

Committee Health Scrutiny Panel	Date 23 rd April 2013	Classification Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No. 4.5
Reports of: Assistant Chief Executive, Legal Services London Borough of Tower Hamlets		Title: Report of the Scrutiny Review on the Health Borough Programme		
Presenting Officer: Robert Driver, Strategy Policy and Performance Officer One Tower Hamlets Service, Chief Executive's Directorate		Ward(s) affected: All		

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the findings of the Scrutiny Review on the Healthy Borough Programme for the Health Scrutiny Panel and highlights a number of recommendations to be put before the 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 on the Healthy Borough Programme 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
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None

N/A

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Tower Hamlets Healthy Borough Programme (HBP) started as part of the national Healthy Towns pilot programme funded through the Cross Government Obesity Unit between 2009 and 2011. The HBP was delivered in partnership with Tower Hamlets Public Health, Tower Hamlets Council, Tower Hamlets voluntary sector and other partners. The programme has now been mainstreamed.
- 3.2 This Review focused on how children were impacted by the HBP. It evaluated how well projects and service provision has been mainstreamed for early years and children of school age across the NHS, within Council directorates and external organisations
- 3.3 At the time that the funding for the HBP was received the national economic climate looked very different and the information for bidders suggested that if pilot schemes were successful there would be opportunities to bid for additional funding to extend beyond March 2011. This review evaluated the HBP within the context of reduced financial resources and focused on financially viable ways to progress and develop on the achievements and objectives of the Programme.
- 3.4 As Public Health is transferred to the Council this review of the impact of the HBP can help inform the development of new approaches to improving health outcomes for residents to be taken forward across the Council and offers recommendations on how different stakeholders can work together to improve health and wellbeing across the borough.

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

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. The Council has a duty under section 2B of the National Health Service (NHS) 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.
- d. 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.
- e. The Council is required by section 73A of the NHS Act to appoint a director of public health, acting jointly with the secretary of state.
- f. The recommendations made in the attached report in respect of the healthy borough programme appear capable of being carried out within the Councils' public health functions.
- g. 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 on the Healthy Borough Programme.
- 5.2 From 1st April 2013, local authorities take over responsibility for public health provision from the NHS. A ring-fenced grant will be provided to fund these activities from the government and the 2013-14 Council budget assumes that the additional costs of public health services transferring to the Council will be contained within this grant which has been announced as £31.3 million for 2013-14
- 5.3 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 The Healthy Borough Programme sought to improve health outcomes for residents of the borough, with a particular focus on those most likely to suffer from poor health. Reducing health inequalities not only improves quality of life for local people but has positive benefits in terms of reducing poverty and social exclusion. Ensuring that the learning from the Healthy Borough Programme and its impact on reducing health inequalities is a key part of building a robust approach to addressing disadvantage in the borough.

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.