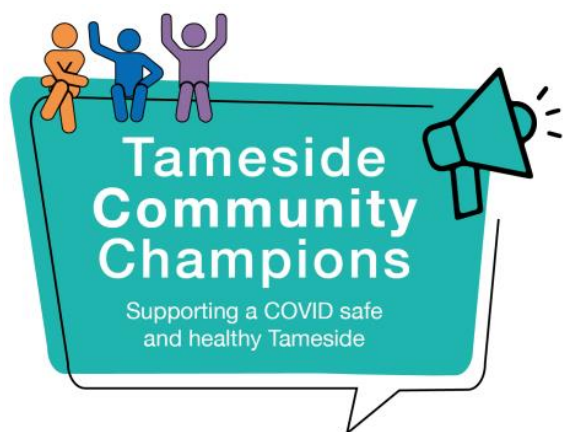


COMMUNITY

Tameside Council

Tameside Community Champions

Since the launch of the programme on 7th September 2020, around 275 residents have signed up to be Community Champions. Tameside recognised early on during the coronavirus pandemic that there are many in our communities who preferred to receive their information from people that they know and trust. It is for this reason that the “Community Champions” scheme was created.



The programme has proven effective in providing information and support to residents, especially around areas of more complex guidance such as support bubbles. We have not only empowered our champions with the information they need to make and help other people make informed decisions, we have built a better relationship between the council and our residents where people feel more connected and heard. We have seen huge increases in uptake of the vaccine, particularly amongst our ethnic minority communities as a result of the Champions’ involvement.

There are prominent sub groups within the wider champion’s network. These include our Diversity Champions, Black Leaders Champions, Young People Champions and Age Friendly Champions. These groups provide a regular forum for specific communities to come together in a smaller and what can feel like a more comfortable environment where members feel they can speak up to have their voice heard and engage in conversations. The groups come together to discuss and take action on COVID and wider Health and Wellbeing issues and concerns affecting their local communities.

In order to embed Community Champions permanently within the borough, we have received funding in order to recruit a full-time Programme Manager. This post will be responsible for all aspects of the Community Champions programme going forward, including recruiting and supporting volunteers, co-ordinating information and check-in sessions, leading and managing the Champions Network, and contributing to the work on Covid-19 with our local harder to reach communities and organisations. As the coronavirus pandemic recedes, the Council and our partners have now shifted to expand the Community Champions concept onto other areas of work, most notably public health and community cohesion.

For further information contact:

Jordanna Rawlinson

Head of Communications – Tameside Council

jordanna.rawlinson@tameside.gov.uk | www.tameside.gov.uk