

Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Agenda

**Thursday, 8 February 2024 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel**

Members:

Chair: Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Vice Chair: Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Councillor Ahmodul Kabir, Councillor Bellal Uddin, Councillor Leelu Ahmed, Councillor Sabina Akhtar and Councillor Shahaveer Shubo Hussain

Co-opted Members:

Shiblu Miah ((Muslim community representative)), Dr Phillip Rice (Church of England Representative), Joanna Hannan (Representative of Diocese of Westminster), Nafisa Ahmed (Parent Governor) and Ashraf Zaman (Parent Governor)

Substitutes:

[The quorum for the Sub-Committee is 3 voting Members]

Contact for further enquiries:

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020 7364 4854
Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel, London, E1 1BJ
<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk>



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A Guide to Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee has been established to scrutinise the provision, planning and management of children and young people's services – including children's social care; safeguarding children; children in care; SEN and education inclusion, troubled families and the Youth Offending Service (YOS) education, learning and schools; youth services; early years; education capital estate and youth & play services.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee will discharge the Council's statutory functions to undertake overview and scrutiny, insofar as these pertain to Children's and Education matters. This will include:

- a) Reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's children social care and education functions;
- b) Advising the Mayor or Cabinet of key issues/questions arising in relation to children and education reports due to be considered by the Mayor or Cabinet;
- c) Making reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or Mayor or Cabinet in connection with the discharge of children and education functions;
- d) Delivering (c) by organising an annual work programme, drawing on the knowledge and priorities of the Council, registered providers and other stakeholders, that will identify relevant topics or issues that can be properly scrutinised;
- e) Holding service providers to account, where recent performance fails to meet the recognised standard, by looking at relevant evidence and make recommendations for service improvements;
- f) Considering children and education matters affecting the area or its inhabitants, including where these matters have been brought to the attention of the sub-committee by tenant and resident associations, or members of the general public; and
- g) The sub-committee will report annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its work.

Public Engagement

Meetings of the committee are open to the public to attend, and a timetable for meeting dates and deadlines can be found on the council's website. More detail of how residents can engage with Overview and Scrutiny are available here

[Overview and scrutiny \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny)

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Thursday, 8 February 2024

6.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (PAGES 7 - 8)

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest, identified 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, see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

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

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (PAGES 9 - 16)

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the held on 07 December 2023.

4. ACTIONS LOG

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Children's Health (Pages 37 - 74)

5.2 School Curriculum (Pages 75 - 86)

5.3 Education PFI Contracts (Pages 87 - 102)

6. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT



Next Meeting of the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Thursday, 9 May 2024 at 6.30 p.m. to be held in Council Chamber - Town Hall,
Whitechapel



The best of London in one borough

Tower Hamlets Council
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

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Agenda Item 2

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, Director of 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 CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.33 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

Members Present in Person:

Councillor Bodrul Choudhury (Chair)

Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Councillor Bellal Uddin

Councillor Sabina Akhtar

Councillor Shahaveer Shubo Hussain

Councillor Maium Talukdar (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor))

Co-optee's Present in Person:

Dr Phillip Rice (Church of England Representative)

Joanna Hannan (Diocese of Westminster Representative)

Co-optee's in Attendance Virtually:

Ashraf Zaman (Parent Governor)

Nasifa Ahmed (Parent Governor)

Officers Present in Person:

Pauline Maddison (Acting Director of Education)

Filuck Miah (Strategy and Policy Officer, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation Service)

Justina Bridgeman Democratic Services Officer (Committee)

Officers In Attendance Virtually:

Lisa Fraser (Acting Corporate Director, Children's Services)

Jenny Pittam (Interim Head Contract Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Sub Committee meeting held on 12 October 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

Chairs Update

- Abena Adeji has resigned as Parent Governor in October. Governor Services is currently arranging a replacement and the deadline is 18 December. The Chair thanked Abena for her contribution to the sub-committee.
- The Chair raised concerns regarding the failure to receive agenda papers on time. Officers were requested to comply with the report deadline schedules and ensure all presentations and reports are submitted prior to publishing going forward.

4. ACTION LOG UPDATE

None

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Free School Meals for all Children

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, introduced Lisa Fraser, Acting Corporate Director of Children's Services and Jenny Pittam, Head of Contract Services, who provided the sub-committee with an update on the Mayor's Universal Free School Meals policy (FSM) for all key stage 3 and key stage 4 secondary school pupils.

The programme, launched in three phases, included commissioning suppliers and held discussions with head teachers, parents and pupils. Student behaviour improved in 16 participating schools from 56% in March to 68% in October. The scheme is expected to save families around £550 a year and bring in an extra £1.2 million towards school budgets for 824 participating students.

Jenny Pittam informed members on the upcoming project evaluations, including the University of Newcastle's assessment on student's dietary intake, which is due to occur over the next year. The Act Early Partnership have also received a £250,000 grant to extend the School Food Improvement programme for the next two years, in collaboration with Queen Mary University Hospital. The Health Determinants Collaborative will shortly study data to recognise the outcomes on children's weight and education. FSMs will also be included.

Head teachers initial concerns with the FSM programme were noted as were details of the automatic enrolment scheme, which currently assists approximately 850 children. Ongoing evaluations and surveys on the programme will continue in phase four, to ensure correct meal packages are being offered and continual monitoring of uptake levels.

Further to questions from the sub-committee, Lisa Fraser and Jenny Pittam;

- Explained that an analysis was conducted with the revenues, benefits, and Children's services to ensure that schools received additional aid, such as a uniform grant and holiday funds from Pupil Premium funding allocations.
- Confirmed that contract caterers engaged with parents, issuing surveys to establish the type of meal deals provided and costings, to ensure they are balanced and nutritious. A written brief will be circulated including the type of options available and costs per meal to sub-committee members for review.

RESOLVED that;

1. A written brief on free school meal deals, including the type of options available and costs per meal to be brought to sub-committee members for review.
2. That the presentation be noted.

5.2 Sixth Form Performance

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, introduced Lisa Fraser, Acting Corporate Director of Children's Services, and Dr Tina Soda, Interim Head of Special Educational Needs, who gave an overview of the changes and progress made since the previous deep dive into sixth form borough provision, including university access.

Ms Fraser informed the sub-committee that the provisional key stage 4 outcome details are general in nature, as data regarding the neighbouring borough performance varied during the pandemic. National outcome levels have fallen since 2022, although Applied General levels have risen 9 points, which is higher than the national average. A Level and academic study

outcomes are lower now in 2023 than last year. It was noted that four of the schools in the top 5% nationally for progressing children to key stage 5 are in Tower Hamlets.

Further work is required to access apprenticeship programmes specifically for young people who decide not to enter the workforce, continue further education or enrol in internship programmes. Current data on the lack of 6th form BTEC course is being sourced, although evidence suggests that many young people are choosing vocational courses. The closure of businesses due to the pandemic may be a possible reason for the decrease. A review of the current 6th Form offer is in progress, as work in the SEN and Careers young work path services for post 16 year olds, not in education, employment, or training (NEET) is ongoing. Members were also updated on support from the London East Alternative Provision (LEAP) to reduce the high NEET figures.

Dr Tina Soda then noted the number of young people with live health and care plans (HCP) is currently 4,400 compared to 3,462 the previous year. Forty percent of 16-25 year olds with HCP's are still either in education, college or training providers, due to the various colleges available with vocational programmes. The Sensory Impairment Hub in Spitalfields allows more young people to stay within the borough.

Details on current workstreams from the social mobilities team to increase uptake levels were mentioned. Members were also informed of an apprenticeship scheme for young people with SEN, which opened in February this year, with a second planned for 2024. A SEN sufficiency report will outline plans to fill the post 19 gaps, and an audit is underway for the Preparing for Adulthood pathway

Engagement with local businesses to expand the scheme is ongoing, and promotional campaigns and open evenings for five LBTH broad sector internships are in progress, to encourage Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO's), carers, advisors and youth workers to participate.

Further to questions from the sub-committee, Lisa Fraser and Dr Tina Soda;

- Confirmed that further details on young people with EHCP no longer studying BTEC Courses will be circulated to the sub-committee for review
- Confirmed that details on the numbers of young people who are NEET including those on remand will be circulated to the sub-committee for review.
- Clarified that investment has been made to increase standards in pedagogy and practice in key stages two and four. A specialised subject knowledge is required for A Level teaching.

- Explained that a review will be taking place to further understand and support students who are unable to take out loans due to religious beliefs. Benefits are impacted when students with EHCP opt for apprenticeship schemes, as they receive wages. A 'Better Off' assessment is undertaken to establish if they are eligible for other benefits whilst employed.
- Confirmed that enhancing key stage 5 outcomes will include Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THEP) working with specialist linguistics and language networks to ensure progress across the borough.
- Noted that discussions with all young people on the Post 16 needs list have taken place to establish their aspirations as they transition into adulthood. A written brief will be circulated to members for review including the number of families.

RESOLVED that;

1. Further details on young people with EHCP no longer studying BTEC Courses to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.
2. Details on the numbers of young people who are NEET including those on remand to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.
3. A written brief on details and numbers on the Post 16 needs list to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.
4. That the presentation be noted.

5.3 SEND and Education and Healthcare Plans

Pauline Maddison, Interim Director of Education, Dr Tina Soda, Acting Head of Special Educational Needs and Michael McKeaveney, SEN Team Manager, provided an update on SEND provision and transport, as well as details on the Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) forecasting and demand management.

Pauline Maddison began the presentation with details of the school census data from 2022 and 2023, which showed 5.9% of pupils require EHCPs. The national average is 4.3%. The majority of students are either in mainstream or specialist schools which is preferred, as Independent schools are more costly. Sub-committee members were informed that there are significant delays in speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

An inclusion framework will be established with parents, schools, carers and stakeholders, to ensure mainstream schools provide accessible and targeted support. The implementation of the plan is scheduled for March 2024 and

discussions to develop a training offer for staff to guarantee consistency in schools are also taking place.

Mr. McKeaveney then discussed the monthly improvements within EHCPs beginning at 33% at the start of the year to 60% now, putting Tower Hamlets in the top third, above the national average of around 50%. This is due in part to added investment in the service. Further work on a rapid improvement plan will be initiated to ensure performance levels remain high.

Sub-committee members were informed of the challenges within the service, such as issues in receiving health advice. This is being addressed with additional speech and language therapists recruited to work with school based providers.

Dr Soda then touched on the quality of provision for the EHC service plans and slight irregularities noted by the recent LGA Peer Review. The review also focused on; the transitional journey of children and young people moving through education, effective leadership and governance, the progress made on written statement of action (WSOA) and a financial plan with alternative provision.

Priority will be given to improve co-production in the plans with more engagement with children, families, stakeholders and schools, to ensure specific and measurable achievements are made more swiftly.

LGA Recommendations included; reviewing the remit of the SEND Improvement Board as it was deemed too wide, the co-production of a revised SEND strategy, strengthening the WSOA to test the impact of the progress, improve information sharing with partners to ensure a common understanding of priorities and to continue to improve the quality and timelines of EHCPs.

Sub-Committee members were informed that currently there are 4,406 open EHCPs in the borough, with approximately 50-90 monthly requests received. The Delivering Better Value Project (DBVP) expects this figure to rise to around 6,750 by 2028, increasing the pressure on services.

Improvement measures include a targeted approach with earlier intervention, and a grant to be issued shortly from the DBVP, to be used to develop a SEND triage system for universal support. More robust signposting of services will also be included and the LGA recommendations will be actioned.

Further to questions from the sub-committee, Dr Tina Soda and Michael McKeaveney;

- Explained that pupils receiving EHCPs will be placed in the most suitable setting via the sense efficiency workstream, which should conclude by January 2024. Some students may be placed in mainstream schools although consideration will be given to expand specialist provision and placements.

- Clarified that the borough receives element two funding for SEN support which is the second best funded in the country. Work with BARTS is ongoing for speech and language therapy provision to combat the shortage and further details will be brought back to the sub-committee for review.
- Conceded that further work on measuring satisfaction for children and young people is required, to understand the impact as they transition through education. More engagement with young people to evaluate their EHCPs will take place.
- Confirmed that the 'Let's Talk SEND' events enable children and families to raise concerns and receive advice. Surveys are also given to measure their understanding of care plans and thoughts on the process at the annual review stage.

RESOLVED that;

1. Details on speech and language therapy provision in conjunction with BARTS will be brought to the sub-committee for review.
2. That the presentation be noted

6. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

None.

The meeting ended at 8.29 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

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Scrutiny Action Log

Name of Committee: **Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

Municipal Year: **2023-24**

Reference	Action	Assigned to	Scrutiny Lead	Due Date	Response
Insert date	Insert agenda item title and the action requested by the committee	Insert name of director	Insert scrutiny lead	Insert Date	Response provided by the service/ witness
11.07.23	Provide further data and information on Care Experience	James Thomas Corporate Director for Children & Culture	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	08.08.23	Email sent on 09.08.23 with links providing further information included in Appendix 1.
12.10.23 Page 17	Clarify the timescales for the completion of the research report on free schools' meals carried out by Queen Mary University	Anna Murphy Senior Strategy & Policy Officer	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 2.
	Provide school attendance data for Tower Hamlets	Layla Richards Head of Strategy and Commissioning	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 3.
	Research and provide any available data on the link between overcrowding, mental health and attendance.	Layla Richards Head of Strategy and Commissioning	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 4.
	Provide further data on Youth Service uptake including: - Breakdown of new contacts - Gender split in participants	Kelly Duggan Head of Youth Justice Service	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 5.

Scrutiny Action Log

	Provide a breakdown of the Equalities monitoring data for employees of the youth service, esp. gender	Kelly Duggan Head of Youth Justice Service	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 6.
Page 18	07.12.23 A written brief on free school meal deals, including the type of options available and costs per meal to be brought to sub-committee members for review.	Jenny Pittam Head of Contract Services	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 7.
	Further details on young people with EHCP no longer studying BTEC Courses to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.	Tina Sode Head of Special Education Needs	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 8.
	Details on the numbers of young people who are NEET including those on remand to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.	Lisa Fraser Acting Corporate Director Childrens Services	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 9.
	A written brief on details and numbers on the Post 16 needs list to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.	Lisa Fraser Acting Corporate Director Childrens Services	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 10.
	Details on speech and language therapy provision in conjunction with BARTS will be brought to the sub-committee for review.	Lisa Fraser Acting Corporate Director Childrens Services	Cllr Bodrul Choudhury CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 11.

Appendix 1 - Care experience data and information

In response to the request for further data and information on care experience the service have provided the below links, the first two links will be particularly relevant for those of you who were not members of the sub-committee last year:

1. The independent review of children's social care
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230308122449/https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/final-report/>
2. Stable homes built on love consultation - the government response to independent review
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childrens-social-care-stable-homes-built-on-love>
3. Care experience matters
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-experience-matters>

Appendix 2 - Free School Meal Research Report

Fantastic Food in Schools (Primary School Programme) - Report to be shared in February 2024

Secondary school UFSM Programme – Timelines (tbc)

Appendix 3 - School Attendance Data

Absence rates - autumn term: England, Inner London and Tower Hamlets between 2018/19 Autumn term and 2022/23 Autumn term

Area	Measure	2018/19 Autumn term	2019/20 Autumn term	2020/21 Autumn term	2021/22 Autumn term	2022/23 Autumn term
England	Overall absence rate	4.3%	4.9%	4.7%	6.9%	7.5%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	10.9%	13.1%	13.0%	23.5%	24.2%
Inner London	Overall absence rate	4.0%	4.5%	5.0%	6.0%	7.2%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	10.1%	11.8%	14.4%	19.0%	23.8%
Tower Hamlets	Overall absence rate	4.0%	4.6%	4.9%	5.5%	7.4%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	9.8%	12.0%	14.5%	17.0%	26.5%

- (1) Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.
 (2) The overall absence rate is the total number of sessions missed due to absence for all pupils as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions for all pupils. One session is equal to half a day.
 (3) A pupil enrolment is identified as a persistent absentee if they miss 10% or more of their possible sessions.

Appendix 4 - Overcrowding affects children's wellbeing, Finding solutions in Tower Hamlets



Overcrowding affects children's wellbeing Finding solutions in Tower Hamlets



How many households are affected?

Commonly used indicators of overcrowding such as the 'bedroom standard' have various purposes, including to help prioritise and allocate housing for residents on the housing list. Using this criterion, **15.8%** of households in Tower Hamlets were estimated as living in overcrowded conditions in 2021 (see Figure 1).

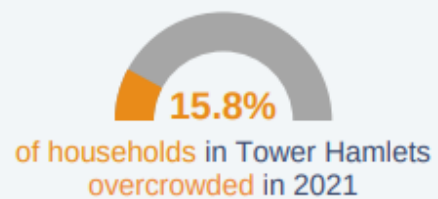


Figure 1: Percentage of households that met the overcrowding criteria as per 2021 census

About **half** of all responses to a survey of 620 families during the pandemic said they didn't have enough space. **Lack of space** is more prevalent for **low-income households** (see Figure 2).

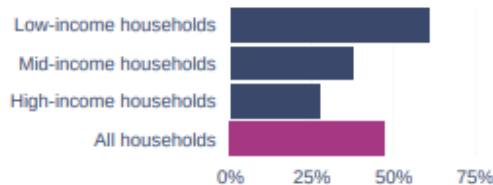


Figure 2: Percentage of households who reported not having enough space in their homes in a survey of 620 parents of children aged 0-4 and parents to be living in Tower Hamlets

"One of the biggest concerns in our area is overcrowding. And children just not having enough space for study, for play within their homes, that is a huge concern."
Tower Hamlets parent

Key research findings



The usual indicators of overcrowding miss many of the ways in which lack of space affects families and children.



Families experiencing overcrowding often face other issues with their homes.

Recommendations to improve residents' wellbeing

1

Policymakers could adopt **broader indicators** of overcrowding.

2

Landlords can provide space for **storage** and clothes drying, and **prioritise repairs**.

3

Planning rules can require child friendly, suitably sized **balconies** for new builds.

Underpinning evidence

The usual indicators of overcrowding miss many of the ways in which lack of space affects families and children

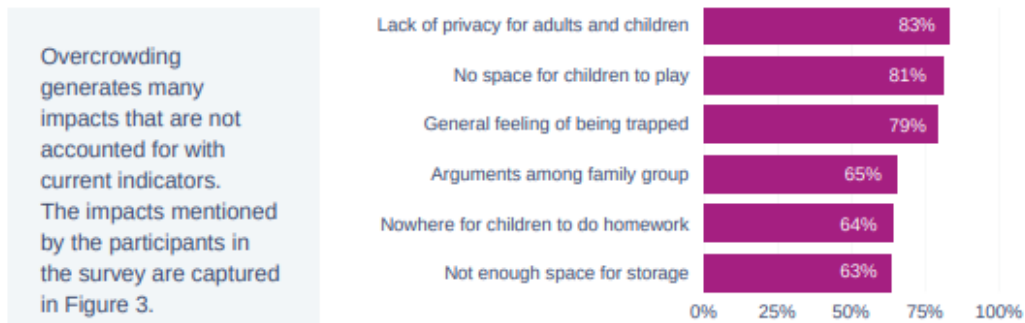


Figure 3: Impacts of lack of space, for respondents who reported this problem

Families experiencing overcrowding often face other issues with their homes

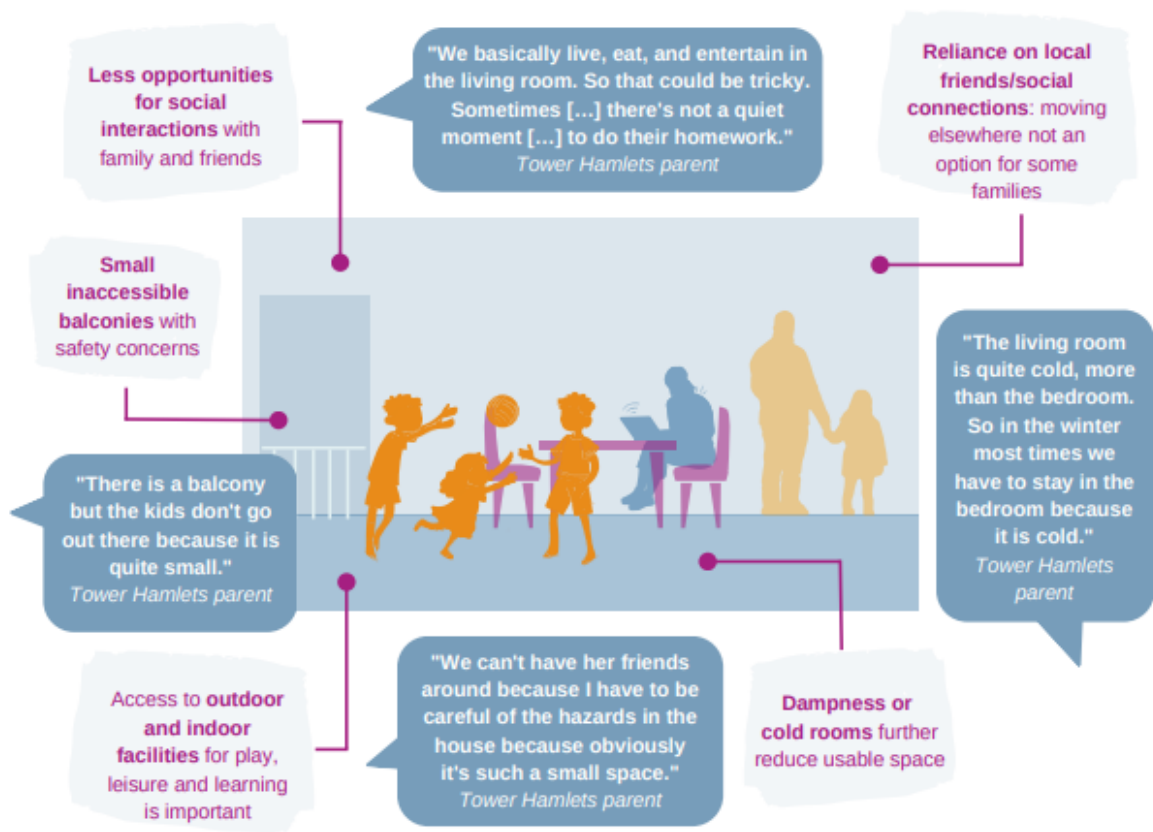


Figure 4: Overcrowding issues reported by parents

Underlying research



Cameron C, et al. "Housing and environment for young children during the pandemic: Families in Tower Hamlets community survey and panel findings".
<https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/publication/2012917/1>

About the study: Community survey that collected data at two time points. Participants were families with young children, and pregnant women, who lived in Tower Hamlets during the COVID-19 pandemic. 992 people completed the first survey and most (620) also completed the second survey. People were recruited via communications from the local authority targeting low-income households.



Ucci M, Ortegon-Sanchez A, Mead NE, Godward C, Rahman A, Islam S, Pleace N, Albert A, Christie N. (2022) Exploring the Interactions between Housing and Neighbourhood Environments for Enhanced Child Wellbeing: The Lived Experience of Parents Living in Areas of High Child Poverty in England, UK. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*; 19(19):12563.
doi.org/10.3390/ijerph191912563

About the study: Carried out in partnership with community organisations to explore parents' lived experience of how housing and the local area affects child wellbeing. The study interviewed parents of children aged 2–12 years old from two local authorities in England with high levels of child poverty: Tower Hamlets in East London, and Bradford District in West Yorkshire. Here we present highlights from 13 interviews (and questionnaire data) with Tower Hamlets participants living in Watts Grove and Bromley by Bow, focusing on aspects related to overcrowding and/or space, which was one of the themes emerging from the study.

This work was undertaken as part of ActEarly: A City Collaboratory approach to early life changes to improve the health and opportunities for children living in areas with high levels of child poverty; Bradford, West Yorkshire and Tower Hamlets, London. ActEarly is supported by the UK Prevention Research Partnership, an initiative funded by UK Research and Innovation Councils, the Department of Health and Social Care (England) and the UK devolved administrations, and leading health research charities.

Partners



<https://actearly.org.uk/>

For more information contact Dr Marcella Ucci, m.ucci@ucl.ac.uk

May 2023

Associated Links (Appendix 4)

[IJERPH | Free Full-Text | Exploring the Interactions between Housing and Neighbourhood Environments for Enhanced Child Wellbeing: The Lived Experience of Parents Living in Areas of High Child Poverty in England, UK \(mdpi.com\)](#)

<https://actearly.org.uk/>

Appendix 5 - Breakdown of New Contacts with the Youth Service

That further data on Youth Service uptake, including a breakdown of new contacts and the gender split in participants, will be provided to the sub-committee for review.

	September	October	November	Total
Female	91	196	396	683
Male	131	302	1019	1452

The data above is in relation to the offer provided by Young Tower Hamlets

Appendix 6 - Breakdown of Gender Equalities Monitoring Data for Youth Service Employees

2. That a breakdown on equalities monitoring data for employees of the youth service, specifically gender to be provided to the sub-committee for review.

	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
Female	9	12	0	1	7
Male	12	8	0	0	1

The data above is in relation to the staff in Young Tower Hamlets. This includes the current permanent staff as well as the interim project team.

Appendix 7 - UFSM School lunch and “Meal Deal” offers in Tower Hamlets Secondary Schools

UFSM School lunch and “Meal Deal” offers in Tower Hamlets Secondary Schools



- The Mayor funds £2.90 per day for a Secondary School UFSM
- This can be spent on a 2 -course lunch or “Meal Deal” at midday to include a main or vegetarian choice and will also include vegetables, salad options, bread & a dessert option.
- In schools with limited dining facilities, the UFSM allowance can also be spent on a “Meal Deal” at morning break – samples provided.
- All schools will have 1, 2 or 3 week menu offer – samples provided.
- The price the Catering Contractor charges the school for the meals will vary depending on individual Contract Terms and Conditions.





Sample of a “Meal Deal” offered by Accent Catering who provide meals at the following schools

Mulberry Girls School
Mulberry Shoreditch
Mulberry UTC Canary Wharf College 3
(Crossharbour)
Bishop Challoner
Mulberry Stepney Green



Sample of a “Meal Deal” at CGFS, Bow & Morpeth Schools provided by Olive Dining Catering Services



Meal Deal

1

HOT MAIN **OR** SANDWICH **OR** WRAP **OR** BAGUETTE

2

HOT DESSERT **OR** SMALL FRUIT POT **OR** PIECE OF FRUIT

LOOK OUT FOR THE PURPLE LABELS


*2 items for
£2.61*

The best of London
in one borough



Contract Catering Services UFSM offer at Swanlea School (Week 1) £2.90



 SWANLEA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU OCTOBER 2023	SWANLEA SCHOOL WEEK ONE				
	MON (Planet Earth Day)	TUE (Street Food)	WED (Traditional Day)	THU (Favourites)	FRI (World Food Day)
Main	Beef Keema Curry with Rice	Chicken & Sweetcorn Pie with Mashed Potato	Roast Beef & Potatoes with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Crispy Battered Fish with Homemade Tartar Sauce & Chips	Thai Red Chicken Curry with Rice
Vegetarian	Tomato & Basil Pasta Bake	Margherita Pizza with Baked Potato Wedges	Chickpea & Vegetable Tagine with Couscous	Italian Quorn Meatballs with Cheese Mega Sub with Potato Wedges	Thai Stir-Fried Vegetables with Noodles
Slides/Vegetables	Sweetcorn & Peas	Broccoli and Carrots	Roasted Root Vegetables	Peas & Baked Beans	Vegetable Medley and Sweetcorn
Salads	Crated Carrots & Sultanas Salad	Cauliflower & Coriander Salad	Chef's House Salad	New Potato Salad / Sweetcorn Salad	Sweet Chill, Tomato & Basil Salad
Dessert	Cheese and Crackers with Grapes & Apple Wedge	Fruity Yoghurt Bar	Homemade Cheese Twist	Fruit Salad with Vanilla Ice Cream	Thai Baked Pineapple with Yoghurt
Daily Options	Daily Salad / Fresh Bread / Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter / Organic Yoghurts				

Respect | Aspire | Achieve

The best of London in one borough



Contract Catering Services UFSM offer at Swanlea School (Week 1) £2.90



SWANLEA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU OCTOBER 2023		SWANLEA SCHOOL WEEK TWO				
	MON (Planet Earth Day)	TUE (Street Food)	WED (Traditional Day)	THU (Favourites)	FRI (World Food Day)	
Main	Caribbean Brown Chicken Stew with Rice	Curried Beef Meatballs with Savoury Rice	Roast Chicken & Potatoes with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Breaded Fish with Homemade Tartar Sauce & Chips or Teriyaki Salmon Wrap with Mixed Side Salad	Beef Bourguignon with Rice	
Vegetarian	Macaroni Double Cheese with Fried Leeks	Vegan Spicy Chicken Style Strips & Sweet Chilli Sauce Wrap with Baked Potato Wedges	Chickpea & Mixed Vegetable Spicy Rice	Jack Sweet Potato, Bean and Vegetable Curry with Rice	Spinach, Pepper & Caramelized Onion Quiche with Provencal Potato	
Slides/Vegetables	Sauteed Leeks and Sweetcorn	Curried Roasted Cauliflower and Peas	Broccoli and Carrots	Peas and Baked Beans	Ratatouille and French Beans	
Salads	Carrots & Cucumber Ribbons	Asian Noodle Salad	Chef's House Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw	Macedoine of Vegetable Salad	
Dessert	Cheese and Crackers with Grapes & Apple Wedge	Fruity Yoghurt Bar	Apple Crumble Style Yoghurt	Fruit Salad with Vanilla Ice Cream	Yoghurt with Cinnamon & Vanilla Pear	
Daily Options	Daily Salad / Fresh Bread / Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter / Organic Yoghurts					

Respect | Aspire | Achieve





Accent Catering Sample Menu (Week 1)

Week 1

Spring Menu

Week Commencing:
08/01/2024,
05/02/2024
and
11/03/2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
 MAINS <i>Fresh Flavours</i>	Kung Pao Chicken Stir Fry with Peppers Served with Egg Noodles and Chinese Roasted Greens (G,So,E)	Chicken Tikka Masala Served with Turmeric Rice and Aromatic Cauliflower (None)	Mexican Chicken, Peppers and Beans Fajita Served with Mexican Wholegrain Rice and Sweetcorn (G,Mu,Mk,Ce)	Classic Italian Beef Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread and Green Beans (G,E,Mk,So)	Fish Finger Bap with Lemon Coleslaw (G,E,F,Mu) or Salmon Fishcakes with Lemon Mayo (G,E,F) Served with Beans and Peas
 VEGGIE <i>(Meat free)</i>	Kung Pao Quorn Stir Fry Served with Egg Noodles and Chinese Roasted Greens (G,Mu,So,Ce,E)	Veggie Chickpea Tikka Masala Served with Turmeric Rice and Aromatic Cauliflower (None)	Roast Veggie, Beans and Cheese Quesadilla Served with Mexican Wholegrain Rice and Sweetcorn (G,Mu,Mk,Ce)	Mediterranean Vegetables Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread and Green Beans (G,E,Mk,So)	Homemade Veggie Burger with Tomato Relish in a Toasted Bun (G,Su) Served with Beans and Peas

JACKET POTATOES

MONDAY
Cheese and Beans topped Jacket Potato
(Mk)

TUESDAY
Tuna Mayonnaise topped Jacket Potato
(E,F)

WEDNESDAY
Cheesy Coleslaw topped Jacket Potato
(E,Mu)

THURSDAY
Chilli con Carne topped Jacket Potato
(None)

FRIDAY
Cheese and Beans topped Jacket Potato
(Mk)

DESSERT

MONDAY
Apple Crumble with Custard
(G,Mk)

TUESDAY
Fruity Flapjack
(G,Su)

WEDNESDAY
Baked Citrus Pudding with Lemon Sauce
(G,Mk,E)

THURSDAY
Banana Tea Bread
(G,Mk,E)

FRIDAY
Winter Fruit Crumble with Custard
(G,Mk)

Mulberry
Academy Shoreditch

At the heart of everything we do is our love of good, fresh and healthy food, prepared by a team who cares!

every day!
Look out for our
Salad Bar

Fresh every day packed with tasty choices!

MEAL DEAL

Check out what's on offer today!

Also available for Free School Meals

ALLERGENS

Speak to one of our chefs if you have any allergies or check on the daily menu template.
we're allergy aware!



Appendix 8 - Further details on young people with EHCP no longer studying BTEC Courses to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.

Data is not collected on the number of young people with EHC plans who initially enrolled on a BTEC course and later switched to another pathway due to the limited offer. However, we do know that BTECs often cater to diverse learning styles and abilities, providing a more practical and vocational approach for children and young people. By excluding BTEC qualifications (level 2 and below) from our 6th form offer, young people are limited in their educational choices, and their ability to thrive and excel in areas that align better with their individual strengths and preferences is hindered. A review of the current 6th form offer is in progress, and the outcome of this review will provide suggestions to address the concerns mentioned above.

Appendix 9 - Further details on young people with EHCP no longer studying BTEC Courses to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.

- At the start of the 23/24 academic year 130 young people (aged 17 to 25) fell under the NEET category. This has risen to 179 young people (January 2024).
- The NEET population is diverse in terms of age, with the following distribution:
 - 5 young people aged 17.
 - 15 young people aged 18.
 - 23 young people aged 19.
 - 42 young people aged 20.
 - 30 young people aged 21.
 - 26 young people aged 22.
 - 22 young people aged 23.
 - 14 young people aged 24.
 - 2 young people aged 25.
- 4 young people (aged 22-25) are currently servicing a custodial sentence.

- The highest number of NEET young people falls within the age group of 20.
- ASD is identified as the primary need for 22 young people who are NEET.
- SLCN is identified as the primary need for 37 young people who are NEET.
- The Preparing for Adulthood service team are:
 - further exploring targeted interventions for NEET young people with ASD and SLCN to address their unique needs and challenges.
 - working collaboratively with colleges and training providers to further develop and implement early intervention programs for younger NEET young people (17-18 years old) to prevent prolonged disengagement.
 - fostering collaboration between educational institutions, employers, and support services to create a seamless transition for NEET young people into education or employment.

Appendix 10 - Post 16 Needs

There are 1228 17- 25-year-olds with EHCPs in Tower Hamlets:

- **408** 17- and 18-year-olds
- **184** 19-year-olds
- **636** 20 – 25-year-olds

These young people attend a wide range of placements and access a variation of courses including A level qualifications and supported internships. However, only 79 are being educated in mainstream 6th forms in Tower Hamlets whilst 377 attend the local further education college (NCC). 156 young people are accessing the post 16 offer in our special schools (including Phoenix College) and 34 are educated out of borough. Work continues to reduce the number of young people being educated out of borough, but the needs of some young people are such that they need a level of care and education that cannot be provided in Tower Hamlets.

The needs of young people with SEN have been clearly articulated (via surveys, evaluation forms, face-to-face meetings, and presentations) by themselves and their parents and carers. A key area highlighted by young people and their families is communication. They want us to communicate better and have highlighted that accessibility to information about available services is crucial. They have expressed the desire to easily find information about what is on offer and gain a clear understanding of how the system operates. They feel that professionals

should possess a comprehensive understanding of the system and the available support and be able to communicate this in a way that is understandable for them. Young people were clear that they want to minimise the need to repeat their stories across different arenas. Parents and carers continue to request an increase in the availability of places for young people aged 16 and above, with a specific focus on Autism, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. Young people with SEN would like access to leisure opportunities and youth clubs tailored to their needs. Young people with SEN and their families expressed a need for more support to develop social skills in young adults to facilitate their transition into adulthood, further and higher education, and employment. Parents shared that some of their young people with SEN are at risk of exploitation and would like support in keeping them safe. Young people said they want to be heard and feel that the council listens but does not always act.

Services are collaboratively working to develop a 'tell-us-once approach to SEN,' enhance communication, and improve information sharing by updating and refining the local offer, alongside hosting regular Let's Talk SEND events. The post-19 specialist offer is currently under review with the aim of expanding services for young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and considering post-19 developments for those with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. The Young People's Service and the Special Educational Needs Service are jointly developing youth sports and fitness sessions tailored for young people with SEN and exploring the introduction of Phab clubs in Tower Hamlets. New training providers, after assessment, have been added to the pool of organisations delivering life skills training to young people with SEN. There is an increased focus on creating new opportunities and providing additional support to ensure young people develop as much independence as possible, supporting their journey to adulthood.


Appendix 11 - Speech and Language Provision

- On average in Sep 2022 - Aug 2023, 92 referrals every month were received for children under 5 to SaLT, of which 58 were accepted on average each month.
- 2.0 FTE additional members of staff on fixed-term contracts and some temporary staff have been recruited to help reduce the waiting list for an initial contact with a therapist. The staffing has been in place since April 2023.
- There has been a reduction of numbers waiting from almost 500 in October 2022 down to 70 currently. The average wait time has reduced from a peak of 35 weeks to under 15 weeks.
- Bart's Health NHS are currently providing between 60 and 80 initial contacts every month which is enough to keep reducing the waiting list. Their current target is to reduce the average waiting time to below 10 weeks from referral.

- Referrals and Acceptances
 - On average, the Speech, and Language Therapy service received 92 referrals per month for children under 5 during Sep 2022 - Aug 2023,
 - Of these, an average of 58 referrals were accepted each month.
- Staffing Enhancement
 - To address the waiting list for initial therapist contact, 2.0 full-time equivalent additional staff on fixed-term contracts and temporary hires have been recruited.
 - The expanded staffing has been in operation since April 2023.
- Waiting List Reduction
 - There has been a significant reduction in the number of individuals on the waiting list, decreasing from nearly 500 in October 2022 to the current count of 70.
 - The average waiting time has also decreased substantially, dropping from a peak of 35 weeks to under 15 weeks.
- Bart's Health NHS Contributions
 - Bart's Health NHS is actively involved in providing between 60 and 80 initial contacts each month.
 - This level of service is instrumental in the continuous reduction of the waiting list.
 - The current target is to further reduce the average waiting time to below 10 weeks from the point of referral.

These developments indicate positive strides in addressing the demand for Speech and Language Therapy services, with a notable impact on reducing waiting times and enhancing accessibility for the referred children under the age of 5.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8th February 2024</p>	
<p>Report of: Katie Cole – Associate Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Children’s Health</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Katie Cole – Associate Director of Public Health
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This cover report accompanies the presentation slidedeck

- Consider how to embed a holistic approach to health into our work -focused on mental health and preventative healthy lifestyles for example nutrition, therapy and exercise. Including focus on unhealthy consumption, education on the risks and minimising the appeal e.g. energy drinks and vapes

Recommendations:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the accompanying presentation in order to inform discussion for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.

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Children's health: holistic approaches to mental health and healthy lifestyles

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Children's & Education Scrutiny Sub-
Committee

8th February 2024



Purpose & scope

“Consider how to embed a holistic approach to health into our work -focused on mental health and preventative healthy lifestyles for example nutrition, therapy and exercise. Including focus on unhealthy consumption, education on the risks and minimising the appeal e.g. energy drinks and vapes”

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There have been related CESSC sessions on:

Addressing child unhealthy weight in Tower Hamlets (21st Nov 23)

Health and Wellbeing of Children and Adolescents in Tower Hamlets (Jan 23)

Health in All Policies



Session approach

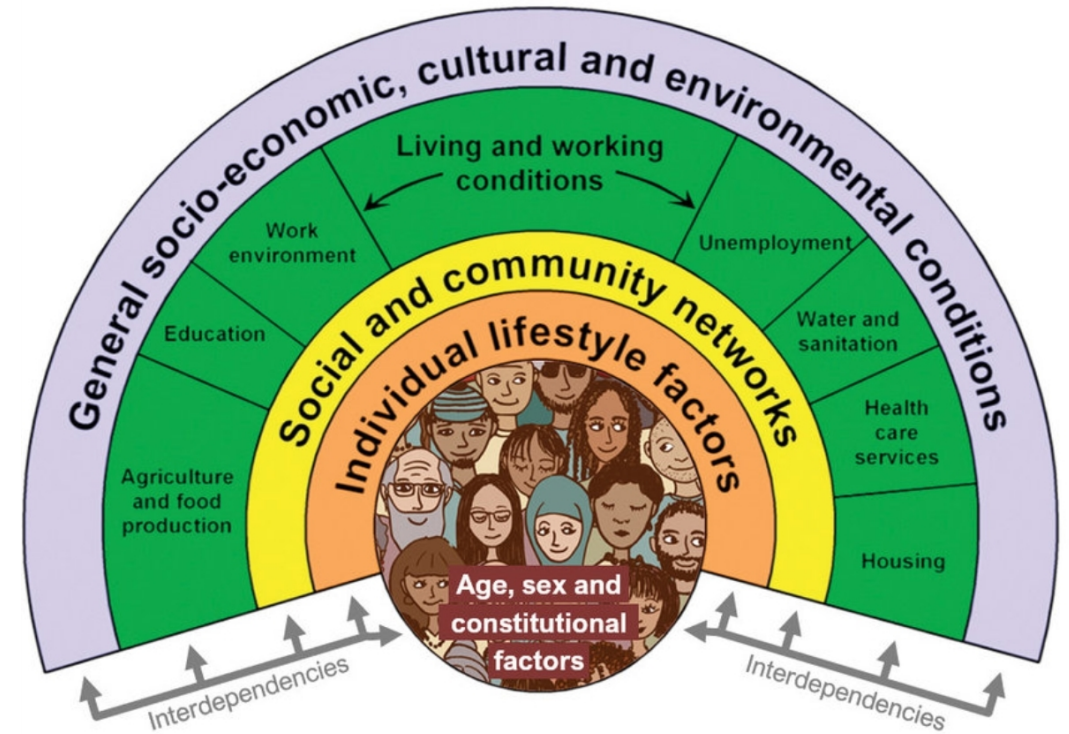


- Why is this important
- Services that do health promotion as core business
- Embedding holistic approaches into other services
- Health in all policies /strategy
- Mental health
- Vaping & high energy drinks



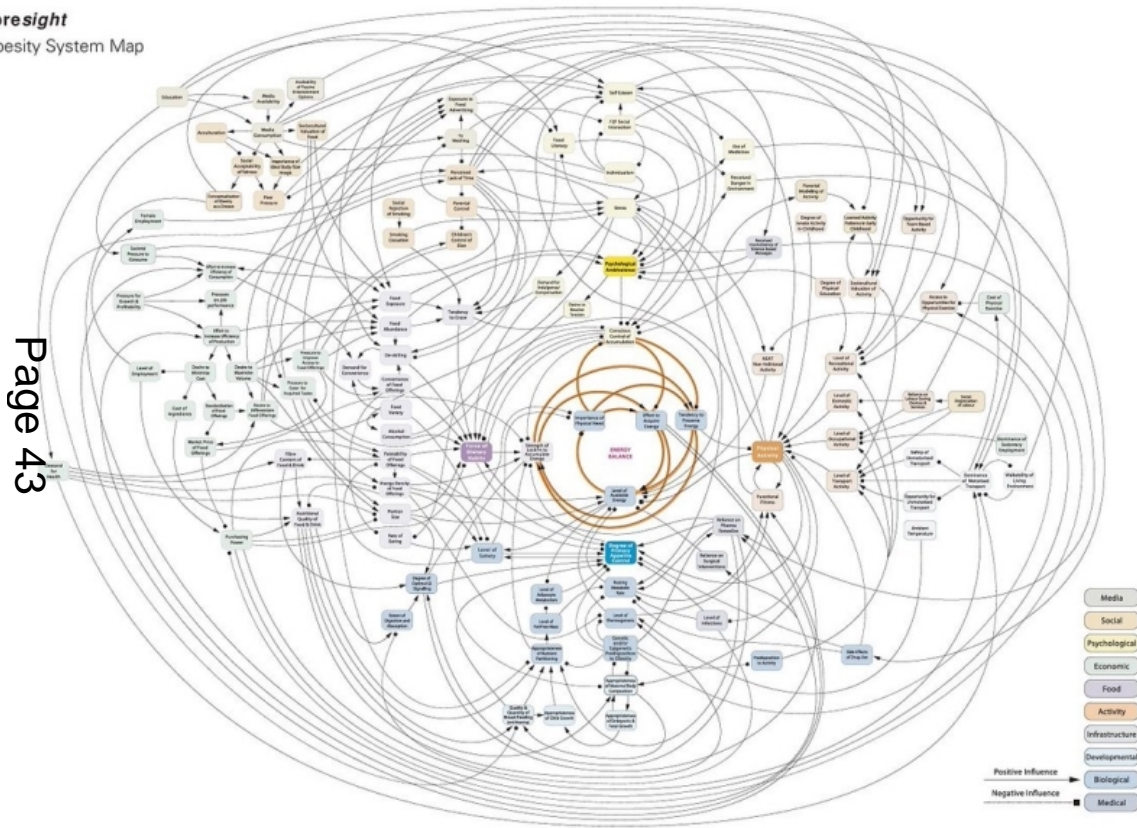
Holistic approaches

- Our health and wellbeing is affected by a wide range of factors
- These factors are closely connected creating a complex system
- Action to tackle health issues needs to understand and work within this complex system
- Taking a holistic approach (by understanding how an individual's health is influenced by a range of factors) is critical to supporting them to have good health and wellbeing



Complex systems drive health and wellbeing

Foresight
Obesity System Map

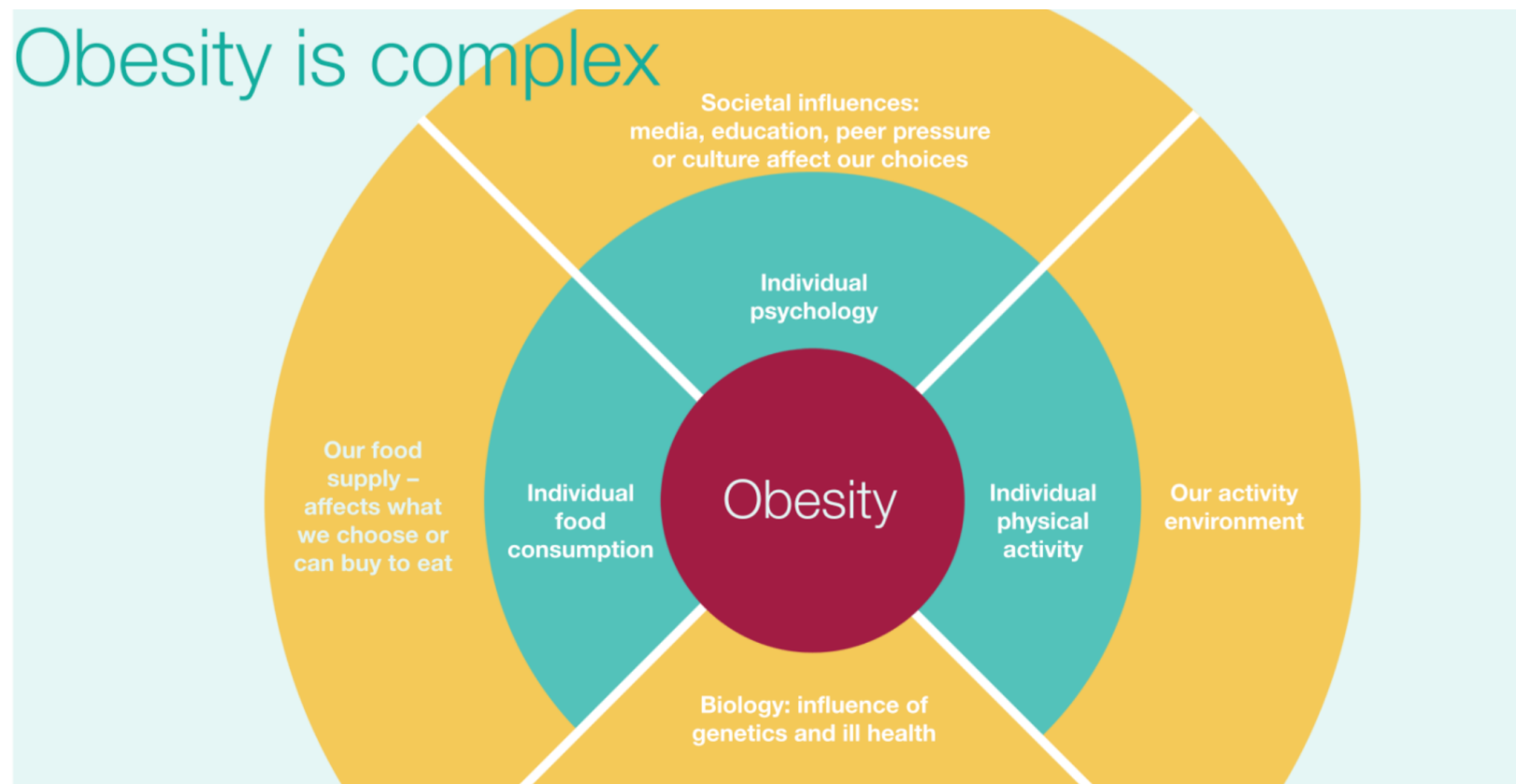


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- This system map shows the many inter-related factors that influence healthy weight
- Work to tackle unhealthy weight at a national or local level should address all these factors to be most effective

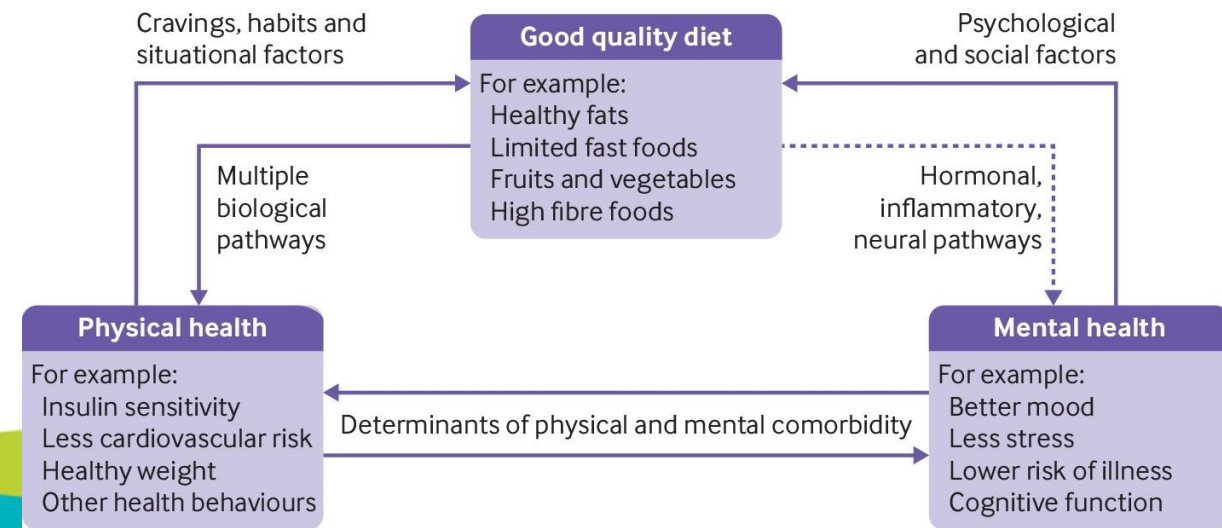
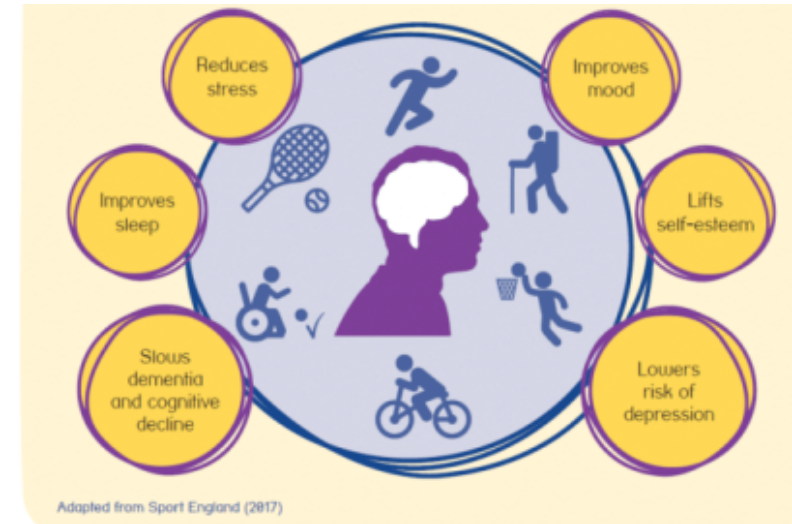


Obesity is the outcome of a complex set of factors acting across many areas of our lives



Many health issues are inter-related too

- For example:
 - Good levels of physical activity improves mental health
 - Good mental health improves diet
 - Good diet improves mental health
 - Good diet improves physical health



Role of local government



- Local authorities have, since 1 April 2013, been responsible for improving the health of their local population and for public health services including most sexual health services and services aimed at reducing drug and alcohol misuse. The Secretary of State continues to have overall responsibility for improving health.



Embedding holistic approaches

Health in All Policies



- There are many opportunities to improve health and wellbeing through local government policies



Strategic Plan – improving health and wellbeing of children in Tower Hamlets



1. **Tackling the cost-of-living crisis:** supporting people to afford healthy food and leisure activities, reducing stress, improving mental and physical health.
2. **Homes for the future:** tackling overcrowding will make it easier for people to cook at home, having happier relationships, reduce accidental injury, improve mental health, be more active at home
3. **Accelerating education:** free school meals and breakfast clubs will provide healthy food for children. Investing in youth centres can improve life skills, provide physical activity opportunities, reduce loneliness, improve mental health
4. **Boost culture, business, jobs and leisure:** opening up sporting opportunities, ensuring parks and other council facilities to help people to be more active, connect with others, improve employment prospects for intergenerational change
5. **Invest in public services:** insourcing the leisure contract brings new opportunities to support physical activity, with the overall plan of implementing a borough-wide healthy child weight programme bringing all the actions together.
6. **Empower communities and fight crime:** families will feel safer to walk and cycle, and use public spaces.
7. **A clean and green future:** improving air quality standards will encourage residents to be more active outside, including using sustainable travel modes.
8. **A council that listens and works for everyone:** using our insight and research capabilities will inform decisions on how best to support residents to be a healthy weight.



Health promoting services



Marmot Review – life course approach



- Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities across the life course. The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are laid in early childhood. What happens during these early years (starting in the womb) has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being– from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status.
- To have an impact on health inequalities we need to address the social gradient in children’s access to positive early experiences. Later interventions, although important, are considerably less effective where good early foundations are lacking.



0-19 Public Health services



- The primary purpose of 0-19 public health services is to improve health and wellbeing of children and families in Tower Hamlets.

Service	About
Health visiting service	Antenatal and early years health and wellbeing support
Family Nurse Partnership	Enhanced support from pregnancy to age 2 for parents aged 21 years
Baby feeding service	Supporting baby feeding at RLH and in the community. LBTH service
Healthy Start vitamins	Extending the national targeted programme to a universal local offer
School health & wellbeing service	School nursing services
Safe East	Sexual health & substance misuse prevention and support for CYP
Healthy Teeth in Schools	Universal fluoride varnish programme for 3-6 year-olds in schools.

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Highest impact areas for local maternity systems, health visitors and school nurses



Healthy maternity & healthy birth

- Improving planning and preparation for pregnancy
- Supporting good parental mental health
- Supporting healthy weight before and between pregnancies
- Reducing harms caused by alcohol
- Supporting parents to have a smokefree pregnancy
- Reducing the inequality of outcomes for women & babies from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities

Healthy early years

- Supporting the transition to parenthood
- Supporting maternal and family mental health
- Supporting breastfeeding
- Supporting healthy weight and nutrition
- Improving health literacy, managing minor illnesses and reducing accidents
- Ready to learn and narrowing the word gap

School aged-years

- Supporting resilience and wellbeing
- Improving health behaviours and reducing risk
- Supporting healthy lifestyles
- Reducing vulnerabilities and improving life changes
- Supporting additional and complex health needs
- Supporting self-care and improving health literacy



What health education do our commissioned services offer



School Health work in all primary and secondary schools offering:

- support for health lifestyle/eating and weight management - promoting a school culture, environment and policies that promote healthy eating and the maintenance of a health weight
- the provision of weight management advice and support for children and young people identified as overweight or obese via a national screening programme training in weight management for frontline staff working with 5-19 year olds and support for service development.



What health education do our commissioned services offer



Safe East is an integrated sexual health and substance misuse service offering:

- Outreach sessions, brief interventions and workshops on sexual health, SRE, D&A, tobacco cessation in youth centres, schools and other settings
- Targeted support to children in the Youth Justice Service
- Professional training on sexual health & substance misuse
- Contraception, chlamydia screening, STI testing, TOP referrals
- Tier 3 substance misuse treatment
- Smoking cessation support



Health promotion in maternity services



- Public health commissions a specialist role to support the maternity service to attain/maintain [UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative accreditation](#)
- The UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative enables public services to better support families with feeding and developing close and loving relationships so that all babies get the best possible start in life
- Barts also fund a public health specialist midwife



Healthy Early Years



- Healthy Early Years London scheme
 - Funding a 0.6WTE role in children's services to support early years settings to be health promoting environments via the London accreditation programme
- Family Hubs
 - New posts to lead on Health and Wellbeing in Early Help services including attaining UNICEF BFI accreditation
 - Public health funding for health promotion activities



Health promotion in schools: Health Lives service



The Healthy Lives service is commissioned to engage all local schools in health and wellbeing initiatives, including the Healthy Schools London (HSL) award programme and the Daily Mile, to improve child health in the borough. Key themes for school engagement include healthy eating, physical activity, emotional wellbeing, oral health and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. Thanks to our Healthy Lives team, we have the highest proportion of schools with HSL awards than any other borough in London.

The Healthy Lives team are working in partnership with Public Health and our Contract Catering Services to deliver the Fantastic Food in Schools programme which aims to support healthy eating and increase food education for children in schools.

The remit of the Healthy Lives team includes delivering health education workshops for school and council staff, developing health-promoting resources and guidance for school communities, supporting breakfast club provision in the borough, and providing ongoing Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) support to schools.

Public health are commissioning an external evaluation of the Healthy Lives service in 2024 to build a more comprehensive understanding of the quality of the service and its impact.



Health promotion for families: Healthy Families



Public Health commissioned the Parental Engagement Team to deliver the Healthy Families programme: a holistic, accessible, and de-stigmatising healthy weight support offer for parents in Tower Hamlets. The programme is delivered by a team of practitioners in partnership with family support staff from partner organisations. Key deliverables include: a 5-week parent engagement programme focused on promoting healthy eating, emotional wellbeing, oral health and physical activity; cooking classes; and bespoke one-to-one support for parents and families who require additional support.

The programme promotes clear and accessible routes by which parents and families can access other forms of support including mental health and financial support and provides participating parents and families with a social support network in the form of Parent Ambassadors. These are parents who volunteer to play an active role in supporting the delivery of the programme. This peer-led feature of the programme is in line with best practice guidance on how to deliver effective and impactful healthy lifestyle interventions and offers a progression pathway for local parents to further volunteering and employment opportunities.

In 2023, Public Health undertook an evaluation of Healthy Families to build a more comprehensive understanding of the quality of the service and its impact. A review of the findings is underway.



Strategy

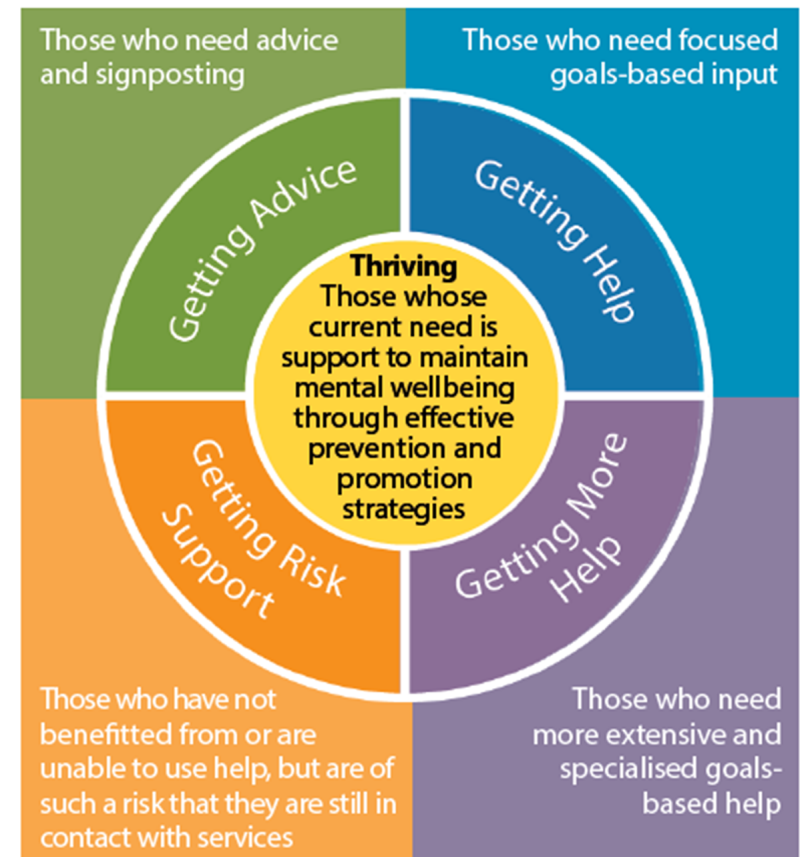
- [Tower Hamlets Transformation Plan for mental health and wellbeing](#) (2016-2021)

- [THRIVE Framework](#) for system change

Thrive has 8 key principles:

- Common Language
- Needs-Led
- Shared Decision Making
- Proactive Prevention and Promotion
- Partnership Working
- Outcomes-Informed
- Reducing Stigma
- Accessibility

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- Thrive communicates an integrated, person centred and needs led approach to delivering mental health services for children, young people and their families.
- Emphasis is placed on prevention and also the promotion of mental health and wellbeing across the whole population. Children, young people and their families are empowered through active involvement in decisions about their care through shared decision making, which is fundamental to the approach.
- Tower Hamlets Children and Families Executive and partners in the system have renewed their commitment to implement the Thrive model of service delivery to reach beyond mental health providers. Through Thrive we want to create a system that is resilient and flexible to respond to the evolving needs of the local young population so that children and families no longer experience barriers or confusion about the help that is available in the area.
- The approach in Future in Mind means that the terminology of a 'four-tier CAMHS' service is now superseded. Tower Hamlets is committed to change how care is delivered, moving away from a system defined in terms of organisational boundaries in a 'tiered model' towards services built around the need of children, young people and families.


Pupil Attitude Survey

The 2022 Tower Hamlets Pupil Attitudes Survey (PAS) focused on pupils' views and experiences on health and well-being, staying safe, the use of technology, local community and plans for the future. Over 1,500 pupils aged 9, 10 and 11 years from 21 primary schools responded to the survey.


Biggest worries for 9–11-year-olds:

- 56% worry about school-work and exams
- 37% worry about their parent and family
- 35% worry about friendships

What 9–11-year-olds told us would make their life better:




More places where I can go to spend time with my friends



More help to plan my future



More interesting school lessons



More organised activities and things to do

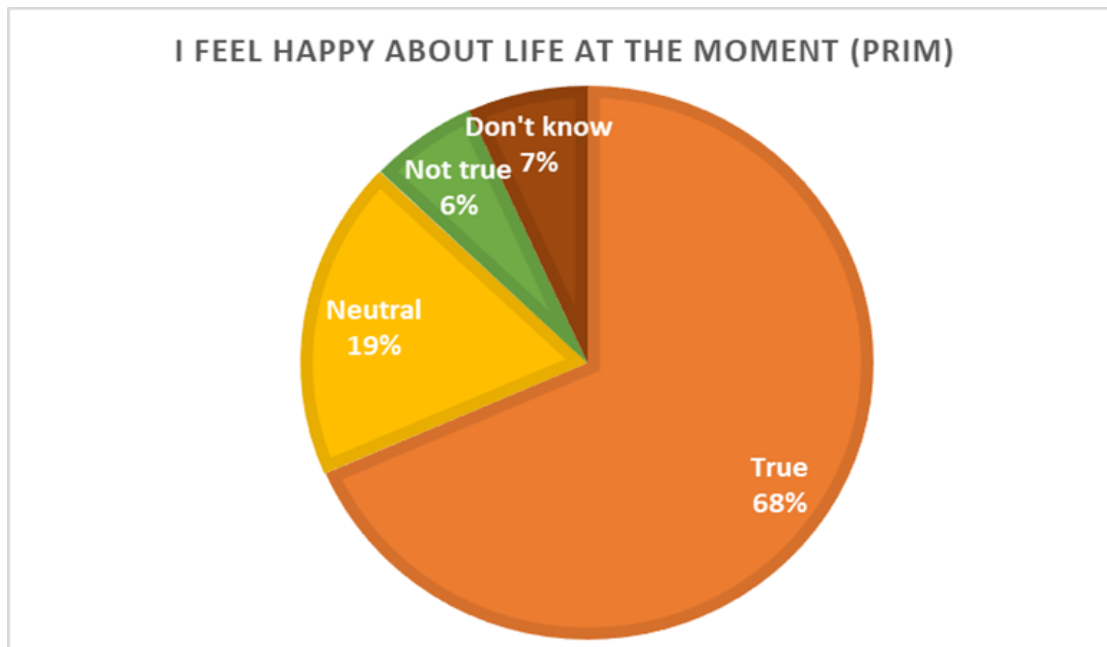


Pupil Attitude Survey

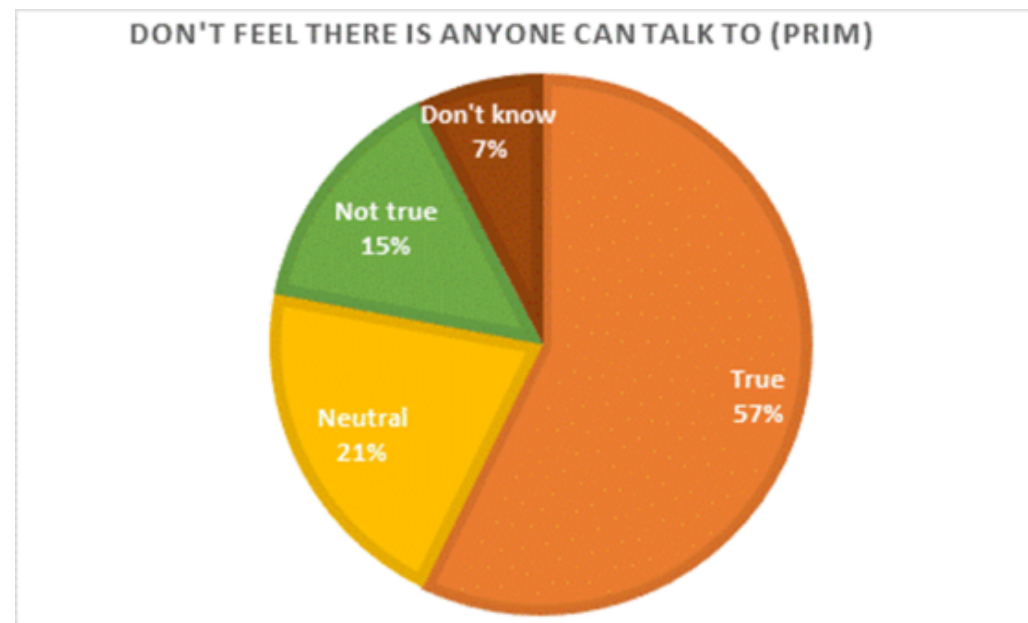
68% of primary pupils (aged 9-11 years) agreed that they felt happy about life at the moment. There has been a decline in the percentage stating they feel happy with 75% of primary pupils stating this in the 2017 and 68% in 2015.

57% of primary pupil respondents stayed that they don't feel there is anyone they can talk to when they are worried.

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Pie chart showing pupil responses to feeling happy about life at the moment.



Pie chart showing pupil responses to feeling they have someone to talk to when worried.



CYP Mental Health Strategic Health Needs Assessment



NCEL Provider Collaborative produced a CAMHS SNHA to help understand the needs of this population and plan services.

Summary of key population and mental health issues:

- There is expected to be a 5% increase in 11-17year olds with mental health issues over the next 10 years
- NCEL communities are particularly deprived, with Tower Hamlets being in the top 5 in London
- 60% of CYP are from ethnically diverse communities. Amongst other boroughs Tower Hamlets have particularly high proportion of CYP from Asian communities (50 – 60%)
- 18% of 11-17yr old in NCEL are likely to have a diagnosable mental health disorder, an increase of 23% since 2017. Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets have higher than London rates for psychosis.

Key findings:

- There is a significant over-representation of female CYP admitted to inpatient CAMHS than compared with the population, but an equal sex split in community CAMHS caseloads.
- There are significantly more White and less Asian CYP accessing CAMHS inpatient services than would be expected given the demographic profile in NEL and NCEL.
- There is higher proportion of people from the most deprived areas in inpatient CAMHS.
- There is a higher proportion of children and young people with ASD/LD in CAMHS inpatient services than there is in the wider population. However, the proportion of CAMHS inpatients with one or both of these diagnoses has significantly decreased over time. This is particularly relevant for Tower Hamlets as one of the areas with the highest prevalence of SEND and SEMH.
- 30% of all NCEL CAMHS admissions were under a Mental Health Act detention. Detentions significantly more common among males, non-white CYP and among those with a diagnosis of a learning disability and/or autism.



Tower Hamlets Education Wellbeing Service (THEWS)



- THEWS offers individual work directly with young people in secondary school/college and parents/carers of children in primary school who present with the mild to moderate mental health needs listed on our referral form.
- THEWS is in 60 Tower Hamlets schools (41 primary schools and 19 secondary schools and colleges).

THEWS clinical offer

- Online universal offer:
 - Open to everyone (including young people, parents and carers, school staff in Tower Hamlets (and can attend anonymously). Workshops can also be requested in person/F2F by THEWS schools.
- Primary school offer:
 - Individual interventions for parents of Primary School Children and interventions for children in Primary school.
- Secondary school offer:
 - Individual interventions, small group interventions, workshops for young people in secondary schools/colleges.

THEWS Partnerships

- THEWS partners with Docklands Outreach and Step Forward



THEWS Clinical Offer



THEWS individual interventions for young people in primary school

- Anxiety
- Friendship problems and bullying
- Emotional regulation (Brain Buddies)
- Sleep and wellbeing
- Body image
- Low mood
- Self-esteem and self-compassion

THEWS individual interventions for young people in secondary schools/colleges

- General anxiety/worry
- Low mood/depression
- Mixed anxiety and depression/low mood
- Social anxiety
- Interpersonal/peer relationship difficulties
- Obsessions and compulsions/obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)
- Phobias
- Panic
- Low self esteem
- Emotion regulation difficulties
- Eating difficulties
- Body image
- Sleep and wellbeing
- Exam stress
- Self esteem and self compassion
- Social media
- Self care



Local mental health support



- **CAMHS** offers assessment, help and support to children, young people, and their families who are experiencing emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties.
- **Barnardo's** offer a range of therapeutic support for CYP with mild to moderate needs. This service supports children aged 10 – 25 years.
- **Dockland's Outreach** is an emotional wellbeing and mental health service, offering evidenced based parenting interventions for parents with children aged 3 12 years old. Counselling, psychotherapy, CBT for children and young people aged 12 to 21 years old, and advocacy and community connector support to children and young people 12 25 years old.
- **Step Forward** provide support to young people who are facing disadvantage and enables them to thrive, develop, grow, and reach their full potential in life They do this by offering personalised packages of support for each individual young person. They support personal development, provide LGBTQ+ young people support, and counselling, CBT, and workshops that build resilience and improves wellbeing.
- **Spotlight** runs a Mental Health Ambassadors programme to support young people's mental health.
- **Healthy Lives** delivers mental health promotion work in schools by embedding a whole schools approach (WSA) to mental health.
- **Kooth**, commissioned by NEL ICB, is an Online Mental Health Support app for young people aged 11-15 years.
- **Lumi Nova**, commissioned by ELFT, provides a fun, self-guided, interactive game experience to effectively overcome childhood anxiety. It equips young minds with life-long skills to deal with worries and stresses.
- **Early Help Hub** acts as a single point of access and works with families or young people who need extra support to deal with a difficult situation. Getting help early can stop things from getting worse and becoming harder to manage.
- **Family Hubs**



ACEs and trauma-informed practice



- Five to Thrive
- ACEs group
- Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships
 - Aimed at improving parental mental health during the perinatal period via strengthening the mild moderate service offer and enhancing existing support available locally as well as building capacity for trauma informed practice.



Vaping by children

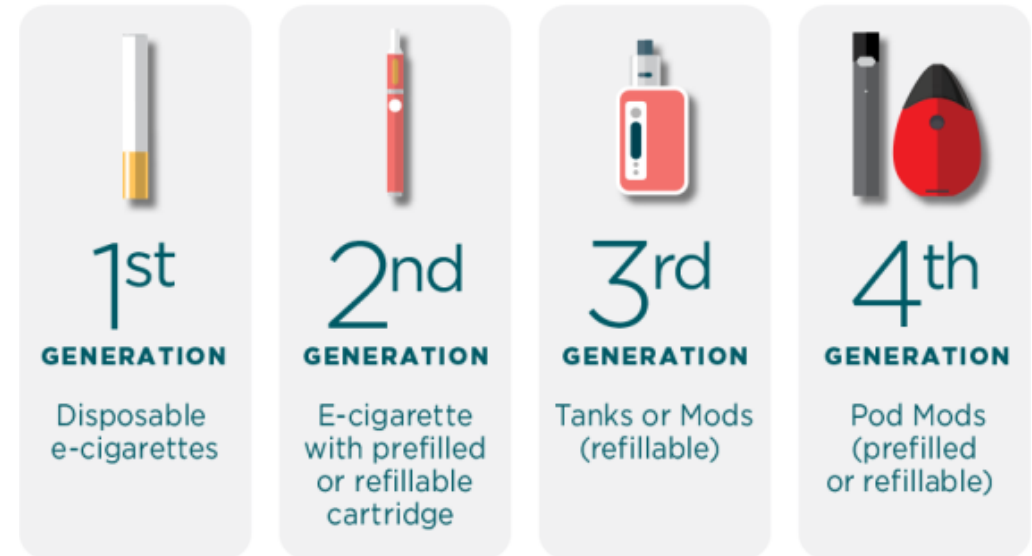
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Vaping

- **What are vapes?:** An electronic device that heats a liquid (called e-liquid or vape juice) to create an aerosol that the user inhales. This aerosol typically contains nicotine, flavourings, and more than 30 other chemicals. Nicotine-free options are also available.
- Despite potential harm reduction compared to smoking, **for adults**, vaping poses significant health risks for young people and can act as a gateway to smoking and other substance use.
- Youth vaping, has become a growing concern in Tower Hamlets.

The Evolution of E-Cigarette, or Vaping, Products



Vaping Trends in under 18s



- **Nationally:** Recent surveys (ASH, 2023) indicate that over 20% of 11-18 year olds have tried vaping, with regular use (weekly or daily) rising in recent years.
- **Locally:** Data on youth vaping specific to Tower Hamlets is limited. However, national trends suggest a similar or potentially higher prevalence in the borough due to factors like socioeconomic deprivation and peer pressure.
- **Age groups:** Experimentation with vaping is highest among older teenagers (15-18 years old). However, concerns are growing about increasing rates among younger adolescents (11-14 years old).
- **Motivations:** Reasons for vaping among young people include peer pressure, curiosity, experimentation, perceived coolness, and marketing tactics targeting minors with enticing flavours and imagery.



Vaping Health Risks

- **Nicotine addiction:** Although nicotine content varies, many vapes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, especially for young developing brains.
- **Lung damage:** E-cigarettes contain harmful chemicals and metals, even if marketed as nicotine-free, which can damage lung tissue and contribute to respiratory problems.
- **Mental health:** Nicotine exposure can impact brain development and increase the risk of mental health issues like anxiety and depression, particularly in vulnerable adolescents.
- **Gateway effect:** Youth vaping is associated with an increased risk of smoking cigarettes and using other drugs in the future, raising concerns about potential long-term consequences.



What We Are Doing



- **Legislation:** The minimum age of sale for e-cigarettes is 18. This is enforced locally by the Trading Standards Team.
- **Support services:** Access to drug and substance misuse support through Safe East (integrated substance misuse and sexual health young people's service).
- **Government consultation December 2023:** Creating a smoke-free generation and tackling youth vaping.
 - LBTH stakeholder event held in December 2023 to respond to the consultation and commence development of an action plan that seeks to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children.



Stakeholder Workshop: Key Themes on Youth Vaping



1. Education and prevention

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Educate staff, young people and parents

Vaping specific campaign

Joint working with schools and youth service

Close focus on peer pressure/ trends among young people measures to make it less attractive prospect

2. Enforcement

Trading standards - fines for illicit vapes in shops

Discourage shops from selling sweet tasting vapes

Vapes advertising aimed young people (flavours, packaging)

Lack of regulation re vaping

3. Communication

Change young people's perceptions around vaping, involving young people

Clear direct messages - adult vs children use of vapes

PH (Barts Health, TH) collaborate with CYP services in hospital - early age preventative measures / messages

What can we do about peer influence

4. Service provision

Support service available e.g. Safe East, Health Spot

Spaces CYP are meant to be safe are not free of harmful substances

Better connection with mental health support

Closer partnership working (schools, young people services, health services)



High energy, high caffeine drinks



- Education:
 - Included within health promotion sessions offered by Healthy Lives team
- Businesses:
 - Food for health awards – encourage swaps around diet drinks, placing water more prominently.
- Schools:
 - Could consider encouraging bans in schools
 - Opportunity to use the FSM funding to enforce compliance with school food standards. An audit is planned for 2024.
 - Healthy Lives Team supporting whole-school healthy eating




Research to improve the lives of children and families



- LBTH have partnered with Bradford Council, QMUL, UCL and York Universities in [Act Early](#) (a unique preventive research collaboration) for the last four years.
- The partnership has delivered a wide range of research to help us understand what early life changes can be delivered to improve the health and opportunities for children living in areas with high levels of child poverty.
- To date, ActEarly research in Tower Hamlets and Bradford has supported LBTH to deliver evidence-informed policy and service delivery in a range of ways, including:
 - Providing subject matter expertise and research input for council officers working to address damp and mould in borough housing.
 - Delivering research to understand why uptake of the national Government's free early childhood education and care offer for 2-year-olds was so low in Tower Hamlets.
 - Strengthening our understanding of family needs e.g. the need to prioritise family mental wellbeing and address material deprivation, which has informed the design or reshaping of new and existing services for residents e.g. the LBTH Family Hub programme.
 - Providing the links to bring academic experts in to plan and deliver the evaluation of free school meals to secondary schools from the very start of the project.
 - Providing access to ActEarly FSM auto-enrolment project - registered 850 children eligible for, but not claiming FSMs, plus the associated additional funding this brings to Tower Hamlets schools (approx. £1.5m each year).
 - Providing insight about the material and environmental impact of Covid-19 lockdowns on expectant and new mothers and young families – research findings were used to inform our Covid recovery policies.
 - Providing our research foundations to support our successful HDRC bid – LBTH is one of 10 LAs nationally to receive £5m funding from NIHR over 5 years to build research infrastructure



Non-Executive Report of the: Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee 8 th February 2024	
Report of: Steve Reddy, Interim Director of Children's Services	Classification: Unrestricted
RSHE Update	

Originating Officer(s)	Kate Smith, Head of Healthy Lives
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This cover report accompanies the presentation slidedeck

- Consider the teaching of RSE and PHSE in school curriculum and any guidance provided by Tower Hamlets

Recommendations:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the accompanying presentation in order to inform discussion for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.

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RSHE update

Kate Smith, Head of The Healthy Lives Team

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“...children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.”

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education -Statutory guidance. Department for Education (2019)



DfE review of Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education



The Department for Education (DfE) is currently undertaking a review of Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education. A 12-week national consultation will follow the publication of the draft guidance. The draft guidance is expected imminently.



What is Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education currently:



Health Education – By the end of Primary and Secondary

- Mental wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic First Aid
- The changing adolescent body including puberty

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory Guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, and teachers. (2019)



What is Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education currently:



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Relationships Education - By the end of Primary	Relationships and Sex Education – By the end of Secondary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Families and people who care for me▪ Caring friendships▪ Respectful relationships▪ Online relationships▪ Being Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Families▪ Respectful relationships including friendships▪ Online and media▪ Being safe▪ Intimate and sexual relationships including sexual health

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory Guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, and teachers. (2019)



Ofsted undertook a review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges, June 2021:



Percentage of girls who experienced sexist name-calling (92 percent)

Percentage being put under pressure to provide sexual images of themselves (80 percent)

Percentage who experienced sexual assault of any kind (79 percent)

Percentage who experienced unwanted touching (64 percent)

Percentage who felt pressured to do sexual things they did not want to (68 percent)



DfE guidance:



What did the DfE's 2019 RSHE guidance say about body parts or same sex families?

- “By the end of Primary pupils should know - how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.”
- “By the end of Primary pupils should know - that each person’s body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.”
- “Families can include for example, single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures.”
- **Source:** [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

What did the DfE's supplementary RSHE FAQ document (published online in 2020) say about teaching LGBT relationships in Primary Schools?

- “Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families.”
- **Source:** [Relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education: FAQs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



Tower Hamlets current RSE advice to schools:



1. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) relationships:

“LBTH recommends teaching about LGBT relationships, in the context of different types of families, in the statutory part of the curriculum in Key Stage 1.

Different types of families may include a mum and a dad, single parent families, children raised by grandparents, same sex parents; all families should be respected equally. This is so that children coming from same sex families feel welcomed and included in school, from the very beginning of their school career, in Key Stage 1.

It is also important in terms of tackling homophobic behaviour and bullying and demonstrates LBTH’s commitment to equalities, as outlined in the Equality Act.”

2. Naming of the Sexual Body Parts

“LBTH recommends that children are taught in Key Stage 1, in the statutory part of the curriculum, about naming of the sexual body parts as a safeguarding issue. This is so pupils can report abuse if it happens or so that they can accurately report medical symptoms if they are unwell. The more children are able to name these body parts and to know about appropriate and inappropriate touch, the more they are protected from abuse.

The following words are recommended to be taught in Key Stage 1: penis, vulva, vagina, testicles, nipple/breast, and bottom/anus.”

3. Puberty

“LBTH also recommends that lessons about puberty begin in Year 4, to prepare all children for puberty and girls for the start of menstruation, before it occurs.”

4. Do schools have to follow LBTH advice?

“Schools do not need to follow their local authorities’ advice on these topics. It is ultimately the decision of each individual school’s governing body. The details of how the curriculum is taught and the resources used are entirely down to the school.”





In December 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) published its draft non-statutory guidance for Schools and Colleges on Gender Questioning Children. They are now seeking views, as part of a 12-week consultation for organisations such as schools/colleges and individuals such as governors, parents and students. The consultation closes at 11.59 pm on 12th March 2024.

Source: [Gender Questioning Children - non-statutory guidance \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/gender-questioning-children-non-statutory-guidance)



DfE Draft non-statutory guidance on Gender Questioning Children and open consultation



- “There is no general duty to allow a child to ‘social transition’”, “...Some forms of social transition will not be compatible with schools’ and colleges’ statutory responsibilities.”
- “...Requests from younger children in primary schools should be treated with greater caution.”
- “If a child requests a change, schools and colleges should make parents aware of the situation and can point them to support outside the school environment (for example, pastoral or medical support) if they require more information.”
- “Parents should not be excluded from decisions taken by a school or college relating to requests for a child to ‘socially transition’”, “...Other than in the exceptionally rare circumstances where involving parents would constitute a significant risk of harm to the child.”


Source: [Gender Questioning Children - non-statutory guidance \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/Gender-Questioning-Children-non-statutory-guidance.pdf)





For any further questions, please contact **Kate Smith, Head of the Healthy Lives Team** at **Kate.Smith@towerhamlets.gov.uk**



<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</p> <p>8th February 2024</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Steve Reddy, Interim Director of Children's Services</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Education PFI contracts</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Ben Jeffrey, Senior PFI Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This cover report accompanies the presentation slidedeck

- Review the PFI contract (focused on facilities and maintenance in schools) and its impact on schools including budgeting and health & safety concerns

Recommendations:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the accompanying presentation in order to inform discussion for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.

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Tower Hamlets PFI Scrutiny



Introductions



Terry Bryan –
Service Head
(PASS)

Tracy Routledge
– Head of
School
Buildings

Ben Jeffery –
PFI Monitoring
Officer



Introduction To PFI



LBTH entered two Private Finance Initiative (PFI) agreements in 2002



The Council and Schools pay contributions to the financing of the PFI agreement;



Facilities providers are to meet minimum standards set out in the Project Documents



Ensures assets are well maintained and are kept compliant.



PFI Expiry



The Council's PFI contracts consist of 2 framework agreements

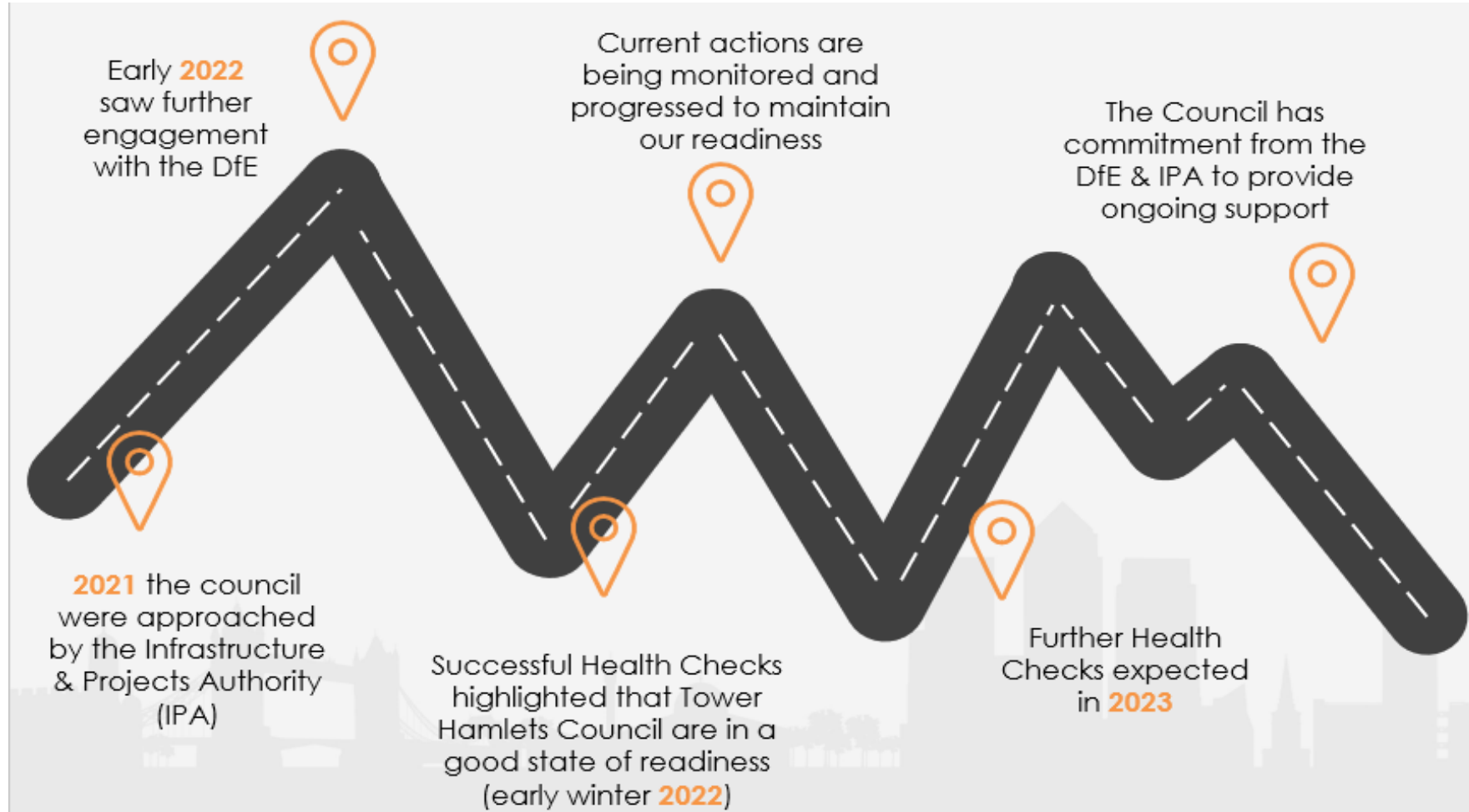
Grouped Schools with a 25-year term expiring in 2027

Mulberry School for Girls with a 27-year term expiring in 2029

The Council are engaged with the IPA and DfE regarding readiness for contract expiry.



Current Engagement



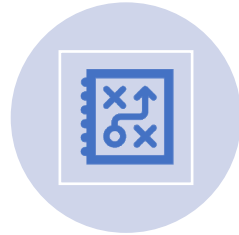
We Have:



ENGAGED WIDER
COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS
TO ESTABLISH CROSS
WORKING
PARTNERSHIPS



ESTABLISHED A
STEERING GROUP TO
LEAD THE PFI EXPIRY
PROCESS



DEVELOPED AN EXIT
STRATEGY TO GUIDE US
TO A SUCCESSFUL HAND
BACK



IDENTIFIED A NEED FOR
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



SECURED FUNDING FOR
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
THROUGH THE PFI
RESERVE



We Are Committed to:



Providing support and guidance to school leadership teams



Removing the financial burden of PFI Expiry using PFI reserves (C. £0.5m)



Alleviating current pressures on school budgets through our Annual Charge adjustments (C. £0.9m)



Supporting schools by funding the recent PFI Benchmarking uplift (C. £0.4m)



Post Expiry



Schools will regain full control of their premises management estate



Schools will receive assets in a good condition reducing the need for Conditions & Improvement funding



Reduction in school maintenance costs



Freedom to engage in capital works without costly mark-ups



Options for ongoing Facilities Management support through cost effective SLAs



Key Risks & Mitigations



- Cross Department Working - It is essential that all departments work collaboratively and to set timelines to ensure that all elements of the expiry process are executed on time. Failure to receive regular engagement from other departments could impact the success of the expiry process.
- Mitigation – A dedicated Steering Group has been established to ensure regular updates are provided and that key milestones remain on track for completion.



Key Risks & Mitigations



- Failure To Agree – It is possible that the management parties to not initially agree on the hand back clauses and a difference of interpretation is likely. This could delay progress and result in Dispute Resolution Procedures being engaged.
- Mitigation – Children’s Services have made sufficient funds available to procure an outsources contract review. The intention of this review is to identify key hand back clauses which will help to establish The Council’s contribution to a Joint PFI Expiry Plan



Key Risks & Mitigations



- Insufficient School Knowledge & Funding – It is apparent that currently the majority of school lack the knowledge and financial capacity to proceed with future services which replicate the existing level of service provided. This would result in an increase in risk to all areas such as Health & Safety Management, Building Maintenance and Compliance Management.
- Mitigation – The Council are committed to supporting schools during this transition period and have developed options for an affordable managed service for consideration. The Council are aware of the need to provide ongoing training and support to future Responsible Persons and SLTs. We will establish a series of workshops which will be available to schools leading up to and post expiry.



Value For Money (VFM)



Recent increases to the Annual School Charge has raised questions relating to the Value For Money (VFM) of the PFI contract. We have undertaken a VFM review using three of the Tower Hamlets PFI Schools.



Value For Money (VFM)



Value For Money Review (36 Month Total)		
Total Annual Charge Due	Total FM Expenditure	Loss/Gain
£2.9m	£3.5m	£0.6m



Value For Money (VFM)



	Value For Money Review (Year on Year)		
	Total Annual Charge Due	Total FM Expenditure	Loss/Gain
2023	£0.95m	£0.9m	£48,000
2022	£1m	£1.16m	£0.15m
2021	£0.96m	£1.51m	£0.55m

* Reoccurring performance failures levy financial deductions via the recovery mechanism set out in the contract documents. Examples of these deductions are not included in this data.

