

#cooptameside

# Tameside Co-operative Summit 2019 Feedback Report

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a co-operative community

# Foreword



## **Councillor Brenda Warrington, Executive Leader of Tameside Council**

On 3 October representatives from local public sector, voluntary and community organisations met with elected members and council officers at Dukinfield Town Hall for the Tameside Co-operative Summit. It was truly gratifying to see so many of our partners and stakeholders in attendance and I'd like to thank everybody who came.

On 2 October, at their annual conference in Rochdale, the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network ratified our application to become a Co-operative Council. Tameside became part of a growing and influential network of local authorities committed to developing a new relationship with our citizens. A network that embodies the values and principles of the weavers and workers of Rochdale 150 years ago, and which has now grown into a global organisation of 313 co-operative federations in 109 countries.

The summit was a fantastic opportunity to showcase how co-operative working is already improving people's lives in Tameside as well as share and explore ideas for where else we can embrace this model of collaborative working to have a positive impact and ensure residents remain central in our thoughts. There was lots of inspiring discussions and feedback from our partners and the local community and we will continue to welcome suggestions and comments.

We have taken the first step in a journey that may very well end up defining Tameside for years, or even decades, to come. My thanks go out to everybody whose hard work made this possible. I believe that we still have much to learn, but I also think that there is much we can teach each other as well. Let's take the next steps together.

To find out more about Co-operative Working in Tameside, please visit: <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/coopcouncil>



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# Tameside Co-operative Summit

The Tameside Co-operative Summit took place at Dukinfield Town Hall on Thursday 3 October. There was over a 100 attendees who between them represented nearly 40 different public sector, community or voluntary organisations. On arrival attendees had the chance to visit the “market-stall” style showcase of existing co-operative projects and initiatives that was set up around the Jubilee Hall.

These projects and initiatives included Cashbox Credit Union, Home Start, the Partnership Engagement Network, Digital Health/Community Response, Community Wellbeing/Person Centred Approaches, Social Prescribing, Tameside Youth Council, Tameside Armed Services Community, the Grafton Centre, the Together Centre, the Carers Centre and the Mental Wellbeing Collaborative.

Liz Windsor-Welsh, the Chief Executive Officer of Action Together, began the summit by welcoming attendees and running through the agenda. Councillor Brenda Warrington, the Executive Leader of Tameside Council, then took to the stage to deliver the opening speech. Councillor Warrington announced that the Council had recently achieved membership of the Co-operative Councils’ Innovation Network and emphasised Tameside’s commitment to its principles and values. The Executive Leader went on to describe some of the excellent examples of co-operative working already taking place, such as the Tameside Digital Infrastructure Co-operative and the Tameside Armed Services Community.

Andrew Gwynne MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, then spoke to the attendees about the role of co-operative working in bringing communities together and empowering local people and communities. Three representatives of the Co-operative Councils’ Innovation Network delivered the next presentation. Nicola Huckerby gave a brief overview of the network, which is comprised of 28 councils, who have between them 7.4 million residents and budgets that total £9.5 billion. Following on from this Councillor Martin Judd, Deputy Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise at Oldham Council, and Helen Chicot, Place Lead at Rochdale Council, detailed some of the ways in which co-operative working had benefitted the two Greater Manchester boroughs.

It was then the turn of Tameside Council’s Chief Executive, Steven Pleasant MBE, to bring the focus back to Tameside. Steven highlighted further examples of co-operative working already taking place in Tameside, such as Tameside Loves Reading and Social Prescribing and detailed the ways in which the co-operative values and principles align with the Public Service Reform principles and the Strategic Commission’s.





There were then two detailed presentations focusing on specific co-operative projects. Firstly, Tim Rainey presented on the Tameside Digital Infrastructure Co-operative, which provides a fibre optic network across Tameside and currently includes 100 public sector sites and 200 commercial and residential services. Then, following a short break for networking and refreshments, Emma Varnam presented on the Tameside Armed Services Community, a not-for-profit group with links to military charities that is the partner of Tameside Council in delivering the Armed Forces Covenant.

Once the speeches and presentations had concluded, attendees took part in group work on their tables, answering the question “How can partners work together to develop new co-operative ideas and projects?” After the group work each table fed back to the room and discussed their suggestions with the Q & A Panel that was comprised of Councillor Warrington, Steven Pleasant, Councillor Judd, Emma Varnam and two members of the Tameside Youth Council, Taylor Rooke and Tilly McGlashan

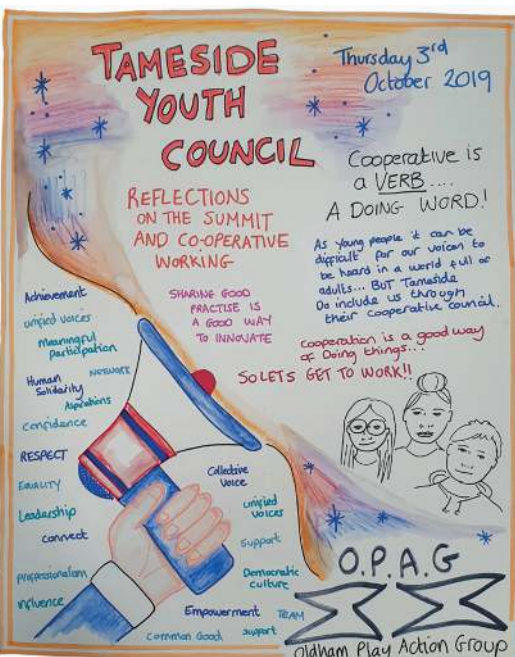
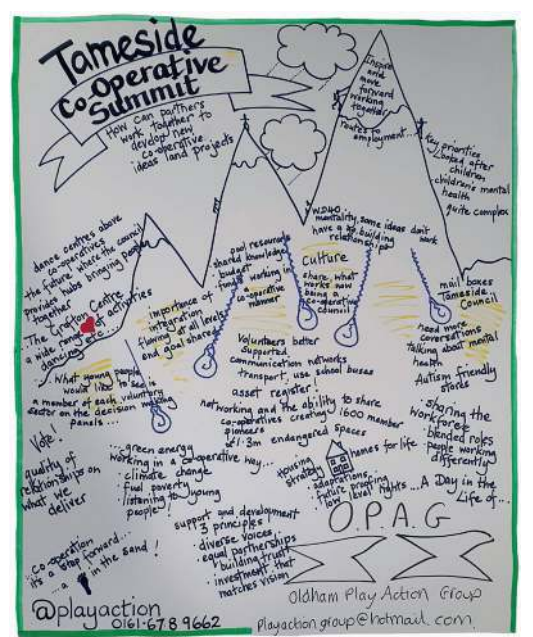
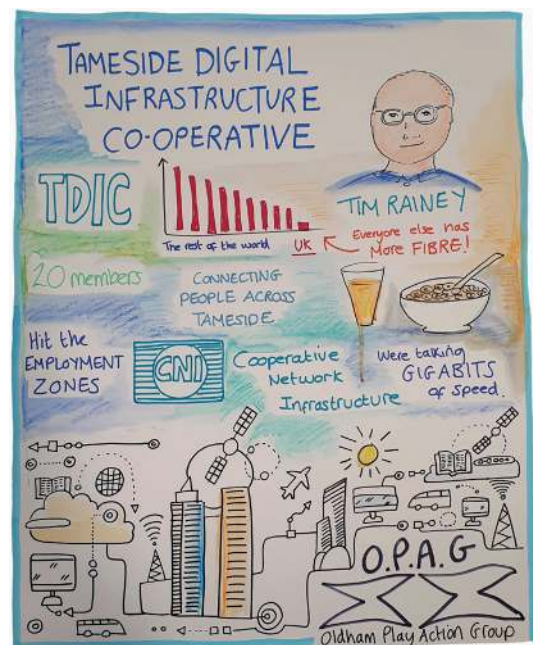
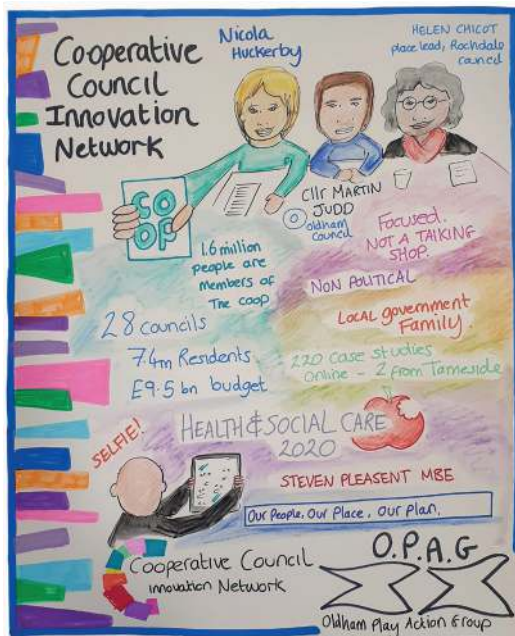
To close the summit Jacob Hirst provided Tameside Youth Council’s reflections on co-operative working. Over lunch, attendees visited the co-operative projects stalls, added suggestions and comments to the ideas board, and completed ranking forms to prioritise the importance and current prevalence of the co-operative principles across Tameside. Throughout the day the presentations, Q & A session and group discussions were all recorded in the form of Visual Minutes by Oldham Play Action Group.



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# Co-operative Summit Agenda

## Tameside Co-operative Summit - Thursday 3 October 2019

9.30am – 1.30pm (Registration from 9am, Lunch at 1pm)

Dukinfield Town Hall, King Street, Dukinfield, SK16 4LA (Jubilee Hall)

<b>Welcome, agenda, housekeeping</b> Liz Windsor-Welsh	9.30am
<b>Opening</b> Cllr Brenda Warrington	9.35am
<b>Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government</b> Andrew Gwynne MP (Denton and Reddish)	9.45am
<b>Co-operative Council Innovation Network (CCIN)</b> Cllr Martin Judd / Nicola Huckerby	10.00am
<b>Co-operative working in practice</b> Steven Pleasant	10.15am
<b>Tameside Digital Infrastructure Co-operative (TDIC)</b> Tim Rainey	10.30am
<b>Comfort Break</b> Prioritisation of Co-operative values Ideas board	10.45am
<b>Tameside Armed Services Community (TASC)</b> Emma Varnam	11.00am
<b>Group work – how can partners work together to develop new co-operative ideas and projects</b>	11.15am
<b>Feedback from group work and Q &amp; A with panel</b>	12noon
<b>Tameside Youth Council</b> Reflections on the summit and co-operative working	12.30pm
<b>Wrap up and thank you</b> Liz Windsor-Welsh	12.40pm
<b>Lunch and networking</b> Prioritisation of co-operative values Ideas board Market place showcase	12.50pm



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# Key feedback from the Summit

Below are some of the key points that emerged from the Summit's group work, Q & A and table discussions, and ideas board submissions.

## Co-operative approach and governance:

- We need to understand how the co-operative values – such as co-production – will work alongside governance. We also need to ensure that governance does not block a co-operative approach (e.g. sharing of information).

## Youth:

- Create working group/scrutiny panel that includes young people – maybe from the Youth Council. Give young people a platform to come together and share ideas too.

## Tameside council mailboxes:

- Could council post-boxes be placed in public spaces (e.g. libraries/supermarkets/communal places) to allow feedback to be provided?

## Engage with service users:

- Service users have valuable insight – having managers/senior leaders shadow a service user for a day may help them understand the many issues they have to overcome. It's important to be able to listen to the voices of these people.

## Scale:

- We should start small to ensure people are not overwhelmed by the approach. Some suggestions that it could be led at a neighbourhood level.

## Raising awareness of co-operative approach:

- People need to know what the co-operative council approach is in order to be engaged. The first co-operative project should be to inform people about the co-operative approach and the difference it can make. How can we use co-operative values and principles in our work?



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## Community assets:

- Pooling and sharing assets such as budgets, knowledge and community space could be useful (e.g. minibuses, meeting spaces). Creating a community asset register could help with this to inform people about what may be available to their organisation.

## Community leaders:

- Community leaders should be identified who can champion the co-operative approach.

## Communication:

- Communication needs to be clearer, particularly from the council. It's important to break the 'public sector language bubble' so the public don't have to decipher messages.
- Use communication to build trust in the council and in the co-operative approach.

## Engagement:

- Engage the community and partner organisations in decision making from the beginning, not as an afterthought.
- Reach out to people who don't have internet access too
- Work with partners to engage the 'hard to reach' groups. Action Together can help with this.

## Co-operative network:

- Create co-operative group emails in the same way as PEN emails. A different theme could be chosen each year. Co-operative team briefs could also be used to inform the co-operative network about various projects.
- A network would particularly help the smaller groups.
- We could allow hot-desking in different locations within the co-operative network of organisations to build knowledge and relationships.

## VCSE:

- The public sector relies on the VCSE sector. Building capacity in the VCSE sector would improve the offer to the community.
- Better relationships within the sector would aid co-operative working

## Event improvements and comments:

- Co-operative working needs to be representative of all protected characteristic groups across our communities.
- Consider holding collaborative type events in the evenings to allow a wider audience to attend.
- Use PEN conferences and forums to have a workshop/item to develop ideas for potential co-operative projects.
- Consider more networking events or spaces to introduce organisations to each other.



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# Co-operative Council Values & Principles

## Social Partnership

Strengthen co-operative partnership between citizens, communities, enterprises and Councils, based on a shared sense of responsibility for wellbeing and mutual benefit.

## Democratic Engagement

Support the active engagement of the full range of residents in decision making and priority setting.

## Co-Production

Develop systems that enable citizens to be equal partners in designing and commissioning public services and in determining the use of public resources.

## Enterprise & Social Economy

Promote community-based approaches to economic development that focus on supporting the creation of jobs, social enterprises and other businesses and providing an environment for co-operative and mutual enterprises to thrive.

## Maximising Social Value

Support the development of a framework and criteria for social value, giving substance to the concept and supporting Councils with the tools to ensure better local social and economic outcomes.

## Community Leadership

Community leadership and a new role for councillors: Explore ways for councils to act as a platform for helping the community to contribute to local outcomes, and to re-think the role of councillors as community connectors, brokers and leaders.

## New Models of Meeting Priority Need

Explore new ways of meeting the priority needs. Encourage models, such as co-operatives and mutuals, which give greater influence and voice to staff and users.

## Innovation

Embrace innovation in how we work with local communities to drive positive change.

## Learning

Capture and 'expand' the experience and learning from individual projects and approaches in order to encourage broader application of co-operative principles within individual member Councils and across the Network.



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# Co-operative Values and Principles Prioritisation

Summit attendees also completed grading forms which asked them to rank the importance and prevalence of the nine co-operative values and principles.

Attendees were asked to rank the principles and values “from 1 to 9, where 1 is the most important through to 9 being the least important to you and your community”.

The principle that attendees ranked as most important was “Enterprise and Social Economy”. The principle that attendees ranked as second most important was “Co-Production”. The principle that attendees ranked as third most important was “Innovation”.

Attendees were also asked to rank the principles and values “from 1 to 9, where 1 is most seen currently through to 9 where we most need to do more in your view/experience”

The principle that attendees marked as most seen was “Enterprise and Social Economy”. The principle that attendees marked as second most seen was “Innovation”. The principle that attendees marked as third most seen was “Learning”.

The breakdown of respondents ranking principles in the top three most important is outlined in the tables below:

Principles and Values	% Percentage of responses that ranked the principle in the top 3 most important
Co-Production	25.0
Social Partnership	19.2
Enterprise and social Economy	13.5
Innovation	11.5
Maximising Social Value	9.6
New Models of Meeting Priority Need	9.6
Democratic Engagement	7.7
Community Leadership	3.8



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Principles and Values	% Percentage of responses that ranked the principle in the top 3 most seen
Enterprise and Social Economy	15.2
Social Partnership	15.2
Community Leadership	10.9
Democratic Engagement	10.9
Learning	10.9
New Models of Meeting Priority Need	10.9
Co-production	8.7
Innovation	8.7
Maximising Social Value	8.7

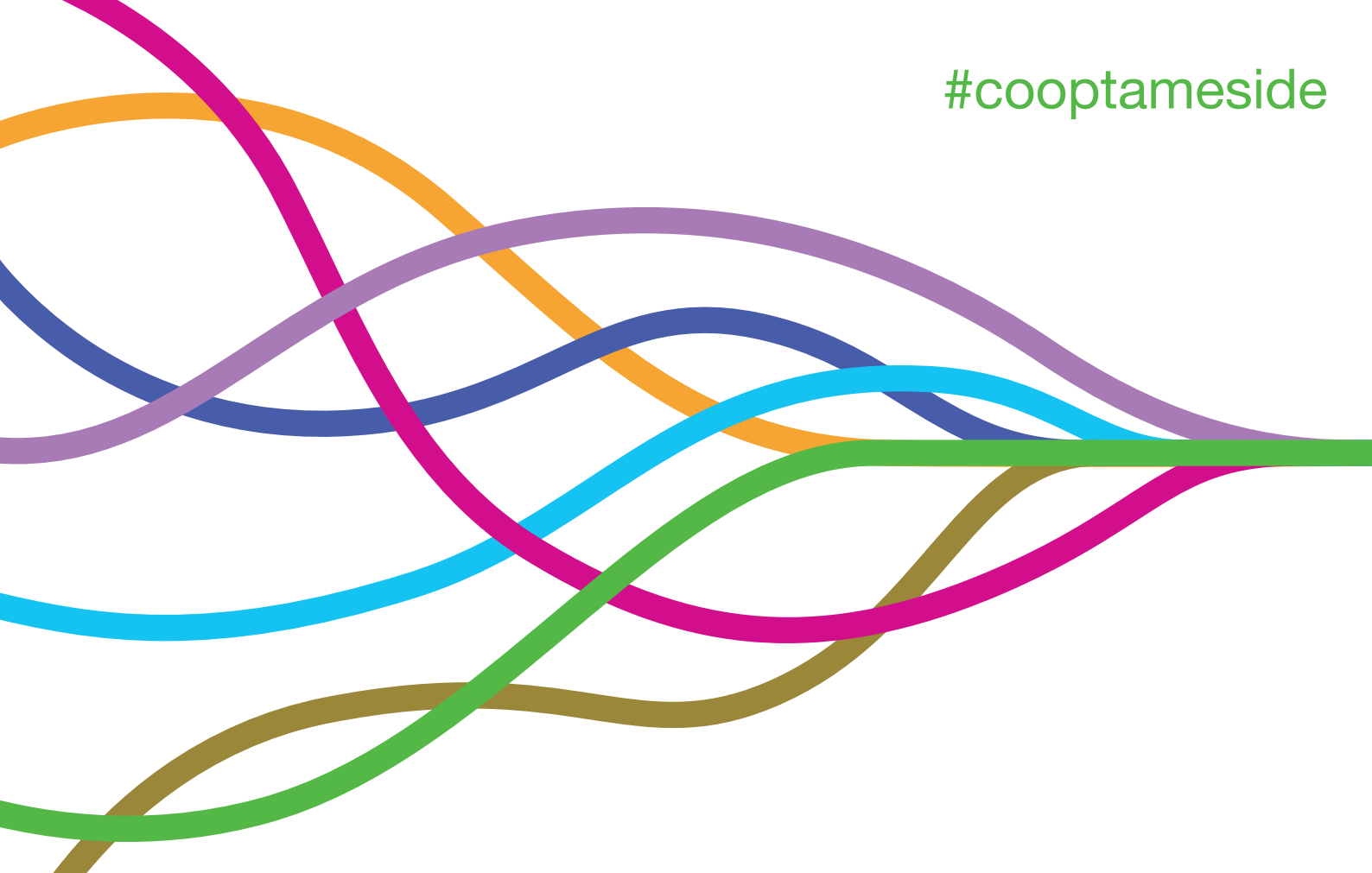


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# Co-operative Working in Action in Tameside



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## Grafton Centre:

The Grafton Centre is a Health and Wellbeing Community Centre in Hyde. It is a development trust, meaning the centre is run by the community itself. The centre now has a membership of 480 people and offers a wide range of activities.

[www.graftoncentrehyde.com/](http://www.graftoncentrehyde.com/)



## Together Centre:

The Together Centre is a charity that aims to develop a volunteer led, thriving and fully inclusive centre for all members of the community. They are based in Dukinfield and offer a range of activities and services. The Together Centre works closely with other organisations such as The Stroke Association, Active Tameside, Noah's A.R.T. and The Shed.



## Tameside Digital Infrastructure Co-operative:

The Tameside Digital Infrastructure Co-operative brings together public and private sector organisations to create and share new digital infrastructure in and around Tameside. The co-operative offers members wholesale access to fibre and exchange point facilities allowing them to build and operate advanced digital connectivity services.

**TDIC**  
The Digital Infrastructure Cooperative

## Home Start (HOST – Homestart Oldham, Stockport and Tameside):

Home-Start is a network of family support charities that work with families who are suffering from stress or difficulty and who have at least one child under the age of five. Home-Start staff oversee this process by providing regular support and supervision to each volunteer and by regularly reviewing support with each family to ensure progress is being made.

[www.home-starthost.org.uk/](http://www.home-starthost.org.uk/)



## Tameside Armed Services Community:

TASC is a group formed from the armed forces community with direct links to military charities and wider partner organisations. It is a not for profit group with a focus on the delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant through a wide range of community engagement. TASC encourage integration, understanding and mutual support between the local community and the armed services community through participation in joint projects and organising trips and commemoration events.

[www.tamesideasc.org.uk/](http://www.tamesideasc.org.uk/)



## Tameside PACT:

PACT is an agreement between Tameside's voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) and public-sector agencies.

PACT features three main principles:

- Involving community groups and charities in advising and delivering services
- Better communication to build partnership working
- Working together to secure investment

[www.tamesideandglossopccg.org/get-involved/pact](http://www.tamesideandglossopccg.org/get-involved/pact)





## Cash Box:

Cash Box Credit Union is a community savings and loan co-operative, where members pool their savings to lend to one another and help run the credit union. Cashbox was formed in 2005 by the merger of several smaller local credit unions. People who live or work in Tameside and Glossop are able to join Cash Box. Cash Box aims to promote financial inclusion by offering secure savings and affordable loan products to the community.

[www.cashbox.org.uk/](http://www.cashbox.org.uk/)

**CASH BOX**  
credit union

## Partnership Engagement Network:

Set up in the autumn of 2017 the Partnership Engagement Network (PEN) is part of a multi-agency approach to provide the public and our partners with an identified and structured method to influence the work of public services and to proactively feed in issues and ideas.

The key principles of the Partnership Engagement Network (PEN) are to:

- Engage in an ongoing conversation with the public, patients and other stakeholders
- Reach across the whole of the public and community sectors so that engagement doesn't happen in organisational silos
- Begin discussions early, enabling the public, patients and other stakeholders to be part of designing solutions.

[www.tameside.gov.uk/tamesideandglossopPEN](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/tamesideandglossopPEN)

## Youth Council:

Tameside Youth Council is a group which provides the opportunity for young people from across Tameside to influence local decision makers on the issues that they consider important. Youth Councillors from across the Borough act as the voice of local young people. Members of the Youth Council represent schools, colleges, and areas of Tameside.

