Health and Wellbeing Board Tuesday 7 July 2015	Tower Hamlets **Health and Wellbeing Board**
Report of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets	**Classification:** [Unrestricted]
Health and Wellbeing Story: Healthy Homes project case study	

Lead Officer	Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health
Contact Officers	Tim Madelin, Senior Public Health Strategist
Executive Key Decision?	No

Executive Summary

Many health & social care professionals have contact with some of most vulnerable people in the community, but there is a gap in their knowledge in how to identify and refer poor housing conditions that they may either seen directly or that they observe the effect of in terms of exasperated long term conditions or slower recover from illness.

The healthy homes project has developed a referral system to environmental health particularly around vulnerable tenants and to increase awareness in both professionals and tenants about what can be done to tackle poor hosing conditions in private sector housing. The case study illustrates the type of intervention and outcomes that can be achieved by the project.

 Recommendations:

 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Note the case study of an intervention as part of the Healthy Homes project.

2. Reflect on the role housing plays in Health and Wellbeing.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1.1 Presentation is for information, no decision required.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 Presentation is for information, no decision required.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

3.1 Many of the poorest housing conditions in Tower Hamlets are found within the private rented sector with over 16 % of dwellings having a serious hazard present (category 1 hazard as defined by Housing Health and Safety Rating System, BRE report 2013). Whilst the effect of these can be extremely detrimental to the tenants the cost of these hazards to wider society is estimate to be nearly £3 million.

3.2 Many health & social care professionals have contact with some of most vulnerable people in the community, but there is a knowledge gap in how to identify and refer poor housing conditions; that they may either have seen directly or have observed the effects of in terms of exasperated long term conditions or slower recovery from illness.

3.3 The aim of the project is to increase the number of properties with vulnerable tenants that have their conditions improved through environmental health intervention.

3.4 This will be achieved by a multi-faceted approach namely:

- Establishing referral mechanisms with the primary health care sector particularly with groups that visit people in their homes.
- Increasing health professionals' knowledge, confidence and skills about private sector housing conditions and how poor conditions can be addressed.
- Developing a mobile reporting tool
- Establishing a fund to enable small scale works which have a highly detrimental effect on tenants to be carried out expeditiously.
- Embedding the evaluation of the wider cost benefits of the improvements in conditions achieved using appropriate tools such as the Housing Health Cost Calculator

3.5 The presentation to board illustrates the type of intervention and outcomes that can be achieved by the project by way of a case study. It also highlights of the poor housing conditions that can be found in the private rented sector often occupied by vulnerable tenants and the impact on health and wellbeing they can have.

4.   COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1.   Not Applicable -presentation is for information

5.   LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1.   Not Applicable -presentation is for information

6.   ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1.   Not Applicable -presentation is for information.

7.   SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

7.1   Not Applicable -presentation is for information.

8.   RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1.   Not Applicable -presentation is for information.

9.   CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1   Not Applicable -presentation is for information

10.   EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

10.1   Not Applicable -presentation is for information

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Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices
- None

Background Documents
- None