

**Tameside Community Safety Partnership**

**Community Safety Strategy 2021-2024**

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## **Foreword**

Tameside Council, Greater Manchester Police and other community safety partners are committed to ensuring that our communities feel safe, confident and supported. Tameside faces significant challenges and this Community Safety Strategy ensures that we are tackling the issues that have the most impact on our residents and visitors.

I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication shown by all our community safety partners in improving community engagement and participation, working to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and improving community safety across the borough.

This strategy addresses difficult issues including domestic violence, drugs and alcohol abuse, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and much more.

Additionally, however, the strategy places high importance on building stronger communities across Tameside, encouraging residents and visitors to make a positive contribution to the borough, and bringing our diverse communities together so that no-one feels excluded and everyone feels safe and included.

The COVID-19 crisis had brought many difficult challenges, but it has also demonstrated how communities and authorities can work together in an extremely positive way to support the most vulnerable members of our communities. This strategy aims to build on the positive elements of the pandemic and ensure that Tameside emerges as a safer and happier borough.

**Councillor Allison Gwynne**

**Executive Member**

**Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment**

## **Introduction**

The Community Safety Strategy 2021-24 sets out the shared priorities of the Tameside Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out statutory duties on the police and local authorities to work in collaboration with key partners and organisations to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder and create safer communities. These statutory partnerships are known as the Community Safety Partnership.

In Tameside, the Community Safety Partnership is made up of representation from the Tameside MBC (TMBC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP) Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), Health, Probation and Youth Justice, voluntary and community sector organisations and housing providers. The CSP meets on a monthly basis and is jointly chaired by the Council and GMP. In order to identify priorities and develop strategies, the CSP will analyse a wide range of information collected by GMP and other organisations as well as consulting with key stakeholders and communities.

### **The Tameside Community Safety Partnership has one overriding objective – to make Tameside a safer place to live, study, work and visit.**

The work of the Community Safety Partnership places emphasis on working with residents, partners and communities to improve safety across the borough.

The CSP also works alongside the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The Community Safety Strategy should also be considered alongside the Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor's Police and Crime Plan "Standing Together".

## **Tameside**

The borough of Tameside is one of 10 Local Authorities within the area referred to as Greater Manchester. Tameside has a varied and diverse environment with a contrast between its largely urban western and central areas bordered by the city of Manchester, Oldham and Stockport and stretching out to the high moorlands of the Peak District to the east.

Tameside is named after the River Tame and spans the towns of Ashton-under-Lyne, Audenshaw, Denton, Droylsden, Dukinfield, Hyde, Mossley and Stalybridge plus Longdendale.



More people now live in Tameside than ever before with most predictions suggesting continued population increases over the next 10-20 years. As of 2011 the overall population was 219,324. Of those individuals, 18% were over the age of 64 and the rate of growth of our elderly population is also predicted to rise in line with national trends. One-person households now make up 30% of Tameside's population with 30% of residents having at least one dependent child under the age of 18.

Tameside has a number of schools and colleges rated as Good and Outstanding. The three largest employment sectors are retail, health & social care and manufacturing.

There is a strong sense of community spirit in Tameside, as evidenced by the public response to the current COVID-19 crisis. Other evidence of this is the wealth of voluntary groups working in Tameside.

Tameside has a number of tourist and leisure options, including Portland Basin, Daisy Nook Country Park, Werneth Low along with easy access to the Peaks. In 2019,

Tameside played host to a section of the Tour of Britain cycling road race. Tameside offers both urban and country living within easy distance of each other.



### Some Other Key Facts

- The majority of the population are owner occupiers (64%) with 21% living in social housing and 13% renting privately.
- The majority of the population (90%) define their ethnic origin as being White British. 9.1% of our population from BAME communities.
- The majority of the population (92%) describe their health as 'fair to very good' with 8% in poor health. However, people in Tameside and Glossop generally have poorer health outcomes than people in England as a whole.
- There is deprivation within Tameside with the borough being the 45th most deprived borough in England.

## **COVID-19**

This Community Safety Strategy has been developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is clear that the impact of COVID-19 will be with us for some time to come, despite positive early indications around the development of a vaccine and effective treatments.

The current pandemic is the most significant public health crisis that individuals, communities and countries have faced in living memory. Alongside the obvious health concerns, people will have worries that extend beyond that including the impact on our local and national economy, the impact on our children's education and impact on our society as we know it. COVID-19 will impact on Community Safety and our perception of how safe we feel within our communities.

The CSP is fully aware of those concerns and is committed to working as a partnership with individuals and communities to identify and address issues arising due to the COVID-19 crisis. We will work together as we transition out of lockdown and through the future months.

We are confident that this partnership approach will enable us to respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19 in the future. This will include supporting our Public Health partners to respond to any local spike in infections should this happen and support measures such as 'Track and Trace' and the roll out of testing capability.

As a partnership, we have responded positively to the crisis and supported our colleagues at the front line in Health & Social Care.

Alongside the work we have done to support people and communities, COVID-19 has also required the CSP to undertake new enforcement responsibilities around new laws and regulations designed to keep us safe during the crisis. Public co-operation has been key in our ability to maintain public safety. When needed, we will continue to take the necessary enforcement action to ensure public safety.

## **Priorities**

The Community Safety Strategy sets out five priorities for the next three years;

- **Building stronger communities**
- **Preventing and reducing violent crime, knife crime & domestic abuse**
- **Preventing and reducing crime & anti-social behaviour**
- **Preventing and reducing the harm caused by drugs & alcohol**
- **Protecting vulnerable people and those at risk of exploitation**

## **Priority 1- Building Stronger Communities**

### **The Community Safety Partnership will:**

#### **Introduce the role of an “Active Citizen” and roll out the initiative**

The concept of “Active citizenship” calls of people within our communities to become actively involved in identifying and tackling problems within their own communities and contributing to a better quality of life.

#### **Work with voluntary and third sector organisations to build communities**

We will enable community groups to access grants, partnership working, promotion of community events and joint delivery of services and new initiatives. Current examples include Neighbourhood Watch, Community Speedwatch, community litter picks and the Tameside Youth Council. We will work with Stronger Together Tameside (STT), an umbrella group of agencies tackling homeless prevention and supporting homeless people.

#### **Establish and support an Independent Advisory Group (IAG) within Tameside**

We established an IAG in March 2020, comprising 21 members representing the diversity within our communities. This group supports the work of the CSP, meeting on a weekly basis providing community based advice and support.

#### **Build on the opportunities that have arisen during COVID-19**

There have been clear positives during this crisis especially around partnership working and community engagement and we will harness these opportunities. This will involve work with individuals, community groups, businesses and public bodies.

#### **Implement targeted interventions for hate crime, including raising awareness of reporting, tackling causes of hate crime & prevention**

We have established a Hate Crime Working Group and Hate Crime Action Plan and are fully committed to participation in Hate Crime Week which is held annually.

#### **Develop and conduct a programme of consultation about community cohesion**

We will address issues around community cohesion via the CSP operational and strategic groups. TMBC will work in partnership with other members of the CSP to develop a programme of consultation so that we can better understand issues around community cohesion and from this formulate plans to address those issues.

#### **Implement targeted intervention to address hate crime**

Where there are incidents and crime arising out of hatred and a lack of community cohesion and / or cultural understanding, we will implement robust and appropriate interventions to eliminate this crime and tackle offenders. In such cases, we will review actions to identify lessons learnt and best practice.

## **Priority 2- Preventing and reducing violent crime, knife crime & domestic abuse**

### **The Community Safety Partnership will:**

#### **Work to prevent and reduce violent and knife crime, including serious and organised crime, repeat offending, youth offending and serious youth violence**

This will be a collaborative approach using the full range of powers and resources available to the CSP.

Partners will engage with the local and regional Organised Crime Group (OCG) meeting structures (Operation Challenger). TMBC has fully committed to engaging with the GM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

#### **Develop and implement effective initiatives to tackle knife crime in the area**

We will deliver a range of bespoke initiatives taking a primary, secondary and tertiary prevention approach.

#### **Work with partners to develop a Tameside violent crime reduction plan**

We will work with partners from across different sectors taking a multi-agency approach to tackling and preventing serious violence at a local level.

#### **Ensure access to early intervention for young people**

This involves developing partnerships with statutory services and the third sector, aimed at preventing youth crime and addressing youth offending. We will support the Youth Justice PIED pilot scheme, focussing on prosecution, intervention, education and diversion, identifying those children most at risk and intervening early to support them. In addition the Tameside Youth Service will provide an effective and agile program of detached youth work aimed at children and young people who are at risk of falling into criminal behaviour.

#### **Promote better school attendance in Tameside**

We will work with partners to contribute to the attendance strategy, ensuring all Tameside children and young people are fully supported to access education. We recognise the evidential basis for a link between school exclusions and young people becoming involved in crime and at risk of criminal exploitation. We will also work with the Pupil Referral Units when appropriate.

#### **Reduce domestic abuse and the harm caused and ensure appropriate services are available for those affected by it**

The commissioned service provider is Bridges; a Tameside based domestic abuse service offering support to victims of abuse in the borough. There is a multi-agency approach to tackling domestic abuse in Tameside, aiming to keep victims and their families safe and hold perpetrators accountable for their behaviour.

In 2019, a Peer Review highlighted that there were key areas for the borough to improve on in relation to domestic abuse, as well as highlighting areas of good practice

and strength. As the new Domestic Abuse Strategy is developed, the following areas from the Peer Review will be included:

- Improving prevention of domestic abuse
- Improving support for victim/survivors recovering from domestic abuse
- Making perpetrators more accountable for their behaviour and actions
- Having a co-ordinated community response

In July 2020, a Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager was appointed, with the aim of assessing the full impact of domestic abuse across the system, resulting in a new Domestic Abuse Strategy. The CSP will contribute fully to the development and implementation of the strategy.

### **Priority 3 - Preventing and reducing crime & anti-social behaviour (ASB)**

#### **The Community Safety Partnership will:**

##### **Make use of the legislative framework to tackle crime and ASB**

We will fully utilise powers contained within the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 to tackle behaviours which have a negative effect on communities and individuals. This will include providing mechanisms for people to report such behaviour and where appropriate bringing action against perpetrators.

##### **Adopt a flexible range of approaches**

We will use a range of approaches with offenders and those at risk of offending, including early intervention and support, prevention, diversion and enforcement. We will monitor the effectiveness of our interventions and continually seek to develop and improve on our practice.

##### **Work with communities to tackle this issue**

We will involve communities, individuals, businesses and schools using a range of schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch, Crimestoppers & Pubwatch. We will work with Tameside Youth Service to promote a robust preventative / educational programme that runs across the borough. Our approach will include education within our schools and looking to identify area based “Champions” within communities.

##### **Identify and address new issues and “hotspots”**

Our approach will be the early identification and implementation of actions to tackle new and emerging issues such as on-line based crime and harassment. We will use data produced by the Deputy Mayor’s Office to map and track trends. There are often certain areas which have a higher level of ASB and we will share information and use the measures available to all partners, including Registered Providers of housing to address any “hotspots” of ASB in particular locations. We will work with partners to reduce and prevent ASB which arises seasonally during school holidays and around Bonfire Night and Halloween celebrations.

##### **Ensure support is available to victims of crime and ASB**

There is a wealth of evidence available on the impact of crime and ASB on the quality of life of individuals and communities as a whole. We will ensure that we treat victims with respect and place them at the centre of our interventions. We will ensure that victims have access to support services including Victim Support, support from landlords and other third sector groups.

## **Priority 4- Preventing and reducing the harm caused by drugs & alcohol**

### **The Community Safety Partnership will:**

#### **Collaborate with the Tameside Strategic Alcohol and Drugs Group**

Activities will focus around four strategic priorities:

- To adopt a partnership approach which is rooted in collaboration and integration, and which is underpinned by strong leadership and governance
- To provide exceptional Drug and Alcohol services which maximise the opportunities for long term, and sustained recovery
- To effectively challenge local attitudes towards alcohol and to de-normalise harmful alcohol consuming behaviours
- To maximise the impact of enforcement, regulation and the wider policy framework

#### **Use commissioning arrangements to ensure the provision of integrated specialist substance misuse (drugs and alcohol) treatment services that deliver long term outcomes and sustained recovery.**

This service will work closely with partners across the systems in Tameside, including the CSP to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol. The current contract for this service with Change, Grow, Live (CGL) has been extended from 10 years up to 2026.

#### **Raise awareness and address the harm caused by alcohol**

This will involve work with partners, including our Licensing teams to raise awareness of alcohol-related harm across the borough. We will use powers contained within the Licencing Act 2003 to deal with the cumulative impact of alcohol in areas where use is at levels that causes a high level of harm.

#### **Identify approaches to early help and prevention**

We will collaborate with colleagues across our public services and neighbourhoods to join up our approaches to prevention, early help and supporting those who are the most vulnerable including families, where possible using expertise and knowledge of those who have a lived experience. This will include work with Primary Care to address harm and emerging issues around misuse of, and addiction to, prescribed and over the counter medicines. We will also support the work of Tameside Youth Service, that use informal education methods to empower young people around decision making when exposed to the ready availability of drugs and alcohol.

#### **Identify and implement innovative new programmes**

This will include a range of initiatives such as programmes to reduce alcohol exposed pregnancies, prevention of blood borne viruses by improving screening, testing and vaccination.

## **Priority 5- Protecting vulnerable people and those at risk of exploitation**

### **The Community Safety Partnership will:**

#### **Ensure vulnerable adults, children and young people are protected from child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation**

We will work closely with partners in Adult and Children's Social Care and develop partnerships with the Complex Safeguarding Team. Part of this work will include looking at the high level of school exclusions and poor attendance within Tameside schools and supporting the goal of ensuring that young people who are victims of, or at risk of exploitation will be provided with a co-ordinated trauma informed and evidence based service.

#### **Protect older people within our communities from crime, scams and exploitation**

The population of people over the age of 64 continues to rise in Tameside. Evidence shows as well as being susceptible to exploitation, older people are less likely to report. We will ensure the stigma of being victim to such exploitation is challenged and enable people to speak out and feel protected. We will work with partners to raise awareness around this issue and how to access help and support.

#### **Work with partners to protect and safeguard vulnerable groups**

This will include people who have mental health problems, learning disabilities, physical disability, are homeless and/ or from a BAME/ refugee community. This will include promotion of reporting mechanisms where there is evidence of under reporting from within some of these groups.

We will develop a Prevent action plan in order to work with partners to safeguard and support those people most at risk of radicalisation to stop them becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

#### **Continue to develop effective rough sleeper services**

There is a clear evidential link that people rough sleeping are at higher risk of exploitation and exposure to violence, trauma, crime, and substance misuse. The average age of death for a street homeless male is 44 years against 86 years in the wider population. In the last 18 months, we have brought our entrenched rough sleepers off the streets and created a safe community hub at the Town House located in Ashton-under-Lyne. We will continue to develop services and tackle the stigma around homelessness.

#### **Protect people from the growth of crime and exploitation from using online platforms**

The internet offers wonderful opportunities for people and communities in terms of accessing information, education, and social isolation. Social media has proved especially important during COVID-19. However, alongside this are emerging and new opportunities for people to be exploited and fall victim to crime. We will raise awareness of this and mitigate the impacts of this on individuals and communities.

*Take appropriate enforcement action and ensure victims have access to support*

We will use all powers and resources at our disposal including taking action through the Criminal Justice system where appropriate. We will make sure we adopt a victim centred approach and that support is available.

## **Delivery and Implementation**

The delivery of this Strategy will be overseen by the Community Safety Partnership. Key performance measures will be identified that will be used to monitor the effectiveness of delivery and implement any corrective actions needed.

A Community Safety Action Plan will be produced that will outline in more detail the work streams that will ensure these priorities are delivered. This Action Plan will set out timescales, lines of accountability and resource information.

This Strategy covers a 3 year period up to 2024. However, new issues and threats will undoubtedly emerge over that period. The current COVID-19 crisis and our response provide a clear reminder of how external factors impact our work. It is therefore our intention to review this Strategy on an annual basis to ensure it is current and that we are able to respond effectively and collaboratively to current demands and issues.

## **Links to other strategies**

This Strategy is linked to the following:

GMCA - Standing Together Plan for Greater Manchester	<a href="https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1268/police-and-crime-plan-standing-together.pdf">https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1268/police-and-crime-plan-standing-together.pdf</a>
TMBC Corporate Plan	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/corporateplan">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/corporateplan</a>
TMBC Domestic Abuse Strategy	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/domesticabuse/DomesticAbuseStrategy2016-19.pdf">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/domesticabuse/DomesticAbuseStrategy2016-19.pdf</a>
TMBC Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/policy/Preventing-Homelessness-Strategy-2018-2021-V7.pdf">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/policy/Preventing-Homelessness-Strategy-2018-2021-V7.pdf</a>
North West Safeguarding Adults Policy	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/safeguardingadults/NorthWestSafeguardingAdultsPolicyV48Final.pdf">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/safeguardingadults/NorthWestSafeguardingAdultsPolicyV48Final.pdf</a>
Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership	<a href="https://www.tamesidesafeguardingchildren.org.uk">https://www.tamesidesafeguardingchildren.org.uk</a>
Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/AdultServices/Tameside-Adults-Safeguarding-Partnership-Board">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/AdultServices/Tameside-Adults-Safeguarding-Partnership-Board</a>
Tameside Licencing Policy	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/Licensing/Licensing-Policies-Appendix-1-FINAL.pdf">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/Licensing/Licensing-Policies-Appendix-1-FINAL.pdf</a>
TMBC Prevent	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/extremism">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/extremism</a>
TMBC Youth Justice	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/yjs">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/yjs</a>
TMBC Early Help Strategy	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/earlyyears/Early-Help-Strategy-2020.pdf">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/earlyyears/Early-Help-Strategy-2020.pdf</a>
TMBC SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disability) Strategy	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/policy/SEND-Strategy-SEPT2020.pdf">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/policy/SEND-Strategy-SEPT2020.pdf</a>
TMBC Parenting Strategy	<a href="https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/earlyyears/Tameside-Parenting-Strategy.pdf">https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/earlyyears/Tameside-Parenting-Strategy.pdf</a>
GM Serious Violence Action Plan	<a href="https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/3106/gm_violence_reduction_plan_final_amends_final.pdf">https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/3106/gm_violence_reduction_plan_final_amends_final.pdf</a>
GM Living with Covid Resilience Plan	<a href="https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/coronavirus/?domain=tracking.vuelio.co.uk">https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/coronavirus/?domain=tracking.vuelio.co.uk</a>