


Non-Executive Report of the: Health Scrutiny Subcommittee 5 March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health	Classification: Unrestricted
Integrated sexual health services in East London	

Originating Officer(s)	Chris Lovitt, Associate Director of Public Health; Dr Liat Sarner, Sexual Health and HIV Clinical Lead, Barts Health Sukhjit Sanghera, Public Health Programme Lead
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

Sexual health is an essential element of the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of individuals. It is influenced by a range of social, economic and cultural factors. The provision of an easily accessible and confidential sexual and reproductive health service is vital for the well-being of individuals and their communities and local authorities are responsible for providing this.

Tower Hamlets has taken an approach to commissioning a cross borough integrated sexual health service in 2017. The vision of this approach is to further improve sexual health across East London by building effective, responsive and high quality sexual health services that result in better sexual health outcomes for local residents.

This report provides an overview of the new integrated sexual health service, commissioned in 2017 and seeks to:-

- Describe the local picture of sexually transmitted infections and need for contraception choice amongst Tower Hamlets residents. Information has been extracted from Tower Hamlets LA HIV, sexual and reproductive health - epidemiology report (LASER 2016) which has been produced by Public Health England.
- Describe the integrated approach and priorities undertaken jointly across Newham, Waltham Forest, Redbridge and Tower Hamlets for the new service
- Outline the new service model and what this means for local residents
- Highlight future opportunities for continued service developments to meet local need through research, innovation and the implementation of the Whitechapel Masterplan

Recommendations:

The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Review presentation
2. Comment on proposals for future opportunities.

COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

The costs of the new service model for sexual health are being contained within the existing revenue budget which is funded by the Public Health grant. Sexual health represents a financial risk since this is a demand led service, however robust activity and cost monitoring is in place. Efficiencies through Pan-London tariff prices and channel shift to more modern and accessible services, are expected to achieve the medium term financial strategy savings of £525k from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

LEGAL COMMENTS

Sections 244-247 of the National Health Service Act 2006 govern the Council's health scrutiny function. The relevant regulations are the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 ("the Regulations"), which are aimed at supporting local authorities to discharge their scrutiny functions effectively. The Council has the power to review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area and can make recommendations and require a response from NHS bodies.

The Council also has statutory duties pursuant to section 2B(1) National Health Service Act 2006 to take steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area and section 6 of The Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2012 to provide or make arrangements to secure the provision of open access sexual health services in its area. Reviewing the new service model for sexual health and commenting on the proposals for future opportunities therefore falls within the functions of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.