form at www.tameside.gov.uk/fostering or call 0161 342 2342 or you can also make an enquiry via council's social media platforms. Once the enquiry is received, our Recruitment Officer will give you a call to find out a little about you and chat through any questions you may have, take some details, and send you an information pack.

- **Step 2 - Registration of Interest**

If you are keen to progress your enquiry, you can ask to be assessed to foster by the service. Our Recruitment duty officer will have arranged a follow-up call with you, where you will have the chance to ask any further questions and if you are happy, they will conduct a telephone screening which takes around 30 minutes to find out more about you, your family & home life and your motivations to foster.

- **Step 3 – Initial Home Visit**

Once you have registered your interest with us then a fostering social worker will arrange a convenient time to visit to your home, to meet you and your family, discuss your plans to foster and to explore your lifestyle. The Social Worker will also view your accommodation and the proposed room for fostering. They can also answer any questions you may have about the children and the fostering process. You can then take some time to decide whether fostering is right for you.

Cont.

- **Step 4 – Pre-Approval Training**

You will have had some time to think and hopefully will decide that fostering is right for you. If you need any more information, we are here to support you every step of the way. We will then invite you to attend our Skills To Foster training course. This aims to prepare you for the fostering role, and you will have the chance to meet other applicants too.

- **Step 5 - Application Form**

On completing Skills to Foster, you will then complete a fostering application form which details yours and your family's information, details about your home, any employment and references. There will also be some other forms such as consent so we can complete mandatory statutory checks e.g. police and medical checks.

- **Step 6 – Fostering Assessment**

This stage involves an allocated assessing social worker visiting you at your house for about 6-8 times to get to know you, your family and any frequent visitors to understand whether you can offer a child a secure, safe and stable home atmosphere and meet the child's overall needs. The fostering assessing social worker then writes a detailed report based on the information gathered and observations, outlining your skills and attributes and recommending as to whether you are suitable, and for which type of fostering. You will have the opportunity to read the assessment report and add your own comments too.

- **Step 7 - The Fostering Panel**

Your detailed report will then be presented to the fostering panel who will consider your suitability to foster. You will attend the panel with your assessing social worker. The panel is made up of members with relevant qualifications, those who have experience working in fostering and adoption, and some members may have spent time in foster care themselves. The panel will ask you and the service any questions they may have, and then the fostering panel will make a recommendation about your approval to the fostering service i.e to the Agency Decision Maker, who considers their recommendation to reach a decision. You will then receive a letter to confirm your approval. If you haven't been approved, your assessing social worker will explain why, and there may be a chance to reapply in the future.

On average, the journey to approval can take around eight months from your first enquiry. This can seem like a long time, but Tameside fostering service need to make sure you are suitable, and prepare you as best as possible, to foster a child or young person in your local community.

- **Step 8 - Matching and Placement**

After you have been approved as a foster carer, the fostering team will contact you to discuss your first placement. We will work closely with you and your family to ensure the placement is the right match for you and for the foster child. We offer ongoing training and development, so you can continue to grow your skills as a foster carer. You will also receive ongoing support and guidance from your supervising social worker.

What sort of support will I receive?

- **Supervising Social Worker –**

After you are approved, you will be assigned a supervising social worker who will make frequent visits to your house. They will provide ongoing support and guidance to you and your family throughout your time as a foster carer and will be in hand to give advice and help with any concerns or worries you may have. Every child who is cared for by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council will also have their own social worker who works closely with the child and their family. They will make frequent visits to check on the child's progress and will be able to offer advice and guidance to you too. You will be expected as a foster carer to keep records about a child's placement and attend meetings where you will discuss the child's plans and expected to advocate and actively work as part of a team around the child.

- **Support Groups –**

Fostering service will run regular support groups for you to attend, where you can discuss any concerns, issues or worries with other foster carers, who will share their experiences and offer reassurance and advice when you need it. There are also specific support groups for babies and children with additional needs so you can attend the groups that best fit yours and the child's needs. You can attend more than one support group; Everyone is welcome, and the emphasis is on teamwork and supporting you and the children in your care as best we can.

What sort of support will I receive?



- **Training & Development –**

When you become a foster carer, you are required to complete the Training, Support & Development Standards (TSDs) within the first 12 months of becoming approved, or 18 months for Connected Carers. At Tameside, we offer an extensive programme of training, developed with the help of foster carers and professionals which is formed of both online training and in person sessions. There are courses for all foster carers, and more tailored courses to enable carers to develop specific skills, for instance with teenagers, babies, or children with additional needs and disabilities. Courses are run by our Fostering Managers with social workers, external professionals on specialist subjects and existing foster carers to give you the most informed and interactive sessions from experienced professionals and carers. Courses are held during the day with some in the evening to ensure all foster cares have the opportunity to attend.

- **Buddy System –**

After you are approved, you will be paired up with an experienced carer who will provide you with support, advice and guidance in your new role. You can contact your buddy, your social worker, or the out of hours team should you need to, so you are never on your own.

- **Fostering Network-** Once you become a foster carer with Tameside, you will receive an automatic membership with Fostering Network, where you can avail further training, guidance, advice and support.

Fostering Allowances

- **Weekly Payments** - All foster carers receive a weekly allowance which is paid every fortnight, and is made up of two elements:
 - An allowance based on the age of the child
 - An allowance based on your skills level as a foster carer

Foster Carers can work toward moving up the skills levels, with more experience fostering, by supporting with fostering recruitment activities and also by attending our training courses to further develop their skills.

- **Other Allowances** – Foster Carers will also receive an annual allowance to cover the cost of birthday, holiday and festivities.

In some cases, for instance when a child has additional needs, further allowances may be available to foster carers. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure carers are provided with the right level of support to meet the child's needs.

Carers are advised to register as self-employed with HMRC and allowances are tax-free. Any income support will not be affected as allowances received from fostering are not taken into account, although jobseekers allowance may be affected so we advice to check this if it applies to individuals or not.

Fostering Myths:

I am too old/young to foster-

If you are over 21 you can enquire about fostering, and there is no upper age limit. As long as you are fit and healthy enough to care for a child, that is the most important thing. We have carers in their 60s and 70s who bring some great experience to their foster care roles, so don't count yourself out.



I am single so I can't foster -

It makes no difference whether you are single, in a relationship or married, you can still foster. Many children benefit from the 1-1 support that a single foster carer can offer, so please don't be put off if you are single and want to enquire.

I have pets so I can't foster -

You can still foster if you have pets. Many children benefit from having an animal to look after. Pets can be a real source of comfort for children and can also teach responsibility. Don't see this as a barrier to fostering, we actively welcome applicants who have pets.

I am gay so I can't foster -

It does not matter whether you are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTQ+) single, in a relationship, civil partnership, married, divorced or widowed, There are no barriers to fostering based on sexuality, gender or relationship status.

Fostering Myths:



I work so I can't foster –

While we encourage the main carer to take on fostering fulltime, there may be chance for you to work part-time or in a flexible role, it would depend on your individual situation. Carers each have individual circumstances that we would be happy to discuss with you, if you feel you have the time to care for a child or young person and have a caring, nurturing and safe home, then please come and talk with us.

I don't have my own children so I can't foster –

When anyone becomes a parent for the first time, there is a big adjustment period, with every child having individual needs that require different types of care. This is the case for both birth parents and foster parents, and both take time to adjust to their new role. It may be that you have valuable experience caring for friends' and family's children, or through work e.g. if you have been a nursery nurse or a midwife. This should not stop you to enquire and have a chat with a member of Tameside Fostering Team.

Get in touch: contact our friendly team for an initial chat today:

"fostering has changed my life in every possible way.... to anyone considering fostering, go for it! - I did and haven't looked back" Tameside foster carer

Foster carers can make a real difference to children's lives - and that's a hugely rewarding job!

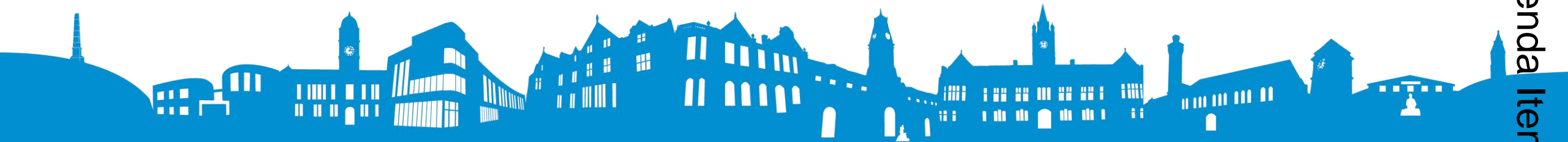
Tameside is actively recruiting foster carers and have a referral bonus scheme, where we provide £300 upon first placement.

Contact us:

- facebook.com/tamesidecouncil
- twitter.com/tamesidecouncil
- instagram.com/tamesidecouncil
- fosteringenquiries@tameside.gov.uk
- 0161 342 2342
- tameside.gov.uk/fostering

Local Plan Making

January 2024



HOMES SPACES PLACES

Page 48

- Background & Context
- Local Development Scheme
- Places for Everyone
- Homes, Spaces, Places
- Scoping
- Risks
- Questions



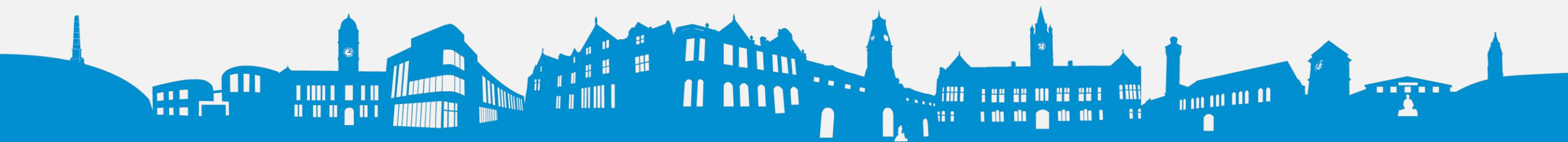
**BACKGROUND &
CONTEXT TO
PLAN MAKING**

Legal
requirement

Plan Led System

Up-to-Date
Evidence

Sound





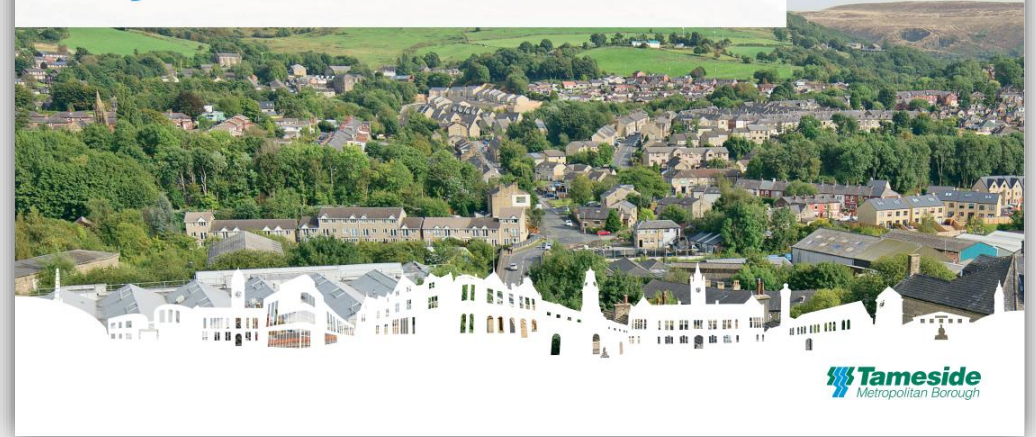
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Published July 2023

Existing planning policy

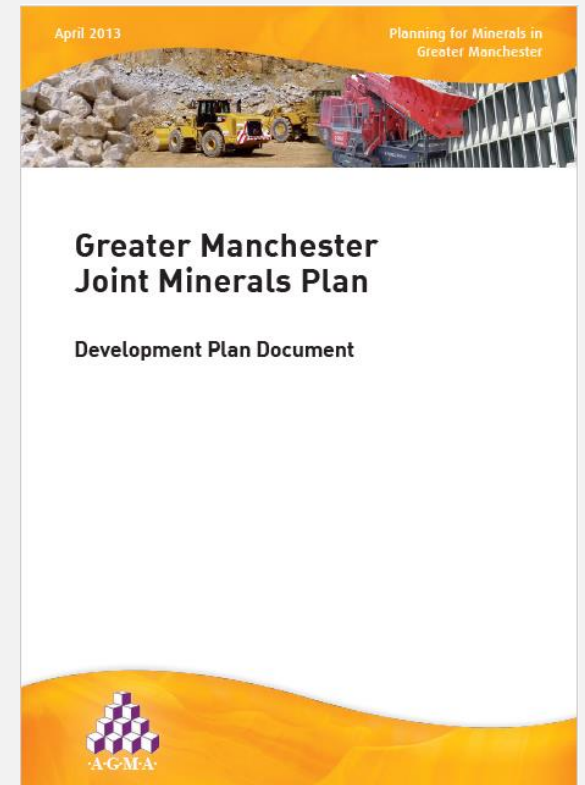
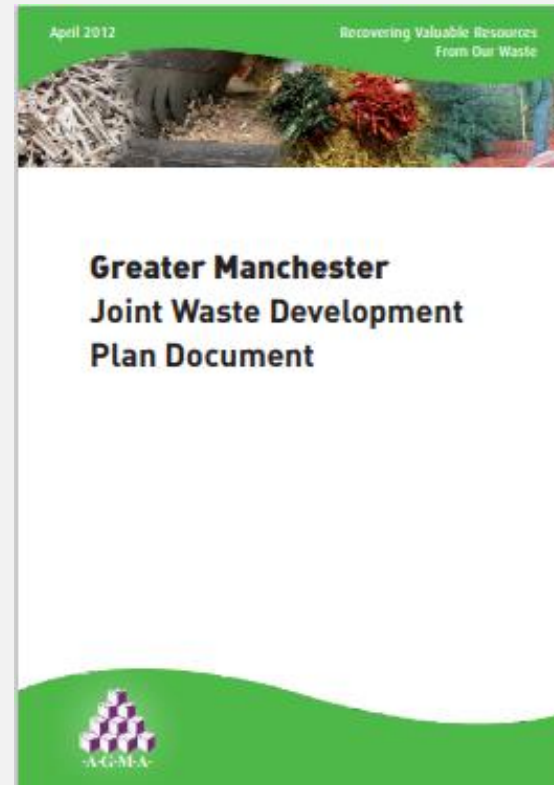
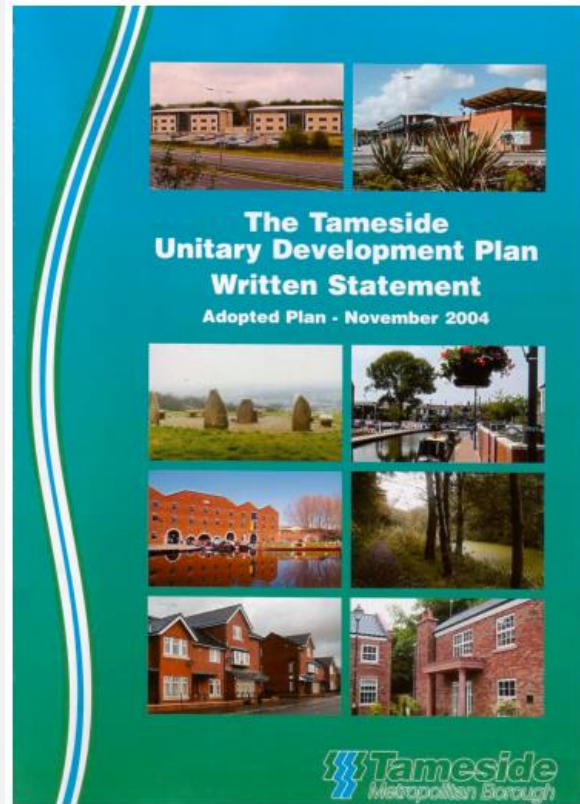
Timescale for new policy

Local Development Scheme
July 2023



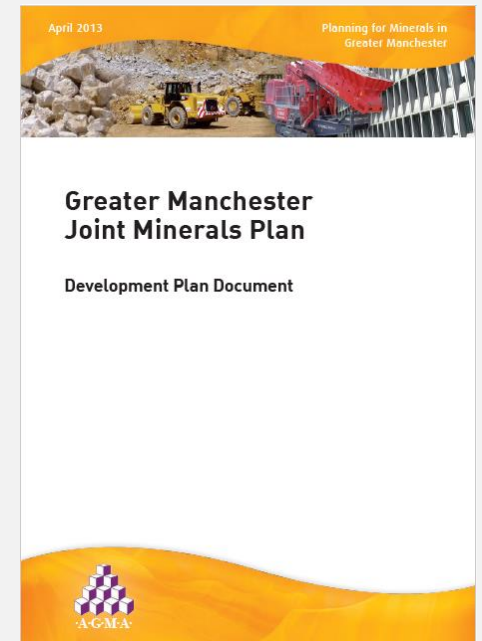
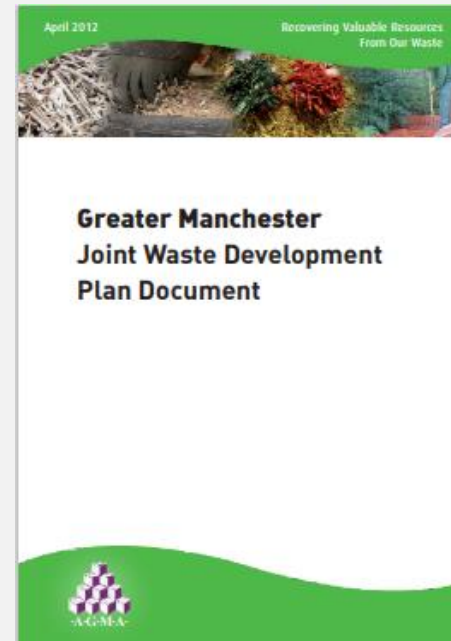
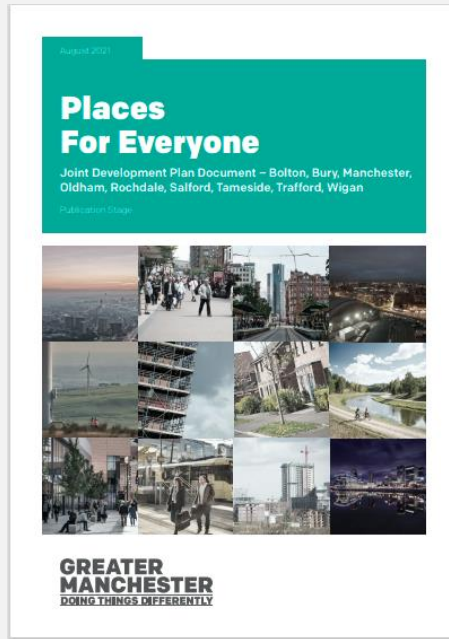
ADOPTED PLAN

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PROPOSED PLAN

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PLACES FOR EVERYONE

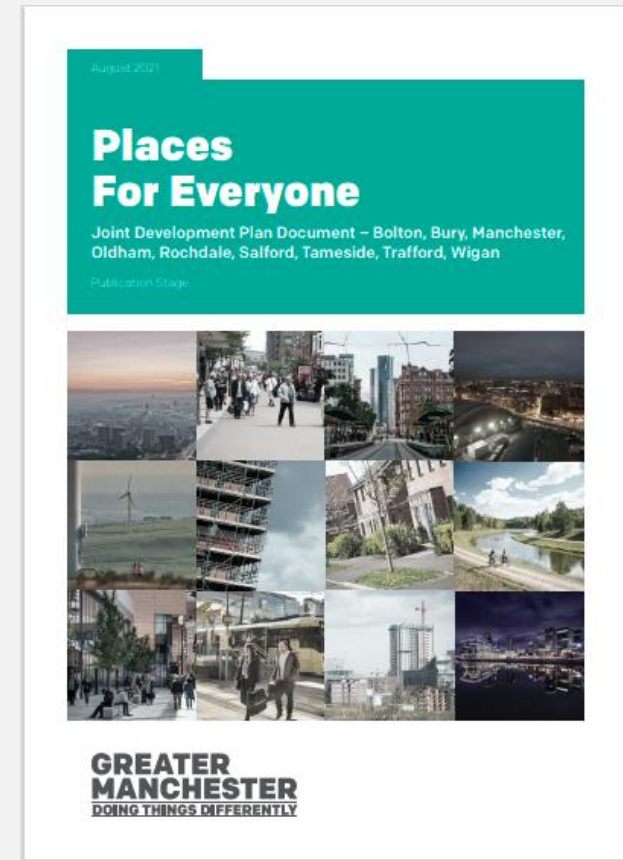
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Examination

Main
Modifications

Final Report

Adoption



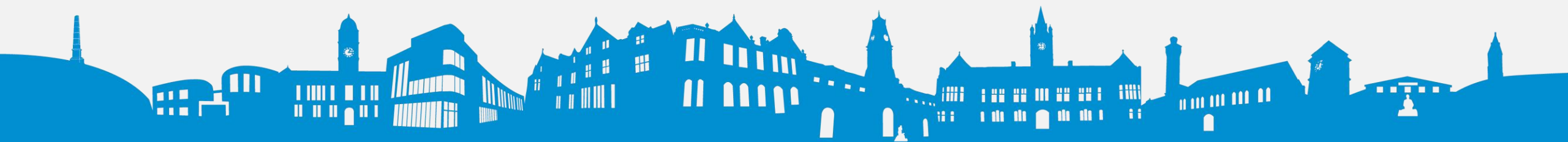
PLACES FOR EVERYONE

177 consultation responses

Allocated between CA and 9 districts

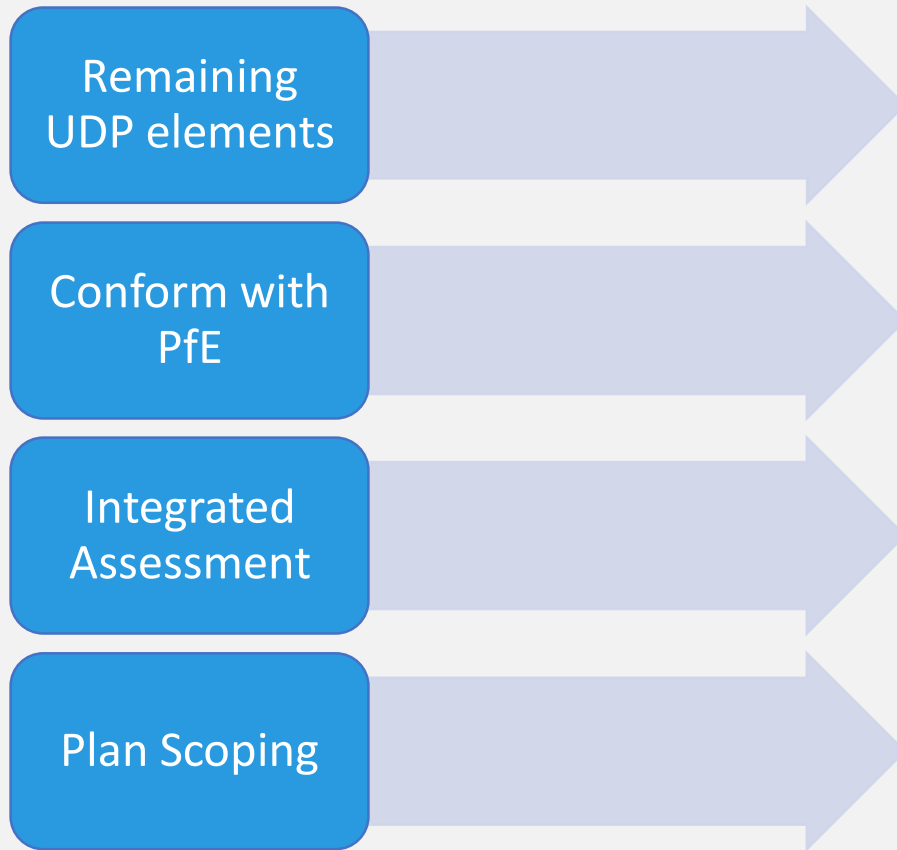
Inspectors report

Adoption early 2024



HOMES SPACES PLACES

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SCOPING

Integrated
Assessment

PEN Network

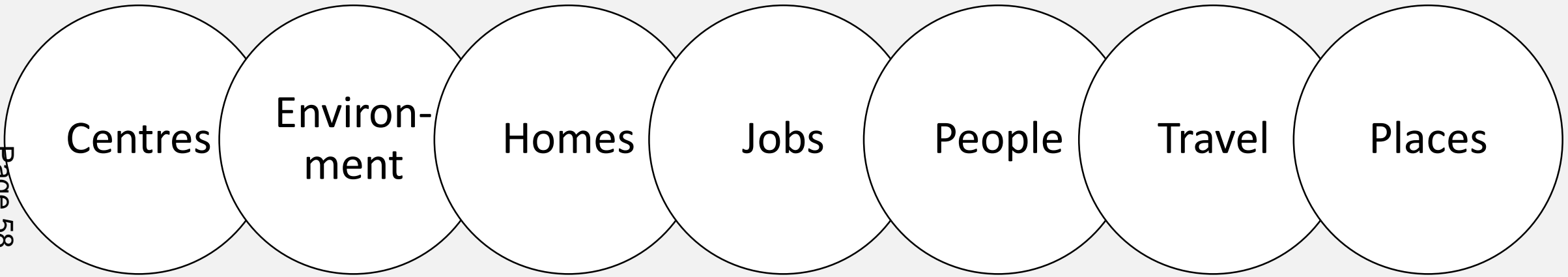
Member
Engagement

Scrutiny



SCOPING

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SCOPING

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Plans need
to...

The
context
is...

Places for
Everyone...

What we
know...

How
should the
plan...

SCOPING

NATIONAL TRENDS

- ONLINE SHOPPING** has increased exponentially
3.4% of all retail sales (2007) to 27.9% (2020)
- CLOSURE OF LARGE MULTIPLE STORES**
NW had the highest concentration of retail and leisure vacancies UK: 15.1% (2017)
- In 2023 **footfall** in town centres nationally remains on average 10% below pre-pandemic levels

TAMESIDE

- 7 DESIGNATED TOWN CENTRES**
Ashton, Denton, Hyde, Drolydsen, Stalybridge, Mossley, Hattersley
- TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION SUPPORT**
£40m Aspinall Fund for Ashton, £20m Stalybridge, £1m Brownfield Homes fund
- FAST TRACK PLANS**
Hyde, Drolydsen, Stalybridge, St Petersfield, Ashton
- 130 takeaways** per 100,000 residents in Tameside
- 2 centres currently have Primary Shopping Areas**

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

LIVE WORK INVEST IN TAMESIDE

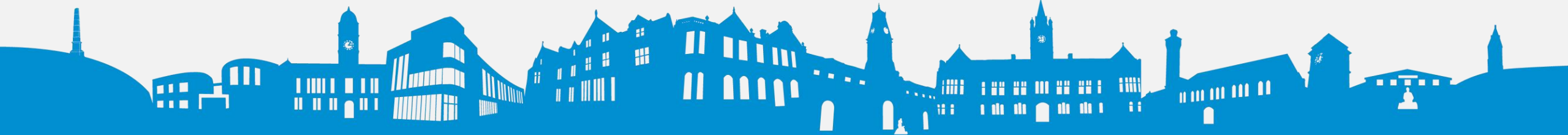
HOMES SPACES PLACES
IN TAMESIDE

SHAPING TAMESIDE FOR TOMORROW

CENTRES

PLANS NEED TO:

- Support the role of town centres as the heart of a community;
- Plan for positive growth and long-term viability;
- Allow diversification in a way that responds to market changes; but that so respects their distinct character;
- Allocate a range of sites for town centre development where growth is anticipated;
- Recognise the role of new homes, and people in town centres alongside the role which smaller scale local shops and services play as part of local communities away from town centres.



Schedule of Proposed Local Development Documents

Document	Status	Coverage	Preparing the draft plan	Publication	Submission	Examination ²	Adoption
Places for Everyone ³	Joint Development Plan Document	Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan	<p>Consultation on first Draft GMSF October 2016 – January 2017</p> <p>Consultation on Second Draft GMSF January – March 2019</p>	Summer/ Autumn 2021	Early 2022	Commenced Summer 2022 (ongoing)	Early 2024
Homes, Spaces, Places - Shaping Tameside for Tomorrow	Development Plan Document	Tameside	<p>Integrated Assessment Scoping Summer 2023</p> <p>Plan scoping Autumn 2023</p> <p>Issues and Options Draft Plan Summer 2024</p> <p>Preferred Options Draft Plan Summer 2025</p>	Winter 2025/26	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Autumn 2026
Policies Map	Development Plan Document	Tameside	The Policies Map will be developed in line with the timescales of other DPD. It will be amended and incorporate relevant polices as necessary upon adoption of DPD.				



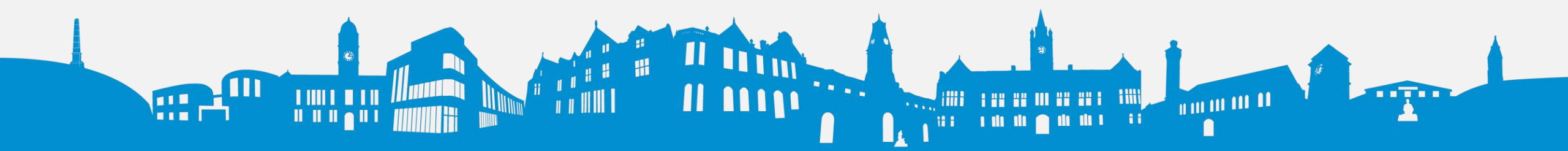
RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES

Change of
Government
Policy

Change in
Government

Lack of Control

Intervention



QUESTIONS FEEDBACK

Community Involvement

[https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Planning/Statement-of-Community-Involvement-\(SCI\)](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Planning/Statement-of-Community-Involvement-(SCI))

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Homes, Spaces, Places

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/tamesidelocalplan>

Places for Everyone

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/PlacesforEveryone>



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Tameside Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2029

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Agenda Item 8

The Serious Violence Duty

The Duty requires 'Specified Authorities' for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.

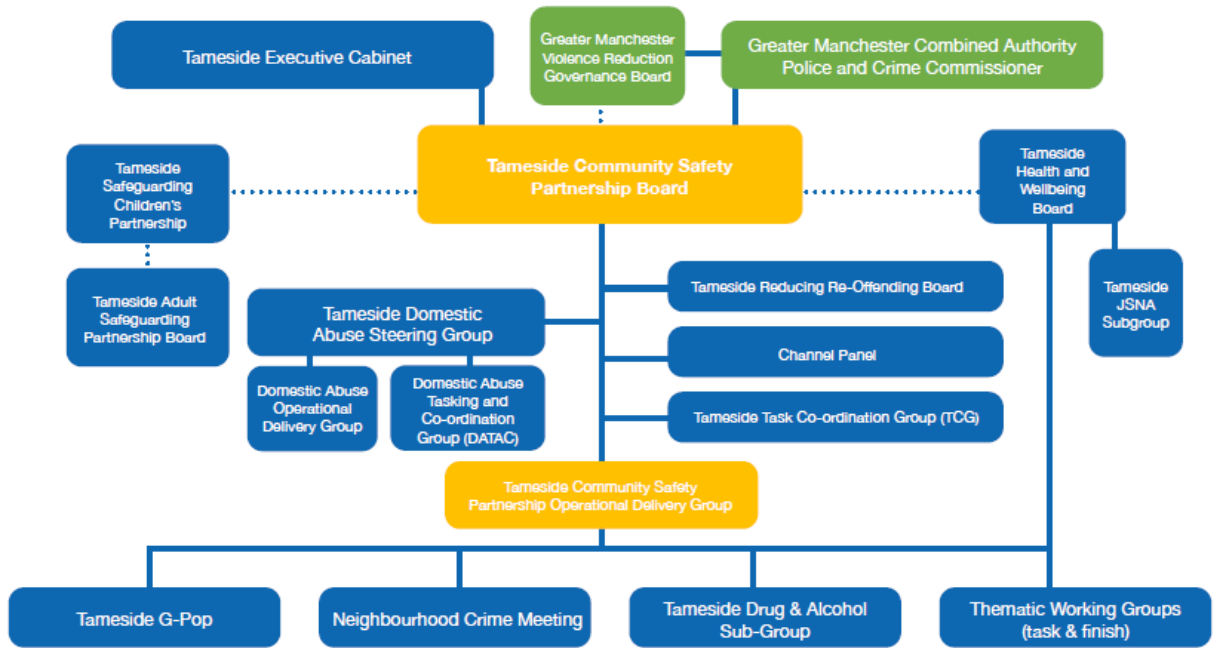
Page 66

- Tameside Council
- Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS)
- Probation Services
- Youth Offending Services
- NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (NHS GM ICB)



Home Office

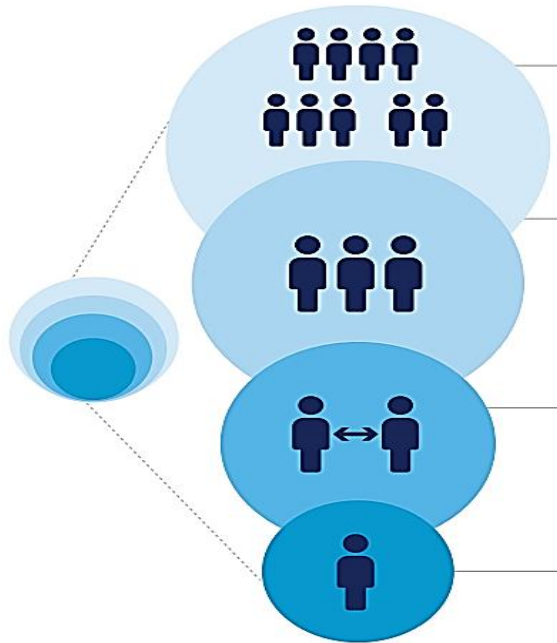
Serious Violence Duty
Preventing and reducing serious violence



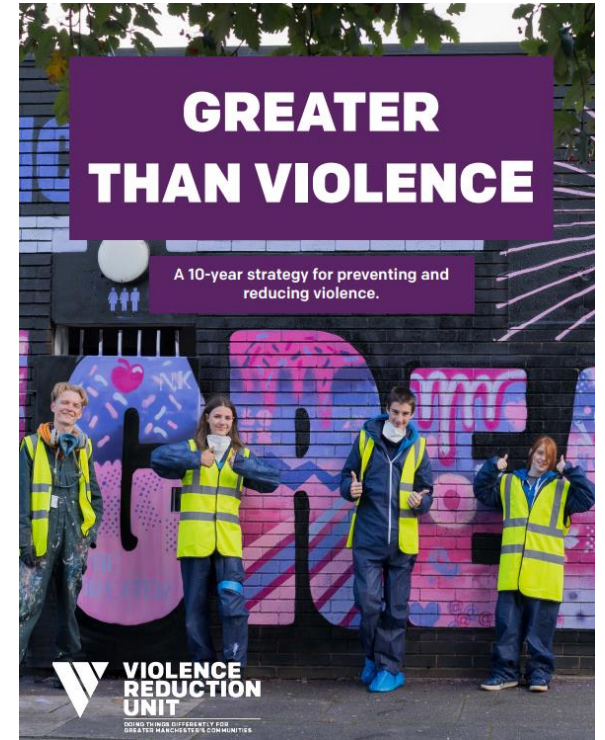
Working Across Greater Manchester

Tameside partners work closely with the GM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) who have produced a Serious Violence Strategy for Greater Manchester.

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The Duty encourages a 'public health approach' which has been done for GM and Tameside



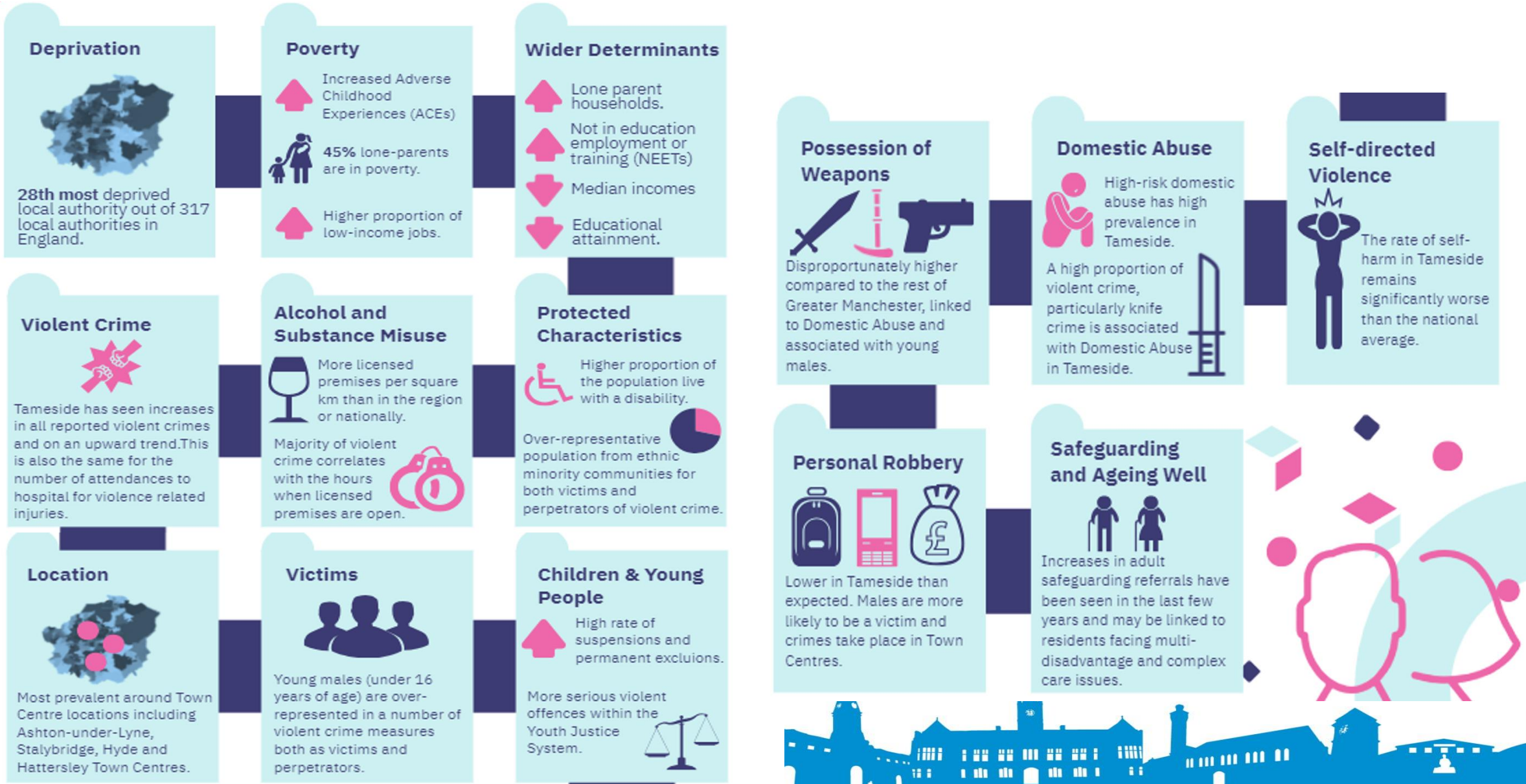
Defining Serious Violence in Tameside

Serious violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

World Health Organisation



Serious Violence in Tameside



Priorities for Tackling Serious Violence in Tameside

(under each of these are between 3 and 7 'We will...' statements and objectives)

Priority 1: COMMUNITY-LED APPROACH

Priority 2: EARLY AND TIMELY INTERVENTION

Priority 3: PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

Priority 4: EQUALITY, EQUITY AND JUSTICE

Priority 5: TRAUMA RESPONSIVE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES IN TAMESIDE



Next Steps

- The strategy for Tameside will be led by the Community Safety Partnership.
- Developing an action plan to deliver the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2029.
- Changes to the services we provide and the work we do (from the evidence in the needs assessment; making sure we meet the priorities and commitments in the Strategy).
- Ongoing conversations and involvement with people living in Tameside, especially those affected by violence.



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Flu Vaccination Update Autumn- Winter 2023/24

January Neighbourhood Forum
Population Health Team

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Agenda Item 9

Seasonal Flu Vaccination Uptake as at Dec 2023

PCN	Over 65s	Under 65 (at risk)	Pregnant	Carers	All aged 2yrs	All aged 3yrs
Ashton	64.6%	34.2%	24.9%	50.0%	25.9%	31.2%
Denton	77.0%	39.5%	26.0%	23.8%	28.6%	24.6%
Hyde	69.0%	31.8%	19.6%	18.2%	28.2%	27.1%
Stalybridge	76.4%	42.0%	31.4%	32.3%	43.6%	41.6%
TOTAL	71.3%	36.0%	24.4%	30.0%	30.4%	30.3%
GM	75.2%	38.4%	29.0%	36.3%	36.3%	37.4%



Seasonal Flu Vaccination Dec 2023 vs December 2022

	LAST YEAR Dec-22	THIS YEAR Dec-23	% Change year on year	Direction of Change
65 & Over - Target 85%	74.1%	71.3%	-2.8%	↓
Under 65 (at-risk only) - Target 75%	42.2%	36.0%	-6.2%	↓
All Pregnant Women - Target 75%	22.5%	24.4%	1.9%	↑
Carers - Target NONE	38.4%	30.0%	-8.4%	↓
All Aged 2 - Target 70%	30.1%	30.4%	0.3%	↑
All aged 3 – Target 70%	38.3%	30.3%	-8.0%	↓

Impact of Doctors Strikes

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