

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2005

**ROOM M73, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Khaled R Khan (Chair)

Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty
Councillor Oliur Rahman

(none)

Other Councillors Present:

(none)

Co-opted Members Present:

Mr Naruz Jaman – Tower Hamlets PCT Patient and Public
Involvement Forum (Vice-Chair)

Officers Present:

Michael Keating – (Service Head, Research & Scrutiny)

Simmi Yesmin – (Democratic Services)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel. He thanked everyone for their attendance, following which those present introduced themselves.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Betheline Chattopadhyay, Kevin Morton and Helal Rahman. Apologies for absence were also received on behalf of Ms Kathleen Banks, Co-opted Member.

RESOLVED

That the apologies be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Health Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 28th September 2005 be approved as a correct record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them accordingly.

Arising from the discussion on Item 4.3, Mr Michael Keating, Service Head of Research and Scrutiny, informed Members that the proposals in Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS have now been amended. Answering the concerns raised by Members, Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust (PCT) would remain aligned to the borough.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**5. DELIVERING CHOOSING HEALTH - REVIEW UPDATE**

Mr Keating, introduced this report which provided an update of the review of choosing health, with a focus on obesity in young people. He briefly highlighted the main points of the review that had been set out in the report.

Members were urged to access the E-panel website and Weblog, Mr Keating mentioned that the website had been visited by many people from across the world and it had also been featured in the East London Advertiser.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted
2. Councillors Khaled R Khan, Tim O'Flaherty and Oliur Rahman volunteered to work with the PPI forum representatives on evaluating the Healthy Lifestyles Project.

6. ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK - FOLLOW UP

Mr Keating introduced this report and briefly reminded Members that the Healthcare Commission would annually assess all NHS Trusts using a new assessment framework. The framework included an assessment of core standards, existing targets, use of resources, new national targets and improvement reviews.

He highlighted that the Panel had met jointly with Health Scrutiny Councillors from Hackney and Newham for the first time to consider the East London and City Mental Health Trust's declaration and with both, Barts and the Royal London NHS Trust, and the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust to comment

on their declarations. Both meetings had been successful and the findings had been recognised in the submissions of each Trust.

The main areas of the report were highlighted and the following options for improving the involvement of the Panel were agreed:

- Build the Annual Health Check into the work programme for next year.
- Reports the Panel considers would include a paragraph on the Annual Health Check Implications, which would allow the Panel to keep track of issues to raise with the Trusts.
- Agree final comments on the three declarations at the next meeting of Health Scrutiny Panel.
- Develop joint scrutiny of the East London and the City Mental Health Trust with Hackney and Newham.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Mr Jeremy Burden, from Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust, gave a detailed review of the proposals from the Department of Health for involving the Independent Sector in expanding access and choice of services for patients in London.

In response to a Member question, Mr Burden confirmed that when GP's make decisions to refer patients, the patients would be given the choice, at the point of referral, whether to be referred to a hospital or to an assessment and treatment centre.

There were concerns on whether this would overload the services in the borough, Mr Burden assured the Panel that the assessment and treatment centres would be expanding services and therefore would reduce the current waiting period for patients to be seen.

It was agreed that the Health Scrutiny Panel be kept updated on the progress of this programme.

RESLOVED

That the contents of the Covering Letter and the Briefing Paper be noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Khaled R Khan
Health Scrutiny Panel