

WEST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

21 January 2021

Commenced: 6.30pm

Terminated: 8.30pm

Present: Councillors Ward (Chair), Cooney, Gwynne, A Holland (Vice-Chair), B Holland, Jones, Martin, Mills, Naylor, Newton, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Ryan, T Smith and Warrington

Apologies for absence: Councillors Boyle and M Smith

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 15 October 2020 be approved as a correct record.

6. CENSUS 2021

The Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence introduced Graham Thomas, the Census Engagement Manager for Tameside who gave a presentation in respect of the Census 2021.

It was explained that, every ten years the Office for National Statistics (ONS) carried out a census to find out more about the people who live in England and Wales, and about the make-up of local neighbourhoods. The next census would take place on 21 March 2021.

The 2021 Census would be a digital first census. For the majority of households initial contact for the Census would be made via a digital first pack detailing how to complete the census online.

It was further explained that Census 2021 would provide the most detailed demographic information about society; it would provide information on key demographics, living arrangements, health, education and jobs and the data from it would help inform policy at a local and national level for years to come. It would also provide important insight into the impact of the pandemic on society. Completion of the Census also affected future local funding, so it was essential that Tameside was represented effectively, ensuring services and funding were directed to those places where they were most needed.

Details were given of engagement to date with key population groups in Tameside which had been identified as 'hard to reach'.

Details were also given of Online Census Support Centres, where residents would be able to access assistance from a trained advisor, to complete the census.

The Chair thanked Mr Thomas for a very informative presentation and Members discussed engagement with identified hard to reach groups in the community and how this could best be achieved.

RESOVLED

That the content of the presentation and the community engagement work to date, be noted.

7. COVID 19 UPDATE

Public Health Consultant, James Mallion, delivered a presentation updating Members with regard to the situation in Tameside in respect of Covid-19.

He explained that rates had increased rapidly in recent weeks in Tameside, however there were signs that this was stabilising. Tameside was currently 8th lowest of the Greater Manchester authorities (with Oldham and Rochdale being lower). GM still had lower rates nationally, however neighbouring areas such as Liverpool City Region had very high and growing rates. The positivity rate (proportion of all tests that come back positive) was reducing. The new variant was more transmissible and estimated to be 70% of new cases in Tameside. Hospital activity was steadily increasing and expected to do so for the coming weeks.

Factors driving the spread of the virus in Tameside were explored, including the particular risk to people and families living in overcrowded housing; people with poor work conditions and people who used public transport or car share for work. The greater risk of severe disease to older people; people living with long-term health conditions and occupational exposure was also explained.

Basic measures to prevent transmission were reinforced:

- Regular, thorough handwashing with soap and running water;
- Social distancing from others of at least 2 metres; and
- Wearing a face mask/covering when in situations where there was an increased risk of Covid-19 transmission (crowded places; close contact settings; confined and enclosed spaces).

The importance of following the relevant guidance and restrictions, was also emphasised:

- Reducing social contacts;
- National lockdown; and
- Only essential retail and travel.

Solutions to tackling the pandemic such as 'Test Trace and Isolate' and the rapid roll out of the vaccination programme, were also discussed.

Members thanked Mr Mallion for a thorough and informative presentation.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

8. DEVELOPING COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS MODEL

Sophie Quinn, Public Health Programme Officer, delivered a presentation, which gave details of the development of the Community Champions model in Tameside.

It was explained that the Tameside Community Champions network empowered residents and workforces with the information they needed to lead the way in the community. The Community Champions had a vital role to play and were well placed to act as key message carriers and to lead by good example.

The council would ensure that timely and accurate information was shared with champions to support them to respond to and reassure the residents within their community. Champions shared ideas, asked questions and provided feedback in order to work together and get the messages and information right.

Existing Champions projects were detailed and ideas going forward for 2021 were outlined.

Members thanked Ms Quinn for a very interesting presentation and commented on the positive role of the Community Champions and encouraged people to sign up. Members further sought

information in respect of particular areas of the community, which were under-represented and discussed how best to engage support in these groups.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

9. COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLL OUT

The Director of Commissioning presented before Members and gave information in respect of the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme in Tameside and Glossop as follows:

- approximately 90% of 80+ priority group had now been vaccinated;
- North West average was 36% with the national average being 35%;
- Access to vaccination data on the national systems was still an issue; and work with GM was underway to resolve this;
- 96% of Care Home residents had given consent to be vaccinated;
- Expected deliveries week beginning 18 Jan was 6,000 (4000 OAZ, 2000 Pfizer);
- No wastage and no stockpiling;
- 75+ housebound roll out starts on 18 Jan across all 5 PCNs – aim to complete within 10 days; and
- Ashton PCN site - Oxford Park - goes live 18 Jan.

With regard to the next phase, it was explained that the aim was a further reduction in hospitalisation and targeted vaccination of those at high risk of exposure and/or those delivering key public services.

Next steps were outlined as follows:

- Open Ashton PCN site; Oxford Park;
- Complete Priorities 1 – 3 for all PCNs including revisiting Care Homes;
- Housebound +70 and appropriate care givers within the home;
- Transfer of responsibility for wider health, social care and system staff to ICFT;
- Review of activity data including health inequalities; identify if any areas or communities below where they should be and develop mitigating actions; and
- Review vaccination clinic staffing models; essential to maintain resilient General Practice.

Key messages were also re-enforced as follows:

- Visit www.tameside.gov.uk/covidvaccine for local information and FAQs. More info at Nhs.uk;
- Confidence in the vaccine – it is safe;
- You will be invited to book an appointment when the time is right, please do not phone your GP asking for an appointment;
- If you have received your invite and cannot access the online booking system, see if a family member or friend can help you or phone you GP Practice and they will book it for you;
- Have someone you live with or family/friend take you to your appointment so don't have to drive but you can wait 15 mins if driving yourself. Follow safe travel. Options such as Miles of smiles, ring and ride available; and
- Once you have had the vaccine, please continue to stick to the rules – it will take two weeks for protection to kick in and while it protects you from becoming seriously ill you can still carry and spread the virus to others.

Members thanked the Director of Commissioning, her team and all involved in the excellent organisation and successful roll out of the vaccination programme in Tameside and Glossop and the fantastic achievement to-date.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

10. CHILDREN'S SERVICES – WORK ON NEIGHBOURHOODS/SCHOOLS AND HUMANITARIAN HUB

The Head of Service, Early Help / Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance / Head of Education Improvement and Partnerships, Children's Services, delivered a presentation updating Members on the work ongoing in Neighbourhoods, Schools and the Humanitarian Hub.

The Head of Service, Early help began by explaining the range of targeted support delivered to vulnerable families during COVID and the lockdown. The challenges faced were also described, including:

- Confidence to try new ways of working;
- Not being able to have face to face with families;
- The impact and sustainability of delivering Evidence based interventions virtually to families;
- The emotional impact on children and young people;
- IT;
- Gaining Voice of Child and the lived life experience at this time;
- How do we know children are safe;
- School / Early Years closures; and
- Working from home.

Some of the positive feedback from families was also displayed.

The Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance then gave further detail of Service pressures during the pandemic, when the demand for Early Help and Social Care Services had been very high. Examples of excellent work by social workers during this time, were demonstrated.

The Head of Education Improvement and Partnerships gave information in respect of the work undertaken by schools during the challenging times. Further details were given of support available to schools, including:

- Planning and communication: daily calls, scenario planning group, TASH, TPC, Special School Heads, at least weekly bulletin from AD Education;
- Public Health and Health and Safety webinars;
- Risk assessment template and advice, regular COVID Committee review process;
- Round the clock availability of officers for schools;
- Parent Helpline for parents with children with additional needs
- A range of support with remote learning;

Members were further reminded that Schools were providing food parcels or supermarket vouchers for children isolating or unable to attend school due to COVID-19.

Members thanked the representatives of Children's Services for the very informative presentation and discussion ensued in respect of the level of stress on young people during the pandemic, in particular with the further cancellation of exams in 2021 and the need to ensure the appropriate support for children affected by this.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

CHAIR