

SOUTH STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Monday, 15 October 2018

Present: Councillors Buglass (in the Chair); Bell, Bowden, Chadwick, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Kitchen, Robinson and R Welsh

In attendance: Seven Members of public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Affleck and Cooper.

2 OVER THE COUNTER PRESCRIBING

The Forum received a presentation from the Head of Medicines Management at NHS Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group, consulting Members on the local implementation of National Health Service England (NHSE) guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care.

Members were advised that NHS has issued guidance to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who were required to take the proposed guidance into account in formulating local policies, unless they were able to articulate a valid reason to do otherwise, and for prescribers to reflect local policies in their prescribing practice. The objective was to support CCG's to fulfil their duties around appropriate use of NHS resources.

The Head of Medicines Management at NHS Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group advised that the guidance set out proposals on the prescribing of 'over the counter products' for 35 minor and / or self-limiting conditions.

Members were asked to consider whether:

- The CCG take the NHSE guidance into account and formulate local policies to implement this guidance locally?
- the general exemptions be adopted as they are or changed in any way?
- The exemption around social vulnerability needs local agreed definition.
- If the exemptions should be broadened or reduced?
- The guidance apply to all NHS supplies, including Minor Ailments Scheme?
- The conditions/medicines listed should be extended, reduced or accepted as submitted.

In considering the report Members sought clarification on how General Practitioners Surgeries compliance with the local policy would be monitored; and how the policy would ensure that there was no adverse impact on the most vulnerable members of society.

RESOLVED

That in the South Strategic Neighbourhood Forum's view children should be considered to be socially vulnerable and that the impact on low earning individuals needs to be monitored closely to ensure there is no adverse effects as a result of implementation of the local policy.

3 ALCOHOL MISUSE REVIEW

The Director of Public Health introduced a presentation providing details of a public engagement campaign focussing on alcohol use and harm which would run between November 2018 and February 2019. The purpose of the campaign would be to reach out to citizens to input into Ambition for Alcohol policy document which was expected to be produced in spring 2019.

It was reported that a relatively poor understanding of alcohol contribution helped lead to an increase of diseases whereby people were not associating some of their own health conditions with their alcohol consumption. This general lack of understanding was a focus of the consultation in seeking innovative ways to challenge myths and perceptions around alcohol consumption and encourage behavioural change.

The consultation would seek solutions to:

- Raise public awareness of the damage caused by alcohol in Greater Manchester.
- Build an understanding that this is “everyone’s problem”.
- Help shift attitudes and behaviours.
- Determine the appetite for legislative change.
- Engage the community in the best ways to deliver the campaign.

The purpose of the policy would be to support approaches to prevent and minimise harmful alcohol consumption among those most at risk as well as inform the broader population. There was an understanding that efforts needed to be focused on strategies for preventing and minimising alcohol-related harms by better informing the public as to the danger of consumption.

In considering the presentation Members referred to a recent report by Public Health England referring to a change in drinking patterns for 18-24 year olds. Members were informed that a number of reasons were considered to account for this change including Licensing laws and enforcement, cost and the availability of alternative vices. Members referred to a link between alcohol and mental health, seeking to ensure that the consultation would include homeless people. Members referred to recent alcohol awareness campaigns stating that consumption should be limited to either units or alcohol free days stressing that the messages were not clearly understood by the wider public and clarification of the message was required. Members requested that schools within the Borough be included within the consultation.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

4 HEALTHY LIFESTYLES WALKING AND CYCLING IN TAMESIDE

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Operations introduced a presentation on the creation of a Greater Manchester-wide walking and cycling infrastructure plan, to be funded from the Greater Manchester Mayor’s Challenge Fund, which would be complementary to the wider ambitions of ‘Made to Move’ campaign. The purpose of the Mayor’s Challenge Fund was to create a joined-up walking and cycling network that spans the city region, providing a sustained investment in walking and cycling infrastructure. Members were requested to comment on proposals to connect the Neighbourhood Forum area with the wider network and identify other options for consideration.

Members were informed that a number of Network Planning events had taken place with each authority across Greater Manchester. The purpose of these meetings was to identify severances to the walking and cycling networks (Canals, motorways, rivers etc.) and then to plan ways across them. Some the solutions being proposed would be to improve the existing crossings and junctions for pedestrians and cyclists. In a great number of cases this will be possible without major works. Other strategic working across Greater Manchester would ensure ‘buy in’ from all authorities, whilst also helping to secure funding and allowing consistent design standards across the region. Additionally, utilising existing Capital funding when roads were being re-surfaced, to include walking and cycling provision, could be done at little additional cost to the scheme.

Routes within the Neighbourhood Forum area to be included within the scheme included Stockport Road in Hyde and various routes in Hattersley. Further major works were proposed for the A57 corridor through Hyde and bridge schemes at Manchester Road and Cavendish Street.

In considering the presentation Members proposed the inclusion of schemes at Clark Way and Dowson Road in Hyde, as well as seeking solutions to crossing the M67 motorway in the town centre. In response to questions from members of public the Director of Neighbourhoods and Operations advised Members that electric bikes would be able to use the network in the same way as standard cycles.

RESOLVED

That the proposals for the Neighbourhood Forum area be supported by the South Strategic Neighbourhood Forum.

5 ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance and Pensions which provided an update on the approach to engagement and consultation for Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commission (Tameside Council and NHS Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group). The approach was relevant to all aspects of service delivery, all communities of Tameside and Glossop and wider multi-agency partnership working. The report re-iterated the agreed view on engagement and consultation activity when undertaking service redesign projects and provided a summary of work undertaken.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

6 SCHOOLS STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning / Deputy Executive Leader / Director of Children's Services / Assistant Director of Finance, which detailed the strategic leadership proposed for Tameside MBC in relation to schools and school improvement. Members were informed that the report had been approved by Executive Cabinet at its meeting held on 29 August 2018.

Members were informed the revised and updated Tameside Schools Strategy would exert assertive and systematic leadership in the delivery of school improvement, school system leadership and pupil place planning. However the key to delivering school performance improvements would be dependent on mutual co-operation with all service providers.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Leader, Executive Member (Performance and Finance)/Chief Executive/Executive Director (Governance & Pensions), advising Members of the recent Customer Service Excellence Assessment and subsequent award of the Customer Service Excellence standard, which had been achieved for the whole of the Council.

Members were informed the aim of the Customer Service Excellence standard was to encourage, enable and reward organisations that are delivering services based on a genuine understanding of the needs and preferences of their customers and communities. Following the recent assessment, the Council had been awarded 100% compliance with ten areas being awarded the highest mark of compliance plus.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8 EVENTS PANEL

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods / Assistant Executive Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods informing Members of the creation of an Events Panel which will coordinate key civic events and lead responses to other significant national commemorations and/or celebrations.

The purpose of the Events Panel was to support and oversee the Borough's key civic events to ensure the best value for money whilst still maintaining the high quality of events. The Council continues to develop and support a vibrant and affordable events programme which is generally free at the point of delivery. Key civic events such as Whit Friday Brass Band Contests, Armed Forces Day and Christmas celebrations are an integral part of the Council's annual events offer and are generally welcomed and supported by residents engendering a sense of community, wellbeing and civic pride.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.