

Background information – policy and participation at T3SC

The policy and participation team was formed in October 2008 through the merging of the Health and Social Care and Representation and Participation teams at T3SC. The Health and Social Care Team became part of T3SC in 2002, and developed from an independent organization, Tameside and Glossop Community Care.

The newly merged team has six staff, supporting a range of VCS networks across the borough, which feed into Voice, the “network of networks”.

Tameside Voice was established in 2002 in response to the need for the Tameside Strategic Partnership to engage with the voluntary and community sector and communities of Tameside and over the past five years has grown steadily.

The role of Tameside Voice is to:

- Enable community involvement in decision making and partnership working
- Develop a cohesive voice for the voluntary and community sector by providing a transparent and accountable structure for involvement
- Provide a consultation mechanism for TSP partners
- Help the sector contribute, and be recognized as contributing, to LAA targets

This year Voice elected a total of 24 representatives to TSP and Thematic Partnerships, giving the sector active involvement and engagement.

As an organisation, T3SC facilitates Voice and its associated networks:

- Crime and Disorder
- BME Women's Forum
- Tameside Community Union (children and young people)
- Health Network
- BME Forum
- Faiths United (interfaith network)
- TOPAG (older people)

The T3SC team delivers:

- Secretariat service (booking meetings, venues, minutes etc)
- Support for network representatives – building capacity and skills, and empowering them to speak up and influence decisions
- Policy briefing and research work on behalf of Voice and networks
- Community outreach, as not everyone has the time, desire or confidence to engage with formal meetings

- Capacity building support for underrepresented groups
- Advocacy and liaison role with strategic partners on behalf of the sector
- Targeted work and community outreach to ensure engagement of under represented groups
- Work with partners to ensure communities in priority neighbourhoods are reached

Funding for the work of the team comes from TMBC and Tameside and Glossop PCT.