

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
Pre-Decision Questions - Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27th July, 2015

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<p>Agenda Item 5.1 – Mental Health Recovery and Well-Being Service</p>	<p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Committee asked the following:</p> <p>The report makes reference to more flexible and meaningful work opportunities being created. However:</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>I. Will the Lead Provider and Sub-contracted providers be required to pay their staff a London Living Wage?</p> <p>The ‘Recovery & Wellbeing’ model will provide opportunities for people to develop skills, experience and confidence to assist people prepare for employment, voluntary/vocational work and/re training/education. As such the service will not be directly responsible for terms and conditions of employment opportunities that service users may wish to pursue. Voluntary sector organisations commissioned by the Council are required to employ people on a living wage.</p> <p>II. What is the cost per head in respect to each service user?</p> <p>Analysis based on monitoring data (Jan – March 2015) from 16 services (in scope for proposed development) across the Borough identifies 1615 service users were supported at a cost of £340,985 giving an estimated cost per head of £211 over a 3 month period. This can be broken down further to £16 per week per service user.</p> <p>III. As 30,000 LBTH residents are living with mental health issues what is the percentage of the take up of this service?</p> <p>In total there are approximately 30,000 adults estimated to have symptoms of a common</p>

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	<p>mental health problem in the borough, with around 15,900 people known to their GP to have depression, and 3,300 known to have a serious mental illness. Traditionally in Tower Hamlets (in keeping with other areas) mental health day services have been provided to people with long term serious mental health illness.</p> <p>Based on a snapshot of current use of services (in scope the for proposed service development) Jan- March 2015 there were 1615 service users with longer term mental health issues which indicate an estimated take up of current services around 50% of target population based on long term severe mental illness.</p> <p>The proposed 'Recovery & Wellbeing' model aims to provide lower level support, information and guidance in addition to maintaining support for people with long term mental illness. It is anticipated that even greater numbers of people with a range of mental health challenges will benefit from the new service.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5.2 – Transfer of Commissioning Responsibility for Early Years (0-5 years) Public Health Services from NHS England to the Local Authority.</p>	<p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Committee asked the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding the estimates on recruitment for Health Visitors and not being able to fully meet the target of 95 Health Visitors. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. How far below the target will LBTH be by 1st October, 2015?; and II. Is this the responsibility of LBTH as the commissioner or the NHS as the provider of the service? 2. What work has been done on looking at practical joined up working between Children Centres; Troubled Families and Health Visitors? <p>Response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Progress on recruitment is being made but the best current estimate is that the service may be roughly 20 below the target of 95 Health Visitors at the time of transfer. This is due to a national shortage of trained Health Visitors which is acknowledged by the Department of Health; and

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	<p>II. From October 2015 it will be the responsibility of both the Council and the service provider to continue the trajectory towards the Call to Action target figure. The Council will ensure that when the service is re-procured for April 2016 the target number of Health Visitors is embedded in the service specification.</p> <p>2. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement exercise to plan for the transfer of Health Visiting responsibilities to the Council was completed in early 2015. This considered in depth how health visiting should join up with other Council services for children and families, particularly high need families, children with special needs and looked after children.</p> <p>A joint strategic working group including Children`s Centres and the Public Health Lead on Health Visiting commissioning is being established to ensure that there is a joined up approach. The new specification for the Health Visiting service clearly sets out the requirement to work closely in partnership with Children`s Centres and Children`s Social Care services to deliver the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5.3 – Ending Groups, Gangs and Serious Violence (EGGSYV)</p>	<p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Committee asked the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With regard to the Thematic Review (Section 6.3 Page 109 refers) for serious youth violence and looking at backgrounds of young people’s cases when will this be published? 2. The report states that LBTH does not currently have a significant gangs and serious youth violence issue in LBTH as evidenced in other Boroughs. How has comparison been evidenced? 3. Will there be accountability/reporting to the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board? 4. We would wish to have a clearer understanding of how this work would link in with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services? 5. Regarding issues of ASB what will be done help those young people who are not gang members? <p>Response:</p>

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	<p>Committee asked the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="709 326 1965 435"> <p>1. With regard to the Thematic Review (Section 6.3 Page 109 refers) for serious youth violence and looking at backgrounds of young people's cases when will this be published?</p> <p>The initial outcomes of this review have been considered by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and it has been agreed that the actions and recommendations from the review will be implemented through the EGGSYV Strategy action plan. The recommendations are currently being considered by a working group and the final report will be going to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board on 24th September with a view to publish the report in October 2015.</p> <li data-bbox="709 732 1965 841"> <p>2. The report states that LBTH does not currently have a significant gangs and serious youth violence issue in LBTH as evidenced in other Boroughs. How has comparison been evidenced?</p> <p>Comparatively Tower Hamlets has young population and high levels of poverty which the research indicates are key causal factors for GGSYV. The idea that we are not significantly involved has evolved from practitioners working closely with local service users and although the numbers are not alarming, the significance and nature of the trauma and violence used is alarming and of concern to practitioners. We need to improve the monitoring arrangements for GGSYV. There are a number of indicators which tell us that we do not have a significant problem compared to neighbouring boroughs. Our first time entrants to the Youth Justice system for example are better than the 'family' average and has halved over the last three years. We are seeing a spike in serious incidences and the recent ones have involved knives and we need a strategy in place to define our strategic approach and put in place operational arrangements to deliver a service offer which is co-ordinated with partners and invests in taking a prevention approach.</p> <li data-bbox="709 1390 1934 1458"> <p>3. Will there be accountability/reporting to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board?</p>

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	<p>The Local Safeguarding Children’s Board have been involved in developing this strategy. The EGGSYV Co-ordinator will work closely with all the key safeguarding posts to take forward the implementation of the strategy. We have aligned the strategy to Troubled Families Programme and the Community Safety Partnership Board, highlighting the need for the strategy to bring together strategic and operational lead to both support individuals taking a whole family approach and to ensure that the enforcement angle is appropriate and co-ordinated. The local authority strategic lead who the EGGSYV Co-ordinator will have dotted line reporting to will also attend Troubled Families Board and the proposed Strategic Action Group, she is also on the Community Safety Partnership Board and is a member of the LSCB. The strategy is framed around safeguarding and it is likely that the LSCB will receive an annual update on the EGGSYV Strategy. The strategic lead is also on the Child Sexual Exploitation Group and the Co-ordinator will sit on the MASE.</p> <p>4. We would wish to have a clearer understanding of how this work would link in with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services?</p> <p>The CAMH Service has been involved in developing this strategy. The proposed Strategic Action Group will be a multi-agency group co-ordinating a response to GGSYV with a co-ordinated service offer for those involved considering the involvement of the family and wider community where appropriate and will have CAMHS representation. The strategy will link with the CAHMS development of the conduct disorder service which will work with young people with multiple difficulties or persistent patterns of ASB across local services using network approach and NICE recommendations.</p> <p>5. Regarding issues of ASB what will be done help those young people who are not gang members?</p> <p>The Strategy proposes a prevention and intervention approach. There are a number of data sets which can be used to identify young people at risk of becoming involved in more serious activities. The strategy proposes that this will be used and data considered periodically to identify individuals and to identify trends and hot-spots in relation to GGSYV. YOT practitioners build relationships with young people and provide diversionary activities with education being the ultimate goal.</p>

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<p>Agenda Item 5.5 – Sovereign Court – Change of Consent and Lease Extension</p>	<p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Committee asked the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What evidence is there that AML has the ability to deliver a decent standard of living for the prospective residents of Sovereign Court? <p>Response:</p> <p>The permitted development rights being utilised by AML were introduced by the Coalition Government in 2013. They allow the change of use of buildings from B1 (offices) to C3 (homes) in order to provide new homes in existing buildings without requiring the applicant to submit a full planning application. This means the council is not allowed to consider issues such as the internal layout, overlooking, daylight/sunlight etc. The only matters that can be considered are flood risk, transport and contamination as part of the prior approval process. Building Regulations approval will still be required; although this is about meeting certain minimum standards in relation to fire safety, structural safety etc.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5.6 – Strategy and Options for the use of Right to Buy Receipts</p>	<p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Committee asked the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In terms of Best Value what assessment has been made on the proposal to buy back homes sold previously under Right to Buy? 2. With regard to the Baroness Road and Hereford sites what consultation has there been with local councillors? 3. What is actual the risk that planning will be delayed or rejected on the basis of mono-tenure? <p>Response:</p> <p>1. Best Value assessment.</p> <p>Paragraph 16 covers best value considerations for the report.</p>

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	<p>Paragraph 16.2 notes that future specific Best Value implications will be noted on a scheme basis. Paragraph 16.3 notes that alternative methods of funding have been considered for the use of receipts and the current proposal presents the best option going forward.</p> <p>2. Hereford and Locksley consultation.</p> <p>There has been limited consultation. The Council appointed Bell Philips Architect in July 2015 and a scheme is being developed for detailed resident consultation in August 2015. The council is reviewing its approach to ensure more detailed consultation at an earlier stage.</p> <p>3. Planning risk due to Mono-Tenure</p> <p>The report does not detail tenure mix in full; this will vary from site to site as schemes are developed further. The report sets out our overall approach for 1-4-1 receipts. Regarding the issue of Mono-Tenure the proposed sites are already within mixed-tenure estates and the new build proposals are for a limited number of units.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5.7 - Strategic Performance, 14/15 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring Q4/Year End</p>	<p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Committee asked the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What assessment has the Mayor undertaken regarding those funding priorities as agreed by the previous administration and will the Mayor review these decisions? 2. What is the Mayors intention with regard to the Banglatown Art Trail and Arches (Page 274 refers)? 3. What is the position with regard to the underperformance of Black UK pupils and Looked after Children (Page 310 refers)? 4. With regard to the CCG review of health support services for Looked after Children will this review be referred to the Corporate parent Steering Group (Page 322 refers)? 5. With regard to the percentage of household waste sent for reuse/composting and re-cycling (Page 285 refers) what is being done to improve the direction of travel?

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	<p>6. With regard to the achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades (Page 288 refers) how does this compare to the national averages?</p> <p>7. Given the level of incidence with regard to the Number of Violence with Injury Incidents (Page 291 refers) what is the MPS view?</p> <p>8. Why is the “Time to Adoption” (Page 298 refers) as long as it is?</p> <p>Responses:</p> <p>1. What assessment has the Mayor undertaken regarding those funding priorities as agreed by the previous administration? Will the Mayor review these decisions?</p> <p>An initial assessment has been made as part of the Strategic and Resource Planning report at tonight’s committee, which re-aligns revenue spending priorities. A more detailed assessment will be made as part of the ongoing budgeting and medium term planning process for 2016/17.</p> <p>2. What is the Mayors intention with regard to the Banglatown Art Trail and Arches (Page 274 of Cabinet papers)?</p> <p>The 2016/17 Budget process will examine uncommitted capital projects, including this project, in detail. Any changes will be fully reported to Cabinet in the lead up to budget setting in February 2016.</p> <p>3. What is the position with regard to the underperformance of Black UK pupils and Looked after Children (Page 310 refers)?</p> <p>Black UK pupils are not an underperforming group in Tower Hamlets. The percentage of Black UK pupils in Tower Hamlets achieving at least 5 GCSEs graded A* to C including English and Maths was 58.2%. This is only 1.5 percentage points below the borough average of 59.7% and above the performance of black UK pupils nationally which was 53.7%. In 2013, the figure for black UK pupils was 65.2%, slightly above the borough average, and in 2012 it was 59.4%, slightly below the borough average. The number of pupils in this cohort is relatively low, at around 300 pupils each year, and as such the difference</p>

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	<p>in their performance to the borough average is not significant.</p> <p>11.5% of looked after children in Tower Hamlets achieved 5 or more GCSEs graded A*to C including English and Maths in 2014. Whilst this is only slightly below the national average of 12.5%, and the cohort is very small (25 children in 2014), we are concerned at the large decrease from 25% in 2013. We are recruiting a new Virtual School Head who will learn from the practice of best performing councils to drive improvement in the performance of our looked after children.</p> <p>4. With regard to the CCG review of health support services for Looked after Children will this review be referred to the Corporate parent Steering Group (Page 322 refers)?</p> <p>Yes, the report will be referred to the Corporate Parenting Steering Group.</p> <p>5. With regard to the percentage of household waste sent for reuse/composting and re-cycling (Page 285 refers) what is being done to improve the direction of travel?</p> <p>The principle emerging challenge has been contamination of recycling bins with non-recyclable material. Clean, Green & Highways, alongside the Veolia Outreach and Education Team, are currently working closely with registered providers to decrease instances of contamination and increase the quality and quantity of recycling collected from estates. A new communication campaign to compliment this work, to tackle contamination and increase participation, is being planned for the later on the year. Cooperation and active participation in this by RSL's will be important as will any decision on the future of East End Life. In addition, work is being carried out to encourage households to take part in the food waste collection scheme in houses. Tower Hamlets still has one of the highest dry recycling rates for Inner London. Any significant increase in Recycling from existing levels will be the result of contract procurement and configuration decisions members are currently considering, much longer term impacts of better recycling design of new buildings and future reviews of recycling policy driven by UK and EU targets and potential fines.</p>

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	<p data-bbox="709 253 1948 321">6. With regard to the achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades (Page 288 refers) how does this compare to the national averages?</p> <p data-bbox="806 363 1959 431">The following table shows the Tower Hamlets outturns for 2014/15 compared with the national average for the four Strategic Measures on attainment:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="806 472 1934 777"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="806 472 1388 548">Strategic Measure</th> <th data-bbox="1388 472 1591 548">TH outturn 14/15</th> <th data-bbox="1591 472 1934 548">National Average 14/15</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="806 548 1388 625">Early Years Foundation Profile (good level of development)</td> <td data-bbox="1388 548 1591 625">55%</td> <td data-bbox="1591 548 1934 625">60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="806 625 1388 701">Key Stage 2 attainment (Reading, Writing and Maths)</td> <td data-bbox="1388 625 1591 701">82%</td> <td data-bbox="1591 625 1934 701">78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="806 701 1388 740">GCSE (5 or more A*-C)</td> <td data-bbox="1388 701 1591 740">59.7</td> <td data-bbox="1591 701 1934 740">53.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="806 740 1388 777">A-Level (Average Points Score)</td> <td data-bbox="1388 740 1591 777">687.2</td> <td data-bbox="1591 740 1934 777">772.7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="709 855 1881 924">7. Given the level of incidence with regard to the Number of Violence with Injury Incidents (Page 291 refers) what is the MPS view?</p> <p data-bbox="806 966 1965 1326">An extensive restructure of the Police Analytical Resources across the whole Metropolitan Police Service in February 2014, led to a significant reduction in the number of analytical staff. As a direct response to this reduction in resource the Borough Police currently only comment on their Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) measures/indicators and targets in the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan as opposed to Local Authority targets. Whilst the Police do not comment on Council targets, the increase, in part, is due to the change in the way the Police record crimes. In the past some, violence with injury incidents were not recorded as crimes. The Home Office have changed the rules and the HMIC now tell the Police Forces to record using the new guidelines.</p> <p data-bbox="709 1369 1772 1401">8. Why is the “Time to Adoption” (Page 298 refers) as long as it is?</p> <p data-bbox="806 1443 1902 1472">The performance figure measures the time between a child entering care, and</p>	Strategic Measure	TH outturn 14/15	National Average 14/15	Early Years Foundation Profile (good level of development)	55%	60%	Key Stage 2 attainment (Reading, Writing and Maths)	82%	78%	GCSE (5 or more A*-C)	59.7	53.4	A-Level (Average Points Score)	687.2	772.7
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them being placed with adoptive parents following a placement order awarded by the courts. Difficulty matching children with suitable adopters can cause delay in the process. It is particularly hard to find suitable adopters for black and minority ethnic children, sibling groups and those with special educational need/ complex health needs. In addition, delays can occur in court processes particularly if a case is contested. Finally because of the small number in the cohort for this indicator (21 in 2014-15), the average time figure can be skewed by small number of very complex cases- over half of our adoptions in 2014-15 were completed in less than the national average time, but the average time was dragged up by very few complex cases (see chart below). Nationally, the average time for this process was 533 days in 2014-15. Our performance over the three years up to March 2015 was an average of 645 days which is relatively poor, and we are taking action to address this by setting up a new permanence team and increasing the pool of available adopters.

“At the end of March 2015 there were 25 children awaiting adoption, 17 of whom were already placed for adoption, i.e. placed with families who intend to adopt them and going through the legal process.”

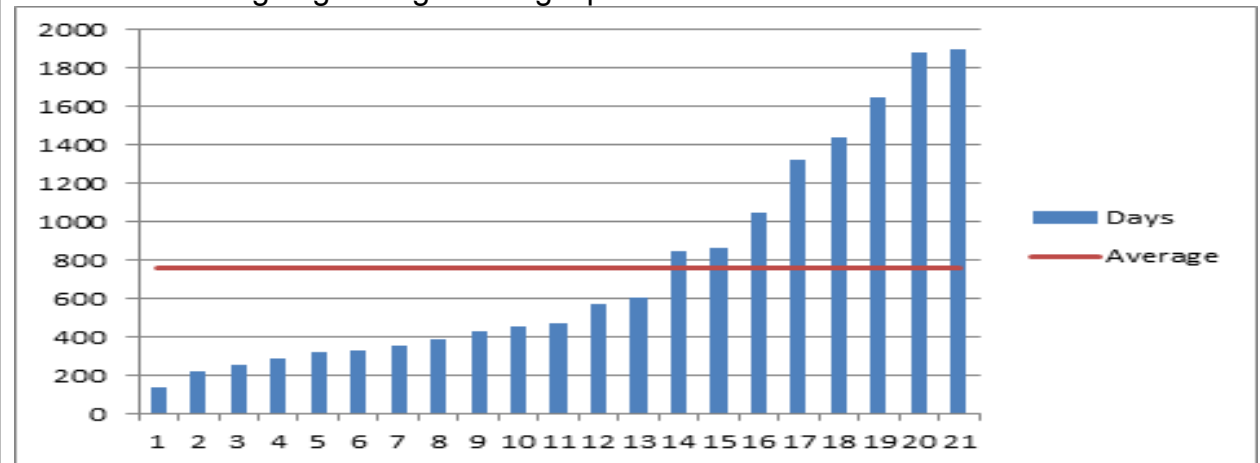


Chart- distribution of time to adopt

Agenda Item 5.9 – Best Value Plans

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

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– Draft 6 Month Update Report	<p>Committee asked the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Best Value Plan (under organisational culture) should also consider policy and procedures for whistleblowing and should look to the report by Sir Robert Francis following the inquiry into Mid Staffordshire as a model for developing this.
	<p>Response</p> <p>The Council is implementing the Best Value Plan which has been agreed with the Commissioners and submitted to the Secretary of State. As set out in the Best Value Plan, a Governance Working Group has been established to further constitutional issues. This cross-Party Group may choose to consider whistleblowing as its forms part of the Employees Code of Conduct (section 5.5 of the Constitution). In addition, following discussion at Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) in July, the Service Head for Human Resources will be asked to attend OSC in September to discuss the Council’s approach to whistleblowing, including in the context of the Francis Inquiry.</p>