

Report To:	OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL
Date:	18 July 2016
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart – Executive Director Governance, Resources and Pensions
Subject:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY PANELS 2015/16
Report Summary:	<p>The Scrutiny Panels publish an Annual Report in order to inform the Council and the community of Tameside about their work during the past year. The report also contains a message from the Executive Leader that underlines the fact that scrutiny involves all of the Council not just non-executive members.</p> <p>The report reflects the structure of Scrutiny Panels that was in place in 2015/2016.</p>
Recommendations:	That the report be noted.
Link to Community Strategy:	The Annual Report of the Scrutiny Panels is widely circulated to engage as many in the community as possible, and their work programmes are linked to the Corporate Plan priorities.
Policy Implications:	The Executive implement Council policy and Scrutiny Panels undertake constructive reviews of that implementation.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any costs incurred by the Scrutiny Panels and service must be met from existing budgets.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The Annual Report plays a vital role in the Council's corporate governance in ensuring there is transparency and accountability in the respective roles of the Executive and Scrutiny.
Risk Management:	There is no risk associated with the Annual Report.
Access to Information:	<p>The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Sandra Stewart, Executive Director Governance, Resources and Pensions by:</p> <p> Telephone: 0161 342 3028</p> <p> e-mail: sandra.stewart@tameside.gov.uk</p>

Foreword from the Executive Leader and Chief Executive

We are pleased to introduce the annual report of the Council's Scrutiny function. Each year our Scrutiny Panels undertake reviews of Council policies and strategies, which is a crucial task in ensuring the Executive is held to account and that positive outcomes are provided to residents.

The role of Scrutiny has become increasingly important during the challenging financial times we currently face. Our Panels strive to ensure that residents are supported and protected by strengthening partnerships and identifying more intelligent ways of working.

In order for Tameside to develop and grow, a continual review and improvement process is needed. This is particularly pertinent with the Care Together Programme soon to establish Tameside as the pioneering centre for integrated health and social care in the country.

With changes to decision making and funding at a regional level Scrutiny reviews will remain focused on priority issues and each Panel will develop work programmes to keep pace with the wider integration and transformational work taking place both in Tameside and across Greater Manchester.

The Executive Cabinet recognises the valuable role Scrutiny plays within the Council. Our Panels will continue to regularly monitor the progress of services and review the way recommendations are actioned, helping to make Tameside a better place for all.

Councillor Kieran Quinn
Executive Leader

Steven Pleasant
Chief Executive



People Scrutiny Panel

Councillors Peet (Chair), Drennan (Deputy Chair), Affleck, Ballagher, Beeley, Cartey, Cooper, P Fitzpatrick, Kinsey, Ryan, Shember-Critchley, T Smith, Whitehead, Wild

Co-opted Members Mr Ahmed, Mrs Aspin, Mrs Gregory, Mrs Marsh, Mr Osmond, Mrs Sharma

During the past year the People Scrutiny Panel has taken an in-depth look at the important issues in Tameside, choosing to review 'Child Sexual Exploitation' and 'Homelessness and the Demand for Temporary Accommodation'.

The Panel has also received updates from Children's Services, Adult Services, Education and Community Services.

The review of Child Sexual Exploitation was motivated by the growing number of high profile cases of exploitation across England. The Panel felt that this review was not only timely and topical, but that guaranteeing Tameside's young population are safeguarded and protected is an utmost priority.

During the course of the review, the Panel took a comprehensive look at the current issues and dangers surrounding exploitation, as well as at the range and effectiveness of services aimed at preventing grooming and supporting victims.

The Panel were concerned by the range of different methods of grooming through which children can be exploited. In order to make sure that robust protection strategies are in place in Tameside, the Panel emphasised the need for a holistic, multi-agency approach that combines all sectors and authorities.

With high numbers of children at risk of sexual exploitation nationally, the Panel wanted to learn more about the work being undertaken by schools to educate students of the dangers and how they can safeguard themselves. The review found that a very high proportion of schools across the borough have partaken in workshops, group exercises and targeted lessons that provide effective

safeguarding information and training to staff and students.

The Panel recommended that the Council and other partners seek to receive regular safeguarding reassurances from all authorities working with children. They also stressed the importance of engaging all schools with current and future sexual exploitation training and safeguarding themes.

Following the recent and sudden increase in the numbers of people and families becoming homeless, the Panel has recently undertaken a review of Homelessness and the Demand for Temporary Accommodation.

The review is aiming to identify the major causes of homelessness in the borough and determine how the key services have been impacted by the recent surging demand for temporary accommodation.

Over the next year, the Panel will look to continue to tackle the priority issues in Tameside and improve the wellbeing of residents.



Councillor Gillian Peet
Chair of the People Scrutiny Panel

Statutory and External Partners Scrutiny Panel

Councillors Welsh (Chair), Bowden (Deputy Chair), Affleck, Bell, Bowerman, Glover, R Miah, Middleton, Pearce, Piddington, Reid, Reynolds, Sidebottom, Sweeton, Whitehead

During 2015/16, the Statutory and External Partners Scrutiny Panel has carried out in-depth reviews of 'Victim Based Crime' and 'Food Poverty'.

The Panel has also received regular updates from Tameside Hospital, Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health, which have been particularly topical given the transformation of Tameside's healthcare system through the Care Together programme.

The Victim Based Crime review was motivated by recent performance data indicating that both total crime and victim based crime rose in 2013/14 for the first time in over a decade. Greater Manchester and Tameside crime levels had been consistently declining for over 20 years prior to this anomaly. The Panel investigated why the changes had occurred and how the Council can support external partners such as the Police and Probation to control victim based crime levels.

The Panel highlighted the recent and significant changes made to the way Police, Probation and other authorities are recording and combating the rising crime rates. The Police, for example, implemented Ethical Crime Recording in 2014 which has improved the integrity and discipline with which data and information are recorded. The Panel found that this strategy is responsible for the rise in recorded crime levels.

At the same time, Probation services were fragmented, with all high-risk and sexual offenders managed by the public sector National Probation Service. The medium and low-risk offenders are now managed by a private Community Rehabilitation Company. The Panel found that this has allowed rehabilitation and management plans to be more focused to the individual.

However, with the longer term impacts of these changes unknown, the Panel recommended that progress is closely monitored and that robust partnerships are developed to ensure the most positive outcomes for Tameside.

The review also highlighted the success of Restorative Justice as an alternative approach in providing victims and communities with a greater sense of resolution. Only 8% of all cases managed through Restorative Justice have resulted in reoffending behaviour since they began in 2012.

The Panel recommended that the Restorative Project in Tameside continues its successful work by integrating the restorative ethos and qualities into as many sectors of the borough as possible.

After completing this review, the Panel has started a review of Food Poverty after seeing the demand for food aid and food banks rise considerably in recent years. The Panel will undertake a detailed investigation into the causal factors that are forcing individuals and families to be without a sustainable provision of healthy food.



Councillor Kevin Welsh
Chair of the Statutory and External Partners Scrutiny Panel

Place Scrutiny Panel

Councillors Bailey (Chair), Jackson (Deputy Chair), Ballagher, Bowden, Downs, Drennan, Fowler, A Holland, I Miah, Patrick, Pearce, Ryan, F Travis, White

Over the course of the last year the Place Scrutiny Panel has undertaken two review exercises to seek assurances and receive detailed information about 'Transforming the Use of Council Buildings' and 'Future Delivery of Statutory Environmental Services'.

The Panel has also received regular updates from Environmental Services, Employment & Skills and Planning Services to ensure that all Panel members remain informed of current themes and issues within the borough.

With shrinking resources and a continuing need to address efficiency savings the Council has a vision to deliver real benefits to the local economy and communities by making the best use of all available buildings.

Over recent years the Council, with support from partners has successfully transformed a number of buildings to create a much needed addition to the local economy. When determining the future use of a building it is important to attract inward investment to the borough, create new job opportunities and support regeneration projects.

With the Council owning and maintaining a diverse portfolio of properties including civic and historic buildings, schools, community centres, libraries, museums, children's homes, offices and more. It was important for Scrutiny to be updated on plans to ensure that the corporate, economic and community needs of the borough are being met.

The Panel were keen to learn of plans the Executive has in place with regards to the sale of buildings and land, as well as the work carried out with partners to make the best use of all remaining resources.

The Panel has also undertaken an exercise to learn more about the Future Delivery of

Statutory Environmental Services. Following significant budget reductions and savings targets placed on a number of Environmental Services the Panel wanted to ensure that any changes to the delivery of services will not impact on residents of the borough.

It soon became clear for members to learn more about the range of statutory services provided by the Council and the minimum level of resources and redesign required to continue what has been a high level of service.

To account for this and provide the most comprehensive range and quality of services possible, the Environmental Services team has undergone largescale staffing and structural changes. The total workforce has been reduced significantly and job roles have been integrated to create multi-operational Business Compliance Officers who can now undertake a range of statutory roles.

The Panel will continue to monitor the impact that budget reductions have on services and ensure that regular updates are received to keep pace with planned changes and improvements across the Place Directorate.



Councillor Maria Bailey
Chair of the Place Scrutiny Panel

Ideas for Scrutiny

You have just read what we have done over the past 12 months; perhaps you can influence what the Panels do in the future by suggesting projects which would be suitable for Scrutiny.

Please bear in mind that Scrutiny is not a complaints system, but can undertake in-depth reviews and report to the Council.

All reports are published on the Council's website: www.tameside.gov.uk/scrutiny

If you want to suggest a suitable topic for Scrutiny please complete the following slip and return to:

Democratic Services
Dukinfield Town Hall
King Street
Dukinfield
SK16 4LA

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Ideas for Scrutiny

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Suggestion for Scrutiny Panel: