

SOCIAL VALUE PROGRESS UPDATE

Report of the Corporate Director (Corporate and Support Services) and Deputy Chief Executive

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is two-fold. Initially the report provides an update in relation to work that has been developed to strengthen social value arrangements across Stockport. Secondly, the report describes engagement work that has led to proposals for specific social value priority themes and cohorts, to facilitate a more co-ordinated, consistent and impactful approach. Members are asked to consider the report, comment on the proposals and provide any additional feedback.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- a. The social value work in Stockport is being driven by a number of key documents, the main starting points being the One Stockport Borough Plan and the One Stockport brand. Each of the workstreams within the social value programme flow from both of these documents and/or the strategies and action plans which underpin them, such as the Climate Action Now Strategy and the One Health and Care Plan.
- b. In addition, the Stockport Social Value Charter (Appendix 1) was signed off in 2019. The document committed to establishing a strategic group, to oversee the development and progress of the Charter, which highlighted the following shared core outcomes and priorities:
- i. People are able to make informed choices and be independent
 - ii. People who need support get it
 - iii. Stockport benefits from a thriving economy
 - iv. Stockport is a place people want to live
 - v. Communities in Stockport are safe and resilient
- 2.2 In addition to Stockport's local work, a number of projects have been developed within GMCA, which also draw on the opportunities afforded by our local wealth and social value. These include reports which highlight learning from COVID-19, both the recovery work and wider opportunities for inclusive growth, the Marmot report, the Inequalities Commission report, the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter, the Greater Manchester Social Value Charter, and the Greater Manchester VCSE Accord. All of these documents are inextricably linked and whilst they provide an excellent knowledge base and foundation, it is important that Stockport builds its own response to social value by understanding, engaging and listening to local people, business and organisations-and through this work, provide a consistent approach and positive narrative. This is what the social value steering group will endeavour to do.

3. ACTIVITY TO DATE

a. **Social Value Steering Group**

The Stockport Social Value Steering Group has been operational since May 2021 and meets 6 times per year, feeding into the Strategic Commissioning Group and subsequently the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Terms of Reference for the group can be found at Appendix 2.

Since its inception, the group has primarily focussed on building a picture of “where we are now” and early engagement work, with a view to developing an action plan for social value, which will be reviewed at the end of the 22-23 financial year.

A number of pieces of work, outlined below, have informed this planning process and the plan will be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2022, following a number of planned engagement sessions with local stakeholders.

i. Self-Assessment

A self-assessment against the key components of social value in relation to commissioning and procurement was undertaken by the steering group. This facilitated an honest conversation about progress to date, strengths and opportunities and allowed for the development of a more in-depth understanding of where key areas of focus should be, specifically in relation to commissioning and procurement. Primarily, these relate to developing a consistent approach to both commissioning and contract management, so that we build an understanding of the impact in terms of benefits to the community, rather than as a monetary value, with no meaning attached.

ii. Social Value Mapping

A mapping exercise was undertaken to compare Stockport’s social value priorities, highlighted in the key strategic documents within Stockport, with those that are highlighted across the other STAR authorities and in the GM Charter.

iii. Training

Training packages have been developed in relation to carbon literacy specifically and also social value more generally, which will be delivered across the council. Aligned to this is the commissioning toolkit, which is now available on the intranet and provides a step-by-step approach to the different elements of commissioning and contract management. This will be developed as the social value work progresses and more and more people use the facility.

iv. Communication and Engagement

This is perhaps one of the most crucial elements in terms of the development of social value and as such, additional resource has been identified to support this area of work. In terms of internal engagement, the chair of the steering group attends the council’s senior management meetings so that there is an opportunity to both discuss social value, highlight the issue and win the hearts and minds of the staff. The training opportunities are well communicated on the intranet and next steps will include compiling a list of case studies which truly demonstrate the impact that good social value can have on our local community.

The external engagement is currently being scoped and one of the initial pieces of work will be a round table discussion, hosted by the Mayor, on 26th November. The discussion brings together some key senior officers from organisations across Stockport, to start a dialogue and encourage people to make connections and build relationships. It is anticipated this forum will grow and become part of a regular dialogue (the invitation for the round table event is attached at Appendix 3).

The VCSFE sector forum meets fortnightly and receives regular updates from the steering group and an opportunity to feed in any local concerns, ideas and opportunities. Again, this is an ongoing dialogue.

v. Climate Action Now Strategy and Summit

The Stockport Climate Action Now Strategy was signed off in 2020 and is Stockport's call to action to address the threat to the environment. The Strategy highlights the importance of a system wide response to addressing climate change and in particular focuses on working with local partners including across local businesses, education, local communities and resident and the council.

The borough hosted its first CAN Summit on 9th November and the key actions from that forum will also be fed into the social value action plan.

vi. Bid into GM

A bid has been submitted to a GM workforce development pot, for a full-time post to be based within Sector3. If successful, the post is designed to build capacity and capability across the VCSFE sector, with a particular focus on children's mental health. It is hoped by adopting a targeted approach, a wider cohort of organisations (many of whom do invaluable community-based work but are currently unknown to the council) will engage with the council, offering broader opportunities in terms of scope to bid into external pots of funding, collaborating with other organisations and generally building up their offers, if there is appetite to do so.

4. PRIORITY COHORTS AND THEMES

As can be seen from the distance we have travelled in such a short space of time, social value has enormous breadth and it can be a challenge to focus, meaning that it can be difficult to gain a true understanding of impact. That said, there is some amazing work going on and there are some amazing opportunities. Therein lies the challenge-where to focus the limited resources we have?

As such and in order to make a real impact, the Steering Group has agreed to focus the first year's work on a number of priorities which have emerged from our discussions and also consideration of the following documents:

- **Stockport Borough Plan: values and priorities**
- One Stockport brand
- Stockport Social Value Charter
- CLES report
- Stockport CAN Strategy
- Local plan

- Inequalities framework
- One Health and Care Plan and Integrated Care System
- Existing contracts e.g., highways (Tarmac)
- New contracts
- Stockport Homes collaboration
- Volunteering Strategy
- One Local Fund
- Schools Sufficiency Strategy

Extensive engagement, with a number of key stakeholders has also been undertaken, in order to test the priority cohorts and themes that have emerged from this work including;

- VCSE forum
- PACTS
- Stockport Borough Plan and One Health and Care Plan engagement feedback and EIA
- Social Value Steering Group
- Inequalities bitesize session
- Stockport Mayor
- Stockport Homes
- CAN summit
- SMBC Strategic Management Group

Following the engagement work, the priority cohorts and themes that have been proposed are outlined below:

COHORTS

- Care leavers
- Ex-offenders
- Long term unemployed
- Preparing for adulthood (Young adults with SEND aged 16/17-25)
- Veterans

THEMES

- Buying local, local wealth building and inclusive growth
- Loneliness and social isolation
- Training opportunities and routes into local employment e.g., target market gaps - social care
- Capacity building: internal (commissioning, contract monitoring, assessing the impact) and external (building relationships, connecting the ask with the need)
- Digital inclusion
- CAN Strategy-Carbon Action Plan

5. OPPORTUNITIES AND NEXT STEPS

One of the key aims within the social value work will be to develop a narrative for Stockport that describes what positive impact the work has had on local communities, the local economy and our valued voluntary and community sector partners. From April 2023, Local Authorities will be expected to provide an annual social value statement to the government, outlining what impact social value has made in their local area. Stockport's aim is to test this approach and submit a statement in April

2022. Not only will this help to target resources, but by doing this work a year early, will enable us to focus the following 12 months on gaps and opportunities.

This report will also be shared with the STAR Board and the STAR Joint Committee in November and December and after any further refinement, will be presented, alongside a draft action plan, equality impact assessment and environmental impact assessment, at the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2022.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to consider the report and the proposed priority cohorts and themes and provide any additional comments or feedback.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Stockport Social Value Charter

Appendix 2: Stockport Social Value Steering Group TOR

Appendix 3: Invitation to Mayor's Round Table (26.11.21)

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Laura Mercer on telephone number Tel: 0161 218 1799 or alternatively email laura.mercer@stockport.gov.uk