

## WEST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

17 October 2019

**Commenced:** 6.30pm

**Terminated:** 8.20pm

**Present:** Councillors Ward (Chair), L Boyle, Cooney, Gwynne, A Holland (Vice-Chair), Martin, Mills, Naylor, Newton, M Smith and T Smith

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors B Holland, D Lane, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Ryan and Warrington

### 5 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

**The the minutes of the meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 27 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.**

### 6 FLU

The Director of Population Health submitted a presentation providing information with regard to the Flu virus and how to protect against it.

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

The best way to protect against it was by having the vaccination before the flu season started. Eligibility for a free flu vaccination for adults and children and how this could be obtained, was detailed.

Discussion ensued with regard to the information presented, particularly in respect of take up and availability of the vaccine.

#### 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 the increase in medium/high risk cases of domestic abuse; the high number of referrals to Children's Social Care relating to domestic abuse, the increase in referrals and repeat referrals to support services in Tameside; and a reduction in domestic abuse reporting from BME; LGBT and disabled groups.

The costs of domestic abuse were also highlighted, with a Home Office estimation of £250 million per annum in Tameside.

Examples of current domestic abuse storylines in popular TV soap operas were given and two case studies from Bridges Outreach Service were also detailed and discussed.

It was explained that a new strategy and approach was currently being formulated, taking a longer-term view to do more 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.

Members discussed the many forms of domestic abuse and raised concerns with regard to the lack of support for victims and children who had witnessed abuse, due to budget cuts affecting schools and vital services and the reluctance of some people to come forward for fear of reprisals.

The pressure placed on victims by the current system was acknowledged and reference made to a new scheme developed in Edinburgh, which had seen a change to the approach and standardised Police and Social Services responses. This scheme had also been adopted by London Boroughs.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

### **8 REGULATION OF PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR HOUSING**

A presentation was 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 link between poor quality private rented housing and health and social care and homelessness and poverty was detailed and discussed.

The growth and major benefits of selective licensing were explored and a project timeline was given for the consultation and governance process.

A member of the public present at the meeting, raised concerns in respect of the decline of a local housing estate and the growing number of private landlords and anti-social tenants on the estate. He sought clarification with regard to the consultation process and was assured that all prescribed legal groups would be consulted.

#### **RESOVLED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

**CHAIR**