



Aug 2021

Our regular updates enable us to keep you informed of upcoming activity including PEN events and engagement or consultation work across Tameside and Glossop which may be of interest to you.

We want to invite as many people as possible from across Tameside & Glossop to join the PEN family. If you know others who would be interested in hearing about upcoming activity including PEN events and engagement or consultation work across Tameside and Glossop please encourage them to register here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/penandbigconversation>

(Please note, the Covid-19 information section can now be found in the second half of this PEN update)

Things to be aware of this month include:

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amenities at risk of closure. It will run for 4 years. The first bidding round opened on 15 July 2021. Voluntary and community organisations can bid for **match funding for their projects**. Funding may support the purchase and/or renovation costs of community assets and amenities, subject to the full eligibility criteria outlined in this prospectus.

The fund will support a range of community ownership proposals. For example, projects may include:

- sporting and leisure facilities
- cinemas and theatres
- music venues
- museums
- galleries
- parks
- pubs

The Community Ownership Fund has 4 strategic objectives:

- provide targeted investment for communities to save community assets that would otherwise be lost
 - strengthen capacity and capability in communities to support them to shape their places and develop sustainable community businesses
 - empower communities in left behind places to level up
 - strengthen direct links between places across the UK and the UK government
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Local engagement and consultations

There are a number of consultations taking place which you may wish to take part in. For further information and to have your say please follow the relevant links below:

- **Customer Services Review Consultation** – Tameside Council is seeking views on proposed changes to its face-to-face Customer Services. The way that customers access services has changed over recent years, due to changes in technological advancements and increasing access as well as the Covid-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic no face-to-face Customer Service function has been offered. Residents wishing to contact the Council have had to make contact via other channels, including telephone, email or Webchat via the Council website.

These circumstances of accelerated change combined with decreasing budgets have presented an opportunity to review the way we deliver services. Changes to the way that face-to-face Customer Service is provided are being proposed. The proposed service model for the future would be based on providing the most appropriate

access channel according to customers' requirements. It would be very similar to the current offer but with the addition of face-to-face contact where necessary and only for those where other channels would not be suitable. The Council is seeking your views on these proposals. Deadline: **19 September 2021**. **[Link Removed]**

- **Foster Care Offer Consultation** – Tameside Council is proposing a new Foster Care Offer. The main aim of this is to support and retain existing foster carers and attract more foster carers so that Tameside can build its proportion of in-house local placements for cared for children. Following a review of the offer in 2020, it found possible improvements that could be made to help Tameside's ambition to deliver a good fostering offer, including bringing fees in line with competitive rates, improving the level of support to foster carers and improving the training and development model. We would like to hear your views on the new offer. Closing date: **27 September 2021**. **[Link Removed]**
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- **Tameside Community Cohesion questionnaire** – A cohesive community is a diverse society where people from all backgrounds feel that they belong and are valued, enjoy similar life opportunities, and interact with other groups. A cohesive community is one that has moved beyond an "us" and "them" narrative to one where there is trust and interaction between different groups.

Tameside Council would like to hear about your thoughts and experiences of community cohesion in the borough. This will help us to better understand the topic in Tameside. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TMBCCCommunityCohesionsurvey>

- **Digital Skills Survey** – Tameside Council want to understand the level of digital skills and access in Tameside. This means finding out who can access the internet and how confident they are using computers or digital devices, such as tablets or smartphones. The information will help ensure that the support available to help anyone improve their skills or gain access online is provided in the right way. To find out more about the support currently available please visit this webpage: <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/libraries> The deadline for responses is **15 October 2021**.

- **General feedback about health and care services** – This new survey is about general use of health and care services. Please help Healthwatch Tameside by telling them about any services you have used recently, that you haven't included in a survey response before. What went well? What could be improved? [Link Removed]
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- **Survey for people who are mental health service users and their carers** – This new survey is for people who are using (or trying to use) mental health services and their carers. Healthwatch Tameside want to hear about your experiences of mental health services at the moment. This anonymous feedback will be used to influence the care provided by local services in the future. Closing date **24 September 2021**. [Link Removed]
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- **NHS 111 Survey for the GM area** – Healthwatch England want to expand on the data collected, and have produced a survey for the local Healthwatch in Greater Manchester to use. Please help them to collect feedback about the use of NHS 111 across the whole of Greater Manchester. This will help to influence the way services are provided in the future. Closing date **31 August 2021**. [Link Removed]
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- **Barriers to accessing information and services** – Diversity Matters North West are conducting a survey on the “Barriers to Accessing Information” that people face across Tameside and Glossop. This is particularly in relation to language barriers, and in the context of Covid-19, but barriers could also include digital access, gate-keeping, “red-tape”, difficulties identifying the correct service, slow response times by services etc.

The Tameside and Glossop Inequalities Reference Group have invited Diversity Matters North West to conduct this survey as part of a wider research and engagement process into these barriers across the locality. The responses, analysis and recommendations will inform an action report for decision makers to consider and make improvements based on the results. [Link Removed]

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Regional engagement and consultations

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- **Let's talk about wildfires** – Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service would like to find out what the public think about wildfire. They would like to find out what people think is the cause of wildfires, what should be the consequence of negative actions around wildfires, your concerns and what should be done to prevent them from happening. The deadline for this is **31 August 2021**.
<https://www.gmconsult.org/strategy-team/public-perception-of-wildfire/>
 - **Dementia Call for Evidence – Black African and Caribbean People In Greater Manchester** – The African Caribbean Care Group (ACCG) want to understand the dementia support and information provision to Black African and Caribbean people in Greater Manchester. Questions can be answered by either carers or people living with dementia. The Dementia Call for Evidence Survey covers 4 areas of a person's Dementia journey: Diagnosing well, living well, supporting well and end of life. This consultation is **ongoing**.
<https://www.accg.org.uk/dementia-surveys/>

National engagement and consultations:

- **Census 2021 outputs: content design and release phase proposals** – The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. All kinds of organisations, from local authorities to charities, use the information to help provide the services we all need, including transport, education, and healthcare.

The census has always changed with the times to better meet users' needs, make better use of technology, introduce new questions, and change or replace existing questions. To enable us at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to meet these changing needs, we engage with data users throughout the development cycle of the census.

This consultation is part of that engagement process. The UK Statistics Authority would like to hear your feedback on the proposals outlined throughout the questionnaire.

These proposals cover the release of census data and a proposed programme of analysis, to draw insights from that data. They welcome contributions from all census users, from those who are experienced users of census data to those who are looking to use census data for the first time. Deadline: **5 October 2021**.

<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/external-affairs/census-2021-outputs-consultation/>

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

The following are some critical sources of information from the government which are updated regularly:

- ✓ Updated figures on the number of Coronavirus cases and numbers vaccinated here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>
 - ✓ Guidance on restrictions and how to protect yourself or check if you need medical help: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
 - ✓ Information on self-isolation here: [\[Link Removed\]](#)
 - ✓ Covid-19 advice for employees, employers and businesses here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
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There is also guidance available on our own local websites as detailed below:

Tameside Council - [\[Link Removed\]](#) - includes links to service change information, how to volunteer, support for businesses, council tax recovery, mental health support, wellbeing, how to contact the Council for support and more.

NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG - [\[Link Removed\]](#) link on homepage

Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust - [\[Link Removed\]](#) information on homepage

Derbyshire Council - <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/disease-control/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>

Covid-19 opinion and behaviour insight:

The following are some key statistics taken from different pieces of national and regional research indicating what the impact of covid-19 has been for people including businesses.

Understanding the impact of Covid-19 will be crucial to our recovery locally and how we plan to build back better.

- 96% of British adults reported that they have received, or would be likely to accept, a Covid-19 vaccine if offered. However, Black and Black-British adults have the highest levels of vaccine hesitancy (18%), which is over four times higher than levels amongst White adults (4%)
- 70% of people want wearing a face mask in public places to continue for at least one month after 19 July
- 83% of people think that social distancing should continue to be observed after 19 July
- 29% of students have engaged with mental health and/or wellbeing services this academic term
- A third of adults (34%) are confident that life will return to 'normal' by Christmas 2021
- Just 6% of adults have booked a summer holiday abroad for this year

Grant Funding for VCSE organisations

There are a number of ways VCSE organisations in Greater Manchester and Derbyshire can apply for funding during the Covid-19 outbreak. 10GM, a partnership of local support and development agencies in Greater Manchester, have come together to produce a bulletin providing all the information on funding opportunities available for VCF organisations in Greater Manchester, including how to apply. You can find the latest bulletin here: [Link Removed]

For Glossop, Derbyshire County Council offer a range of grants to assist in the delivery of social, economic, health, environmental, and cultural services. (<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery-funding/funding-and-grants.aspx>) High Peak Borough Council also offer grants to VCSE organisations, including through the Councillors' Initiative Fund for residents, local groups, and businesses which can be found here: <https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/article/576/Councillors-Initiative-Fund>. Whilst Foundation Derbyshire offers a wide variety of funding programmes available to community & voluntary groups working across Derbyshire, with information and guidance on available grants and how to apply available here: <https://foundationderbyshire.org/apply-for-a-grant/>.