

EAST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

23 March 2022

Commenced: 6.35 pm

Terminated: 7.45 pm

Present: Councillors Feeley (In the Chair), J Homer, Lane, Patrick, Pearce, Sweeton, Taylor and Wills

In Attendance:

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors T. Sharif and Gosling

8. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor T. Sharif, and the absence of the Vice-Chair, Councillor Gosling, that Councillor Feeley be appointed as Chair for this meeting.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 19 January 2022 were approved as a correct record.

10. UPDATE FROM GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Claire Galt and Inspector Lisa Halsall, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), who had attended the Forum to deliver an update on Neighbourhood Policing in the East 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 Halsall delivered a presentation on Neighbourhood Policing in the East area and stated that with the lifting of covid restrictions there had been increased engagement and the return of monthly surgeries, which had been positively received. There had been a team collecting donations for Ukraine at the surgeries, which had been passed onto the local Ukrainian Association in Ashton-under-Lyne.

Officers had attended Hill Top Day Nursery in Stalybridge to provide an informative talk to the children on the work of the Neighbourhood team. The children had the opportunity to ask questions, examine equipment and sit in a patrol vehicle. Due to the success of the event, officers would look into visiting other nurseries and schools in the future.

Inspector Halsall 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.

Concerning Operation Safer Tameside, the next multi-agency day of action would take place on 25 March 2022 with a focus on road safety and vehicle crime. It was reported that officers from GMP would be focusing on speeding along Carr Hill Road, Edgerton Street and Manchester Road in Mossley. The Inspector highlighted that over two sets of shifts, officers in the East Neighbourhood had recovered nine vehicles that were either using false plates or were stolen.

Members were informed that the monthly Stalybridge Street Fest had been a great opportunity for the force's neighbourhood beat officers to engage with residents as well as an opportunity for the community to ask questions, get advice and provide feedback. The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, attended the event on 11 March and took the opportunity to speak with officers and praise them for their work.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Galt and Inspector Halsall for delivering an informative presentation and requested the details of the upcoming police surgeries. Information detailing the upcoming police surgeries was available through GMP social media channels and Members were urged to disseminate this information among their respective communities. Members expressed their desire to increase communication with the local police.

RESOVLED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

11. 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. 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. These centres 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 East area – Mossley Youth Base, Copley Youth Base and Blocksages Youth Base. It was confirmed that the food pantry could operate in the Mossley Youth Base and had received funding of £12.5k.

The Chair thanked the Integrated Youth Manager for her presentation and, on behalf of the Forum, asked for their thanks to be extended to the team for the commendable work they had carried out throughout the pandemic. Members of the Forum expressed their views on the service and were proud that Tameside had retained an excellent Youth Service. Prevention was key and the ongoing work with Tameside's young people was essential.

Members queried if the youth service undertook drama work with the young people that it supported. The Integrated Youth Manager advised that in recent weeks a discussion had been undertaken about using one of the existing sessions to undertake cultural work. A discussion also ensued regarding the information provided to children and young people in relation to relationships and domestic violence. It was explained that junior sessions held by the Youth Service covered healthy relationships.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the provisional date of the next meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum scheduled for 29 June 2022 be noted.

CHAIR

