

| Committee  | Date                           | Classification  | Report No. | Agenda Item No. |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------|-----------------|
| Health Scrutiny Panel  | 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 | Unrestricted  |            |                 |
| <b>Reports of:</b><br><br>Corporate Strategy and Equalities: Louise Russell<br><br><b>Presenting Officer:</b><br><br>Tahir Alam, Strategy Policy and Performance Officer<br>One Tower Hamlets Service, Department of Law, Probity and Governance |                                | <b>Title:</b><br><br>Unpaid Carers - Scrutiny Challenge Session Report<br><br><b>Ward(s) affected:</b><br><br>All |            |                 |

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises findings from the scrutiny challenge session carried out assessing services for unpaid carers in the borough. The report puts forward a number of recommendations to be put before the Health Scrutiny Panel for their consideration, and referral on to Cabinet for agreement.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Agree the report of the scrutiny challenge of Unpaid Carers, to be submitted to the Health Scrutiny Panel for consideration and referral to Cabinet.

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### 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. Carers are one of the main resources supporting the health and social care economy in Great Britain. There are six million carers nationally with over a fifth of these carers who provide more than 50 hours of care per week. Providing effective and relevant support to carers is a key mechanism to ensure carers are able to continue in their caring role. This includes improving the quality of life of carers by allowing them to have a life outside of their caring role, enable them to achieve their education and employment ambitions and support carers to remain mentally and physically healthy.
- 3.2. The Care Act 2014 consolidated all previous legislations around carers, support services and social care into one overarching statute. The Act for the first time has made it a statutory duty requiring the council to assess all carers who request it. It has been described as the biggest change to the law in 60 years and has brought new responsibilities for local authorities, and has major implications for adult social care and support providers, the people who use services and their carers.
- 3.3. Most of these new changes came into force in April 2015, amongst these the most important changes are the way in which local authorities should carry out carers assessments and needs assessments, and how local authorities should determine who is eligible for support.
- 3.4. The Health Scrutiny Panel as part of its work programme was keen to see how the Care Act had been implemented locally and specifically the duty in relation to unpaid carers. A scrutiny challenge session was held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at the Tower Hamlets Carers Centre. The challenge session focused on a number of key questions that are relevant to the changes being proposed.
- 3.5. The report captures some of the issues that have been presented, and how council and external services have responded to these changes. The report also makes a set of recommendations on how the council can further enhance its current work with carers, as well as in developing its carers plan looking forward.

### **4. LEGAL COMMENTS**

4.1

### **5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 5.1 The recommendations contained within the report will be implemented using existing directorate resources.

### **ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 As carers services concerns the general population of the borough, the review and its recommendation takes into consideration the general health and wellbeing of the boroughs population, therefore positively impacting upon them.

The recommendations made will further enhance the partnership of the council and health services, in order to continue and develop services and interventions that will work towards improving health inequalities across the borough. This will positively impact on reducing health inequalities which 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.