



**May 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:

- **Next PEN Conference – save the date!** The next Partnership Engagement Network Conference will take place on **Thursday 1 July 2021, 2.00pm-5.00pm**. The conference will be take place virtually via Zoom.

Ensuring that public voice and opinion is at the heart of the public sector is key to designing approaches and strategies that meet the needs of our communities. The Partnership Engagement Network enables everyone to play an active role in developing the approaches that we take in the delivery and commissioning of services. Our next virtual Partnership Engagement Network Conference will cover:

- Presentations from key speakers
- Workshops on specific local programmes and developments.

Details of the workshop sessions are in the process of being confirmed - once these are available we will be in touch so you can select your preferred sessions. In the meantime please secure your place at the conference by clicking here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pen-conference-july-2021-tickets-151651049371>

- **Put us in the bus this summer** – from Monday 17 May, individuals, schools, community groups and volunteer organisations can bid to TfGM to win one of several yellow school buses that will be decommissioned from the existing fleet in July 2021. Interested groups have until Friday 18 June to submit their proposal online. Entries will be judged on several criteria, including originality, creativity and benefit to the community. Ideas from last year's successful bidders include a 'wellbeing bus' for social and emotional intervention for school pupils, and a reading area for schoolchildren. To find out more visit <https://news.tfgm.com/news/put-the-us-in-bus-this-summer>
- **GM=EqAI seeking new members** – GM=EqAI is still seeking new members to further diversify and strengthen their existing working group. If you know VCSE people

based in Bury, Tameside or Trafford who are passionate about tackling inequality, encourage them to complete this Expression of Interest form: [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#)

---

- **Money Advice Tameside referral tool** – A new online advice tool – Money Advice Tameside Referral Tool – that focusses on money advice and income maximisation has been launched by the Food Security Pilot Project working group. The tool is for staff and organisations that regularly refer people to foodbanks, and aims to stop the cycle of food bank use through income maximisation support. It is simple to use and helps to identify the best way a food bank user can be supported, depending on their situation.

<http://www.advicetameside.org.uk/referral-tool/whats-the-problem>

The working group (led by Greater Manchester Poverty Action in partnership with Tameside Council and the Tameside VCFSE sector) are encouraging organisations to start using the tool with services users before providing food bank vouchers. They are also keen to hear any feedback or suggestions from people who have used the tool. Feedback can be provided here – [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#) Please see the attachment to this email.

---

- **Independent Community Scrutiny Panels** – Greater Manchester Police are seeking members of the public who are representative of the local community to give the police honest feedback in how they are using stop and search powers. They want honest opinions on how they can be held to account and be transparent. For more information on scrutiny panels and how to apply – email the GMP Neighbourhood, Confidence & Equalities Team [ForceCommunityHub@gmp.police.uk](mailto:ForceCommunityHub@gmp.police.uk)

### 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:

- **Portage Service Consultation** – The Portage Service is part of the Early Years Offer in Tameside. The Portage Team have links with the Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs (known as ISCAN).

Portage offers tailored sessions which are designed to help children from 0-5 years who have additional needs to develop through play with support from various services and their parents/carers. Families are visited on a regular basis, weekly, fortnightly or monthly usually at home by a Portage worker.

The portage offer has remained successful throughout this period with positive feedback from families, therefore we would like to maintain elements of this offer moving forward. What is proposed is an offer that will be more virtual, take place more predominantly through inclusive groups within our children's centres, meanwhile reducing the offer of support by 1:1 home visits. The service would like to

hear your views on the proposal to continue this way of delivering the Portage Service, how we progress this and continue to meet varying needs. The deadline for this is **7 July 2021**. [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#)

---

- **Homelessness Contract Consultation** – Tameside Council has a statutory duty to provide services to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The homelessness service is provided under contract by Tameside Housing Advice. The Council also commissions a number of other services that contribute towards the prevention of homelessness and enable the Council to meet its statutory duties. This includes the commission of supported accommodation for people with a range of needs and floating support services that work to both make sure a person can stay in their home or help people access suitable housing. The Council also runs the Rough Sleeper service which works to provide accommodation and support to ensure that no-one has to sleep rough in the Borough.

These contracts are due to expire and the Council is planning to recommission services that will continue to offer a range of accommodation and support services that will also ensure service users are given every opportunity to build life skills to move on to managing their own tenancy, have increased independence and regain a positive place in the community. Overall the Council want to make sure that we focus on the right things in Tameside and want to hear your views the closing date is **22 June 2021**. [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#)

---

- **Urgent Care Survey 2021** – Healthwatch Tameside work on behalf of the community to make sure health and care services are working as best they can for you, influenced by what patients say. Have you used urgent care recently?
  - Did you understand all the options?
  - What assistance was provided?
  - What went well and what could be improved?[\]https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HWTurgentcare](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HWTurgentcare)

- **Getting to medical appointments** – Healthwatch Tameside work on behalf of the community to make sure health and care services are working as best they can for you, influenced by what patients say. How did you get to your recent medical appointment? Have you had to cancel appointments because you couldn't get there and was it rearranged?

Healthwatch Tameside would like you to share your ideas to improve local services. The deadline for comments is **24 May 2021**. [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#)

---

- **Attitudes towards the Covid-19 vaccination** – Healthwatch Derbyshire wants to hear from local people about why they may be hesitant about having the Covid-19 vaccination. We want to hear the concerns people have about having the vaccine. We also want to know if there are any difficulties booking or getting to the

appointment, to have the injection.

All responses will be treated confidentially and will be shared anonymously with Derbyshire Public Health Services and the NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group, which is coordinating the county's vaccination programme.

This will help these organisations to remove any practical barriers preventing people from having the vaccine and help to identify where there might be a need for public information.

(For Glossop residents who fall under the Tameside & Glossop CCG area). The deadline for responses is **29 June 2021**

---

### Regional engagement and consultations

- **Homelessness Prevention Strategy** – The Homelessness Prevention Strategy sets out the steps Greater Manchester needs to take over the next five years to help tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in Greater Manchester. GMCA are keen to get input from Greater Manchester residents and stakeholders on the strategy so that your views influence the plans and inform decision making. The closing date is **26 June 2021**.  
<https://www.gmconsult.org/communications-and-engagement-team/homelessness-prevention-strategy/>
- **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/>

## **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: [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#)
  - ✓ Covid-19 advice for employees, employers and businesses here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- 

There is also guidance available on our own local websites as detailed below:

**Tameside Council** [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#) - 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** - [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#) link on homepage

**Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust** - [\[Link Removed - Expired\]](#) 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.

- Britain is currently feeling optimistic, with all age groups feeling far more positive than a few months ago, and concern about the virus has now dropped close to pre-lockdown levels in March 2020, with just 58% saying they are worried about the effects of the virus on themselves.
- The number of Britons finding it easier to stay positive about the future has increased (to 16%), and 75% are hopeful that the 21 June will see the end of lockdown as planned.
- However, at the same time 79% are concerned about variants coming to the UK and causing another wave of COVID-19. Linked to that, 67% say they would support stopping people entering the UK from *any* foreign country in order to stop variants spreading, and

42% support introducing another national lockdown if it is needed. The public remains cautious.

### **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 - Expired]

---

**Action Together Funding Bulletin** – Action Together have a wealth of experience that could help you find and secure funding. The latest funding bulletin, which is produced monthly with 10GM colleagues can be found here: [Link Removed - Expired]

---

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/>.

Update on various funding pots available:

- ✓ GMCVO has access to a range of social investment funds to support social enterprises, charities and community businesses. They can work with organisations whether they have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 crisis, looking to take advantage of opportunities as the economy starts to recover, or a mixture of both: ○  
**Access to Growth** fund, offering a blended investment mix of grant and loan  
[Link Removed - Expired]
- For communities looking to develop their own housing schemes or sports facilities  
GMCVO is also the local partner for the **Resonance Community Developers Fund**

[Link Removed - Expired] **Supporting Ageing in Place** – Ambition for Ageing is seeking community groups and organisations to deliver projects of up to £2,000 in specific neighbourhoods across Greater Manchester to help us create social connections and build age-friendly places for people aged 50 and over, especially those from marginalised and low-income communities.

Deadline to submit proposals is 14 June 2021.

[Link Removed - Expired]

---