

## WEST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

24 March 2022

**Commenced:** 6.30 pm

**Terminated:** 7.40 pm

**Present:** Councillors Ward (Chair), L Boyle, Gwynne, Jones, Mills, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, M Smith, T Smith and Warrington

**In Attendance:**

Emma Varnam	Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Melissa Hopwood	Integrated Youth Manager
Chief Insp Claire Galt	Greater Manchester Police
Insp Abs Hussain	Greater Manchester Police

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Cooney, A Holland and B Holland, Martin, Naylor, Newton and Ryan

### 8 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 20 January 2022 were approved as a correct record.

### 9 UPDATE FROM GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Claire Galt and Inspector Abs Hussain, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), who had attended the Forum to deliver an update on Neighbourhood Policing in the West neighbourhood.

Chief Inspector Galt began by providing details of a public consultation on Neighbourhood Policing to be held at Dukinfield Town Hall on 14 April 2022 between 7pm and 9pm. A member of the Chief Officer Team would attend the event where the public would be given the opportunity to ask questions, voice their concerns and complete a survey, which would help shape local policing in the area. Members were encouraged to attend the event and to make their constituents aware. Further details in relation to the event were available on the GMP website.

Inspector Hussain provided an update from Operation AVRO, a multi-agency operation between Greater Manchester Police, the Council and the Fire Service. The Operation targeted crimes that members of the public in the district had reported as giving them the most concern, such as anti-social behaviour, road safety and youth violence. There had been 200 officers involved in the Operation and a timeline of the day was outlined alongside the results, as follows:

- 30 arrests made;
- 10 search warrants undertaken;
- 26 traffic offences;
- 82 speed offences; and
- Five vehicles seized.

Details of current priorities within the West neighbourhood were outlined to Members. The police had been working to tackle anti-social behaviour at the Snipe Retail Park in Audenshaw and incidents had now reduced to almost zero as a result. Staff from the McDonald's restaurant at the retail park had thanked officers for their support in reducing anti-social behaviour in the area. Officers had also been working to reduce anti-social behaviour on Sunnyside Road, Lincoln Avenue and Somerset Road in Droylsden as well as at the McDonald's at Crown Point and Victoria Park in Denton.

Other priorities included:

- Tackling burglary across the Denton North East and Denton West wards;
- Preventing shoplifting at the Saxon Street Morrison's in Denton and the Greenside Shopping Centre in Droylsden; and
- Tackling drug dealing in the Fairfield Avenue area of Droylsden.

Members passed on positive feedback to the officers present regarding the active neighbourhood policing and efforts to keep councillors informed. Residents had noticed a positive difference and welcomed the neighbourhood-policing model. Clarity was sought on when the new police post at Ryecroft Hall in Audenshaw would open. Inspector Hussain advised the Forum that the new post would open once the IT rollout had been completed but highlighted that officers would always be visible in the community.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Galt and Inspector Hussain for delivering an informative presentation.

## **RESOVLED**

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

## **10 UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH SERVICE**

The Chair welcomed, Melissa Hopwood, Integrated Youth Manager, who attended the Forum to deliver an update on the work of the Tameside Youth Service. She began by introducing the service that operated from seven locations throughout Tameside as follows:-

- Copley Youth Base;
- Bennett Street Youth Club;
- Blocksages Youth Club;
- Mossley Youth Base;
- Cyclops Adventure;
- Cedar Park Youth Club; and
- Denton Festival Hall.

She explained that the team consisted of eight full time members of staff and 12 part time members of staff who focused on a three-pronged approach to service delivery that consisted of targeted youth work, open access youth work and community support.

Concerning targeted youth work, there was a focus on cycling, music, a Youth Council, girls work, disability and LGBT+. The importance of the Youth Council was emphasised as it gave young people a voice and an opportunity to help shape and improve services for young people. It was highlighted that turnout in the Tameside Youth Council elections was the seventeenth highest across the whole country.

There was an established bike project, which gave access to safe bikes, allowed independence and was a fun way for young people to keep active and healthy. Music was known to help with mental health and there were opportunities to play an instrument, write lyrics and have access to digital music. The disability work empowered young people to make their own informed decisions and there was a supportive and safe space for LGBT+ young people to seek advice and support for issues they encountered. The service had identified a growing trend of young women engaging in anti-social behaviour and steps had been introduced to challenge that behaviour and support them to make better choices.

Open access youth work was available at Blocksages Youth Club, Bennett Street Youth Club, Copley Youth Base, Cedar Park Youth Club and Mossley Youth Base. They offered a safe space for children and young people to build trusted relationships with youth workers, who supported them

through key transitions to adulthood, empowering them to make informed decisions, build resilience and learn transferable life skills. It was hoped as the locations were based within communities; it would encourage young people to become a positive influence in their communities. There were many activities for young people to engage in, including a 'tea time club', which provided a meal.

In relation to community support, there was an emphasis on detached youth work, which comprised of working on the streets or a space of the young person's choosing. It began with a low-level issue and a solution was found through negotiation. Pop-up events were held and support was offered to all educational establishments that ranged from training in Restorative Approaches to Fresher's stalls and problem solving in the countryside. The service supported a successful food bank and food pantry and delivered Solihul parental training.

The Integrated Youth Manager informed the Forum that service delivery had continued throughout the pandemic as youth workers had been allocated essential service status by the government. Guidance had been followed from the Governing Body and National Youth Agency and the service had remained fully Covid compliant with no Covid outbreaks. It was reported that over the past 12 months the team had delivered 1,751 sessions with 20,334 contacts.

Further information was provided on the work that was carried out in the locations situated within the West area – Cyclops Adventure, Denton Festival Hall and the Haughton Green Centre. It was highlighted that several pieces of detached work had taken place around Audenshaw, Denton and Droylsden, particularly in relation to a number of bin fires in Victoria Park. The Youth Service had continued to support volunteers at the Haughton Green Centre over the past 10 years and was currently working with senior volunteers at the centre to recruit new volunteers.

Members queried how young people in the West neighbourhood could become involved in the Youth Council. The Integrated Youth Manager explained that young people could join at any time if they were interested in representing the views of other young people. It was also requested if the Youth Service could address the school council at Laurus Ryecroft in Droylsden.

The Chair thanked the Integrated Youth Manager for her presentation and commended the Youth Service for its dedication and hard work.

#### **RESOLVED**

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

#### **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the provisional date of the next meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum scheduled for 23 June 2022, be noted.**

**CHAIR**