

Committee	Date	Classification	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Health Scrutiny Panel	23 rd April 2013	Unrestricted		4.4
Reports of: Assistant Chief Executive, Legal Services London Borough of Tower Hamlets Presenting Officer: Robert Driver, Strategy Policy and Performance Officer One Tower Hamlets Service, Chief Executive's Directorate		Title: Report of the Scrutiny Review on Community Health Assets Ward(s) affected: All		

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the findings of the Scrutiny Review on Community Health Assets for the Health Scrutiny Panel and highlights a number of recommendations to be put before Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and referral on to Cabinet for agreement.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Agree the report of the Scrutiny Review of Community Health Assets to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and referral to Cabinet.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Background paper

Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection

None

N/A

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This review outlines the findings of an investigation into 'community health assets' in Tower Hamlets and assesses how consideration of existing 'community assets' can contribute to a shift in thinking about how communities and service providers can improve wellbeing and respond to ill-health. It demonstrates how practitioners can change the way they engage with individuals and the way planners design places and services so that more meaningful and appropriate services are provided.
- 3.2 The aims and objectives of this review were:
- To provide an introduction to community assets and their relation to health
 - To explore how faith communities can act as community health assets
 - To present a case study of a community asset mapping exercise in St. Paul's Way, with a specific focus on faith communities and their capacity to promote health and wellbeing
 - To suggest how local conditions can be improved to promote the health benefits of existing community assets
- 3.3 The recommendations of the review are intended to strengthen the Council's approach to health promotion through improving our understanding of community health assets.

4. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

- 4.1 The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants and may make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions. This would include discharge by the authority of any of its public health functions.
- 4.2 The Health Scrutiny Panel (HSP) is a standing sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which exercises health scrutiny functions provided for in section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002. Primarily these functions cover the review and scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in Tower Hamlets. The Council's Constitution reflects the requirements of section 244 of the NHS Act and does not make specific provision for the HSP to scrutinise the Council's public health functions. It seems reasonable, however, that it should do so and in this instance it is only making a recommendation to the main committee in any event.
- 4.3 The Council has a duty under section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in Tower Hamlets. The steps the Council may take in the discharge of its duty include –
- Providing information and advice.
 - Providing services or facilities designed to promote healthy living.
 - Providing services or facilities for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness

- Providing financial incentives to encourage individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles.
- Providing assistance to individual to minimize any risks to health arising from their accommodation or environment.
- Providing or participating in the provision of training in health improvement (for workers or work seekers in the field).
- Making services or facilities available.
- Providing grants or loans.

4.4 The Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013 prescribe how the Council must discharge its general public health duty. Those prescriptions deal with the conduct of health checks for eligible person, the provision of open access sexual health services, the provision of a public health advice service to clinical commissioning groups and the provision of advice and assistance with a view to promoting the preparation of appropriate local health protection arrangements.

4.5 The recommendations made in the attached report in respect of community health assets appear capable of being carried out within the Councils' public health functions.

4.6 In considering what recommendations to make, the Committee must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

5.1 This report describes findings of the Scrutiny Review of Community Health Assets.

5.2 There are no other specific financial implications emanating from this report. However, if the Council agrees further action in response to this report's recommendations then officers will be obliged to seek the appropriate financial approval before further financial commitments are made.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 A 'community assets' approach to health promotion values the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections and potential in a community. It is an alternative to the more familiar 'deficit' approach that focuses on the problems, needs and deficiencies in a community which can lead to service design that fill the gaps and fixes problems. In identifying the value of the community assets approach and demonstrating how this can be applied in practice to improve engagement of local people in health promotion activities, this Review and its recommendations have the potential to have a positive impact on health outcomes for our most disadvantaged communities, build strong relationships between people and organisations and support effective community leadership.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the report or recommendations.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from the report or recommendations.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct crime and disorder reduction implications arising from the report or recommendations.