

<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 November 2019</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Denise Radley, Corporate Director of Health, Adults and Community</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Review of Homelessness Action Plan</b></p>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Warwick Tomsett, Divisional Director: Integrated Commissioning
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

### **Executive Summary**

In 2018 a Scrutiny Review was undertaken by the Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Sub-committee into the health and social care provision for homeless residents in Tower Hamlets. An action plan with recommendations was agreed by the Sub-committee and submitted to Cabinet for implementation in December 2018.

This review of the Homelessness Action Plan seeks to provide an update on progress to date.

### **Recommendations:**

The Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Sub-committee is recommended to:

1. Note and comment on the progress made in responding to the recommendations raised by the Committee during its previous deliberations, in February 2018, on meeting the health care needs of the homeless population including those living in hostels.

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The report is for noting only.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee could choose to make further recommendations in respect of any additional actions it felt were necessary in respect of this matter.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the provision of health care for people who are homeless, including those living in hostels in the borough, at two meetings held in February 2018. As a result of its deliberations, the Committee made fourteen recommendations for action by the Council, NHS organisations and voluntary sector partners.

- 3.2 One of those recommendations was for the Health, Adults and Community Directorate to convene a multi-agency group to consider how best to respond to the recommendations made. This group was duly constituted and met for the first time in April 2018 and has met approximately quarterly since then. An action plan was developed by the multi-agency group, which continues to oversee progress in implementing the various actions.

- 3.3 The document appended to this report provides an update on progress in responding to the Committee's recommendations.

## **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no new proposals contained in this report that generate any equalities implications.

## **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

- 5.2 The action plan was developed in the wider context of the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to homelessness, including those conferred by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 This paper sets out an update on the progress made on delivering the recommendations to meet the health care needs of the homeless population including those living in hostels.
- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications of this update report. Where the further implementation of recommendations may result in the commissioning of new service provision, the relevant governance arrangements will need to be followed, which will include consideration of the financial implications of individual proposals.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 Sections 244-247 of the National Health Service Act 2006 govern the Council's health scrutiny function, which gives the Council the power to review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area and to make recommendations and require a response from NHS bodies. This report seeks to update on the progress of the recommendations.
- 7.2 Under Sections 1-7 of the Care Act 2014, the Council has a number of general duties, including a duty to co-operate generally with those it considers appropriate who are engaged in the Council's area relating to adults with needs for care and support, and to promote the wellbeing of individuals in the borough. Further, there is a general duty to prevent needs for care and support from developing.
- 7.3 These duties, and the Council's duties in respect of assessing and meeting the eligible care and support needs for individuals, apply to equally to people who may currently be homeless, but are physically in the Council's area. The recommendations from Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee to improve the access of homeless people to effective health and social care provision are consistent with these duties.
- 7.4 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 ("HRA") introduced with effect from 3 April 2018, places additional duties on housing authorities, requiring earlier intervention and for steps to be taken to 'prevent' homelessness and to provide 'relief' from homelessness. Homeless applicants are entitled to assistance to avoid becoming homeless, those already experiencing homelessness will be able to access assistance regardless of whether they have a priority need.
- 7.5 When considering the recommendations regard must be given to the public sector equalities duty to eliminate unlawful conduct under Section 149 Equality Act 2010. It requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination (both direct and

indirect discrimination), harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited under the Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The recommendations are consistent with these duties.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

### **Appendices**

- Homelessness Action Plan status as at October 2018

### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

#### **List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report**

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

### **Officer contact details for documents:**

N/A