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| Report To: | OVERVIEW PANEL |
| Date: | 9 September 2019 |
| Reporting Officer: | Sandra Stewart, Director – Governance and Pensions Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director – Policy, Performance and Communications |
| Subject: | SCRUTINY UPDATE |
| Report Summary: | To receive for information, a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's two Scrutiny Panels for July to September 2019. |
| Recommendations: | That Overview Panel are asked to note the content of the report and summary of scrutiny activity. All related documents can be viewed within the appendices. |
| Links to Corporate Plan: | Scrutiny work programmes are linked to the Council's corporate priorities. Scrutiny activity seeks to support effective decision making and priorities across Tameside. |
| Policy Implications: | The work programmes comprise activity that seeks to check the effective implementation of the Strategic Commission's policies and if appropriate make recommendations to the Executive with regards to development, performance monitoring, outcomes and value for money. |
| Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer) | There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any costs incurred by the Scrutiny Panels must be met from existing budgets. |
| Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor) | Overview and scrutiny committees were established in English and Welsh local authorities by the Local Government Act 2000. They were intended as a counterweight to the new executive structures created by that Act (elected mayors or leaders and cabinets). Their role was to develop and review policy and make recommendations to the council. Today, the legislative provisions for overview and scrutiny committees for England can be found in the Localism Act 2011. Those for Wales are in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, and those for Northern Ireland are in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. There are no legislative provisions for overview and scrutiny in Scotland, though many Scottish local authorities do operate scrutiny committees alongside executive structures. Local authorities also manage processes of 'external scrutiny', where their committees look at issues which lie outside the council's responsibilities. In England, specific powers exist to scrutinise health bodies, crime and disorder partnerships, and Police and Crime Commissioners. Combined authorities are also required to establish overview and scrutiny committees. |
| Risk Management: | Regular updates to Overview Panel provide assurance that scrutiny is progressing with an effective work programme, supporting good decision making and service improvement. |
| Access to Information: | The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy Lead by: |

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Update provides a platform for appropriate insight, activity, outcomes and proposals to be relayed. This method of reporting supports the improved responsiveness of scrutiny work and also prevents any delay in the communication of key messages.
- 1.2 The report, by nature, aims to provide members with a general summary of scrutiny activity and proposals. It remains that all reports produced by scrutiny panels as a result of in-depth review will be tabled separately and at the earliest opportunity.

2.0 SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

- 2.1 Scrutiny in practice remains mindful of the suitability and appropriateness of timings with regards to the impact and value of planned activity. This includes the selection and order of topics and updates to be received during the year. The annual work programmes and priorities were agreed at the June meetings and this coincides with consultation activity for which a valued response and input can be achieved. The tables below provide a summary and chronology of scrutiny activity.

Figure 1: Breakdown of activity at the formal Scrutiny Panel meetings

| INTEGRATED CARE AND WELLBEING | |
|--|---|
| 25 July 2019 | 12 September 2019 (*Planned) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); and Richard Hancock, Director of Children’s Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children’s Services improvement and outcomes from the recent Ofsted inspection. - Overview of current arrangements for the recruitment and retention of foster carers in Tameside, to inform future activity. • Working group established to progress activity on Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention. • The Panel reviewed options to submit a formal response to the national consultation currently open on Domestic Abuse Services, to be submitted by 2 August 2019. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trish Cavanagh - Chief Operating Officer, Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, to provide information and data specific to the Urgent Treatment Centre. • Sarah Dobson - Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Communications to present the Corporate Plan and agreed scorecard. • Tom Wilkinson – Assistant Director, Finance to provide a budget update. • To receive information on the arrangements in place for Tameside to become a Co-operative Council. |

| PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS | |
|--|--|
| 30 July 2019 | 10 September (*Planned) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola Turner, Interim Head of Development and Investment; and John Hughes, Housing Growth Lead presented an update on the Housing Strategy and improving quality and standards within the private rented sector and empty properties, to inform future activity. • Working group established to progress activity on Improving Quality and Standards in the Private Rented Sector, to include empty properties • The Panel reviewed options to submit a formal response to the national consultation on a New Rent Standard from 2020, to be submitted by 30 July 2019. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Dobson - Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Communications to present the Corporate Plan and agreed scorecard. • Tom Wilkinson – Assistant Director, Finance to provide a budget update. • To receive information on the arrangements in place for Tameside to become a Co-operative Council. |

*Papers for Overview Panel published in advance of the September meetings.

Consultation and Engagement

- 2.2 Scrutiny will remain suitably informed of open consultations at a local, regional and national level. Past responses include:
- Over the Counter Medicines – 14 September 2018
 - Greater Manchester Clean Air Conversation – 30 June 2019
- 2.3 The Scrutiny Panels have recently submitted formal responses to the following national consultations. Efforts were made to ensure input and insight was sought from relevant services and partners to inform the submissions.
- New Rent Standard from 2020 – 30 July 2019, **APPENDIX 1.**
 - Domestic Abuse Services – 2 August 2019, **APPENDIX 2.**

Keeping Scrutiny Members Informed

- 2.4 All Scrutiny Panel members receive a monthly, with the purpose of raising awareness to a variety of materials to support their role, provide access to scrutiny resources and provide the ongoing opportunity for councillors to contribute and share any open consultations and engagement exercises. This will continue to include a wide variety of topic areas for consideration.
- 2.5 The update email also includes links to Greater Manchester Priorities and the work of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panels. This email provides a further opportunity to inform members how the work of scrutiny is shared and reported within the Council. The most recent update was sent in July 2019, **APPENDIX 3.**

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Councillor Mike Glover

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OL6 6BH

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Phone: 0161 342 2199
Ask for: Paul Radcliffe
Date: 30 July 2019

New Rent Standard from 2020

consultation@rsh.gov.uk

To whom it may concern,

New Rent Standard from 2020

I write on behalf of Tameside Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel. The Panel seeks to submit a formal response to the consultation on a new Rent Standard from 2020, which closes on 30 July 2019. This letter therefore aims to provide a summary of collective points and to express any areas of issue and concern. I would be extremely grateful if on receiving this letter you are able to take the appropriate action to ensure the collective response is suitably recorded and submitted to the consultation.

Consideration must be given to the cumulative impact of system and payment changes brought about by Universal Credit and the ongoing pressures faced by some of our most vulnerable residents. I have taken time to discuss proposals for the new rent standard with Jigsaw Homes Group, as the borough's largest Registered Social Landlord, with key points included below.

Tameside, as a place, continues to face significant challenges with an ongoing need to address social, economic and health inequalities. Unemployment in Tameside remains higher than the national average, with a higher proportion of residents claiming out of work benefits. This is further compounded by almost 50% of the population living within the 30% most deprived areas nationally and parts identified within the top 5% for deprivation.

Research and intelligence shows that the percentage of people living in relative poverty, after housing costs, is higher in the North West than the national average. Tameside's low income households and single parents continue to be adversely affected by the impacts of welfare reform and Universal Credit.

The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 has worked to ease the financial burden of rent increase and has notably contributed to the sustainability of plans to deliver a more affordable housing sector across Tameside. The Panel acknowledge that a change to the rent standard is required in order to provide the sector with greater certainty and confidence in future revenues in order to invest in the existing housing stock and to plan for further development opportunities.

The Panel would like concerns to be raised with regards to future housing costs as a significant factor and pressure for Tameside residents living in relative poverty. There is also a further need to understand the impact on residents who will remain economically and socially inactive.

I have listed some of the main points below, which are to be viewed under the collective of Tameside's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel.

- Residents in receipt of a housing component within their Universal Credit payment face being at a greater financial risk in the immediate period following the new rent standard being applied from April 2020.
- Universal Credit requires individual claimants to provide notification of a rent increase in order for the housing component to be adjusted in line with the increase of 1% + CPI. The notification of increase can only be made once the increase has been applied in April 2020, with any late notifications resulting in an under payment for housing costs in the period to follow.
- Inconsistencies are apparent for residents who continue to receive Housing Benefit compared with Universal Credit. The Housing Benefit system is seemingly able to provide a bulk upload for rent increases for all claimants once notification is received from the landlords.
- To avoid a shortfall in the housing element of Universal Credit in April 2020, the system requires the ability to receive a bulk upload for rent increases. There is a noticeable need to avoid and remove the adverse financial impact on claimants who may not provide immediate notification of the rent increase.
- Should such a system not be in place as part of Universal Credit by April 2020, support needs to be provided to social landlords to communicate key messages as to the action required by claimants as soon as the rent increase is applied.
- With a previously more restrictive approach to investment and development, the new rent standard provides Registered Social Landlords with a greater level of certainty for income growth and more ambitious forwarded planning to maintain existing properties, identify future development opportunities and to provide additional support to residents within their communities.

If further clarity is needed on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Mike Glover
Chair – Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

APPENDIX 2

Chair of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Teresa Smith

Tameside One
Market Place
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL6 6BH

Email: Teresa.smith@tameside.gov.uk
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Ask for Paul Radcliffe
Date: 2 August 2019

Domestic Abuse Services

DomesticAbuse.ReviewAudit@tameside.gov.uk

To whom it may concern,

Future Delivery of Support to Victims and their Children in Accommodation-Based Domestic Abuse Services.

I write on behalf of Tameside Council's Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel. The Panel seeks to submit a formal response to the consultation on the Future Delivery of Support to Victims and their Children in Accommodation-Based Domestic Abuse Services, which closes on 2 August 2019. This letter therefore aims to provide a summary of collective points and to express any areas of issue and concern. I would be extremely grateful if on receiving this letter you are able to take the appropriate action to ensure the response is suitably recorded and submitted to the consultation.

Domestic abuse is a complex issue and requires system-wide direction and leadership to address a range of contributing factors which include social, economic and health inequalities. In Tameside domestic violence and abuse remains a significant problem when we compare ourselves against national performance and statistical neighbours.

Recent data has shown a rise in the number of Tameside residents in need of support, which includes a 12 month increase of 17% in referrals to locally commissioned support services. Pressures have been identified in the number of high and medium level cases reported to the Police, as well as the amount of referrals to Children's Services. During 2018/19, Tameside Children's Services received more than 2700 referrals with a link to domestic abuse.

At a local level there have been unprecedented pressures with regards to year-on-year budget reductions and the impact on resource planning. Despite this, key stakeholders remain engaged and arrangements are in place to deliver a shared vision to pool budgets and jointly commission services.

The impacts of domestic abuse can be far reaching, with an ongoing need to support and nurture communities. The Council has recently refreshed its corporate priorities, with a commitment from elected members, senior leaders and partners to deliver improvements across the life course of residents.

A sector-led peer review was undertaken in Tameside during July 2019, which comprised interviews with over 30 partners and stakeholders, as well as a review of current strategic and

operational documentation. Findings from the review will feed into the strategic planning for the assessment of need and to consider the equity of access to domestic abuse support services, part of which includes the demand for accommodation.

I have listed some of the main points below, which are to be viewed under the collective of Tameside's Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

- In addition to the commissioning of support services, the guidance must consider and prioritise health determinants and the support that is made available to the perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- In the event that additional responsibility and accountability is placed on local authorities, there is a need for this to be accurately reflected in the future allocation of funding and resource for domestic abuse provision.
- To review a correlation that appears to exist between domestic abuse prevalence within an area and the number of residents failing to complete treatments for mental health, alcohol and substance misuse. When compared to statistical neighbours Tameside has a higher level of domestic abuse; higher number of dependent drinkers and lowest completions for alcohol and drug treatments.
- To be truly effective a partnership must monitor and address the role of treatment within the recovery process, with a long-term ambition to reduce reoffending and the demand for crisis interventions and accommodation.
- Without effective and influential leaders domestic abuse partnerships could not achieve the required influence. Council's may need to review current governance arrangements to ensure domestic abuse receives the required levels of leadership from elected members, senior managers and stakeholders.
- All partnerships need to maintain strategic and performance oversight for the commissioning of support and accommodation for domestic abuse. Early intervention and prevention must remain a priority in the way that support is co-designed and delivered.
- There remains a clear and obvious role for future guidance to emphasise and harness the ability of individuals and the wider community in identifying and reporting the early signs of domestic abuse.

If further clarity is needed on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Teresa Smith
Chair – Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

July 2019

Welcome to the July 2019 Scrutiny Update.

The regular updates aim to keep you informed of upcoming activity, including engagement and consultation with regards to local, regional and national decision making. All of the open consultations listed below are available for you to access and complete, with the opportunity to raise greater community awareness and participation where possible. For further information and to have your say please follow the relevant links below.

I hope this is something you will continue to find useful and please let me know if you require any further information.

Scrutiny Activity and Reports

Activity

At the June meetings each panel agreed the topics to be considered during the first part of the municipal year, as detailed below.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

- Housing Strategy – Improving Quality and Standards in the Private Rented Sector

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

- Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers in Tameside.
 - **Children's Working Group**
- Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Reports

For the interest of all scrutiny members, please see **reports attached** that were presented at a meeting of the Council's Overview Panel on 29 July 2019. They include the work programmes, Quality of Care Homes review and the Scrutiny Update report with details of recent activity and formal responses of both scrutiny panels.

Open Consultations

Tameside Museums and Galleries – Planning for the Future (Local) - Tameside Museums and Galleries are creating a new Forward Plan, which sets out the vision for the borough's museums and galleries for the next five years. In order for us to make sure our museums and galleries meet the needs of our Tameside communities, we would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to answer a short survey on the future of Tameside Museums and Galleries. Closing date: **5 August 2019**.

Consultation on Proposed PSPO for Moorland (Local) – In an effort to prevent a repeat of last summer's moorland fires, Tameside Council is proposing to introduce a public space protection order (PSPO). This consultation is for people to provide feedback on the proposals. Closing date: **5 August 2019**.

Local Studies and Archives Forward Plan (Local) - Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre is creating a new Forward Plan, which sets out the vision for the borough's Local Studies

and Archives Centre for the next five years. We would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to answer a short survey on the future of Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre. Closing date: **12 August 2019**.

National Engagement and Consultations

There are currently a number of pieces of work being led by government departments and agencies that you may wish to take part in. For further information and to have your say please follow the relevant links below:

[Support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation](#) - This paper seeks views on the government's proposals for a new approach to support victims of domestic abuse and their children in accommodation-based services in England. They are consulting on a new delivery model for accommodation-based support. This includes the introduction of a statutory duty on local authorities to provide support that meets the diverse needs of victims of domestic abuse and their children, ensuring they have access to provision that is right for them. Closing date: **2 August 2019**.

[Digital-first Primary Care: policy consultation on patient registration, funding and contracting rules](#) – The NHS Long Term Plan commits that every patient will have the right to be offered digital-first primary care. This consultation is seeking views on proposals to change how the system works to make it easier for surgeries to improve their digital services and allow more people to access digital GP services. Closing date: **23 August 2019**.

[Tenancy deposit reform: a call for evidence](#) – The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is seeking to understand the barriers tenants face providing a second deposit when moving from one tenancy to the next. It looks at what can be done to speed up the return of deposits to tenants at the end of the tenancy. Closing date: **5 September 2019**.

[Adding folic acid to flour](#) – The Department of Health & Social Care is seeking views on a proposal to make it mandatory for flour millers to add folic acid to flour. Mandatory fortification of flour is expected to help raise people's levels of a vitamin called folate. Raising folate levels in people who could become pregnant would help reduce the number of babies born with birth defects of the brain, spine or spinal cord. This change would be implemented across the UK. Closing date: **9 September 2019**.

[Restraint in mainstream settings and alternative provision](#) – the Department for Education recently published guidance on reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention in special schools. They would like to gather views on whether there is a need for guidance in mainstream schools, post-16 settings and alternative provision. It is open to professionals working in education settings, parents, young people, local authority staff and more. Closing date: **17 October 2019**.

All live and past consultations are available for viewing at the [Big Conversation](#) pages on the Council website.

Regional Scrutiny

The Council appoints representatives to each of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Scrutiny Panels and also scrutiny arrangements for Pennine Care. The links below provide you with access to the most recent meeting papers for each of the panels.

[Corporate Issues & Reform Overview & Scrutiny](#)

[Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny](#)

[Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny](#)

[Joint Scrutiny Panel for Pennine Care \(Mental Health\) Trust](#)

Scrutiny Resources

In addition to the past training events, I will look to share any available material with you. This will include any material to support you in your role during the course of the year.

Recent publications:

- [**Health Scrutiny and Integrated Care Systems**](#)
- [**The Good Scrutiny Guide**](#)
- [**Dealing with complaints at scrutiny**](#)
- [**Governance, Culture and Collaboration**](#)
- [**Scrutiny Frontiers 2019**](#)
- [**Making the most of our museums: a handbook for Councillors**](#)
- [**Understanding local housing markets**](#)
- [**One year on: the LGA green paper for adult social care and wellbeing**](#)