

EAST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

27 March 2019

Commenced: 6.30 pm

Terminated: 8.20 pm

Present: Councillors Pearce (Chair), Sweeton (Vice-Chair), Billington, Feeley, Gosling, J Homer, S Homer, Jackson, J Lane, Patrick, Sharif and Wills

In Attendance: Stephanie Butterworth Director of Adult Services
David Berry Head of Employment and Skills
Liz Harris Programme Manager (Population Health)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Dickinson, Taylor and Wild

7 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 23 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

8 EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

The Head of Employment and Skills delivered a presentation on employment initiatives currently being undertaken within the Neighbourhood area and sought Members views on future initiatives.

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

Information was given in respect of the number of Young People Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) as of January 2019. Of the 143 NEET Young people, 23 (16%) came from Tameside East.

Members were informed of the steps taken by the Council to provide support and advice, 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. Reference was made to the Working Well programme, which operated across Greater Manchester to help long term benefit claimants with health conditions to move into and stay in work. Within Tameside there were 317 referrals to Working Well from Tameside Jobcentre Plus in 2018. The statistics relating to Tameside East were detailed.

Discussion ensued in respect of the information presented and Members made reference to the following:

- Attracting employers to base themselves in Tameside;
- Improving pathways and higher level course through Adult Community Education;
- Support for ex-offenders;
- Increasing employment opportunities for graduates;

- Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge and support to local businesses;
- Opportunities for people on the autism spectrum;
- The Prince's Trust programmes in Tameside;
- The Northern Powerhouse Partnership;
- Decline in traditional local industries.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

9 FOOD STRATEGY

The Programme Manager, Population Health, delivered a presentation providing information in respect of the current consultation to develop a healthy and sustainable food strategy for Tameside.

The Programme Manager discussed the need for a balanced diet as essential for health and wellbeing and explored some of the existing barriers to reducing obesity or diet related disease including the impact of the out of home food offer.

She further explored food's carbon footprint and the greenhouse gas emissions produced by growing, rearing, farming, processing, transporting, storing, cooking and disposing of the food we eat.

Details were given of the six key food objectives developed by the Tameside Food Partnership:

- Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public;
- Tackling food poverty and access to affordable healthy food;
- Building community food knowledge, skills and projects;
- Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy;
- Transforming catering and food procurement; and
- Reducing waste and ecological footprint of the food system.

Details of how to access the on-line survey at www.tameside.gov.uk/foodsurvey were also provided.

The Forum considered the possibility of using planning policy and decision-making as one way the local authority could take a lead in trying to create a healthier environment and to encourage a more sustainable food system. Reference was made to concerns regarding the continual growth of take-away food outlets in the area and the quality of food they served. Implementing a policy such as a restriction on the over-concentration of food takeaways, particularly around schools, and the clustering of units was also discussed.

The important role schools could play both in promoting healthy eating habits to children, and ensuring school food provides healthy balanced and nutritious meals was acknowledged. The growth in food bank usage and accessing healthy and affordable food locally was highlighted. There could be real benefits in setting up food projects, food co-ops or community growing initiatives / allotments in order to either tackle food poverty, food access or health inequalities.

Reference was made to the role of Population Health in encouraging healthy lifestyles and providing advice and guidance to support residents with their weight loss and exercise goals. However, there needed to be further consideration as to how this was delivered as the return on investment for a recent initiative had been disappointing.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

10 AGEING WELL

A presentation was delivered by the Director of Adult Services explaining the need to create an environment where older people were respected, recognised and included in the community and the family.

The Director gave information of the various ways that this could be achieved and areas for consideration, including:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings;
- Appropriate and affordable housing;
- Accessible and affordable transportation;
- Social participation;
- Civic participation and employment; and
- Communication and Information.

She also made reference to www.lifeintamesideandglossop.org web portal and demonstrated the various areas of the website where information and support could be found. The Director added that the 'support' area of the website would be owned and managed by people working across the system in social prescribing roles.

Members gave consideration to the information presented and made reference in particular the implementation of social prescribing, with the aim of supporting individuals to take greater control over their own health and connecting people with a range of services or activities. Key to this would be accessible public transport / taxis to ensure residents remained connected to their communities and prevent social isolation. The Director advised that a benefit of the Age Friendly Manchester Partnership was that Transport for Greater Manchester had a part to play in supporting and delivering its work plan.

Reference was also made to Dementia Friends, understanding a bit more about dementia and the small things that can be done to help people with the condition. The Director responded that she would be setting up further sessions for elected members.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.