

Report to: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date: 24 January 2019

Executive Member / Reporting Officer: Richard Hancock, Director of Children's Services, TMBC
Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy, Director of Population Health, TMBC

Subject: **STARTING WELL: IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS IN TAMESIDE**

Report Summary: School readiness includes the readiness of the individual child, the school's readiness for children, and the ability of the families and communities to support optimal early child development. The presentation gives an update on School Readiness in Tameside which will be a priority of the new Starting Well Board. This will be followed by a workshop style session where there will be an opportunity for Board Members to comment on progress challenges and future strategy to improve school readiness in Tameside.

Recommendations: Health and Wellbeing Board members are asked to:

- Note the content of the presentation;
- Discuss current challenges and contribute to the development the Tameside School Readiness action plan.

Links to Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Starting Well

Policy Implications: Health and wellbeing boards should ensure a focus on early intervention, within an overall understanding of a 'lifecourse' approach to provision. The vision of the Health and Wellbeing Board is to make an effective contribution to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and driving the development of healthy policies for children and families in Tameside.

Financial Implications: There are no direct financial implications arising from the report as the presentation is for discussion and comment at this stage.
(Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

Legal Implications: The broad social and economic circumstances that together influence health throughout the life course are known as the 'social determinants of health'. There is a social gradient across many of these determinants that contribute to health with poorer individuals experiencing worse health outcomes than people who are better off.
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

Children growing up in more deprived areas often suffer disadvantages throughout their lives, from educational attainment through to employment prospects, which in turn affect physical and mental wellbeing. Although the percentages of children not ready for school, and young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) have both fallen in recent years, significant inequalities remain.

Income and work are 2 of the most important determinants of health and wellbeing.

Educational attainment is strongly linked with health behaviours and outcomes. More educated individuals are less likely to suffer from long-term diseases and to report themselves in poor health, or suffer from mental disorders such as depression or anxiety. It is one of the key milestones for wellbeing through the life course and can impact on many outcomes in later life including, quality of work, future earnings, involvement in crime, morbidity, and death.

Children are assessed for their 'school-readiness' upon completion of the Reception Year in school, at around 5 years of age. To achieve a 'good level of development' a child should have reached the expected level in early learning goals around communication and language, physical development, and personal, social and emotional development. For example paying attention, listening to stories, using the toilet, dressing themselves, and they should have started to read, write and do simple sums.

If we are to increase the prosperity of the Borough and significantly reduce the demand for expensive intervention services this should be a top priority focus area. Whilst any improvement will not enable the Council to address immediate budget issues it should impact significantly on the economy within the medium to long term.

Risk Management :

There are no risks associated with this report.

Access to Information :

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Tim Bowman, Assistant Director Education or Debbie Watson Assistant Director Population Health:



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