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| Report to: | EXECUTIVE CABINET |
| Date: | 29 March 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Councillor Eleanor Wills, Executive Member for Population Health and Wellbeing (with lead responsibility for poverty). Debbie Watson, Director of Population Health. |
| Subject: | BUILDING RESILIENCE: TACKLING POVERTY IN TAMESIDE |
| Report Summary: | This report provides an update on the development of a place based anti-poverty strategy by the Health and Wellbeing Board. |
| Recommendations: | Executive Cabinet are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Note the report and the strategy document (<u>Appendix 1</u>) agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board for the place on 16 March 2023. (II) Agree the strategy is adopted by Tameside Council as one of the place based partners who will work together through the Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver the recommendations outlined in the strategy. |
| Corporate Plan: | The strategy cuts across all eight priorities of the Corporate Plan and underpins the life course model. |
| Policy Implications: | Development of this strategy is in line with and in response to emerging national and regional policy initiatives on reducing inequality and addressing poverty. The recommendations within will have policy implications for partners as they are implemented. |
| Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer) | There are no direct financial implications arising from this update report on the development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy. However, there are numerous and complex financial implications for the Council that arise as a result of Poverty in the borough, and the implementation of the recommendations within the Anti-Poverty Strategy are likely to have some direct financial implications. The financial implications of the recommendations in the Anti-Poverty Strategy will need to be considered separately as recommendations are implemented, taking account both of the direct financial implications of recommendations and, where possible, considering the complex indirect financial implications of poverty (including areas such as demand for services and income collection). |
| Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor) | As set out in the report, work is ongoing to develop the strategy. Consultation has been undertaken to assist the council in forming this strategy. The feedback from the consultation has been carefully considered as part of the finalisation of the strategy. |
| Risk Management: | No additional risks identified as a result of this paper or strategy |
| Access to Information: | Papers relating to this report can be obtained by contacting: Simon Brunet, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence;  e-mail: simon.brunet@tameside.gov.uk James Mallion, Interim Assistant Director of Population Health; |

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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 a Poverty Needs Assessment which sits as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health & Wellbeing 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.
- 1.4 The strategy – *'Building Resilience: Tackling Poverty in Tameside'* – was adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board at their meeting on 16 March 2023. The document is attached at [Appendix 1](#).

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 needs assessment is attached at [Appendix 2](#).
- 2.2 The following is a summary of the exercises undertaken to gather this information
 - Service mapping interviews 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. Plus a further consultation on the draft recommendations.
 - 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. The PTC report and recommendations are attached at [Appendix 3](#).
 - Adopted findings and recommendations from the Inequalities Reference Group who, in turn, incorporated views of those with lived experience into their reports.

- 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

2.3 In addition, on 12 December 2022 a sub-group of the Health & Wellbeing Board was convened with membership invited from key Partners to review a draft of the some proposed recommendations based on the above. Following a robust discussion, a revised version of the recommendations was published for public consultation and also circulated and promoted through networks and agencies with a specific interest in this area. A further meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board on 19 January 2023 also offered opportunity to review the revised recommendations.

3. **GMPA REPORT ON ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIES**

- 3.1 On 22 February 2023, Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) published their report '*Local anti-poverty strategies – Good practice and effective approaches*'. The report is attached at **Appendix 4**.
- 3.2 GMPA make twelve advisory recommendations for those areas embarking on the development of an anti-poverty strategy.
- 3.3 Current work puts Tameside in a strong position against GMPA's recommendations. Examples of work that meet the recommendations include:
- Poverty Needs Assessment
 - Programme of engagement and lived experience listening.
 - Poverty Truth Commission.
 - Adoption of the socio-economic duty in 2022.
 - Partnership approach through the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 - Clear leadership with named Executive Member (Cllr Wills).
 - Development of a detailed and tracked action plan (in development now).
 - Poverty dashboard (in development now building on the needs assessment).
 - Pilot and implementation of Money Advice Referral Tool.

4. **NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The final consultation concluded on 31 January 2023 with minimal revision of the core recommendations required.
- 4.2 The final strategy was presented at Health and Wellbeing Board on 16 March 2023 where it was formally adopted by the board on behalf of all partners.

- 4.3 An action plan to deliver the ambitions set out in the strategy is already in development over which the Health & Wellbeing Board will have oversight. Delivery of the action plan will be undertaken by a sub-group reporting into the Board.
- 4.4 It is appropriate for the council to also adopt the strategy and establish an operational delivery group internally to ensure its contribution to delivery of the action plan is progressed quickly and effectively.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 As set out on the front of the report.