

NORTH STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

15 October 2019

Present: Councillors Sidebottom (Vice-Chair), Bray, Carthey, Choksi, Glover, Gwynne, Hollinshead, Huntbach, Lewis and McNally

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bowerman, Drennan and Fairfoull

4 MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting of the North Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 25 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

5 REGULATION OF PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING SECTOR

Consideration was given to a presentation submitted by the Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods in respect of improving standards in the private rented housing sector.

It was explained that more vulnerable groups such as families with dependent children and older people were now finding homes in the private rented sector for longer and poor quality private rented sector housing had substantial impact on corporate priorities for Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commissioning Group.

The growth and major benefits of selective licensing were explored and a project timeline was given for the consultation and governance process. Members balanced this against the potential negative impacts including costs being passed to tenants by landlords.

RESOVLED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

6 FLU

The Director of Population Health gave a presentation informing members about the Flu virus and how to protect against it.

Members were informed that Flu was highly infectious with a number of symptoms including, headache, chills, fever, aches and pains in the joints and muscles and extreme tiredness. It was advised that healthy people usually recovered within two to seven days, but for some the disease could lead to hospitalisation, permanent disability or even death.

Information was given about vaccination which was highlighted as the best way to protect against the illness before the flu season started. Details were provided about the eligibility for children and adults to receive a free flu vaccination.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

7 DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Director of Population Health submitted a presentation in respect of Domestic Abuse and the scale of the problem in Tameside.

Members were advised of an increase in the number of medium/high risk cases of domestic abuse as well as an increase in referrals and repeat referrals to support services across Tameside. In contrast, there was a reduction in domestic abuse reporting from BME, LGBT and disabled groups.

An assessment of the cost of domestic violence was also highlighted, with a Home Office estimation of £250 million per annum in Tameside.

It was explained to Members that a new strategy was in the process of being formulated, that took a longer term approach to prevent domestic abuse. Recent work had highlighted 4 key priorities:

- Preventing Domestic Abuse;
- Continuing to support victims/survivors;
- Holding perpetrators to account; and
- Support a co-ordinated community response

The pressure facing victims was acknowledged as a result of budget cuts to schools and vital services. Reference was made to a new scheme developed in Edinburgh, and also adopted by London Boroughs, which had seen a change to the approach and standardised Police and Social Services responses.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

CHAIR