

HEALTH & ADULTS SCRUTINY SUB- COMMITTEE

Thursday, 16 September 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

**Committee Room One - Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent,
London, E14 2BG**

Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the press and public are encouraged to watch the meeting remotely through the <https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> site

Members:

Chair: Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan
Vice-Chair: Councillor Shah Ameen

Councillor Faroque Ahmed,
Councillor Denise Jones,
Councillor Puru Miah and
Councillor Andrew Wood

Substitutes:

Councillor Zenith Rahman and
Councillor Helal Uddin

Co-opted Members:

David Burbidge
Sue Kenten

Healthwatch Tower Hamlets Representative
Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee Co-optee

[The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members]

Contact for further enquiries:

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, please see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are reminded to declare the nature of the interest and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it's the Members' responsibility to declare any interests and to update their register of interest form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of your interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

7 - 14

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel held on 8th June, 2021.

3. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Food poverty for older people and low income families

The Sub-Committee will receive a presentation on food poverty for older people and low-income families.

3.2 Impact of Covid-19 on Mental Health and Mental Health Services

The Sub-Committee will receive a presentation on the impact of Covid-19 on Mental Health and Mental Health Services.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Next Meeting of the Sub-Committee

The next meeting of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee will be held on Tuesday, 26 October 2021 at 6.30 p.m. in Committee Room One - Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

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Agenda Item 1

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests. In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

Guidance on Predetermination and Bias

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

Further Advice contact: Janet Fasan Divisional Director Legal and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 0207 364 4800.

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH & ADULTS SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.32 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 8 JUNE 2021

[ONLINE 'VIRTUAL' MEETING - HTTPS://TOWERHAMLETS.PUBLIC-I.TV/CORE/PORTAL/HOME](https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home)

Members Present:

Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan (**Chair**)
Councillor Shah Ameen(**Vice-Chair**)
Councillor Faroque Ahmed
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Puru Miah
Councillor Andrew Wood

Co-opted Members Present:

David Burbidge
Sue Kenten

Officers Present:

Dr Somen Banerjee	– (Director of Public Health)
Chris Banks	– (Chief Executive Tower Hamlets GP Care Group)
Rayah Feldman	– (Hackney Migrant Centre)
Tyrone Josephine	– (Tower Hamlets GP Care Group CIC)
Jack Kerr	– (Strategy & Policy Manager)
David Knight	– (Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)
Bethan Lant	– (Praxis)
Tracey St Hill	– (Principal RSL Partnerships Officer)
David Tolley	– (Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards)
Wendy Pettifer	– Hackney Migrant Centre
Isabelle Pereira	– Care4Calais
Jamal Uddin	– (Strategy Policy & Performance Officer)
Nicola Mutale	– (Equalities & Parental Engagement - Integrated Youth and Community Services)
Georgia Ramirez	– (Public Health Programme Manager)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received at the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

The Sub-Committee confirmed as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 29th April 2021 and the Chair was authorised to sign.

3. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair informed the Sub-Committee that she would be attending the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 28th June 2021 and it is her intention to improve the dialogue with the main scrutiny committee this year (e.g. facilitating access to the main committee papers and meetings for information and comment).

The Sub-Committee also noted that the Chair is a member of the Borough's Health and Well-Being and the Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that she would also be happy to arrange for the circulation of agenda papers to Members of the Sub-Committee.

4. ELECTION FOR NEW VICE CHAIR

The Sub-Committee **elected** Councillor Shah Ameen for the current year.

5. HEALTH & ADULTS SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, MEMBERSHIP AND DATES OF MEETINGS 2021/22

The Sub-Committee received and noted a report that outlined the Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2021/22. Accordingly the Sub-Committee

1. **Noted** its Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership, and Dates of future meetings as set out in the appendices of the report.

6. INNER NORTH EAST LONDON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INEL JHOSC) NOMINATIONS AND UPDATE

The Sub-Committee **agreed** to nominate the following Members as to the Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (INEL JHOSC)

- Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan.
- Councillor Shah Ameen; and
- Councillor Faroque Ahmed

7. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1 HASC FORWARD PLAN 2021/22 DISCUSSION

The Sub-Committee was reminded that it's role is to hold commissioners and providers of publicly funded health and social care to account for the quality of their services in accordance with the Health & Social Care Act 2001. The Sub-Committee operates through statutory powers to obtain information, ask questions, and make recommendations.

Accordingly the Sub-Committee noted that the had been liaising with key stakeholders and partners to identify key priorities for health and social care. As a result, several agenda ideas were suggested for the forward plan.

Subsequent to the meeting and the Scrutiny Away Day the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26th July 2021 considered and **agreed** the Forward Plan attached as an appendix to these minutes.

7.2 TOWER HAMLETS PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS (PCN)

The Sub-Committee received a report that provided an overview of Tower Hamlets Primary Care Networks, together with more detailed information about the excellent work undertaken by the Networks to improve the health and wellbeing of the population. The main points of the discussion and the questions arising from that discussion may be summarised as follows:

The Sub-Committee:

- ❖ **Noted** that the Networks in Tower Hamlets was first formed in 2010. Tower Hamlets and has been cited as an example of best practice that is now being replicated nationally, through the introduction of PCNs. In 2010 the then Primary Care Trust (now Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Waltham Forrest (TNW) Integrated Care Partnership), Local Medical Council and GP surgeries in Tower Hamlets set up eight Networks composed of member practices.
- ❖ Was **advised** that the reason for establishing the Tower Hamlets Networks was due to the high levels of deprivation in the Borough and the chronic underfunding of primary care.
- ❖ **Expressed** concerns regarding the adequacy of provision for general practitioner services in the Borough, in response it was noted that general practices in tower hamlets do provide effective provision although it was noted that there was some concern at the quality of provision for those practices in the more deprived areas of tower hamlets.
- ❖ **Noted** that Tower Hamlets continues to be one of the fastest growing, youngest, and most diverse populations in England, with a quarter of the whole population aged 0 to 19 years old and therefore a significant percentage of the population are only now receiving their vaccinations whereas the older population are now safer as there have been vaccinated.

- ❖ Expressed **concern** that four Whitechapel GP surgeries had been taken over by a new provider these surgeries had previously been owned by a GP-led company called AT Medics who had established a chain of surgeries by taking over failing practices.
- ❖ **Noted** how the bringing GP of surgeries together at scale can allow for the focus on delivery (**e.g.** Inter-practice referral scheme, for specific procedures/services and more recently creating centralised flu clinics; they work on improving the long-term health and multidiscipline and multi-organisational teams including Social Prescribers, Health Visitors and Midwifery services). Also that it is vital that there is active patient participation in the planning and the development of such services.

1. The Sub-Committee noted the contents of the report and presentation and agreed to incorporate the above-mentioned comments as appropriate within the HASC forward plan 2021-22.

7.3 OPERATION OAK - DEPARTMENTAL AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Sub-Committee noted that in early December 2020 that the Home Office had placed in excess of 400 asylum seekers in 3 hotels in the Borough as part of an initiative called Operation Oak which was a programme designed to disperse asylum seekers around the country between December 2020 and June 2021. The arrival of this group had been unexpected, and therefore unplanned and required intensive input from Council Departments and voluntary agencies to provide appropriate support in order to meet the borough's statutory obligations.

In addition, the Sub-Committee noted a briefing note that provided (i) details of the context and background to Operation Oak, (ii) information on how the Council is responding to the arrival of the asylum seekers, where funding gaps exist, and the structures in place for communication and reporting to ensure efforts are properly co-ordinated. The main points highlighted in the discussion may be summarised as follows:

The Sub-Committee:

- ❖ **Was** informed that (i) the majority of asylum-seekers do not have the right to work in the United Kingdom and so must rely on state support; (ii) housing is provided, but asylum-seekers cannot choose where it is, and it is often 'hard to let' properties which renters do not want to live in; and (iii) support is available for secondary language education.
- ❖ **Noted** that the Home Office has contracted management of this accommodation in the Borough to Clearsprings and both the asylum seekers housed there and local agencies have been speaking out about the issues associated in housing people in such temporary accommodation **e.g.** the huge strain on accommodation; quality and quantity of food and drink provided to the asylum seekers and that they are not getting access to the services that they are entitled to.

- ❖ **Indicated** that it wanted to know what the Council could do to help these asylum seekers with regards to mental health; help for schools in terms of uniform grants; where these individuals will be housed and what access would they have to primary care.
 - ❖ **Commented** that with regards to access to primary care they wanted to see the establishment of Care Navigators as in Newham to work to facilitate integrated working across the Primary Care Teams, GP's, and other relevant Health; Education and Social Care Professionals to ensure care delivery is of a high quality.
 - ❖ **Noted** the extra support being provided by the Borough's Early Help Hub (EHH) works with asylum seekers and their families, the EHH checks if an asylum seeker is already receiving assistance by another agency, what support is being provided.
 - ❖ Agreed that whilst the Government has stated that asylum seekers children are entitled to the same local authority support as any other children for example to (i) receive the care that they need to thrive; (ii) receive the support they need to fulfil their educational and other outcomes; and (iii) have access to the care, services and support they need. It is important to ensure that the Home Office maintains its commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of asylum seekers children.
 - ❖ **Noted** that under Section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, if an individual can show they are destitute when they first apply for asylum, they will be provided with 'Initial Accommodation' (IA) while the Home Office assesses their eligibility for longer-term (Section 95) support. The providers of IA are contractually obliged to offer three meals a day, supply toiletries and bedding and provide transport to medical and related appointments.
 - ❖ **Noted** the need to work on solutions around safeguarding and the need to work on supporting these individuals through an established process especially for single men as there a significant number of such individuals currently amongst the asylum seekers.
 - ❖ Whilst **expressing concern** that there had been outbreaks of Covid-19 asylum seekers housed in the temporary accommodation was pleased to **note** that **(i)** most asylum seekers are registered with their general practitioner services and are able to access care; **(ii)** the vaccine will be available for asylum seekers under 40; and **(iii)** the Councils Environmental Health Team has worked on ensure that the accommodation was Covid Secure.
 - ❖ **Commented** that there was a need to assess all new arrivals and to agree what further support can be offered **e.g.** education support; access to mental health services and provision for 16- to 19-year-olds.
1. Accordingly the Sub-Committee noted the contents of the briefing note and agreed to consider the issue's raised in more detail at a future meeting.

7.4 COVID 19 UPDATE

The Sub-Committee noted that the Council and its partners are working hard to prevent and minimise further infections of Covid and reduce risk of future restrictions and lockdown measures. The Council it was noted will continue to work with its partners and ensure the local population and the most vulnerable in Tower Hamlets are protected from transmission of Covid 19 and continue to receive the health and care services they need. The main points highlighted in the discussion may be summarised as follows:

The Sub-Committee:

- ❖ **Noted** that the latest update on Covid 19 from Public Health and its partners on tackling the pandemic. The focus will be on:
 - a. Updates to Tower Hamlets Outbreak Management Plan.
 - b. Latest trends on the local vaccination programme; and
 - c. Variants of Concern and surge testing.
 - ❖ **Noted** the surge testing figures and indicated they would like to see more of such data presented a future meeting.
 - ❖ **Noted** the partnership with the Jesuit Refugee Service to vaccinate people who are no connected to a GP practice.
 - ❖ **Noted** the work being done on street outreach in the Borough to ensure to COVID-19 vaccines are provided to undocumented persons, homeless individuals, and other vulnerable people.
 - ❖ **Noted** commissioning Doctors of the World Doctors at the Refugee Clinic so that they can not only be vaccinated but also be provided with advocacy support so they can navigate the system so that they can register at a GP practice and access more primary care.
1. Accordingly the Sub-Committee agreed that it wished to receive the (i) surge testing figures; (ii) the Covid recovery action plan; and (iii) covid data so as to enable Members to remain up to date and to be able to feed in informed comments to the Health and Well-Being Board.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Agreed that violent crime is a public health issue because violence is a major cause of ill health and poor wellbeing and is strongly related to inequalities. The poorest people have hospital admission rates for violence higher than those of the most affluent. Violence affects individuals and communities and requires interventions to (i) prevent violence; (ii) improve educational outcomes, employment prospects and long-term health outcomes.

In addition, regarding the Government's 'levelling up' agenda people living in socioeconomically deprived areas of the Borough have the greatest health needs. Action to improve health and reduce inequalities therefore needs to

be a core component of any levelling up approach in Tower Hamlets to target funding and assess progress.

Therefore, it was important that these issues should be considered as a matter for consideration by scrutiny.

The meeting ended at 8.33 p.m.

**Chair, Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan
Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**Appendix 1: HEALTH & ADULTS SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN 2021/22**

Meeting	Type of Scrutiny	Item	Outcome		
Wednesday, 1 Sep 2021	Spotlight	Food provision in the borough			
	Spotlight	Adults Mental Health Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review annual report and joint presentation from East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) highlighting challenges in the system Impact of permanent move of Columbia and Cazaboun Ward in East Ham 	•	•
Tuesday, 26 October 2021	Spotlight	Access to primary care	Equality of access to primary care by BAME communities		
	Spotlight	Better Care Fund (BCF) programme	How it is supporting integration and details of the new governance framework		
	Spotlight	Public Health Annual Report and Public Health Budget	Transparency around how funds are being utilised		
Tuesday, 16 November 2021	Deep dive	Review of Council Budget Proposals	Review of specific proposals (tbc) and assess potential impact on community		

Meeting	Type of Scrutiny	Item	Outcome		
			via equality analysis		
	Spotlight	Restoring health provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring elective care and addressing backlog Urgent response to dental provision in the borough 	•	•
	Spotlight	Impact of Long Covid	How is NHS addressing the issue of Long Covid		
Tuesday, 8 th March 2022	Spotlight	Adults Learning Disability Scrutiny Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on scrutiny recommendations Update on LD provision focusing on health outcomes, employment, and accommodation 	•	•