

SOUTH STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

29 January 2024

Commenced: 18:30

Terminated: 20:00

Present: Councillors Affleck, Alam, Bowden, Colbourne, Ferguson, Fitzpatrick, North, Robinson and Roderick

In Attendance:

Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Alison Montgomery	Assistant Director of Social Care
Tracey Harrison	Assistant Director of Adult Services
Kathy Bibby	Senior Planning Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Chadwick, Kitchen and Owen

14 MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of the South Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 29 January 2024 were approved as a correct record.

15 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Director of Resources, who attended the Forum to deliver a presentation with regards to the Budget Consultation for 2024/25. An overview of the budget reductions and the revised budget gap was detailed in the presentation. It explained that the budget consultation went live on 19 December 2023 and 193 responses had been received. The presentation detailed the next steps for the period 2024-29 and it was detailed that there would be a greater use of Neighbourhood Forum meetings to feed into the budget consultation in order to gain greater Member engagement on priorities within each locality.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

16 CARERS STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Assistant Director of Adult Services, who gave a presentation in respect of the Tameside Carer's Strategy.

Members were informed that a carer was a person who provided informal and/or unpaid support to a partner, family member, friend or neighbour who was ill, struggling or disabled and could not manage without assistance. It was explained that throughout 2022/23, carers across Tameside were consulted with to understand what was most important to them and how they could be best supported.

Members were advised that officers continued to work with partners across Social Care, Health and VCSF in order to develop a delivery plan for the implementation of the strategy. It was explained that the Carer's Strategy was expected to launch in March 2024 and feedback would be obtained from carers annually on the progress of the strategy.

It was explained that the Tameside Carer's Centre provided emotional support, advocacy, advice and guidance for carers, along with carer's courses and activities to support carers. With regards to the Carer's Offer in Tameside, Members were informed that carers could ask for a carer's needs assessment in their own right or a joint assessment with the person they cared for. Members were provided with information on the services that supported carers within Tameside.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

17 HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER CARER

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director for Social Care who gave a presentation in respect of the Fostering Service.

It was explained that fostering was the support and care for a child when they could not live at home; providing a stable and caring environment; working closely with others involved in the welfare of the children being cared for; attendance at meetings – reviews and education; and to undertake training to develop fostering skills. It was further explained that there was no upper age limit and anyone could foster whether they were married, co-habiting, single, straight or gay. All ethnic and religious backgrounds were welcomed and there was no specific qualifications required to become a foster carer.

The various types of fostering were outlined and the approval process was explained to the Forum. Ongoing fostering support was provided via social workers and support workers with social workers assigned to the children. Support was also available through the Fostering Network and there was a buddy scheme, a training programme, support groups and allowances and fees.

Discussion ensued with regards to how the council could encourage more to apply to become a foster carer from ethnic minorities. Discussion continued on the length of the process and the statistics on those who drop out and at what points in the process.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

18 LOCAL PLAN

The Forum received a presentation from the Senior Planning Policy Officer, who provided Members with an overview of the Local Plan and outlined the opportunities for engagement and the activities that were intended to be undertaken in the short, medium and long term.

Members were advised that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required each Local Planning Authority prepared and maintained a Local Development Scheme, which was based on up-to-date evidence and examined by independently appointed inspectors. It was explained that the Local Development Scheme set out key milestones for plan making which the Council proposed to deliver, and identified the nature and scope for the delivery of Development Plan Documents that were the local planning framework for Tameside. The Senior Planning Policy Officer summarised the key subject areas within the plan which included the location of development, protection of assets and meeting needs.

It was explained that the Council's Local Development Scheme was published in July 2023 and provided details of the current and intended planning frameworks for the borough, and provided clarity to the associated documents that were collectively included within the borough's Local Plan. It was further explained that in Tameside, the Local Plan consisted of a number of documents which formed the policy framework within Greater Manchester.

The Senior Planning Policy Officer provided a summary of the plans which were currently undergoing consultation. With regards to Places for Everyone, it was explained that 177 consultation responses had been received which were to be considered and included within the inspectors report. It was reported that adoption was to be considered in early 2024.

Members were provided with an update on Homes Spaces Places which replaced any remaining elements of the Unitary Development Plan. It was explained that officers consulted on an integrated assessment in July 2023 and this was currently in the Plan Scoping stage.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

19 SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Director of Population, which provided an overview of the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29, which was now available to view on the Council's website and could be accessed here.

Information was provided on The Serious Violence Duty that required 'Specified Authorities' for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence including the Council, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Services, Youth Offending Services and NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board.

Members were informed that Tameside partners worked closely with the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit who had produced a Serious Violence Strategy for Greater Manchester. The Duty encouraged a 'public health approach', which had been done for Greater Manchester and Tameside.

A definition of serious violence was provided and Members were notified of the types of serious violence in Tameside as follows:-

- Possession of weapons
- Domestic Abuse
- Personal robbery
- Safeguarding
- Self-directed violence

Priorities for tackling serious violence in Tameside were listed as follows:-

1. Community led approach
2. Early and timely intervention
3. Partnerships for change
4. Equality, equity and justice
5. Trauma responsive support for communities in Tameside

Members were advised that the strategy for Tameside would be led by the Community Safety Partnership and an action plan to deliver the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2029 was under development. Ongoing conversations and involvement with people living in Tameside, especially those affected by violence, would continue and changes would be made to the service provided and the work undertaken, from evidence in the needs assessment, in order to ensure that the priorities and commitments in the Strategy were achieved.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

20 FLU UPTAKE & IMPACT OF DOCTOR'S STRIKE

Members received a presentation of the Director of Population Health, who provided an update on the Autumn/Winter 2023-24 flu vaccination programme

A table detailing the seasonal Flu Vaccination Uptake as at December 2023 was shown broken down by neighbourhood areas, based on the Primary Care Network, and age categories. It was highlighted that uptake had been low, and lower than the Greater Manchester average, across all age categories.

A comparison table showing the December 2023 uptake rates against the December 2022 uptake rates was also shown. It was stated that there had been slightly lower uptake within all groups, which mirrored the national picture. It was encouraging that there had been an increase in pregnant women taking up the offer of a flu vaccination and an increase in all aged 2 being vaccinated.

Some of the challenges around uptake of the flu vaccination, both across the region and nationally, were outlined and a summary of the industrial action by junior doctors in January 2024 was detailed. It was stated that all urgent and emergency care services were fully covered by consultants and specialist doctors and all cancer services continued as planned. Some routine elective activity had to be cancelled and teams were working to rearrange these as soon as practically possible.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the date of the next meeting of the South Strategic Neighbourhood Forum, scheduled for 25 March 2024, be noted.

CHAIR