



Report to:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
Date:	19 January 2022
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Watson - Director of Population Health
Subject:	ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY
Report Summary:	This report updates the Board on the progress towards the development of a System-wide Anti-Poverty Strategy, including consultation undertaken to date and proposed next steps.
Recommendations:	That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the updates in the report and accept the planned approach through to adoption of the Strategy at the next Board.
Links to Health and Wellbeing Strategy:	The Strategy proposed in this report links directly to the stated aims in the recently adopted Health and Wellbeing Board Charter to reduce the impact of poverty and identify a work programme on issues that drive socio-economic and health inequalities.
Policy Implications:	Development of this Strategy has been led by the Council's Policy Team and is in line with national and regional Policy initiatives on reducing inequality and addressing Poverty.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer and Chief Finance Officer)	<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this update report.</p> <p>Whilst currently subject to consultation and final approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Anti-Poverty Strategy will likely include a number of recommendations, which may have financial implications for the Council. Implementation of recommendations with financial and/or service delivery implications for the Council will need to be subject to separate report and decision making.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>This report provides the Board with a helpful update on progress being made to develop this strategy.</p> <p>As with such strategies, consultation is key to ensuring that the strategy is fit for purpose and will deliver the intended objectives.</p>
Risk Management:	There are no additional risks identified as a result of this report or the Strategy.
Access to Information:	<p>All papers relating to this report can be obtained by contacting: Tom Hoghton, Policy & Strategy Service Manager</p> <p> Telephone: 0161 342 3542</p> <p> e-mail: tom.hoghton@tameside.gov.uk</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In recent years, the rise of poverty, exacerbated by the cost of living crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic, has emerged as a major policy issue. The current cost of living crisis has been significantly worsened by a number of longer-term structural weaknesses in the UK, including low wages, low productivity and high inequality relative to other major economies.
- 1.2 All Partners recognise the severity of the current crisis and are working hard to support residents and gain a deeper understanding of poverty through cooperation with groups such as the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission.
- 1.3 Following the development of the Poverty Needs Assessment, which sits as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, this Board agreed to support the development of a System-wide Strategy to address both the short-term and long-term issues that drive Poverty in Tameside.

2. DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

- 2.1 The consultation and research undertaken through the development of the Needs Assessment, served the dual purpose of understanding both the issues prevalent in Tameside but also the available solutions. The following is a summary of the exercises undertaken to gather this information:
 - 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. Response data from 43 teams and services was recorded and coded to provide actionable qualitative data.
 - Public consultation on the council's Big Conversation platform for 8 weeks, asking respondents "What do you think about poverty in Tameside?" and "What can we do about poverty in Tameside?" In total, 261 responses were received, which were also recorded and coded to identify themes and trends and draw out quantitative data.
 - Stockport-based organisation DJS Research was commissioned to conduct a series of 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, which explored the themes emerging from the survey and service mapping work and asked participants to give their views on poverty and our progress to date.
 - Input from the Poverty Truth Commission (PTC). While the PTC is an independent and standalone forum that will produce their own findings and reports, we have worked closely with them and used their knowledge and lived experience of Poverty to inform the Needs Assessment.
 - Data, research, literature and other good practice from organisations such as the Resolution Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, House of Commons Library, and Greater Manchester Poverty Action, as well as national data repositories such as the Office for National Statistics, Public Health England's Fingertips database, StatXPlore from the Department for Work and Pensions, and local statistics gathered through collaborative work with the Greater Manchester Poverty Group
- 2.2 In addition, on 12 December 2022, a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board was convened with membership invited from key Partners to review a draft of the proposed recommendations based on the above. Following a robust discussion, a revised version of the recommendations has been published for public consultation, appended to this report (**Appendix 1**) and also circulated and promoted through networks and agencies with a specific interest in this area. The offer to attend any relevant meetings to discuss proposed recommendations has also been made.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The Consultation concludes on 31 January 2023 at which point we propose to carefully consider the feedback from the consultation, review the recommendations and amend where appropriate. .
- 3.2 The Proposal is then that a final document be brought to the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 16 March 2023 for formal adoption and discussion on implementation.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As per the front of the report.