

Deal 2030

Health Engagement Update

In support of the Deal 2030 engagement activity, we visited a number of health centres around the Borough to ask people what they thought of their neighbourhood and what they would like the Borough to look like in 2030.

Locations:

Throughout November 2018, we visited 8 health centres, covering a number GP practices and community services, including:

- Atherton Health Centre – 3 GP Practices
- Beech Hill Medical Practice , Wigan– 1 GP Practice
- Bradshaw Medical Centre, Orrell – 1 GP Practice and Community Services
- Golborne Health Centre – 4 GP Practices
- Pemberton Surgery – 1 GP Practice
- Platt Bridge Health Centre – 3 GP Practices
- Standish Medical Centre – 1 GP Practice
- Tyldesley Health Centre – 1 GP Practice and Community Services

Methodology and Questions:

We spoke to approximately 150 people across the 8 locations.

The engagement was all undertaken as face-to-face conversations. We had two main questions:

- What do you think of your neighbourhood?
This was a starter question to encourage the person to talk to us and to start them thinking about their area.
- What should the Borough look and feel like in 2030?
This was the official Deal 2030 question, and did lead to some good responses.
Were people struggled with this question, we asked what they would like to see different in their area in the next 10 years.
Were necessary, we prompted them to think about what it is like now and what they would like to see changed, giving themes like health services, travel, shopping, safety as ideas to start them thinking.

Generally, people responded well to this type of informal conversation and were pleased to be given the opportunity to engage and comment.

Key Themes:

The responses varied dependent on the area, but there were a number of themes that came up:

- Cleanliness and the local environment
- Anti-social behaviour and community policing
- Public transport
- Cars and parking
- Facilities for young people
- Housing and supporting facilities
- Town Centres and borough cohesiveness
- Health and wellbeing

The nature of the questions leads people to consider what can be improved, but it is worth noting that in every area there were a number of people who were happy with their area and the services they received.

Cleanliness and the local environment:

People want a Borough that is cleaner and tidier.

Whilst a small number of people felt that lots was done to keep the areas tidy, a larger number of comments asked for more to be done. This included dog fouling and fly-tipping issues.

People made suggestions including residents in estates being asked to look after their garden, more collection or drop off points for large waste items and more bins on the street to reduce general untidiness from littering and dog fouling.

Bin collections also came up a number of times, with people asking for bin collections or more local tips. However, one person commented that the bins and recycling were excellent!

Anti-social behaviour and community policing

People want a Borough that has less anti-social behaviour problems and a more active community police force.

In a number of areas, some people felt like anti-social behaviour was a problem, particularly with young people, and that they would like to see a more active community police force.

It was suggested that the community police officers also needed more training on social skills and how to deal with specific issues like mental health.

Street-lighting was raised with people asking for more lighting to make them feel safer.

Public transport

People want a Borough with more reliable public transport that they can use to travel easily right across the Borough.

Public transport came up a number of times, particularly in surgeries in the more deprived areas of the Borough. Too few buses and buses running late were common comments.

There were requests for the routes to be reconsidered too to take in to account new housing estates. This linked to the comments on more shops being moved to out of town shopping centres, with people having to get two buses each way rather than one.

People feel it is too difficult to take public transport from one side of the Borough to the other.

Cars and parking

A number of people want a Borough with less cars on the roads.

In some areas it was felt you could only get places with a car.

However, there were lots of comments on the number of pot holes on the roads.

Car parks, particularly around health centres and hospitals, were raised with it being felt there weren't enough spaces.

A number of people felt that we should do more to reduce the number of cars and amount of traffic on the road by improving cycle routes and facilities and improving the public transport. It was commented on that more cycle facilities on roads would improve health too.

Facilities for young people

People want a Borough that has more facilities for young people.

A large number of people commented on the facilities for young people and made suggestions for improvements. This was heavily linked to the anti-social behaviour problem.

More youth clubs, more youth zones, schools open later for activities for children and young people, cleaner, safer local parks all came up as suggestions.

Housing and supporting facilities

People want new houses to be better supported by facilities

There was lots of comments on the amount of house building with fears that areas are getting overcrowded. Most of the focus was on the perceived lack of new supporting facilities such as GP practices and schools. It was felt more needed to be done around this.

There were also concerns that the greenspace in the Borough was being reduced.

Town centres and Borough cohesiveness

People want a Borough that has equal focus on all areas and town centres are flourishing

In some areas, particularly those on the East of the Borough, there was a feeling that their town centres were being left behind and lost, lacking the resources that are perceived to be going in to other areas in the Borough.

People felt that it was too hard to get from one side of the Borough to the other, and that more needed to be done to make it easier both by car and by public transport.

It was commented in several areas across the Borough that town centres were losing out to out of town shopping centres, or to fewer, bigger town centres, and that more needed to be done to reverse this over the next ten years.

Health and wellbeing

People want to continue to have access to local NHS services and reduce homelessness

There were a number of comments around a fear that the NHS will change in the next ten years and be privatised. This was not seen as a positive.

People were concerned about losing local NHS facilities and GP practices.

It was felt that services were good, but parking needed to improve and services continue to be supported.

Homelessness was raised a number of times, with people wanting more to be done to support people to get housing and rebuild lives.