

## WEST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

25 January 2024

Commenced: 6.30 pm

Terminated: 7:30pm

**Present:** Councillors Quinn (Chair), Cooney, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Jones, Martin, Mills, Ricci, Reid, M Smith, T Smith, Ward and Warrington.

**In Attendance:**

Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources
Gemma McNamara	Interim Assistant Director, Finance
Alison White	Head of Service, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health
James Mallion	Assistant Director of Public Health
Gordon Murray	Children's Services Consultant
Kathy Bibby	Senior Planning Policy Officer

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Axford, Boyle, Newton and Naylor

### 14. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 12 October 2023 were approved as a correct record.

### 15. BUDGET CONSULTATION

The Chair welcomed the Director of Resources, who attended the Forum to deliver a presentation with regards to the Budget Consultation for 2024/25.

The Director of Resources provided Members with an overview of the national landscape and key challenges faced within Tameside which included;

- 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;
- Increased number of young people with Educational, Health and Care Plans
- Increased contacts due to economic environment;
- Digital Transformation.

An overview of the budget reductions and the revised budget gap was presented to Members. It was explained that the budget consultation went live on 19 December 2023 and 193 responses had been received. The Director of Resources emphasised the importance of residential engagement in the consultation process in order to help shape the priorities for the 2024/25 budget.

Members were further advised on the next steps for the period 2024/29 and the Director of Resources explained that there would be a greater use of Neighbourhood Forums to feed into the budget consultation in order to gain increased Member engagement on priorities within each locality.

The Chair thanked the Director for Resources for the informative presentation.

#### RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

## **16. CARER STRATEGY**

The Chair welcomed Alison White, Head of Service, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health, who gave a presentation in respect of Tameside Carers Strategy.

Members were informed that a Carer was a person who provided informal and/or unpaid support to a partner, family member, friend or neighbour who was ill, struggling or disabled and could not manage without assistance. It was explained that throughout 2022-2023, Carers across Tameside were consulted with to understand how they could be best supported and what was important to them as a carer.

Members were advised that officers continued to work with partners across Social Care, Health and VCSF in order to develop a delivery plan for the implementation of the strategy. It was explained that the Carers Strategy was expected to launch in March 2024 and feedback would be obtained from Carers annually on the progress of the strategy.

It was explained that the Tameside Carers Centre provided emotional support, advocacy, advice and guidance for Carers, along with Carers courses and activities to support Carers. With regards to the Carers Offer in Tameside, Members were informed that Carers can ask for a Carers needs assessment in their own right of a joint assessment with the person they care for. Members were provided with information on the services that supported Carers within Tameside.

The Chair thanked Ms White for the thought provoking presentation.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

## **17. HOW TO BE A FOSTER CARER**

The Chair welcomed Gordon Murray, Children's Services Consultant who gave a presentation in respect of the Fostering Service.

It was explained that fostering was the support and care for a child when they couldn't live at home; providing a stable and caring environment; working closely with others involved in the welfare of the children being cared for; attendance at meetings – reviews and education; and to undertake training to develop fostering skills. It was further explained that there was no upper age limit and anyone could foster whether they were married, co-habiting, single, straight or gay. All ethnic and religious backgrounds were welcomed and there was no specific qualifications required to become a foster carer.

The various types of fostering was outlined and the approval process was explained to the Forum. Ongoing fostering support was provided via social workers and support workers with social workers assigned to the children; support was also available through the Fostering Network and there was a Buddy scheme, a training programme, support groups and allowances and fees.

Discussion ensued with regards to the presentation and it was explained that further details could be found through contacting: [fosteringenquiries@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringenquiries@tameside.gov.uk)

The Chair thanked Mr Murray for the very interesting presentation and it was:

### **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

## **18. LOCAL PLAN**

The Forum received a presentation from the Senior Planning Policy Officer, who provided Members with an overview of the Local Plan and outlined the opportunities for engagement and the activities that were intended to be undertaken in the short, medium and long term.

Members were advised that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required each local planning authority prepared and maintained a Local Development Scheme, which was based on up-to-date evidence and examined by independently appointed inspectors. It was explained that the Local Development Scheme set out key milestones for plan making which the Council proposed to deliver, and identified the nature and scope for the delivery of Development Plan Documents that were the local planning framework for Tameside. The Senior Planning Policy Officer summarised the key subject areas within a plan which included the location of development, protection of assets and meeting needs.

It was explained that the Council's Local Development Scheme was published in July 2023 and provided detail to the current and intended planning frameworks for the Borough, and provided clarity to the associated documents that were collectively included within the Borough's Local Plan. It was further explained that in Tameside, the Local Plan consisted of a number of documents which formed policy framework within Greater Manchester.

The Senior Planning Policy Officer provided a summary of the plans which were currently undergoing consultation. With regards to Places for Everyone, it was explained that 177 consultation responses had been received which were to be considered and included within the inspectors report. It was reported that adoption was to be considered in early 2024.

Members were provided with an update on Homes Spaces Places which replaced any remaining elements of the Unitary Development Plan. It was explained that officers consulted on an integrated assessment in July 2023 and this was currently in the Plan Scoping stage.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

## **19. SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY**

The Forum received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Population Health, who provided Members with an overview of the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2029.

It was explained that the Serious Violence Duty required 'Specified Authorities' for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. The Duty further encouraged a 'public health approach' which had been done for GM and Tameside. Members were advised that Tameside partners worked closely with the GM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) who had produced a Serious Violence Strategy for Greater Manchester.

The Assistant Director of Population Health provided the Forum with an overview of Serious Violence within Tameside. It was explained that Tameside had experienced an increase in all reported violent crimes and was on an upward trend. Members were advised that high-risk domestic abuse had a high prevalence in Tameside and a high proportion of violent crime, particularly knife crime, was associated with Domestic Abuse in Tameside.

Members were provided with the priorities for tackling serious violence in Tameside which included;

- 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.

It was further outlined that the strategy for Tameside would be led by the Community Safety Partnership and officers aimed to develop an action plan to deliver the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy 2024/25. Members were pleased to hear that ongoing conversations and involvement with people living in Tameside, especially those affected by violence, was a key part of the strategy and it was therefore;

**RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

**20. FLU IMPACT & IMPACT OF DOCTORS STRIKES**

The Forum received a presentation from the Assistant Director for Population Health, who provided an update on the flu vaccination uptake for Autumn-Winter 2023/24.

An overview of the seasonal flu vaccination uptake for 2023/24 was provided to Members and it was further explained that uptake had been lower amongst pregnant women, carers and toddlers. The Assistant Director for Population Health advised that this was related to issues around access and a perception that the risk from flu was not as great among these groups.

The Forum were advised 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.

Members were advised that work was ongoing to increase uptake amongst those groups where uptake had been lower. Pregnant women would be offered the flu vaccine at antenatal clinics and work to tackle misconceptions around the flu vaccine amongst groups was ongoing.

The Forum were provided with an update with regards to the impact of recent doctors strikes. It was explained that there had been an impact across GP practices, however it was explained that there had not been a direct impact on flu vaccination delivery.

Wide ranging discussion ensued with relation to the presentation and the Chair thanked the Assistant Director for Population Health for the interesting presentation.

**RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

**21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

**That the next meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum is scheduled to take place on 21 March 2024, be noted.**

**CHAIR**