

OVERVIEW PANEL

21 November 2023

Commenced: 16:00

Terminated: 16:45

Present:

Councillors Smith (Chair), Billington, Cooney, Fairfoull, Fitzpatrick
Kitchen, North, N Sharif and Roderick

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources
Tracy Brennand	Assistant Director, People & Workforce Development
Emily Drake	Head of Payments, Systems and Registrars
Simon Brunet	Head of Policy, Performance, Communications and Scrutiny

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Reid

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the Overview Panel meeting on the 26 September 2023 were approved as a correct record.

18. SCRUTINY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive that provided a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels for September to November 2023.

Members were advised that on the 13 September 2023 the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel met with the Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) / Director of Children's Services / Assistant Director of Children's Services / Head of Service and received an update on Children's Social Care. It was further advised that on the 4 October 2023 the Panel further met with Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) / Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services and received an update specific to the safety of children in Tameside.

It was reported that on 8 November 2023 the Panel met with Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families) / Director of Children's Services / Assistant Director, Children's Services / Interim Head of Quality Assurance / Performance, Intelligence and Scrutiny Manager and reviewed the Children's Social Care and Early Help Scorecard. The Panel further met with Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families) / Director of Children's Services and received the updated Children's Social Care Improvement Plan.

Future training was also discussed, in particular with a greater focus on corporate parenting. On the 13 September 2023, the Panel also met with the Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) / Director of Children's Services and received an update on Children's Social Care.

On the 14 September 2023, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel met with the Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity) / Director of Adult Services and received an update on Adult Social Care Reforms. It was explained that on 9 November 2023 the Panel met with the Medical Director, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust / Deputy Place Based Lead and Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism (Tameside) and received an update on

mental health priorities for Tameside and an overview of the services and support delivered by Pennine Care.

It was reported that on the 12 September 2023, the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel met with the Executive Member for Climate Emergency & Environmental Services / Assistant Executive Member (Armed Forces & Enforcement) / Director of Place / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods / Super Intendent, Greater Manchester and received an update on implementation and effectiveness of the GMP neighbourhood model and received a forward plan of activity for the Community Safety Partnership. Following this meeting, members of the Panel received a draft version of the Council's Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Policy for review and comment.

A formal and collective response for the Scrutiny Panel was submitted to the Executive Member (Towns & Communities) which was appended to the report. The Panel also received Executive Responses to LGSCO focus reports, "Out of Order – learning lessons from complaints about antisocial behaviour" and "Not in my back yard – Local people and the planning process". It was further explained that on 7 November 2023, the Panel met the Executive Member (Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment) / Assistant Director, Investment, Development & Housing / Head of Economy, Employment & Skills and received an update on strategic properties, work streams, local delivery and support for business and employment. The Panel further received the formal response submitted to the Executive Member (Towns & Communities) on the draft Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy.

Members were further advised with regard to scrutiny activity and working groups in various areas. On the 1 November 2023, the Place and External Relations Scrutiny working group meeting considered the effectiveness of local partnership arrangements in the development and delivery of community safety priorities within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Members received an updated version of the ASB Policy where the comments of Scrutiny had been given full consideration and informed the document.

It was reported that on 2 November 2023, the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel working group meeting considered the effectiveness of services and support for care leavers in Tameside. On 31 October 2023, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel considered services aimed that supported and improved outcomes for the perpetrators of domestic abuse, access to safe accommodation for victims and the importance of prevention work in this area.

It was reported that Mid-year budget update sessions for all Scrutiny members had taken place on 6 November 2023. The update was provided by the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer). The Executive had received a formal response of the Scrutiny Chairs, which captured a range of points and highlighted any concerns and specific areas for consideration that supported the Council's ongoing work in this area. The response letter was tabled in a separate report to Overview Panel on 21 November 2023.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report and summary of scrutiny activity be noted.

19. SCRUTINY MID-YEAR BUDGET UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel / Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel / Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Panel / Chief Executive. The report provided a summary and feedback based on the recent scrutiny engagement on the mid-year budget position for 2023/24 and future planning.

It was reported that all Scrutiny Panel members were provided with an opportunity to attend one of two mid-year budget update sessions delivered on 6 November 2023. This year the invitation included all non-executive members of Overview Panel. Members were advised that the sessions enabled members to seek assurance on the Council's approach to managing and mitigating budget

pressures, known risks and future uncertainty. A response letter of the Overview Panel Chair and Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) and Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) was appended to the report at appendix 1.

The First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) and the Director of Resources advised that a response to the letter was being drafted and thanked all members of the Scrutiny Panel for their engagement.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

20. IMPROVEMENT TEAM UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director, People and Workforce Development which outlined the progress to date since the creation of the Improvement Team and detailed the future plans for the service.

Members were provided with an overview of the progress and impact to date since the creation of the Improvement team. The current team structure was outlined within the report. It was explained that the team was funded via a £5 million Transformation Fund Council reserve and over the last 12 -18 months, 18 Improvement Projects had commenced based on requests from services and were approved by senior officers and members. Members were provided with a summary of these each project and it was explained that four were in diagnostic phases and six were in delivery phase. Five projects had been completed and three, namely Transitions to Adulthood, Leaving Care and Supported Accommodation had been subsumed into the Children's Improvement Plan and would be progressed under the Children's Improvement governance arrangements.

Members were advised that since September 2023, the team's capacity had been focussed on supporting the Children's Services Improvement journey. It was acknowledged that the shift in focus had impacted on the delivery of other elements of the programme but this was considered an essential change considering the necessary pace that was required in Children's Services. It was reported that with a refocus of the Children's Improvement Plan, the Improvement team capacity and its impact would be scaled up. The development of a Transformation and Improvement Strategy following engagement with elected members and officers would be prioritised as this provided the necessary framework and focus against which all improvement projects would be delivered.

It was further highlighted that the programme of work continued to be aligned to the Corporate Plan and directorate business plans, with projects focussed on Children's Services prioritised in light of the current Ofsted Improvement work. Key projects that supported delivery of budget reduction initiatives featured heavily in the programme although it was explained that some projects focussed on improved outcomes, without a direct financial impact.

Members thanked officers for the continued progress made by the Improvement Team to date on the delivery of the programme. Wide ranging discussion ensued with regard to the report, in particular around the Children's Improvement and the progress made with regard to Supported Accommodation. The Chair thanked officers for an informative report.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the impact made by the Improvement Team to date on the delivery of the programme be noted.**
- (ii) That the plans for the future development of the Improvement Function be noted, including –**
 - a. Development of a Transformation and Improvement Strategy to provide the necessary framework and focus against which all improvement projects will be delivered.**
 - b. Development of broader support for transformation and project management**

- (iii) That it be noted that the prioritisation of future projects will focus on supporting the delivery of budget reductions, supporting children's services improvement journey and improving outcomes, prioritised using an impact versus complexity analysis.

21. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for consideration.

CHAIR