

Post Scrutiny - Executive Response

In Respect of: Scrutiny Review of Worklessness and Benefit System Changes

Date: 16 February 2015

Executive Member: Councillor Jim Fitzpatrick, First Deputy (Performance and Finance)

Co-ordinating Officer: Ilys Cookson, Assistant Executive Director (Exchequer)

| Recommendations | Accepted/ Rejected | Executive Response | Officer Responsible | Action By (Date) |
|--|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. That work is undertaken with Registered Social Landlords to monitor the impact of the Bedroom Tax on rent arrears, with a view to preventing families from entering financial hardship. | Accepted | Regular Landlord Forums take place to meet with Registered Social Landlords. Quarterly monitoring will take place to determine the numbers of tenants who are subject to the bedroom tax and we will work with RSL's and other agencies as necessary to ensure that appropriate advice is available to support affected tenants. | Ilys Cookson/Karen Milner | April 2015 |
| 2. That the Council continue to support the implementation of Universal Credit at a Strategic and Operational level. | Accepted | Robust governance arrangements are in place and this will continue to ensure that residents subject to UC are supported as appropriate. | Ilys Cookson/Karen Milner | Ongoing |
| 3. That working relationships between Tameside Council, DWP and Job Centre Plus continue with the possibility of future joint working and co-location to better support residents. | Accepted | Good relations already exist at local level and we will continue to work towards further co-location starting with the Universal Support Delivered Locally pilot at the Denton Hub, and then continuing in the new Tameside building post decant. Discussions have already commenced on co-location in the new building. | Ilys Cookson / David Berry | Ongoing |

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| 4. That the Council ensure there is clear reporting arrangements in place to record the impact of the withdrawal of TSIL; and the effectiveness of the new scheme to support residents. | Accepted | The Key Decision to withdraw TSIL and set up the TRS agreed that the Tameside Poverty Action Group, which will report to the Tameside Strategic Neighbourhood Forum will be responsible for monitoring the impacts of withdrawing TSIL, the effectiveness of the communication strategy and the benefits of the Tameside Resettlement Scheme. | Diane Barkley | Quarterly |
| 5. That Tameside continues to support the work set out in the Greater Manchester Growth and Reform plan to reduce dependency through welfare reform. | Accepted | Tameside Council will continue to work in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions to influence and inform the design and delivery of Universal Credit and related reforms based on the principles of the Greater Manchester Reform Plan. Meetings with DWP take place at local, sub regional and national levels. | Damien Bourke/Ilys Cookson/David Berry | Ongoing |
| 6. That work is undertaken to measure the success of USDL in supporting residents with work readiness and the ability to secure employment. | Accepted | Tameside Council and JCP have developed an evaluation framework that captures residents work readiness journeys and employment outcomes. | Ilys Cookson/David Berry | In place |