

Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	18 November 2019
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart, Director – Governance and Pensions Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director – Policy, Performance and Communications
Subject:	LEARNING FROM PEER REVIEWS
Report Summary:	To receive for information, a summary of learning from the recent peer reviews of Domestic Abuse and Healthy Spaces in Tameside. To provide detail on the role of scrutiny to monitor recommendations and outcomes.
Recommendations:	That Overview Panel are asked to note the content of the report and future involvement of the Scrutiny Panels to monitoring outcomes.
Links to Corporate Plan:	The work of Scrutiny Panels is directly linked to the Council's corporate priorities. Scrutiny activity seeks to support effective decision making and improvement priorities across Tameside.
Policy Implications:	Activity 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.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	Peer challenge is a proven tool for improvement. It is a process commissioned by a council and involves a small team of local government officers and councillors spending time at the council as peers to provide challenge and share learning. It has received high levels of support from councils who overwhelmingly endorse the key principles on which it is based: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • councils are responsible for their own performance • stronger local accountability leads to further improvement • councils have a sense of collective responsibility for performance in the sector as a whole • the role of the LGA is to help councils by providing the necessary support. There are some design principles that are important to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer challenges are managed and delivered by the sector for the sector. They are improvement focused; the scope will be agreed with the council and tailored to reflect their local needs and specific requirements. • The peer team will involve peers from across the sector and beyond. Their ambition is to help your council respond to its local priorities and issues in its own way to greatest effect. • A scoping meeting at the outset involving a visit by LGA representatives will be an essential feature. The council's specific needs, the areas it wants to focus on, the makeup of the team and the results it wants to achieve will be discussed

and agreed.

- Peer Challenge should include some focus on leadership, governance, corporate capacity and financial resilience. These will form a core component of all corporate peer challenges.

The process should be proportionate – minimising the burden (rather than making unnecessary demands that absorb capacity and divert attention) focusing on making appropriate preparation and maximising the benefits.

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 Simon Brunet, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence by:



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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There are a number of ways in which the council and public sector partners can drive improvement in the delivery of services to enhance outcomes for local residents. One of these is peer challenge where an external and independent specialist undertakes a review of approach and practice as a critical friend providing fresh insight on strengths and opportunities for further development.
- 1.2 Tameside Council has recently commissioned two peer reviews – one regarding domestic abuse, and another regarding health spaces (with a particular focus on air quality). The work has been led by the Population Health service.

2. ROLE OF SCRUTINY

- 2.1 The scrutiny function can play a useful role in supporting peer reviews, helping to maximise the positive benefit to be gained from them. That role can best be described as;

- Taking part in the review process itself by providing insight from elected members as community leaders to the peer reviewer as evidence is gathered and findings are developed
- Contributing to the development of improvement ideas by assisting the lead officers in turning the recommendations from the peer reviewer into local actions that reflect the needs and lived experiences of their communities
- Providing a supportive check and challenge approach – after an appropriate period of time – on the implementation of, and progress against, learning and actions

- 2.2 With the above in mind both Scrutiny Panels have taken an active role in the two recent peer reviews.

Domestic abuse

- 2.3 The Integrated Care and Wellbeing Panel has looked at the domestic abuse review with the findings being discussed at their meeting on 7 November 2019. Domestic abuse is an area the panel has also addressed this municipal year through the submission of a formal response in August to a national consultation undertaken by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) – ‘Future Delivery of Support to Victims and their Children in Accommodation-Based Domestic Abuse Services’.

- 2.4 The key next steps following the domestic abuse review are summarised below:

- Strategic Task & Finish Group
- New strategy with longer term vision
- Making a case for investment
- Addressing current gaps (prevention & perpetrators)
- Moving to coordinated community response (co-production & workshops)

- 2.5 The full presentation regarding the domestic abuse peer review discussed at the panel meeting on 7 November is attached at **APPENDIX 1**.

Health spaces (clean air)

- 2.6 The Place and External Relations Panel has looked at the healthy spaces (air quality) review with the findings being discussed at their meeting on 5 November 2019. The chair of the panel – Cllr Glover – was interviewed by the peer reviewer as part of the process. The panel has undertaken other work regarding air quality this year including a detailed discussion at their meeting on 11 June 2019 regarding the Greater Manchester Clean Air

Plan (GMCAP). Subsequently the panel submitted a formal response later that month to the GMCAP consultation.

2.7 The key next steps following the domestic abuse review are summarised below:

- Increase collaboration between teams
- Agree a system narrative and vision, with clear goals, a system level plan and strengthened governance and leadership
- Build on existing system-wide strategies and opportunities
- Learn from and build on good practice in other areas
- Strengthen data and intelligence, research and innovation
- Engage the community
- Focus on high-impact areas and quick win

2.8 The full presentation regarding the healthy spaces (air quality) peer review discussed at the panel meeting on 5 November is attached at **APPENDIX 2**.

3. MONITORING OUTCOMES

3.1 In early 2020 both panels will seek assurance on progress with the development and implementation of learning and action from the peer reviews.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 As set out on the front of the report.