

## STRATEGY

### Tameside Council

## Tameside & Glossop Inequalities Reference Group

As Tameside & Glossop looks to build back better and fairer from the pandemic, we have taken steps to ensure that we are utilising evidence and research, complemented by the voices of our own communities, in order to place diversity and inclusion at the centre of all that we do. A key part of this has been the establishment of the Tameside & Glossop Inequalities Reference Group (IRG).

The IRG has the overall aim of reducing inequality in Tameside & Glossop. The group makes recommendations and steers action to address inequalities, whilst also providing constructive challenge in an advisory role. The group is chaired by the Tameside Council Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage, with membership of the group drawn from a range of public sector and VCSE organisations from across the area.

The group has committed to a work programme that is centred on a number of areas of focus, based upon feedback from a range of engagement activities. Each area of focus consists of three strands: involving the voices of people with lived experience, data and evidence, and benchmarking against other areas. Current areas of focus are:

- Barriers to Accessing Information
- Community Cohesion
- Digital Inclusion
- Emotional Wellbeing (Isolation and Loneliness)
- Voice of People With Learning Disabilities
- Young People

Progress has been made on each area of focus. A report on Digital Inclusion is set to be published to spearhead a more strategic approach to tackling the issue in the area. In addition, as part of the “Voices of people with learning disabilities” area of focus, members of local charity People First Tameside have undertaken research about the impact of the pandemic on people with learning disabilities. Emily and Ros, both of whom have learning disabilities, gathered insight into the impact of the pandemic through surveys, interviews and focus groups and presented the interim findings of their research to the IRG.

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### For further information

Simon Brunet

Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence – Tameside Council

[simon.brunet@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:simon.brunet@tameside.gov.uk) | [www.tameside.gov.uk](http://www.tameside.gov.uk)