

# **NORTH STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**19 March 2019**

**Commenced:** 6.30 pm

**Terminated:** 7.55 pm

**Present:** Councillors Bowerman (Chair), Sidebottom (Vice-Chair), Hollinshead, Choksi, Fairfoull, Glover, Lewis and Cartey

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Bray and McNally

## **1 MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the North Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 15 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.**

## **2 EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES**

The Strategic Neighbourhood Forum received a presentation from the Head of Employment and Skills. The forum were informed on employment initiatives currently being undertaken within the Neighbourhood area and sought members views on future initiatives.

Members were given an overview of residents who are currently employed in the area against the national average. The Head of Employment and Skills detailed those who receive employment support allowance, the number of those in workless households, those without qualifications and the number of those who claim disability benefits.

Members enquired on the number of those who are not currently employment in Tameside and whether there were Jobs available to the residents within the borough. Head of Employment initiatives and skills advised members the number of those unemployed consist of structural unemployment, those who are financial secure and a number of other factors.

The Head of Employment and Skills detailed the number of Young People Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET). Of 143 NEET Young people 31 came from Tameside North. Members informed of the steps taken by the council to provide support and advise, including commissioning of careers advice, Careers Exhibition, Tameside Hack events as well as other local skills and grants aimed at creating skills and employment.

Members were informed of adult education and employment support available throughout the borough through age friendly work initiatives. In relation to the Working Well programme, which operates across Greater Manchester to help long term benefit claimants with health conditions to move into and stay in work. Within Tameside there were 317 referral to Working Well from Tameside Jobcentre plus in 2018.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the information provided be noted.**

### **3 FOOD STRATEGY**

The Strategic Neighbourhood Forum were consulted by the Programme Manager for Population health on the sustainable food strategy for Tameside. The forum were informed of the problems created by out of home foods which is high in sugar, salt and calories and low in nutritional value. Low incomes can limit people's choices and cheap food is usually unhealthy food and this is coupled with enormous investment in advertising.

The Programme Manager for Population Health explained that Child obesity prevalence is strongly correlated with socioeconomic status and impacts children living in the most deprived areas the most. An unbalanced diet is also a risk factor for Type 2 diabetes, cancer, Cardio Vascular Disease and Hypertension.

The forum were informed of the damage to the environment that many of the foods we eat have and that a quarter of global emissions come from food.

Members enquired on the possibility of educating children more at school on the risks of an unbalanced diet and how to prepare and cook healthy but cheap meals. A conversation was had between members on how Tameside residents had become more aware of the links between food and greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the information provided be noted.**

### **4 AGEING WELL**

The Strategic Forum was consulted by the Director of Adult Services on the ageing well strategy in Tameside. The strategy aims to promote environments where older people are respected recognised and included in the community and the family.

The Forum were advised on the importance of Outdoor spaces and buildings, appropriate and affordable housing and Accessible and affordable transportation.

The Ageing Friendly Tameside: Working Together Partnership, encourages Social Participation, Civic Participation and Employment.

Members were informed of the Tameside and Glossop Support Directory where you can search an area or neighbourhood and look for support services in your area. This information has been collected from different groups allowing the Directory to include community groups. Each community asset has a page with brief information about what they do and how to contact them.

Members enquired on the progress of the Christ Church Community Centre. The Director of Adult Services informed members that she would report to them on the progress of the Centre.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the information provided be noted.**