

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.35 P.M. ON MONDAY, 8 JANUARY 2018

**MP701, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG.**

Members Present

Councillor Clare Harrisson	(Chair)
Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Vice-Chair)
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	
Councillor Abdul Asad	
Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim	

Co-opted Members

David Burbidge	Healthwatch Representative
----------------	----------------------------

Officers

Joseph Lacey-Holland	Strategy and Performance Manager
Afia Khatun	Programme Manager Later Years of Life
Chris Lovitt	Associate Director Public Health
Ronke-Martins-Taylor	Division Director Youth and Commissioning
Rushena Miah	Committee Services Officer

Speakers and guests

Lucie Butler	Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Governance
Allison Herron	Maternity Management Team Bart's
Dr Matthew Hogg	Maternity Management Team Bart's
Kelly Jupp	Maternity Management Team Bart's
Shahida Trayling	Maternity Management Team Bart's
Jackie Sullivan	Managing Director Royal London and Mile End Hospitals – Bart's Health
Alwen Williams	CEO Bart's Health Trust
Martin Bould	Senior Joint Commissioner Mental Health and Joint Commissioning Team Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group
Nancy Meehan	Interim Divisional Director Children's Social Care
Simon Twite	Public Health Lead Maternity and Early Years
Bill Williams	General Manager IAPT Project, TH CAMHS

Apologies:

Councillor Peter Golds	
Daniel Kerr	Strategy and Performance Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2017 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed nominated Councillor Rachael Saunders for the position of Vice-Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed nominated Councillor Rachael Saunders for the position of Tower Hamlets Labour Member representative on the Inner North East London Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee (INEL JHOSC).

Councillor Saunders agreed to accept the positions.

RESOLVED

To appoint Councillor Rachael Saunders as Vice-Chair and Member of the INEL JHOSC.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

4.1 SCRUTINY CHALLENGE SESSION: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (ANNUAL ACTION PLAN UPDATE)

The Committee heard an update from Ronke Martins-Taylor, Divisional Director Youth and Commissioning, on the Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Service action plan. Ms Martins-Taylor apologised to the Committee for the delay in publishing the action plan. It was noted that the reasons for special urgency were included in the agenda pack published prior to the winter break. Key points from each recommendation were briefly summarised, these included:

1. The Council are working with Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group and the voluntary sector to strengthen early intervention services.
2. Tower Hamlets has a record number of schools, 97%, accredited with the Healthy Schools Accreditation.
3. Parent and infant emotion health and wellbeing training was delivered in 2016/17 as part of the Tower Hamlets Together training.
4. Data is being scrutinised to investigate if there is a correlation between care leavers and teenage pregnancy.
5. A new integrated young people's health and wellbeing service will begin in 2018 and will target young care leavers.

6. A co-commissioned specialist Community Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS) was launched to support young people experiencing mental health issues who have been in contact with the youth justice system.
7. Empowering service users to contribute to service development.
8. Christine McInnes, Service Head Education and Partnership, has been working with families to raise awareness of mental health issues via transformation projects.
9. Improving cultural awareness of mental health issues. A pilot delivered by Tree4Life, trained local women in delivering mental health first aid.
10. Reducing stigma in mental health via a 'Flourishing Minds' pilot.
11. Reviewing the workforce to make it reflective of the community. Core Bangladeshi employees were regarded as cultural consultants for the review.
12. Improving engagement with children and families in mental health awareness- The Children and Families team delivered training sessions for parents at schools.
13. The next Children and Family System Review will consider auditing children's centres.
14. That the Council and Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group are raising awareness of mental health and available support services to all staff.

Questions and comments from the Committee:

Councillor Mustaquim asked under what criteria are the young people admitted to the specialist CAMHS. Ms Martins-Taylor explained that the service is provided on a needs assessment basis. She advised Members to get in touch with her via email if they wanted to view a copy of the assessment criteria.

Councillor Asad said he was pleased with the action plan. With regard to recommendation one in the action plan he asked if an ethnic breakdown of the 123 people supported was available. In addition to this he asked what methods were used to support parent's emotional wellbeing and whether the Community Commissioning Panel was representative of the community.

ACTION:

Ronke-Martin's Taylor to investigate Councillor Asad's questions and report back:

Recommendation 1: What was the ethnic breakdown of the 123 people supported?

Recommendation 3: What methods were used to support parents emotional wellbeing in the training delivered?

Recommendation 9: Is the Community Commissioning Panel representative of the Community?

The Chair asked if there was a strand being developed around digital mental health outreach. Bill Williams, CAMHS, said there was interest in looking at this as a commissioning priority but there was nothing in place at present.

Cllr Asad asked if these recommendations were a result of the recent Ofsted result. It was confirmed that the tabled action plan was drafted in line with best practice in the sector as opposed to a specific response to Ofsted.

There was a discussion on the difficulty of getting priority for housing based on mental health considerations. The Committee agreed the link between housing and mental health should be explored.

The Chair thanked Ms Martins-Taylor for the update report.

RESOLVED

To note the action plan

4.2 LONELINESS

The Committee heard a presentation from Chris Lovitt, Associate Director Public Health, on loneliness and watched a video on two projects that were delivered in the borough to address the problem.

The first project was some research conducted by account3 on community perspectives on loneliness. Account3 trained twenty volunteers to engage with people over the age of fifty on the topic of loneliness.

The second project was titled Action on Loneliness and was delivered in care homes. This was a befriending scheme based on mutual interests. The project was a success and greatly valued by the care homes, however due to specialist knowledge and time and cost related to supporting volunteers it was not continued beyond the project end date.

There was a stakeholder event on the report and recommendations from that event can be found on page 39 of the agenda reports pack.

Mr Lovitt concluded his presentation and asked the Committee for advice on how to take the work forward.

The Chair opened the meeting for comments.

Dr Sam Everington, Chair THCCG, said that the projects addressed the cross cutting theme of compassion and kindness against health and loneliness. He wondered how this kind of work could be made sustainable and suggested it could be embedded into social prescribing.

Other Committee Members considered utilising part of the new Town Hall premises as a social space for isolated people.

The Chair highlighted the difficulty in defining loneliness. She said that although one might typically think of older people as being lonely, she knew of constituents who were younger and experiencing mental health issues who would also fit into the lonely category.

David Burbidge, Healthwatch representative, spoke about the link between loneliness and death. He used the Nottingham Warden Scheme as a case study and one potential solution to the issue. He said isolated people were visited by a community warden daily. He also said the miners community in Nottingham set up a Welfare Café where people with mental health issues could go for a hot drink and have a friendly conversation on what was troubling them.

In addition to this, he said that many elderly people in the LGBT community in Tower Hamlets are experiencing loneliness with the added burden of having to pay the bedroom tax.

The Committee broadly agreed that the Council should keep an eye on the London wide strategy on loneliness and explore opportunities to get involved with it.

There was a discussion on successful community projects that had brought people together, these included: Chatter Natter at St Andrews, Furry Tales – targeting people with dementia, mental health café and gardening allotment schemes.

Mr Lovitt said the presentation heard today supports the idea that loneliness is an issue in the borough and that it is linked to physical and mental health. The logical next step was to embed tackling loneliness throughout Council wide strategies.

Denise Radley said that there is a loneliness strand in the Ageing Well Strategy. There was a discussion on linking combating loneliness to social value and corporate volunteering.

The Chair said the presentation was a good introduction to the issue and asked Officers to add loneliness and homelessness to the Forward Plan for next year.

RESOLVED

To note the presentation.

To include loneliness on next year's Forward Plan.

4.3 SCRUTINY REVIEW: MATERNITY SERVICES

The Committee heard a presentation from Alwen Williams, CEO Bart's Health Trust and Kelly Jupp, Maternity Management Team at Bart's Health.

Having heard a number of recommendations from the Health Scrutiny Committee 18 months ago, a Maternity Partnership Board was set up to address the challenges. The Board made successes in five key areas, these were: safety, workforce, staff, partnership and staff wellbeing.

1. 10 secure doors have been installed and an electronic baby tag monitoring system has been introduced as well as an abduction policy implemented.
2. The recruitment web page has been revised to include direct contact details of the management team and list live vacancies. There is a 94% fill rate, one midwife to twenty-eight patients and two labour ward co-ordinators have been recruited. Staff members are required to sign up to both day and night shifts.
3. Overnight stays for partners have been introduced.
4. There has been greater partnership work with Healthwatch Tower Hamlets Social Action for Health a voluntary sector organisation.
5. Staff wellbeing initiatives have been introduced for the midwifery team and wider support staff including administrative workers.

With regard to the improvement plan, speakers were confident that the amber ratings will improve to green by March 2018.

The Chair opened the meeting to questions or comments from the Committee.

Dr Sam Everington, Chair of THCCG, thanked the team for their work. He said this was a fantastic turnaround given the pressures in a hospital setting.

The Chair said that she was very impressed with the report and was glad that things were moving in the right direction.

Councillor Asad asked how Brexit might affect the employment of midwives. Lucie Butler, Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Governance responded that recruitment efforts were going well and they had not seen a negative impact as a result of Brexit, as of yet. The CEO of Bart's Trust informed the Committee of plans to provide greater opportunities for the borough's young people and recruit more apprentices.

David Burbidge asked if the newly installed secure doors affected people with disabilities. Speakers assured Mr Burbidge that the doors were accessible and visitors could rely on reception staff to provide support in opening the doors if required.

It was noted that the carbon monoxide quick kits were due to arrive shortly.

The Chair thanked the Maternity Team at Bart's for their presentation.

RESOLVED

To note the report.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Clare Harrison,
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee