

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 6.35 P.M. ON MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2018**

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Councillor Clare Harrison	Chair, Member
David Burbidge	Member

**Other Councillors present:**

Councillor Denise Jones	Cabinet Lead of Health & Adult Services
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**Officers:**

Somen Banerjee	Director of Public Health LBTH
Chris Banks	Chief Executive Tower Hamlets GP Care Group CIC
Samantha Buckland	Prescribing Advisor NEL Commissioning Support Unit
Richard Fradgely	Director Integrated Care – TH CCG
David Jones	Divisional Director, Adult Social Care
Michael Keating	East London Foundation Trust
Daniel Kerr	Strategy Policy & Performance Officer
Vanessa Lodge	Director of Nursing, Central and North East London
Chris Lovitt	Associate Director of Public Health
Rushena Miah	Committee Services Officer
Dr Liat Sarner	Sexual Health and HIV Clinical Lead, Bart's Health
Sukhjit Sanghera	Public Health Programme Lead
Mel Simmons	
Jackie Sullivan	Managing Director of Hospitals-Bart's Health NHS Trust
Denise Radley	Corporate Director Adults, Health & Community
Sarah Williams	Team Leader Legal Services

**1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was one amendment to the minutes, Denise Radley Corporate Director of Health, Adults and Community was to be noted as present.

Having made the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting on 8 January 2018 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

**3. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

The meeting started at 6.35pm and was inquorate throughout. The Committee Officer did not receive apologies from Members. The Chair decided to continue with the meeting in order to hear updates from officers for information.

#### **4. SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Members received a presentation from Chris Lovitt, Deputy Director of Public Health, on the recommissioning of sexual health services in the borough. A video on services provided was played to the Committee.

##### **Key points from the presentation:**

- Unified and seamless – that sexual health services were being provided in a more joined up way across Tower Hamlets, Newham and Waltham Forest.
- A centre of excellence would be opening in Stratford at the Sir Ludwig Guttmann centre from March 2018. It will support patients with complex needs.
- New training was developed targeted at primary care staff to provide better advice and guidance further to patient feedback.
- Patients would have greater access and choice of services for non-complex cases.
- That smart e-testing kits for sexually transmitted infections could be ordered online or collected from a GP.
- That service provision included a clinical bus that could travel to areas of need.

##### **Discussion points:**

- A Member asked when the smart kits would go online. Officer confirmed they would be launched May 2018. They could be collected from a GP practice or ordered online. They will not be available at pharmacies.
- The Pharmacy STI testing kit scheme would continue for the time being. It is envisioned that the smart kits would eventually replace the pharmacy scheme.
- Homerton Hospital in Hackney was successful in the bid to run services at St Bartholomew's Hospital.
- The erectile dysfunction clinic has moved to the Ambrose Centre. It was confirmed urology would be the first point of call for erectile dysfunction issues.
- It was noted that residents tended to go outside of the borough for sexual health services. Health officers advocated for local service take up because they provide a more holistic approach offering both testing and treatment.
- Members raised concerns about the quality of primary care for sexual health issues. They said that GP staff did not always have in-depth knowledge about complex issues and that sometimes patients felt stigmatised.
- In response it was reiterated that the training programme had been designed with those concerns in mind.

##### **RESOLVED**

To note the update.

## **5. PATIENT VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT**

The Committee heard a presentation from Richard Fradgley, Director of Integrated Care – East London Foundation Trust and Michael Keating, Partnership Manager East London Foundation Trust, on how local statutory health partners were engaging with the community.

### **Context:**

Tower Hamlets has been funded as a vanguard site for the past three years further to the NHS five year forward plan.

Tower Hamlets Together will join existing health partners to form an integrated health system.

### **Discussion points arising from the presentation:**

- Members queried which partner was in charge of the managing the engagement budget. It was confirmed that as of 1 April 2018 TH CCG will be responsible for co-ordinating engagement budgets.
- Tower Hamlets Together (THT) would continue to exist and feed into the integrated care system. Under new governance arrangements, THT will be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is collectively resourced by statutory health partners.
- Members raised concerns about the same people being engaged time and again. They wanted assurances that people would be empowered to engage so they can participate. It was suggested that provision should be made to address barriers to participation.
- That patient participation was one form of engagement and that other methods of engagement were employed.
- The complexity of picking out budget lines associated with engagement.
- Members asked if there were examples of where patient engagement has improved services. Health partners assured the Committee that there was plenty of anecdotal evidence of this however, as there was no clinical measurement of this built into the system, it was difficult to produce a case study.
- Patient engagement will be captured in the Community Health Services Outcomes Framework Year 1.
- Patient preference and clinician preference often vary. It was thought that services would see better outcomes if patient preference was taken into account.

### **RESOLVED:**

- To note the presentation.
- To revisit patient engagement and health outcomes in the next municipal year.

## **6. COMMUNITY ALLIANCE AGREEMENT**

Chris Banks, Chief Executive Tower Hamlets GP Care Group, provided an update on the Community Health Service Alliance Agreement which was launched in April 2017.

**Questions and comments from the Committee:**

- A Member asked how the Babylon Project would affect the Partnership Alliance. Mr Banks responded that online consultations were becoming increasingly popular, especially amongst the younger generation. There were risks but overall health professionals thought it was a good idea. Something similar may be reproduced in Tower Hamlets.
- One member stated that retaining the family approach and setting up long term condition groups were key to retaining a patient base, not the tariff system.

**RESOLVED**

To note the update.

**7. NHS PRESCRIPTION CONSULTATION**

The Committee heard a presentation from Samantha Buckland, Prescribing Manager NEL Commissioning Support Unit, on the NHS Prescription Consultation.

**Key points from the presentation included:**

- £569 million savings could be made by patients purchasing medications over the counter as opposed to via a GP prescription. This money could be reinvested into local healthcare systems.
- For many conditions the over the counter option is often cheaper than the prescribed cost.
- The consultation would be looking to review 33 conditions as opposed to medications.
- There is a risk that the Pharmacy First Scheme may be discontinued as a consequence of the consultation.
- The consultation ends on 14 March 2018. Members were encouraged to submit a response.

**Comments from Members:**

- Members were very concerned with the potential loss of the Pharmacy First Scheme. They said many local people relied on the service.
- It was confirmed that long term pain and associated medications would not be under review.
- Members and officers raised a point that parents must be better educated on how to treat minor ailments at home.
- Effective signposting would be required to help residents find the cheapest deal for over the counter medications.
- Readable patient leaflets on the consultation were produced and GP staff have been informed on the proposed changes.

**RESOLVED**

- To note the consultation.
- For committee Members to contact Daniel Kerr, Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer, if they have any comments to feed into the consultation.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Clare Harrisson  
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

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