

## EAST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

9 November 2022

**Commenced:** 6.35 pm

**Terminated:** 8.25 pm

**Present:** Councillors Pearce (Chair), J Homer (Vice-Chair), Billington, Feeley, Lane, Patrick, T Sharif, Sweeton and Wills

**In Attendance:**

Emma Varnam	Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
Ben Gudger	Head of Investment and Development
Charlotte Lee	Population Health Programme Manager
Tom Hoghton	Policy & Strategy Service Manager
Caroline Lindsay	High Street Heritage Action Zone Officer
Deborah Smolka O'Brien	Team Manager, Cared for Children's Services

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Jackson

### 1 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 23 March 2022 were approved as a correct record.

### 2 AMENDMENT TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

In accordance with the Council's constitution, the Chair advised Members of a change in the order of business to the published agenda.

### 3 COVID VACCINE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Debbie Watson, Director of Population Health, who had attended the Forum to provide an update on seasonal vaccinations (covid-19 and flu).

It was explained that levels of covid-19 infection and the impacts were lower than seen in previous waves, although there had been a recent increase with the ONS survey estimating around 1 in 30 people were currently infected (similar to rates across England and Tameside). Due to national policy, there was less testing and fewer measures in place to tackle the spread of covid-19 but vaccination remained a key way to protect the most vulnerable.

The covid-19 booster was being offered in the Autumn/Winter to:

- People aged 50 years and older;
- Residents in care homes (older people);
- Those aged five years and over in a clinical risk group; and
- Health and social care staff.

Seasonal flu vaccinations were being offered in the Autumn/Winter to:

- People aged 50 years and older;
- Residents in care homes (older people);
- Those aged six months and over in a clinical risk group;
- Health and social care staff;

- Children – toddlers aged 2 and 3; all primary school children; secondary school children in years 7, 8 and 9;
- Pregnant women; and
- Carers and those in close contact with immunocompromised people.

For the highest risk groups, vaccinations had already been administered as a priority. There were also dedicated programmes in schools, which were delivered across Greater Manchester by Intrahealth; community pharmacies, who were also offering flu vaccinations (and some had begun to offer covid boosters); and health & social care staff via the hospital and the Council programme for all staff.

Progress on the vaccination programmes and work undertaken to maximise uptake, was provided, including specific progress in the Ashton Primary Care Network. Further details were also given in respect of communication activity, across social media channels, Tameside website; information at GP practices; and in the press.

The Director concluded by explaining that there was still time and lots of opportunities to have covid-19 and flu vaccinations and further information was available:

- Residents could contact their GP/check at a local pharmacy;
- Check the Tameside Council website for further information on bookable and walk-in sessions <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/covidvaccine> and;
- People could also check their eligibility at <http://gmintegratedcare.org.uk/get-my-jab/>

The Chair thanked the Director of Population Health for a very informative presentation and the excellent work that continued to be carried out on the vaccination programmes and offered their support by continuing to notify residents of the many opportunities to receive vaccinations.

## **RESOLVED**

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

## **4 HERITAGE WALK SCHEME**

The Panel received a presentation from the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Officer, Caroline Lindsay, updating Members on the Heritage Walk Scheme in Stalybridge town centre.

Members were informed that the Heritage Walk Scheme had been designed to reflect the current situation with regards to materials, achieve best value and secure maximum benefit for the HSHAZ scheme and the town centre. As part of the project, the Council had worked with Historic England who had provided positive feedback on the scheme. A number of engagement exercises had resulted in changes to the scheme design to suit the businesses and communities of Stalybridge.

Traffic Regulation Orders in relation to the scheme had been approved in September 2022 and work would formally begin on the implementation in a week's time. Details of the scheme design were provided to Members:

- Wider pavements, safer walking routes, reduced vehicle speeds and improved accessibility;
- Trinity Street junction to be narrowed;
- Southern side pavement to be widened to enhance pedestrian routes;
- Area around the Melbourne Street junction designed as a raised surface to further improve pedestrian movements and reduce traffic speeds;
- Space for benches, cycle racks and outdoor tables, chairs and planters;
- Decluttering to remove bollards, signposts and develop options for housing wheelie bins;
- Net loss of up to two parking bays to accommodate the increased pavement width;
- Servicing and loading for properties could continue; and

- Further work to investigate and seek resolution with bins on the highway.

Stalybridge councillors welcomed moves to improve the bin storage situation within the town centre.

A meeting in relation to the HAZ would be convened between the High Street Heritage Action Zone Officer and Members to discuss the timeline. It was proposed the officer came back to Members within a month with proposals in relation to bin storage for Market Street.

## **RESOLVED**

- i. That the content of the presentation be noted.**
- ii. That the High Street Heritage Action Zone Officer would meet with Members to discuss bin storage solutions for Stalybridge town centre.**

## **5 HELPING HAND WARM HUBS/RESPONSE TO COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

The Chair welcomed Tom Hoghton, Policy & Strategy Service Manager, who attended the Forum to provide details on the local response to the cost of living crisis.

It was explained that poverty was more than just a lack of income, other areas such as physical and mental health, education, housing and the ability to participate fully in public life also had to be considered. Tameside Council, alongside partners in the public, private and voluntary sector, recognised the severity of the current crisis and were working hard to support residents. This included:

- Immediate Response Action Plan
- 'Helping Hand Tameside'
- Warm Welcome Hubs
- Longer Term Response
  - Needs Assessment
  - Strategy

It was further explained that a comprehensive Needs Assessment had been created to identify the nature of poverty in Tameside and gaps in services and processes. Information for the Needs Assessment was gathered through the following exercises:

- Service mapping to understand processes, pressures and pinch-points and capture the views of service users and front-line staff on causes and potential solutions to poverty.
- Public consultation for eight weeks, asking respondents "What do you think about poverty in Tameside?" and "What can we do about poverty in Tameside?"
- Four focus groups with people with lived experience of poverty in Tameside, with the aim of taking a more in-depth look at the key themes emerging from the survey and service-mapping work.
- Poverty was the headline focus of the July 2022 Partnership Engagement Network Conference.
- Input from the Poverty Truth Commission (PTC).
- Data, research, literature and other good practice.

Key challenges identified from the Needs Assessment included:

- Benefit;
- Debt;
- Food Poverty;
- Fuel Poverty;
- Employment;
- Council Tax;

- Mental Health;
- Disabilities;
- Life Expectancy;
- Carers;
- Barriers to Accessing Services;
- Service User Experience;
- Child Poverty;
- Social Housing;
- Private Rent; and
- Homelessness.

Details were given of 'Helping Hand Tameside', a one-stop-shop that directed people to local support services, charities and organisations, ensuring all residents knew how to get in touch for support and what help was available.

As well as broader signposting, the campaign focussed in on more detail in specific areas and programmes of work, for example:

- Warm Welcome Hubs, which included libraries;
- Food poverty;
- Scam awareness;
- Debt advice and risks associated with poverty and the cost of living crisis;
- Fuel poverty - energy saving tips; and
- Accessing benefits entitled to.

The long-term response was also detailed and discussed with involvement of the Health and Wellbeing Board, a Poverty Strategy and various emerging themes.

A wide ranging discussion ensued in terms of the issues raised and Members thanked everyone involved for the work undertaken directing people to appropriate support services and wished them luck with the campaign over the winter months. Member development sessions would be held to allow them to signpost residents to appropriate support.

## **RESOLVED**

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

## **6 FAMILY HUBS AND BEST START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME**

The Chair welcomed the Service Manager for Early Help, who attended the Forum to deliver a presentation on Family Hubs and the Best Start for Life programme.

It was explained that Family Hubs were a way of joining up locally and bringing existing family help services together to improve access to services, connections between families, professionals, services, providers, and putting relationships at the heart of family help. Family Hubs brought together services for families with children of all ages (0-19) or up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with a great Start for Life offer at their core. Family Hubs could include both a physical (using existing buildings) and virtual offers, which had proved very popular with families throughout the pandemic.

How services were delivered varied from place to place but the following principles were key to the family hub model:

- More accessible – through clearly branded and communicated hub buildings, virtual offers and outreach.
- Better connected – family hubs driving progress on joining up professionals, services and providers through co-location, data sharing, shared outcomes and governance. Moving from

services organised for under-fives, to families with children of all ages, reduced fragmentation (even though an emphasis on early years and the 'Start for Life' offer would remain).

- Relationship-centred – practice in a family hub builds on family strengths and looked to improve family relationships to address underlying issues.
- Universal through to targeted services – providing welcoming, non-stigmatised services for families.

Family Hubs were a key part of the Best Start for Life vision outlined in [The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days](#) and additional funding had been allocated to Tameside to further develop the Family Hub and Best Start for Life Offer over a three year period.

A map detailing Tameside's Family Hub Area Model was shown to the Forum, which was split into four geographical locations (North, South, East and West) that aligned to the localities used by health and police partners.

The funding with the Family Hubs Programme also included funding to expand the 0-2/0-5 year old services and provision, the funding was aimed at:

- Infant Feeding;
- Parent Infant Mental Health;
- Parenting;
- Home Learning Environment;
- Publishing the Best Start for Life Offer; and
- Building a Parent and Carer Panel.

The Family Hub would build on existing assets and expand and enhance the current provision. Tameside's progress was detailed as follows:

- Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Steering Group established.
- Project Team identified.
- Official 'sign up' form approved by Executive Cabinet, and submitted to the Department of Education (end of October).
- Department of Education Advisor identified for Tameside
- Sharing and Learning Networks established within Greater Manchester, and the North West.
- Detailed delivery plan in development with key including co-production and consultation (due for submission by the end of December 2022).
- Strong alignment with the Programme Guidance:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-programme-local-authority-guide>

Forum Members enquired about the locations of the Family Hubs and the Service Manager for Early Help responded that no decision had yet been made but there were many buildings to choose from but they would need to be within walking distance and easily accessible to residents.

The Chair thanked the Service Manager for Early Help for attending the Forum and delivering an informative presentation.

## **RESOLVED**

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

## **7 TAMESIDE COUNCIL FOSTERING SERVICE**

The Practice Manager, Cared for Children Services, attended the meeting to deliver a presentation on Tameside Council's Fostering Service.

Fostering was the support and care for a child when they could not live at home, that provided a stable and caring environment. It assisted with contact with birth parents and other connected persons; getting a child to school; attendance at meetings – reviews and education; and to undertake training to develop fostering skills.

Members were informed that anyone could foster whether they were married, co-habiting, single, straight or gay and there was no upper age limit. All ethnic and religious backgrounds were welcome and the only requirement was a spare bedroom in the home, that did not have to be owned, and people who ideally lived locally in order to transport children to school.

It was reported that as of 4 November 2022, there were 663 cared for children in Tameside. Of these, 428 were in foster care (292 Tameside own provision). There were currently not enough foster care placements for children within Tameside to cope with demand. There was a particular need in Tameside for carers to look after children aged five and over, and teenagers.

Details of the different types of fostering were outlined in the presentation, the reasons why people fostered and the approval process were outlined. Ongoing fostering support and the type of carers required were also discussed. Further details could be found at [fosteringenquiries@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringenquiries@tameside.gov.uk). Members were encouraged to signpost any individuals interested in fostering to the Service so that further information and support could be provided.

The Chair thanked the Practice Manager, Cared for Children Services, for attending the meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

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

## **8 LITTER CAMPAIGN**

The Chair welcomed Emma Varnam, Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, who delivered a presentation on the network of Litter Hubs in Tameside and the 'Our Streets' campaign.

It was explained that Tameside Council's Litter Hubs Network enabled residents or groups to book free equipment, including high visibility jackets, litter pickers and black bags, from community places with Council officers arranging for the rubbish to be disposed of appropriately. It was part of the 'Our Streets' campaign, with an aim of bringing people together for a cleaner and safer borough.

The Forum were informed that there were 14 live litter hubs in the Network at present across the nine towns of Tameside that were beginning to link together with one already linked to a local business. There were Tinsel Litter Picker Events and more litter hubs were planned. Further information on Litter Hubs, or to establish one at a community event, could be obtained by contacting Sharron Power by email at [sharron.power@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:sharron.power@tameside.gov.uk).

Details of enforcement action was also provided as follows:

- 'Our Streets' campaign launched;
- Three days of action held in Ashton-under-Lyne, Denton and Droylsden;
- Nine Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued;
- 62 businesses had been visited regarding waste Duty of Care;
- Illicit tobacco and drugs were seized; and
- Three fly tipping prosecutions in 2022 with fines totalling £3,608.

Further planned dates for enforcement activity across the borough were also provided as follows:

- 2 November in Denton
- 7 December in Hyde

- 11 January in Ashton-under-Lyne (St Peters)
- 15 February in Stalybridge

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods for the presentation and Forum Members pledged their support to the campaign.

**RESOLVED**

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

**9 ASHTON PUBLIC REALM CONSULTATION**

The Chair requested a brief update from the Head of Investment and Development, Ben Gudger, in relation to the Ashton Public Realm Consultation. It was highlighted that consultation in relation to the proposals would commence on 14 November 2022 and last for four weeks.

**RESOLVED**

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

**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

**That the date of the next meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum, scheduled for 25 January 2023, be noted.**

**CHAIR**